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Citizens' Groups Declare: This is the beginning of the end of nuclear weapons

Peace Vigil, 1-4PM on Friday, January 22, 2021

Stimson Gate of Kings Bay Trident Nuclear Submarine Base

PLANET EARTH 1/22/21: Nuclear Watch South and Beyond Trident are teaming up with [Susie King Taylor Women's Ecology Institute](#) and the [Black Coastal Women's Ocean Memory and Conservation Collective](#) to hold a peace vigil at the gates of the [Kings Bay Trident nuclear submarine base](#) in St. Marys, Georgia, from 1-4PM on Friday, January 22, 2021. The vigil is to celebrate the entry into force of international law of the [U.N. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons](#). The citizens groups are marking the occasion at Kings Bay to draw attention to the little known fact that 25% of the U.S. nuclear arsenal is deployed from the coast of Georgia and that if Kings Bay were a country, it would be the third largest nuclear weapons state on Earth.

The eco-groups are also celebrating the presence of the critically endangered North Atlantic right whales in Georgia's coastal waters during their annual calving season with a waterside ceremony led by Whale Whisperer [Michaela Harrison](#). Pregnant females migrate to Georgia every November through April to give birth and nurture their newborns. Kings Bay Naval Base is situated in the Cumberland Sound which is the only known calving waters for the North Atlantic right whale. Ironically, it may have been the construction of the base that led to the discovery that the North Atlantic right whale has habitat in Georgia. The discovery was made during the 10-year construction of the nuclear submarine base which opened with the arrival of the USS Tennessee on King Day in 1989. The State of Georgia responded to the discovery by making the North Atlantic right whale its State Marine Mammal.

Other Treaty celebration activities include the placement of [full-page ads](#) declaring that nuclear weapons are outlawed in the Camden County [Tribune-Georgian](#) and [Brunswick News](#) and distribution of information packets to local leadership, especially to leaders in low-wealth communities of color. The ads and packets encourage community dialogue about the future of the region when nuclear activities cease at the base. It is recognized that the base dominates the local economy and yet many people are underserved with respect to basic human rights such as food, shelter, and health care. The groups are broadcasting the vision of a healthy environment and universal prosperity through sharing information such as that contained in the report *Warheads to Windmills*.

Glenn Carroll, coordinator of Nuclear Watch South says, "For 75 years our beautiful planet and all of its inhabitants have been held hostage by the terrifying prospect of nuclear annihilation. Fortunately, we have averted the wholesale destruction of nuclear war, so far, although the trillions of dollars squandered on these weapons of mass destruction have been a direct theft from the people of our country who need homes and food and healthcare. It is powerfully symbolic that nuclear weapons are being outlawed internationally during the week in which we celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. His prophetic words echo through the corridors of history as he called on his country to disavow the 'giant triplets' of racism, extreme materialism, and militarism. At last the beginning of the end of nuclear weapons has come!"

Hermina Glass-Hill, executive director of the Susie King Taylor Women's Ecology Institute says, "This ban on nuclear weapons by the 50 nations is a good sign of contagious compassion from the least among us for our common home — Mother Earth, and the ripple effect is the potential for true peace, equity, and equality for all of her citizens."

Teresa Grady, founder of the Beyond Trident Campaign and sister of one of the Kings Bay Plowshares defendants says, "The 51 States Parties who have ratified this Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, though seemingly insignificant, will have an effect on those nuclear states who depend on the use of their lands for mining, manufacturing, transport, and deployment of these weapons. Banks invested in the nuclear weapons industry, will be boycotted by these States Parties; we must uphold their courage, and urge our communities and nation to ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons."

Robert Randall has maintained a presence at Kings Bay for more than 30 years and is involved with Beyond Trident. He says, "Because of the Treaty to Ban Nuclear Weapons coming into force we have no choice now but to Think Beyond Trident."

The peace vigil is free and open to the public. Parking is available across the highway at the Sugar Mill Park. Masks are mandatory and social distancing protocols will be strictly observed.

For more information contact:

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Download the full-page ad here:

https://www.nonukesyall.org/pdfs/ad_UN_treaty_update.pdf

Link to Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons:

<https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/tpnw/>

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