



# Los Alamos Study Group

*Nuclear Disarmament • Environmental Protection • Social Justice • Economic Sustainability*

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## **New Mexico Citizens' Delegation Heading to United Nations For Meeting on Nuclear Disarmament, Nonproliferation**

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ALBUQUERQUE AND SANTA FE – Nine delegates from New Mexico, America's "nuclear weapons state," will join their colleagues from around the world at the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) for the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) at the United Nations in New York from April 26 to May 7. Joining them from Princeton, N.J. will be the Study Group president, Dr. Zia Mian. The Los Alamos Study Group is a non-profit disarmament organization based in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Sally-Alice Thompson of Albuquerque will also represent New Mexico Veterans for Peace.

The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is the cornerstone of global efforts to prevent nuclear proliferation. It has been ratified by 188 nations, making it the most universally-subscribed international agreement after the Charter of the United Nations. Only Israel, India, Pakistan, and North Korea lie outside the treaty's framework.

The 188 signatory nations meet every year to discuss problems bearing on the regime set up by the NPT and potential solutions for them, either in a PrepCom like this year, or, each five years, in a Review Conference. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have become important sources of information and perspectives for delegates. The Los Alamos Study Group has been a frequent participant in these meetings since 1995; sixty-nine NGOs are planning to attend this year's meeting.

The Study Group is sponsoring a panel discussion on Friday, April 30, providing an overview of nuclear developments in the United States for delegates and non-governmental organizations. We will also host a screening of films by two New Mexico independent filmmakers, Candy Jones' ("Do it for Uncle Graham") and Willem Malten ("Cry at the End of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century").

Study Group director Greg Mello will also speak at other events at the PrepCom, including a panel on citizen treaty enforcement organized by the International Network of Scientists and Engineers Against Proliferation (INESAP), based in Germany. A march for nuclear disarmament, triggered by the aggressive nuclear policies of the Bush Administration, will occur in New York on Saturday, May 1.

The central idea of the NPT is the illegitimacy of nuclear weapons – immediately and permanently for all countries except five, and ultimately for these five as well. Among its other provisions, the treaty obligates signatories "to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament." These provisions are now U.S. law. In return for this promise of disarmament, the other 183 nations have agreed not to pursue nuclear weapons – and to open their countries to international inspectors to verify this fact. The enforceability of global nonproliferation norms depends upon their universality and equity, a fact which will underlie the many expert presentations from around the world next week.

**Succinct dispatches, both in the form of edited broadcast-quality audio files and in print story form, will be available on a daily basis from Study Group participants. Please contact us if you are interested in this service.**

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