

TRIBUTES TO PETER



**Law's Imperative:
A World Free of Nuclear Weapons**
Honoring Peter Weiss
President Emeritus, Lawyers
Committee on Nuclear Policy

April 2, 2014 New York City

Cover photo: Entrance to International Court of Justice, Peace Palace, November 1995. Friends and colleagues include: 2d from left, Mayumi Oda, Plutonium Free Future, whose art is displayed; 3d from left, Robert Green, World Court Project UK; 5th from left, Peter Weiss, LCNP/IALANA; 6th from left, Kate Boanas-Dewes, World Court Project NZ.

Judge Christopher G. Weeramantry, Colombo

Peter is one of the pioneers in the anti-nuclear movement who did much to wake up the legal profession from its long slumber in regard to nuclear weapons. A lawyer of Peter's vision and dedication will be remembered for generations to come.

Judge Weeramantry was Vice-President of the International Court of Justice and is Co-President of International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms (IALANA).

Helen Clark, United Nations

Dear Cora, I am so sorry that I will be in Papua New Guinea and not in New York on the occasion of the event held to honour Peter for his long term commitment to a nuclear free world.

When I first met you both in 1984, Peter had already helped found the Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy (LCNP). Both the Committee and Peter have been powerful advocates for nuclear disarmament, including by successfully using all legal means available to advance a nuclear free world.

Retiring as President of LCNP has certainly not seen Peter retiring from active advocacy for the cause, as his Inter Press Service/Huffington Post op-ed of March this year makes clear!

I hope the event held in Peter's honour is a tremendous success, and that we will continue to see new generations of lawyers picking up the baton to advance a world without nuclear weapons.

Helen Clark is Administrator, UN Development Programme, and former Prime Minister of New Zealand.

Mary Robinson, Dublin

Dear Cora: Please pass on to Peter warmest congratulations from Nick and myself. It is good to see him getting the recognition he well deserves.

Mary Robinson, former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and President of Ireland, is President of the Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice.

Jayantha Dhanapala, Kandy, Sri Lanka

Peter Weiss' career is an impressive record of service – service to the rule of law, to his New York community, to his country and above all to the international community where he led many causes – most notably the cause of nuclear disarmament – with moral principle, academic rigour and unbending courage.

Although I cannot be physically present to join in the celebration of this inspiring career I have pleasure in sending this tribute to a friend and colleague in the disarmament movement from my home in Kandy, Sri Lanka.

Peter was among the group of international lawyers who formed IALANA – the International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms. I was privileged to be at one of their earliest meetings in The Hague. IALANA's World Court Project was of key importance. As a co-founder of the New York based Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy in 1981 Peter led that organization till he stepped down last year.

Deeply committed to the rule of law, Peter worked tirelessly in the US Congress, in the courts of law and with the media to ensure that nuclear weapons were abolished. I am especially grateful to him for his advice and encouragement during my career in the United Nations. His contribution will remain an

inspiration to us all and his counsel will continue to be sought as the campaign for the elimination of nuclear weapons continues.

Jayantha Dhanapala is President of the Pugwash Conferences on Science & World Affairs, former UN Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs 1998-2003, and former Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the USA and to the UN Office at Geneva.

Saul Mendlovitz, Newark, New Jersey

Pioneer – creative, innovative, effective – and a major actor in the movement to abolish nuclear weapons. Peter’s statue is certain to be in the pantheon of individuals who led the nuclear abolition movement.

Saul Mendlovitz is Dag Hammarskjöld Professor Emeritus, Rutgers Law School-Newark, and Vice-President, Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy.



Dieter Deiseroth, Leipzig

Dedication of book, *Whistleblowers and Security Politics* (2014), to Peter Weiss. Edited by Dieter Deiseroth and Annegret Falter.

As colleagues and friends, we dedicate this book to Peter Weiss (New York). At the age of twelve he had to flee with his parents from the Nazis in Vienna in 1938, finding refuge and a new home in the USA during the presidency of Franklin D. Roosevelt. After finishing law school he soon became one of the country's leading lawyers, specializing in intellectual property and trademark law. For many decades he was also active in the fields of constitutional and international law, writing articles and studies and participating in numerous court cases to assert civil and human rights, with a particular focus on society's minorities and preventing torture. He gained international renown with his untiring use of "legal instruments" to work for a world without nuclear weapons. One important highlight was the "World Court Project" in conjunction with IALANA and other civil rights organisations, which, after a request from the UN General Assembly, resulted in a historic advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice in The Hague in 1996. The Court presented its conclusion that the threat or use of nuclear weapons would generally be illegal. Since then Peter Weiss has mainly dedicated himself to supporting the establishment of alliances throughout the world to promote implementation of this advisory opinion in which the World Court also unanimously recognized the existence of an "obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control".

A few months ago, citing age as a reason, Peter Weiss stepped down as President of the US organisation *Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy* (LCNP) – after 30 years he wanted to hand the office over to younger hands.

He is, however, still amazingly active as Co-President of IALANA (*International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms*) and Vice-President of the US *Center for Constitutional Rights* (CCR). The life work of Peter Weiss, especially his contributions to nuclear disarmament and the international rule of law will be celebrated on April 2, 2014, in New York in an international symposium.

Dieter Deiseroth is Judge, Federal Administration Court of Germany (Bundesverwaltungsgericht), and a member of the Academic Council of IALANA Germany.

Richard Falk, Santa Barbara, California

I wish that I could be present on this occasion honoring Peter Weiss, a most relentless advocate of justice and sanity for the peoples of this world during the past several decades. There is something quietly inspiring about Peter's gentle perseverance in working on behalf of all that he believes should happen on this planet, whether it be nuclear disarmament, racial equality, democracy at home, or an American foreign policy respectful of international law and morality. Peter for me is the best example I know of 'an engaged citizen,' committed to the public role of conscience and activism in upholding democracy in spirit and performance. As such, Peter has been a consistent opponent of myriad anti-democratic plutocratic moves that shamelessly embrace authoritarian forms of governance. A humane future for America and the world will depend on how many additional engaged citizens will emerge from the shadows of despair to carry on the work that Peter has done so nobly for so long.

Richard Falk is Albert G. Milibank Professor of International Law Emeritus, Princeton University, and a member of the LCNP Board of Directors.

Praful Bidwai, Delhi

Peter's contribution to the cause of nuclear disarmament has deeply impressed and influenced many of us here in India as much as activists in the peace movement elsewhere in the world. His seminal work on the ICJ's advisory opinion was a landmark unmatched for its logical elegance and clarity.

Many of us in the Coalition for Nuclear Disarmament and Peace (CNDP) in India owe a debt of gratitude to Peter.

Praful Bidwai is a political columnist and a former Senior Editor of The Times of India.

Fiona Dove, on behalf of the Transnational Institute, Amsterdam

The Transnational Institute is delighted to hear that Peter Weiss is to be honoured. We would like to add our voice to the appreciations of Peter's oeuvre. He was one of our founding members too, also serving as a much valued Fellow and currently as an advisor. We see him as one of those rare people who consistently put their skills and knowledge at the service of the greater public good.

Peter once said, the great problems of the world cannot be resolved by law alone, but nor can they be dealt with by ignoring law altogether. He has been instrumental in bringing together legal people, government officials and civil society advocates internationally to keep working for nuclear abolition through LCNP and IALANA and key projects like the World Court Project, Middle Powers Initiative and the Hague Appeal for Peace. Peter played a very significant role in the World Court Project, which led to the historic ruling of the International Court of Justice on the illegality of nuclear weapons. The ICJ ruling still provides the most important legal reference to date for the movement to abolish nuclear weapons and Peter has played a critical role

in explaining its significance to ordinary people. Peter's work is a reference point and source of inspiration for campaigners for nuclear weapon abolition everywhere.

We salute him.

Fiona Dove is Executive Director of the Transnational Institute.

Marcos Arruda, Rio de Janeiro

Great joy to learn about you, Peter, being honoured by the Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy. You deserve this and much more!

In Brazil, some of us have added to the cause 'ban nuclear weapons' the issue 'ban nuclear plants'. The situation at Fukushima is heavily serious and threatening. Other similar disasters may create an unlivable world for most, if not all, forms of life.

Marcos Arruda, an economist and educator, is Director of Políticas Alternativas Para o Cone Sul (PACS).



DRAFT MEMORIAL

in support of the

**APPLICATION BY THE WORLD HEALTH
ORGANIZATION**

FOR AN

**ADVISORY OPINION BY THE INTERNATIONAL COURT
OF JUSTICE ON THE LEGALITY OF THE USE OF
NUCLEAR WEAPONS UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW,
INCLUDING THE W.H.O. CONSTITUTION**

prepared by

**Peter Weiss, Esquire
Professor Burns H. Weston
Professor Richard A. Falk
Professor Saul H. Mendlovitz**

in cooperation with

**The International Association of Lawyers
Against Nuclear Arms**

May 1994

*The draft memorial was used by many governments
in their oral and written submissions to the ICJ.*

William Pace, New York City

On behalf of the World Federalist Movement, the Institute for Global Policy, the Coalition for the International Criminal Court, the Center for Development of International Law and so many of our colleagues associated with these organizations and networks, I wish to extend our most sincere congratulations to the Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy and to Peter Weiss, LCNP President Emeritus, who is being honored for his decades of work for nuclear disarmament. We have worked for so many years with Hans Corell and Roger Clark, John Burroughs and, of course, Cora, who are joining in honoring Peter, and who have themselves made extraordinary contributions to save humanity from the worst horrors of unimaginable war.

Peter Weiss is a world leader in the global efforts to rid the world of nuclear weapons. His 'weapon' for peace is the rule of law, the only tool of civilization which could overcome this awful and existential threat to civilization.

Among the thousands of actions and achievements for peace, Peter named and help lead the *Hague Appeal for Peace*, the civil-society organized world conference in 1999, attended by 10,000 NGO representatives, and thus described as the largest peace conference convened in the last 200 years. WFM was honored to be one of the sponsors of this great gathering for peace.

We congratulate and honor and revere you Peter Weiss. Your example represents the path of survival and progress for humanity.

William Pace is Executive Director, World Federalist Movement – Institute for Global Policy.

Douglas Roche, Edmonton, Canada

The only way I can accept the “retirement” of Peter Weiss is to comfort myself with the anticipation that he will now be able to augment his already prodigious output of scholarly — and popular — articles on the total illegality of nuclear weapons. Peter Weiss’s voice disdaining the illegality, not to mention immorality, of nuclear weapons is by no means crying in the wilderness, it is heard and respected in the important councils of the United Nations community. I don’t know when nuclear weapons will be determined by all states to be illegal, but I do know that day is coming. History is moving in that direction. And when the day comes and people look back on the origins of the movement to render them illegal, they will seize upon the name of Peter Weiss whose vision and legal acumen led the way. The present world wants more of you, Peter, so continue to be a conscience, a scholar, a writer, a provocateur — and shake the hell out of the P5!

Senator Douglas Roche is former Canadian Ambassador for Disarmament, Chairman Emeritus of the Middle Powers Initiative, and a member of the LCNP Consultative Council.

Achin Vanaik, Delhi

Absolutely delighted to hear about your work Peter being formally honoured. You have been an inspiration to all those around the world who have in one way or the other participated in our collective struggle for nuclear disarmament. I do hope you and Cora can come over to these shores sometime in the not too distant future so that we too can have a chance to showcase your contribution to audiences here that very much need to become aware of the importance of this collective struggle.

Achin Vanaik is retired Professor of International Relations and Global Politics, Delhi University.

Ron McCoy, Kuala Lumpur

My work with International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) has been one of the most rewarding things in my life, not least because it made it possible for me to meet some of the most wonderful and admirable people in the world.

Cora and Peter, thank you for being part of that segment of my life. You have always inspired and encouraged me, particularly when it sometimes looks as though there will never be an end to all the injustices and wrongs in our misguided world.

Ron McCoy is former President of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War.

Michael Christ, Somerville, Massachusetts

I'm genuinely sorry that I cannot attend your celebration of a true giant of our movement, to benefit the preeminent association of legal scholars working for a more peaceful, nuclear-weapon-free world. I think the world of Peter and LCNP and wish I could be with you to express my deep appreciation, and IPPNW's, in person.

Peter and LCNP have been natural allies with IPPNW for more than three decades, united by shared values and a sense of professional duty to eliminate the greatest immediate existential threat to human survival. Together we have exposed how any use of nuclear weapons would cause indiscriminate and catastrophic health and environmental consequences in violation of the fundamental principles of international humanitarian law. Together we have laid the foundation for achieving the only effective remedy for prevention: prohibiting and eliminating nuclear weapons.

For me personally, it has been a true privilege to have played a small role in this partnership. During the World Court Project, I was one of many young activists that Peter encouraged and inspired. I will be forever grateful for the opportunities I've had to work alongside such wisdom and humility.

Thank you, Peter, for making the world a better place and for enriching the lives of countless others who share this calling.

Michael Christ is Executive Director of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War.

Philippe Sands, London

Dear Cora, Peter's contribution is immense, and it has been a privilege to have some association with you both. Please do convey my warmest wishes and feelings of friendship!

Philippe Sands is Professor of Law at University College London.



THE WORLD COURT PROJECT
ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS
AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

A Joint Project Of
The International Association Of
Lawyers Against Nuclear Weapons,

The International Peace Bureau, and

The International Physicians
For The Prevention Of
Nuclear War

LEGAL MEMORANDUM BY
NICHOLAS GRIEF

FOREWORD BY
PETER WEISS AND SAUL MENDLOVITZ

*1993 publication explaining the legal basis for resort to
the ICJ regarding the legality of nuclear weapons.*

Anders Ferm, Stockholm

Sad to hear that Peter is retiring, nuclear weapons are not retiring, Putin is not retiring, Hafez-al Assad in Syria is not retiring, he is gassing innocent children with mustard gas. Those that stand for peace, justice, liberty, human decency can never retire, there will always be a full time job for them. Oh, I understand Peter is only retiring from his job as president of the Committee. He will just change forum and continue in other ways for the same noble cause. And there will be Cora!

Anders Ferm was speech writer and special assistant for the late Prime Minister of Sweden Olof Palme, and is former Swedish Ambassador to the UN and Vice President of the UN General Assembly.

Walden Bello, Manila

Congratulations, Peter and Cora. This honor is greatly deserved.

Walden Bello is Senior Analyst at Focus on the Global South.

Institute for Policy Studies, Washington DC

What a gift for all of us to have Peter at the center of our movements for all of these years!

For us at the Institute for Policy Studies, Peter has been our lodestar. At the center of not only our movements but at the very core of our organization – from the very beginning, and through the most difficult years of political attacks, of the Nixon enemies list, of the assassination of our comrades Ronni Moffitt and Orlando Letelier.

Who else has reminded us – every time! – that the phrase “nuclear weapons” cannot – CANNOT! – be used without the word Abolition?

Who else have we been able to count on to teach us the meaning and importance of international humanitarian law?

What other international lawyer do we know who can bring the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to bear on the immediate needs of U.S.-based welfare rights organizations?

Who else could have made "universal jurisdiction" part of the global activist vernacular?

Who else could have created the idea of holding corporations accountable for their role in enabling militarization, torture and beyond?

Who else has given so much of his time, his energy, and his smarts to organizations like the Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy?

And in the meantime, who else manages to maintain one of the drollest, driest, funniest senses of humor around?

Thank you, Peter. For all of it.

*With much love,
John, Phyllis, Marc, Sarah and Emira. And the whole gang at
IPS.*

Mariano Aguirre and Covadonga Morales Bertrand, Oslo
Congratulations Peter. A well deserved homage to your career.

Mariano Aguirre is director of the Norwegian Peacebuilding Resource Centre. Covadonga Morales Bertrand is Researcher for PRIO – Peace Research Institute Oslo – and formerly an analyst for UN Development Programme.

George Houser, California

I am among Peter's greatest admirers. His support for the American Committee on Africa was of inestimable help. Now he will continue in his work in retired status. I can speak from more than 30 years of experience in retirement that he will find plenty to do in continuing his essential work. How about writing a book? In peace and with love.

George Houser is former Executive Director of the American Committee on Africa.

Magda Moyano, Buenos Aires

Dear Cora and Peter: You have both backed all these great causes throughout your extraordinary lives, but this is one about which I had no idea! Much love always and good luck.

Magda Moyano is former Deputy Resident Representative for UN Development Programme in Dominican Republic, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.

Jane Mayer, New York City

My congratulations and admiration to Peter, whom I so respect.

Jane Mayer is a staff writer for The New Yorker.

Anthony Barnett and Judith Herrin, London

Only one person has ever made us laugh about the existence of nuclear weapons and at the same time all the more determined to see them abolished. That person is Peter. His dry smile and undaunted intelligence ignite the will and tickle one's sense of the absurd. MAD was the acronym for Mutually Assured Destruction. This notion held the world in its fearful embrace through the Cold War and lies in wait for us as the next one looms, as China sniffs the sea. The answer to MAD is SANE, our codeword for Peter Weiss. We salute his immense contribution to our belief in fundamental human rights and holding onto the simple, legal truth that the use and therefore the existence of weapons of total mass murder must be, well, illegal. So much follows from this. Thank you, Peter, thank you very much for your love and wisdom. We are sorry we can't be with you and raise a glass to you from London!

Anthony Barnett is founder of openDemocracy. Judith Herrin is Professor Emerita at King's College London.

Michael Tigar, Durham, North Carolina

Peter's (and Cora's) work is a shining example to all of us.

Michael Tigar is Professor Emeritus, Duke Law, and a member of the LCNP Consultative Council.



In front of the Peace Palace, October 1995, with boxes of Declarations of Public Conscience opposing nuclear weapons as immoral and illegal. From left to right: Keith Mothersson, World Court Project UK; Robert Green, World Court Project UK; Fredrik Heffermehl, Norwegian IALANA and International Peace Bureau; Peter Weiss, LCNP/IALANA.

Hillel Schenker and Ziad AbuZayyad, Jerusalem

As Co-Editors of the Jerusalem-based *Palestine-Israel Journal* (www.pij.org), we have been privileged to know Peter Weiss as a committed “solider for peace” for many years. We greatly appreciate his ongoing dedication to Israeli-Palestinian peace with his support for and involvement with *New Outlook*, Americans for Peace Now, the International Center for Peace in the Middle East and the *Palestine-Israel Journal*. We would like to express special appreciation for Peter’s role in helping to organize the New Outlook-Al Fajr “Road to Peace” Conference at Columbia University in 1989, an important stepping stone on the road to a hoped for resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict based upon a two-state solution.

We would like to join Peter’s colleagues, friends and family in expressing our appreciation for his wise, informed, dedicated and action-oriented commitment to a World Free of Nuclear Weapons. We published his articles on the topic in two recent issues on A Nuclear Free Zone in the Middle East: Realistic or Idealistic (2010) and more recently, A Middle East Without Nuclear Weapons (2013). Peter also made a powerful presentation at a path-breaking public conference in Jerusalem on the topic on October 31, 2013. And we are aware of the vital role that he played in securing the ruling of the International Court of Justice on the threat and use of nuclear weapons.

The ongoing struggle for a World Without Nuclear Weapons and a Middle East in which Israelis and their Palestinian and Arab neighbors live in peace and cooperation will continue.

And we are sure that Peter will continue in his efforts to help all of us to achieve both of these essential goals.

David Krieger, Santa Barbara, California

Peter, thank you for being such an admirable person and role model. You have quietly exerted a strong influence and steadily persevered in the quest for a nuclear weapons-free world. You have been a significant leader in assuring that international law is an important part of the nuclear disarmament equation.

I admire the intelligence, creativity and wit you have exhibited in your leadership of LCNP and IALANA. In a more decent world you would have already done away with these horrific devices of mass annihilation.

Thank you for all you do as a guardian for humanity and a decent human future. Were there more Peter Weisses in this world, it would be a far better place for all of us. I wish I could be there to celebrate with you, but please know that I am with you in spirit. I send you greetings and love from all of us at the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation.

David Krieger is President of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation and a member of the LCNP Consultative Council.

Jean Entine, Cambridge, Massachusetts

Peter, I am so impressed by the quality of commitment you make to those issues that you take on. You have been a stalwart at Center for Constitutional Rights, Americans for Peace Now and the Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy. I think this is a hugely impressive way to live your life.

Jean Entine is a member of the Board of Directors, Grassroots International.

Stig Gustafsson, Stockholm

Dear Peter: First of all I want to thank you for your indefatigable fight against nuclear arms – your work has inspired thousands of lawyers and others - not only in the USA. We first met at the beginning of the 1980s which means that we have a 35 year-old friendship and history of working together against nuclear arms.

In August 1987 LCNP arranged a conference in New York on nuclear arms together with lawyers from the Soviet Union. The discussions we had at that conference became the embryo of IALANA. As a result of that conference the Swedish Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms convened a meeting with the aim of setting up an international lawyers organisation against nuclear arms. In April 1988 lawyers from 10 countries met at the Swedish Parliament in Stockholm and we decided to establish the International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms. The countries represented were – besides the USA, Sweden and the Soviet Union – Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Finland, Denmark, Norway, Great Britain. We worked very effectively and in two days decided on the name of the new organisation, programme and statutes. Peter Weiss, USA, Alexander Suhkarev, the Soviet Union, and I were elected Co-Presidents of IALANA.

Peter has had a key role in IALANA ever since and very much thanks to him IALANA has become a respected partner among the organisations fighting nuclear arms.

Stig Gustafsson is President of Swedish Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms and former member of the Swedish parliament, Riksdag.

Peter Becker, Kassel, Germany

The birth is something in the mist: the place should have been a kitchen in New Zealand; much red wine flowed. Richard Falk had the idea of inducing the General Assembly of the United Nations to request a legal opinion of the International Court of Justice under article 96 of the UN Charter about the compatibility of nuclear weapons with international law. It was clear that a powerful organization was needed. Thus was born the idea of creating an international association which should encourage their states to support a request for delivery of such an opinion.

In 1987 a LCNP meeting was held in New York with Soviet lawyers - in the middle of the cold war. The ICJ campaign was decided at this meeting. Stig Gustafsson was asked to organize a founding meeting of an international association.

This meeting took place in the Swedish Riksdag (parliament) in 1988; Stig was then Swedish member of the Riksdag. Participants worked intensively for two days. The ten represented nations adopted a statute; Peter Weiss, USA, Alexander Sukharev, Soviet Union, and Stig, Sweden, were elected as Co-Presidents. A Swedish lawyer, also a graphic designer, was commissioned for the logo of IALANA: The split bomb, with the law as the means of splitting.

The German representative was Herta Däubler-Gmelin, Social Democrat and so a colleague of Stig Gustafsson. She took the initiative in Germany of establishing a national member organization. They met on the 27.06.1989 in the Bonn Parliament. I was elected Chairman, and accepted the position, unaware of what faced me. German IALANA then supported the first General Assembly of IALANA in The Hague in 1989 and organized an international colloquium in Berlin, at which General Gribkov, adviser to President Gorbachev, announced in November 1990 that the Warsaw Pact was dissolved. Its adversary, NATO, still exists today,

although it has lost its opponents. NATO mutated into the global intervention force and is today the world's largest barrier to peace, still adhering to nuclear weapons as an instrument of preventive war.

Peter Weiss has been a central figure in the history of IALANA. His - and our - task is not yet finished. We are sure that we will prevail in the struggle against nuclear weapons!

Peter Becker is Co-President of IALANA.

Kenji Urata, on behalf of the Japan Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms (JALANA), Tokyo

Peter Weiss has given dedicated efforts to activities such as upholding the most important professional ethics of lawyers in the nuclear age. For example, in late 1981 he circulated a "Statement on the Illegality of Nuclear Weapons," and in cooperation with Sean MacBride of the International Peace Bureau in June 1982, he submitted a statement to the SSD II (the United Nations Second Special Session on Disarmament), in which a draft convention for prohibiting nuclear weapons was included.

I became acquainted with Peter Weiss after the launch of IALANA in 1988. Soon after that the Soviet Union collapsed, and then there was no one to fill the offices of IALANA's three co-presidents. Peter stayed on as president until Judge Weeramantry succeeded him in that post. He is the lawyer who made the biggest contribution to getting the International Court of Justice to issue its 1996 nuclear weapons advisory opinion. For his service under very difficult circumstances, he has been respected by colleagues and continued his role as a mentor for concerned young lawyers all over the world.

Kenji Urata is Professor Emeritus, Waseda University, Tokyo.

Fredrik Heffermehl, Norwegian IALANA, Oslo

Peter: What a privilege for me to have benefitted for decades from a so extraordinary wealth of knowledge and political acumen as yours. I first met you as helmsman figure at the visionary meeting of American – Soviet Lawyers in New York 1987. Up to then I could not even remotely imagine that lawyers would engage in politics of such nature, scale and global dimension. Warm thanks for 26 years of friendship and co-operation.

Having studied Nobel’s prize for “the champions of peace”, those who strive for global co-operation on global disarmament, I would say that few of the winners in the last decades have been qualified – but the disarmament NGOs working across borders, religions and political divides are the forces in the world of today doing most to “realize the fraternity of nations” that Nobel had in mind. And in these circles Peter is one of the very best.

John Firestone and Sandra Miller, New York City

We are pleased to honor and acknowledge Peter’s contributions to LCNP and countless other worthy causes and organizations. We are both humbled and inspired by his example, by his dedication to justice and human rights and by this humanity and decency. We are privileged to count Peter and Cora among the most loyal and devoted members and hosts of a yearly law school alumni cocktail party each summer on Martha’s Vineyard – I know that entire group joins us in toasting Peter on this occasion.

John Firestone is a partner at Pavia & Harcourt LLP. Sandra Miller is Director of Admissions, Fieldston Middle and Upper School.

Alyn Ware, Basel

Peter, I extend to you my most heartfelt gratitude and highest admiration for the incredible contribution you have made to the de-legitimization of nuclear weapons and the campaign for a nuclear-weapons-free world through your leadership of LCNP from its inception in 1981 until 2013 when you retired from the position.

I was blessed to work as Executive Director of LCNP – under your presidency/leadership - from 1993 until 1999 during which time LCNP took leadership roles in:

- co-founding Abolition 2000 Global Network for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons which has been supported by over 2000 organisations worldwide;
- achieving an historic opinion from the International Court of Justice on the illegality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons;
- drafting a UN resolution on follow-up to the ICJ opinion which set the political framework for the abolition of nuclear weapons through a nuclear weapons convention;
- facilitating the drafting of a Model Nuclear Weapons Convention which has been circulated by the United Nations and praised by UN Secretary-general Ban Ki-moon as a good starting point for nuclear disarmament negotiations;
- and much more...

And I have been honoured to continue a role as International Coordinator for LCNP since then.

Personally I am extremely grateful to you for welcoming me to New York and LCNP when I was a rather naïve campaigner from down-under (New Zealand) moving over to the United States to take on the somewhat quixotic campaign to take a case against nuclear weapons to the ICJ.

Most US arms control and disarmament organisations thought we were crazy attempting to take on the five most powerful countries in the world. The US Department of Defense thought we were a group of ‘Random Idiot NGOs’ (RINGOs) led by a kindergarten teacher from New Zealand (according to a phone call with the US Armed Services Committee). But you took the gamble on supporting the crazy Kiwis (New Zealanders) who sent me over to NY – provided incredible legal and political training for me, and even opened your home for me to stay. One of my favourite parts of that time was travelling in the car with you and Cora from your house in the Bronx to work in town on many a morning discussing the daily political issues with the expert analysis you and Cora provided.

Peter, none of us know when we will abolish nuclear weapons. Politics runs along an unpredictable pathway. However, it is impacted considerably by the actions of key people in history – of which you are one. In the area of nuclear abolition I know of no-one who has had a more concrete and tangible impact than you. So I toast you now, and I will definitely toast you again when we abolish nuclear weapons.

Alyn Ware is Global Coordinator of Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament and LCNP International Coordinator.

John Burroughs, New York City

I first got to know Peter at the 1995 hearings before the International Court of Justice on nuclear weapons. It was a pleasure. His style is incisive, cutting to the core of an issue, leavened sometimes with wit or a literary touch. He was serious about the law and serious about working with civil society. I could see his seriousness about the law as we advised governments on their arguments to the Court, and as

I studied the scholarly, comprehensive, and sometimes passionate model brief in the ICJ case he authored with Burns Weston, Richard Falk, and Saul Mendlovitz. That brief was widely used by governments.

Starting in 1999, as LCNP Executive Director I worked with Peter as President of LCNP. Through some very dark years for disarmament and peace, he was steadfast in commitment to a principled and democratic approach. One of the highlights – but also one of the most disturbing times – was when we worked with graduate students, many from Turkey and other parts of the Middle East, and activists on the New York session of the World Tribunal on Iraq, held in 2004. That experience and the tribunal itself shed light on both the potential for informed, principled democracy and the horrors of war, each of which Peter fully appreciates.

Another important chapter was in 2002 when we fought the good fight in federal court – with oral argument by Peter – in an effort to save the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. We represented some 30 members of the House of Representatives led by Dennis Kucinich. The case was dismissed on procedural grounds, but the stand was made as to the proper role of Congress in termination of treaties, part of the supreme law of the land.

A year ago I came across a law review article Peter wrote in the early 1980s around the time LCNP was formed. It called for the abolition of nuclear weapons as a legal imperative, at a time when that position was not even paid the lip service it is today. That has been his stance over the three decades since then. So he has been steadfast and persistent. Truly admirable. It's been a privilege to work with Peter.

John Burroughs is Executive Director of Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy.

Jacqueline Cabasso, Oakland, California

Peter Weiss was already an iconic figure to me as a young anti-nuclear activist. In June 1983 I was among over 1,000 people arrested while nonviolently blocking the gates to the Livermore Nuclear Weapons Laboratory in northern California. 224 defendants were bound together in an unusual “representative” trial in which I was one of 11 selected by the larger group to stand trial on their behalf. Western States Legal Foundation (WSLF), established just a year earlier, represented us. The principal drafters of our international law defense brief – my introduction to international law, were John Burroughs, then in law school, now my partner, and his friend, Andrew Lichterman, now WSLF’s Senior Research Analyst. I remember clearly that Peter’s landmark case, *Filártiga v. Peña-Irala*, was prominently cited in the brief. Following the trial, I was hired by WSLF, and John and Andy joined the Board. A few years after my trial, I was thrilled to come across a reference by Peter to WSLF’s “exemplary” 1983 international law brief. Later I joined the LCNP Consultative Council, and WSLF affiliated with IALANA. I worked closely with John and Peter in The Hague during the historic hearings before the World Court on the (il)legality of nuclear weapons in 1995, and John subsequently became LCNP Executive Director. Our two organizations have a personal and professional intertwined history, and I have had the honor and pleasure of knowing and working with Peter and Cora in a variety of settings over these last 30-plus years. Congratulations, Peter, on a life well lived! I look forward to working with you for many more years to come.

Jacqueline Cabasso is Executive Director of Western States Legal Foundation and a member of the LCNP Consultative Council.

Bev DeLong, Calgary, Canada

I am profoundly grateful for all Peter has done to hold high the banner calling for creativity and persistence in the use of law to build peace.

With the proposed attack on Iraq, he reminded us of the law on preventive use of force. In preparation for the 1995 hearings of the International Court of Justice on nuclear weapons, Peter taught us much on the law on the use of force. Peter since has been a strong advocate for accuracy in interpretation of the resulting ICJ Advisory Opinion and has patiently educated people about the meaning of that decision.

Peter has encouraged us to use our best efforts and not to give up in tough situations. His example encourages us to take ourselves and our knowledge seriously and to speak out. He is our role model in this action. How many articles has Peter written in his continuing role as a public educator?

Peter is a great correspondent, rapidly providing courteous replies to all suggestions made with positive comments and friendly amendments to proposals he sees wanting.

I laughed outright when reading an email within which he had offered a new acronym! He was emailing out a link to an article entitled "Momentum stalls on the Obama Nuclear Agenda" with the letters FYC (for your commiseration). I hope we do not have to use FYC too often in coming decades.

Peter and Cora's bed and breakfast service enabled me (and I'm sure many others through the years) to participate in New York. Thank you for your generous hospitality!

Peter is so supportive of women! I have an email that says "I may have to boycott the conference altogether because there is not a single woman on the program! How did that happen and what are you going to do about it? And by the way, adding one single (token) woman will not do the trick. We cannot be in violation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (which he then quotes!)." What a wonderful man!

And Peter has been persistent in calling on us to live with hope: In a note to the IALANA board Dec. 31, 2012 he commented:

It has not been a good year. And 2013 will not be much better. But despair is not an option. Here are the words which Tony Kushner, our great playwright, put in the mouth of a black woman working for a white family in Mississippi: "Change come fast, change come slow, but change come." That should be good enough for all of us. I wish us all a year of change.

Peter, I hope that some things don't change - that you continue to be blessed with strong health and good humour as you inspire us with your work in the years ahead.

Bev DeLong is Chairperson, Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, and Vice-President, IALANA.

Anabel and David Dwyer, Mackinaw City, Michigan

We first met Peter face to face at the 1990 Berlin IALANA Conference where IALANA discussed participation with International Peace Bureau (IPB) and IPPNW in the World Court Project to use the UN system and Charter to ask the ICJ to render an Opinion on the "Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons." We had travelled to Berlin following study at The Hague Academy of International Law and the Peace Palace library where Anabel was involved in extensive research and writing as staff attorney for the Michigan

Nuremberg Campaign, the culmination of years of non-violent resistance to war and nuclearism.

Peter's Declaration for the 1991 Michigan Nuremberg Campaign Brief concludes: "I consider the Citizens' Request for Investigation and Prosecution of the Commanders of Wurtsmith Air Force Base and the Board of Directors of Williams International, Inc. entirely justified under international law." The Michigan Attorney General and County Prosecutors did not investigate or prosecute but we no longer have nuclear weapons in Michigan. So disarmament happens although the military corporations continue making a mess of our common environment and engaging in flagrant fraud.

It was a flurry of organizing and legal arguments and UN General Assembly and World Health Organization delegate-cajoling in the short five years between that 1990 Berlin IALANA Conference and the astounding oral arguments before the ICJ. The proceedings before the ICJ and the Opinion itself are for lawyers at least the most important accomplishment toward disarmament in our times. I am eternally grateful to Peter for having been part of it all and with Peter, "Wouldn't have missed it for the world."

And then there was the 1999 Hague Appeal for Peace Conference on the 100th anniversary of the world's first peace congress. Cora is President of Hague Appeal for Peace and represented IPB, and Peter represented IALANA, two of the four sponsoring organizations. Hague Appeal for Peace declared: Peace is a Human Right, and it's Time to Abolish War.

The ICJ opinion did not accomplish nuclear disarmament alone, and Transform Now Plowshares and lots of other initiatives, petitions, demonstrations, resistance haven't yet done it. But with coalitions and formal and informal actions

the likes of which Peter and Cora have been involved in all their lives, we can well organize, in the words of the ICJ opinion, “nuclear disarmament in all its aspects.”

*Anabel Dwyer is a member of the LCNP Board of Directors.
David Dwyer is Professor Emeritus of Anthropology,
Linguistics, and African Studies at Michigan State University.*

Kurt Groenewold, Hamburg

Peter, unfortunately I cannot come, but I still regard you with amazement and great gratitude. You have had a great influence on my professional work and on my activity as a mentor. I am particularly grateful to you for the many contacts you have made for me in the US. Even more important was the insertion of constitutional and international elements into my work as defense attorney in Germany.

Ned Coffin, Strafford, Vermont

Congratulations to Peter on being so honored. Both of you Peter and Cora are such fighters - self-trained well in sizing up the problem, shrewd in finding the best line of attack for each opponent, and unwilling to admit defeat just because the opponent always is bigger and has a lot of heavy bettors on his side!



Cora and Peter

Lawyers Committee



on Nuclear Policy

866 UN Plaza, Suite 4050
New York, NY 10017-1830
(212) 818-1861
www.lcnp.org
contact@lcnp.org