



## NEWS FROM BEYOND NUCLEAR

For immediate release

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### **Making the world safe from nuclear weapons and nuclear power is in our hands 2017 Nuclear-Free Future Award to honor individuals who help get us there**

MUNICH, GERMANY, July 7, 2017 — Today at the United Nations, a majority of the world community will be poised to sign a historic treaty: a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination. If successful, it will be the result of the tireless work of dedicated individuals from across the globe. And it could not be more urgent and timely, given the recent ICBM launch by North Korea and heightened tensions between that country and the United States.

The [Nuclear-Free Future Award](#) (NFFA) has, since 1998, recognized that without these efforts such achievements can never be attained. To reward this work, the NFFA annually honors unsung heroes whose efforts and struggles, sometimes at risk to their own lives, and often unsupported financially, deserve international recognition and acclamation.

The NFFA gives three \$10,000 monetary awards each year in the categories of Resistance, Education, and Solutions, for work to end the Atomic Age through the elimination of both the military and civilian applications of nuclear materials. [Beyond Nuclear](#) international specialist, Linda Pentz Gunter, and Beyond Nuclear Board member, Dr. Karl Grossman, are members of the international jury that selects the NFFA winners.

Winners of the 2017 Nuclear-Free Future Award are from Niger, Great Britain and Japan. The NFFA also offers two non-monetary Special Recognition awards. The ceremony will take place on September 15, in Basel, Switzerland.

The 2017 winners are: Almoustapha Alhacen, Niger, for Resistance; Janine Allis-Smith and Martin Forwood, Great Britain, for Education; and Hiromichi Umabayashi, Japan, for Solutions. Jochen Stay of Germany and the Swiss anti-nuclear movement will receive the Special Recognition awards.

Almoustapha Alhacen, a Tuareg, worked until recently at the French-owned Areva uranium mine in Arlit, Niger. When he saw how his sick and dying co-workers were ignored by the company, and how the environment was affected, he founded the NGO, [Aghirin'man](#), ("Protection of the Soul," in the language of the Tuareg). Alhacen has courageously spoken out, both in Niger and on international stages, against human

rights abuses and the negative health impacts caused by uranium mining, and continues to do so even after losing his job and livelihood in 2015.

Janine Allis-Smith and Martin Forwood are the two-person heart of [Cumbrians Opposed to a Radioactive Environment](#) (CORE). For several decades, the pair have unmasked, publicized and challenged the often secret operations at the Cumbria-based Sellafield nuclear reprocessing plant in northwest England and its short-lived and failed MOX fuel fabrication plant there. Today, they are also helping lead opposition to proposed new nuclear reactors at Moorside, adjacent to Sellafield. CORE is an indispensable pillar of the British anti-nuclear movement.

“We are honoured to have received NFFA’s Education Award for 2017 and humbled to be joining the list of distinguished winners of the past,” said Martin Forwood of CORE. “With new-build plans for the UK, and with Sellafield facing decades of clean-up, we have much work to do and will tackle the challenges with the same determination that has seen us through the many highs and lows experienced over the last three decades during our fight with an industry that still has much to answer for.”

In 1980, physicist Dr. Hiromichi Umebayashi left his teaching post at the Tokyo Metropolitan Technical College in order to dedicate himself to achieving world peace and to eliminating nuclear weapons. His vision: a Northeast Asia Nuclear Weapons-Free Zone; no atomic missiles stationed on the ground in Japan, North Korea, or South Korea; and a guarantee from Russia, China, and the United States that no nuclear weapons would be deployed or used within the zone. He is the founder of [Peace Depot Inc.](#), a non-profit initiative that focuses on peace research and education and promotes ideas for national defense systems not reliant on atomic deterrence or outright military supremacy.

More information about the winners can be found on the [Nuclear-Free Future Award website](#).

The ceremony honoring this year’s Nuclear-Free Future Award winners takes place in cooperation with the international congress “Human Rights, Future Generations, and Crimes in the Nuclear Age,” September 14<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>, Kollegienhaus, University of Basel, Petersplatz 1.

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*Beyond Nuclear aims to educate and activate the public about the connections between nuclear power and nuclear weapons and the need to abandon both to safeguard our future. Beyond Nuclear advocates for an energy future that is sustainable, benign and democratic. The Beyond Nuclear team works with diverse partners and allies to provide the public, government officials, and the media with the critical information necessary to move humanity toward a world beyond nuclear. Beyond Nuclear: 6930 Carroll Avenue, Suite 400, Takoma Park, MD 20912. [Info@beyondnuclear.org](mailto:Info@beyondnuclear.org). [www.beyondnuclear.org](http://www.beyondnuclear.org).*

