

## **The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)**

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### **PRESS RELEASE**

**24 february 2022**

#### **ICAN condemns Russia's invasion of Ukraine**

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate strongly condemns the beginning of a Russian invasion of Ukraine and Putin's threat to use nuclear weapons. War is never acceptable and Russian attacks on Ukraine, particularly using nuclear weapons, will have catastrophic consequences for civilians.

The international community must stand united in ensuring that we protect and support civilians, and strongly reject the violations of international law by Russia.

While all wars are unacceptable, ICAN warns that the recent Russian behaviour risks escalating the conflict to one involving nuclear weapons. Last week, Putin conducted a strategic nuclear weapons exercise, practising dropping weapons of mass destruction on civilians with intercontinental ballistic missiles, submarine launched missiles and bombers. Even more concerningly, this morning Putin stated that: "for those who would be tempted to intervene. Russia will respond immediately and you will have consequences that you never have had before in your history," in a thinly-veiled threat to use nuclear weapons.

This amounts to threats to use nuclear weapons, as prohibited under the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. It is clear from his words and actions that the use of nuclear weapons is always on the table and the risk of nuclear weapons use is increasing.

This conflict is already harming the civilian population. Adding threats to mass murder civilians with nuclear weapons does nothing to protect people. The only thing nuclear weapons do in this situation is elevate the risk of a massive humanitarian catastrophe.

We urge Russia, Belarus and all other states to not engage in any military activities involving nuclear weapons, such as nuclear weapons exercises and other possible deployments of nuclear weapons. Belarus' referendum on Sunday to revoke its nuclear-weapon-free pledge in its constitution adds fuel to the fire in an already tense time.

We urge the international community to strongly pressure Russia to engage in dialogue and diplomacy, to return to compliance with the UN Charter, respect international humanitarian and human rights law and join relevant treaties to reduce nuclear weapons risks, including the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

<https://www.icanw.org/ican-condemns-russia-invasion-of-ukraine-an-escalation-risking-nuclear-war>

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### **PRESSEMEDDELELSE**

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#### **ICAN fordømmer Ruslands invasion af Ukraine**

Den Internationale Kampagne for at Afskaffe Atomvåben (ICAN), modtageren af Nobels fredspris i 2017, fordømmer på det kraftigste begyndelsen på en russisk invasion af Ukraine og Putins trussel om at bruge atomvåben. Krig er aldrig acceptabel, og russiske angreb på Ukraine, især ved hjælp af atomvåben, vil have katastrofale konsekvenser for civile.

Det internationale samfund skal stå sammen om at sikre, at vi beskytter og støtter civile, og på det kraftigste afviser Ruslands krænkelser af international lov.

Alle krige er uacceptable, men ICAN advarer om, at den seneste russiske adfærd risikerer at eskalere konflikten til en, der involverer atomvåben. I sidste uge gennemførte Putin en strategisk atomvåbenøvelse, hvor man øvede sig i at anvende masseødelæggelsesvåben mod civile med interkontinentale ballistiske missiler, ubådsaffyrede missiler og bombefly. Endnu mere bekymrende sagde Putin i morges, at: "... til dem, der ville blive fristet til at gribe ind: Rusland vil reagere med det samme, og I vil opleve konsekvenser, som I aldrig har haft før i jeres historie," i en tyndt tilsløret trussel om at bruge atomvåben.

Dette svarer til trusler om at bruge atomvåben, som forbudt i henhold til traktaten om forbud mod atomvåben. Det fremgår tydeligt af hans ord og handlinger, at brugen af atomvåben altid er på bordet, og risikoen for brug af atomvåben er stigende.

Denne konflikt skader allerede civilbefolkningen. At tilføje trusler mod masse mord på civile med atomvåben gør intet for at beskytte folk. Det eneste, atomvåben gør i denne situation, er at øge risikoen for en massiv humanitær katastrofe.

Vi opfordrer indtrængende Rusland, Belarus og alle andre stater til ikke at deltage i militære aktiviteter, der involverer atomvåben, såsom atomvåbenøvelser og andre mulige indsættelser af atomvåben. Belarus' afstemning i søndags om at tilbagekalde sit løfte om at være atomvåbenfri i sin forfatning tilføjer brænde på bålet i en i forvejen spændt tid.

Vi opfordrer indtrængende det internationale samfund til kraftigt at presse Rusland til at engagere sig i dialog og diplomati, til at vende tilbage til overholdelse af FN-pagten, respektere international humanitær lov og menneskerettighedslovgivning og tilslutte sig relevante traktater for at reducere risici for atomvåben, herunder FN's Traktat om Forbud mod Atomvåben.

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