



# Briefing paper

Date: 6<sup>th</sup> May 2014

No.4

**Subject: Centenary of the first use of chemical weapons in WW1 & Ypres Mayors for Peace Conference – ‘A Century of Weapons of Mass Destruction – Enough!’**

## 1. Introduction

This report by the Chapter Secretary, Sean Morris, provides an overview of the recent commemoration in Ypres / Ieper, Belgium of the centenary of the first use of chemical weapons on the Western Front on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April. It also profiles a three day conference hosted by the City of Ieper which looks at progress with the abolition of chemical weapons around the world and links it to similar initiatives to remove all weapons of mass destruction. It further considers the threat to cities from modern warfare and international terrorism. This conference brought together representatives from many countries and also included an ‘Ypres / Ieper Declaration’ which has gone for full consideration to the Mayors for Peace Executive Conference - this will also take place in Ieper in early November 2015.

## 2. Ieper’s role in the Mayors for Peace

Ieper City Council, like Manchester City Council, is a Vice President of Mayors for Peace (1). The particular reason it is involved in Mayors for Peace relates particularly to the almost complete destruction of the city during the First World War, and its subsequent remarkable physical reconstruction and its desire to be a ‘City of Peace’. Ieper was also the first location where chemical weapons were used in the First World War, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1914. Over 90,000 deaths in the First World War were due to the effects of chemical weapons such as chlorine gas, mustard gas and phosgene. (2)

Ieper is a relatively small city, originally known as a Cathedral City, of 35,000 inhabitants. It has become a prominent city of peace, reconciliation and reconstruction after war. Since 2005 it has hosted the Secretariat of the Mayors for Peace’s ‘2020 Vision Campaign’, linking its campaign for the abolition of chemical weapons with its support for the abolition of nuclear weapons. (3) Ieper is also well known for hosting daily remembrance commemorations of the First World War, by the Menin Gate, where the ‘Last Post’ is performed at 8pm every day. During this period of four years commemorating the centenary of the First World War, it has become a focal point for many events. Throughout 2015 it has a year-long festival of commemoration, which is centred on the centenary of the first use of chemical weapons. This is centred on three commemorative events on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2015 and a three day conference titled – ‘A Century of Weapons of Mass Destruction – Enough!’ (4) Amongst the conference delegates were Councillor Mark Hackett of Manchester City Council, representing the Lord Mayor of Manchester at these events, and the UK and Ireland Mayors, Provosts and Leaders for Peace Chapter Secretary (and Manchester City Council officer) Sean Morris.

## 3. Background to the commemorative events of 22<sup>nd</sup> April in the Ieper Salient

The industrialisation of chemicals began in earnest in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and the potential danger around the weaponisation of such materials raised such concern that they were discussed and included in the 1899 and 1907 Hague Conventions – the first significant international treaties governing the laws of war. (5) The 1899 Hague Convention specifically prohibited the ‘use of poison or poisoned weapons’ in warfare.

## THE UK & IRELAND CHAPTER OF MAYORS FOR PEACE

When international conflict erupted in 1914, and then became bogged down in stalemate with trench warfare on the long Western Front, both sides of the conflict began to investigate ways to break through the lines, as well as seeking strategies to demoralise the enemy. As early as August 2014 the French army was using tear gas grenades, and in October 2014 the German army fired fragmentation shells filled with a chemical irritant. (6)

The first time a chemical weapon with lethal quality was deployed was the German army's use of chlorine. Chlorine is a powerful irritant that can inflict serious and severe damage to the eyes, nose, throat and lungs. At high concentrations and prolonged exposure it can cause death by asphyxiation. The German chemical companies BASF, Hoechst and Bayer (which formed the IG Farben conglomerate in 1925) had been producing chlorine as a by-product of their dye manufacturing. In cooperation with Fritz Haber of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Chemistry in Berlin, they investigated methods of discharging chlorine gas against enemy trenches. (7)

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1915, the German Army had 168 tons of chlorine deployed in 5,730 cylinders at Langemark–Poelkapelle, a few miles north of Ypres. At 5.30pm, during a period of slight easterly breezes, the gas was released. It formed a grey-green cloud that drifted across positions held by French Colonial troops from Martinique and North Africa. The soldiers either died or broke ranks, abandoning their trenches and creating a 7 km hole in the Allied line. However, as the German infantry was wary of the gas and, lacking reinforcements, it failed to exploit the gap before the 1st Canadian Division and assorted French troops reformed the line. (8) The Allied governments argued that the attack was a flagrant violation of international law. The German Government responded that the Hague Treaty had only banned chemical shells, rather than the use of gas projectors. (9)

In what became known as the Second Battle of Ypres, the Germans used gas on three more occasions; on 24 April against the 1st Canadian Division, on 2 May near Mouse Trap Farm and on 5 May against the British at Hill 60. 148 British soldiers were killed in this attack, many of them after considerable suffering. (10)

Chemical weapons became a significant part of the conflict, being used by both sides of the conflict on the Western and the Eastern Fronts. Over time, more deadly gases were used, such as phosgene and mustard gases. Images of dead and injured soldiers from chemical attacks were amongst the most iconic of the whole conflict. Over 190,000 tons of chemical weapons were used through the conflict by France, the UK, the United States and Germany. Around 85% of the 90,000 killed were due to the effects of phosgene, and the rest mainly from mustard gas. (11)

The famous nurse and war diarist Vera Brittain wrote:

"I wish those people who talk about going on with this war whatever it costs could see the soldiers suffering from mustard gas poisoning. Great mustard-coloured blisters, blind eyes, all sticky and stuck together, always fighting for breath, with voices a mere whisper, saying that their throats are closing and they know they will choke." (12)

#### **4. The leper centenary commemoration ceremonies**

The leper Conference 'A Century of Weapons of Mass Destruction – Enough!' began with two opening welcome addresses from the Mayor of Ieper and the Mayor of Langemark-Poelkapelle. There were then quite moving speeches from the German and French Ambassadors to Belgium and the Tunisian Minister of Defence, recalling the effects of chemical weapons to soldiers on both sides of the First World War, and the desire of all three governments to lead the campaign to completely ban them.

A detailed presentation was provided by Tibor Toth of the UN's Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organisation, outlining the real dangers that exist in the world for a new and wider conflict which could potentially use other weapons of mass destruction. (13) Christine Beerli, Vice Chairwoman of the International Committee of the Red Cross, outlined the work of the ICRC during both World Wars and their concern over the recent use of chemical weapons during the Syrian civil war, and the imperative for global nuclear disarmament. (14) The final

speaker of this session was Ahmet Uzumcu, the Director General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. Ms Uzumcu outlined that great progress had been made in the abolition and elimination of chemical weapons since the Chemical Weapons Convention came into force in 1997. Ms Uzumcu reported that almost all of the chemical weapons that had been in Syria had now been destroyed (with the rest being destroyed imminently), a real example of how effective the Convention has now become. The challenge to the organisation comes now in the huge environmental issues in destroying large stockpiles of chemical weapons across the world. (15)

The first part of the conference concluded with all delegates transported to three ceremonies:

- i) *The Cross of Reconciliation, Lizerne* - The Cross of Reconciliation is an aluminium cross on the west side of the Ieper canal at Lizerne. The original memorial was destroyed during the German occupation of the area in the Second World War and was rebuilt shortly afterwards. It commemorates the first soldiers of the French Colonial Army to be killed by chemical weapons – particularly French, Algerian, Tunisian, Moroccan and Martinique. The ceremony was led by King Philip of Belgium and senior Belgian civic leaders, with representatives from the governments of the affected countries and the Ambassadors of France and Germany. At a short ceremony in Flemish and French, the experience of a German eyewitness to the attack was read out, along with some moving music and a roll-call of a random list of 200 soldiers killed by chemical weapons around this spot.
- ii) *The Statue of the Brooding Soldier, Langemark* – On the route to Langemark, white flags showed the plume of chemicals across the Ieper Salient to Langemark. This town was the site of a vicious and brutal battle between German and Allied troops, mainly Canadian soldiers (many of Scottish origin). The St Julian Canadian Memorial in Langemark is also known as “The Statue of the Brooding Soldier”, and it commemorates the soldiers of the Canadian 1st Division, many of whom died in action on 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> April 1915. During this battle, starting at 5pm on 22<sup>nd</sup> April with a chlorine gas canisters attack, and for the next few days, the Canadians were involved in heavy fighting, losing some 2,000 casualties - killed, wounded or missing - from the division. The ceremony was in Flemish, French and English and led by the King of Belgium, with wreaths also laid from the Canadian, German and French Ambassadors. The ceremony also included an address from a Latvian Mayor recalling the use of chemical weapons on the Eastern Front (in what was then part of the Russian Empire) and songs in English from children of St Julian’s Primary School in Langemark.
- iii) *Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate, Ieper* – The most well-known war memorial in the Ieper Salient is the Menin Gate in the centre of Ieper. The Menin Gate Memorial contains the names of 54,896 names of British and Commonwealth soldiers killed in the three Battles of Ypres between 1915 and 1917. Every day at 8pm a ‘Last Post Ceremony’ is held. For every day of 2015, the ‘Last Post Society’ is recounting the life of individual soldiers whose name appears on the Menin Gate. At this ceremony, Councillor Hackett of Manchester City Council was asked to give the exultation of remembrance. The ceremony was held in Flemish and English, and wreathes were laid by the Mayor of Ieper, the Governor of West Flanders, the Ambassadors of the United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland, New Zealand, Australia, Canada, United States, Russia and Denmark. The ‘Last Post’ was relayed and Beethoven’s ‘Ode to Joy’ sung by a children’s choir. The Belgian Army’s National Band concluded this third, moving ceremony.

Photographs from the three ceremonies are attached below at Appendix 3.

## 5. Day 2 – A Century of Weapons of Mass Destruction

The second part of the Ieper Conference focused on a century of use of weapons of mass destruction. It also considered the challenges of international attempts to deliver full chemical and nuclear weapons disarmament in the future.

The morning session was chaired by Virginia Gamba, Director of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA). (16) Ms Gamba read out an address to the Conference from the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon (see Appendix 1) and from the UNODA.

Dr Jean Pascal Zanders of 'The Trench' project provided an informative historical overview of chemical weapons and the international campaign to ban them. (17) Two moving testimonies were then provided of recent chemical weapon attacks. Zimanko Mohammed Ahmed was a survivor of the Halabja chemical attack by Saddam Hussein's forces in 1988. The attack in Kurdish Iraq killed over 5,000 civilians. Mr Ahmed had been just three months old at the time and he was evacuated to villages across the border in Iran. At the time it was believed his entire family had been killed, and he was brought up by an Iranian adoptive family. When his adoptive mother died at the age of 17, Mr Ahmed got in contact with the Tehran Peace Museum, who were organising a project of remembrance of chemical weapon attacks on Halabja and during the Iran – Iraq War. Through contacts Mr Ahmed found out that his mother had survived the Halabja attack and he was reunited with her.

The second testimony was provided by Hassan Hasani Sadi, who had been a soldier in the Iran-Iraq War. Mr Sadi came into contact with mustard gas that had been dropped on the Iranian frontline. His lungs have been badly affected by the attack and he has been hospitalised a number of times. Over 20,000 soldiers were killed by chemical weapons during the Iran-Iraq War. Mr Sadi is now an active member of the Tehran Peace Museum, who is profiling the suffering of populations in Kurdish Iraq and Iran and calling for peace in the Middle East. The Peace Museum has been instrumental in encouraging Mayors across Iraq and Iran to join Mayors for Peace – there are now 651 Iranian member cities of Mayors for Peace alone. (18)

This session was concluded by a short presentation from Mayor Khder Kareem of Halabja on the work the city is doing to remember those killed and affected by the chemical gas attacks in Halabja, and calling for peace in one of the most unsettled parts of the world. Halabja, like Ieper and Manchester, is a Vice President of Mayors for Peace. Mayor Kareem outlined the leading role Halabja is taking in the Middle East to promote the work of Mayors for Peace and the campaign to remember those affected by chemical weapons.

The morning session continued with a specific assessment of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings. Professor Peter Kuznick, Director of the Nuclear Studies Institute at the American University, provided a powerful overview of American policy and why it dropped the bombs on Japan. Professor Kuznick worked with the acclaimed film director Oliver Stone to produce a 10 part series 'The Untold History of the United States' which profiles American foreign policy from President Roosevelt to the present day. One episode focuses on the use of the atomic bomb and seeks to dispel a number of myths. Dr Kuznick argued Japan was ready to surrender before the atomic bomb was used, that atomic bombs were not required to end the war, and that it was the invasion of the Soviet Union into Manchuria - and not the atomic bombs - that persuaded Japan to sue for peace, ending the Second World War. (19)

Professor Kuznick's presentation was complemented by an outlining of the impact of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima by the Secretary General of Mayors for Peace, Yasuyoshi Komizo. Mr Komizo provided graphic images of the terrible and devastating effects of the nuclear attacks, which killed over 200,000 people in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Mr Komizo asserted that the calls for peace and reconciliation by survivors (hibakuska) of the bombings were a key part of why the two Japanese cities had established Mayors for Peace. In the year of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the bombings, a major world voyage of the Japanese 'Peace Boat' is taking place. 8 hibakuska survivors are amongst those on the ship, and a video message was relayed from the Peace Boat of their trip, which takes in visits to Mayors for Peace members in India, Turkey, France, Belgium, Poland, Russia, Iceland, the United States, Panama and Japan. The 'I Was Her Age' tour seeks to remember the suffering of the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and their calls for peace, with the elderly hibakuska passing on their experience to a younger generation. (20)

The afternoon session was chaired by Colin Archer, Chairman of the International Peace Bureau (IPB). Established in 1892, the IPB is one of the oldest peace organisations in the world. It is dedicated to the vision of a world without war. Recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1910 and 1913 and with many of its individual members Nobel Peace Laureates, the IPB

also awards an Annual 'Sean McBride Peace Award'. Its centenary photographic exhibition 'Making Peace' was opening on the leper ramparts on the 25<sup>th</sup> April. (20)

The afternoon session included three expert presentations. Dr Paul Walker of Green Cross International outlined the work it was involved with in enforcing the Chemical Weapons Convention. One of the leading experts in the field, Dr Walker has played a pivotal role in the verification process of removing chemical weapons from around the world. (21)

Dr Lars Pohlmeier of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) outlined studies that his organisation has done of the huge medical, environmental, economic and climate damage of a limited nuclear weapon attack on a city, and the wider impact this would have on the world. Impacts would include a significant increase in global temperature, catastrophic effects on world food production and the deaths of hundreds of millions (and maybe much more) of people, particularly in the global south. (22) This session was concluded by Alyn Ware of Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND). He outlined the possibilities for success at the upcoming UN Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference and the role of civil society in unlocking the disarmament logjam. (23)

The final session of the second day was a panel discussion led by Jasminka Bajlo, representing the City of Biograd na Moru in Croatia, another Vice President of Mayors for Peace. The panel discussion considered the role of civil society at the NPT and the nuclear weapons debate and included Jean-Marie Collin of the International Coalition to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), Jana Jedlikova of Unfold Zero and Annemarie Gielen of the Belgian Coalition to Abolish Nuclear Weapons. (24)

The second day of the conference ended with delegates being given a tour of the leper 'On Flanders Fields' Museum in the historic Cloth Hall. This award-winning museum provides a fair and rounded account of the First World War on the Western Front, focusing on the many human stories from both sides of the conflict. (25)

## **6. Day 3 – The mass destruction of cities and why 'Cities are not targets!'**

The final part of the conference focused on cities that are, and continue to be, victims of the destructive power of modern warfare. It also allowed opportunity to focus on one of the main campaigns of Mayors for Peace that 'Cities are not targets!' and should not be the focus of modern conflict.

The opening, core presentation was made by Dr Martin Coward, Head Lecturer of International Politics in Newcastle University. Dr Coward is an international expert on the impact of war on the fabric of towns and cities, whether it is in conventional civil wars and international conflagrations. Dr Coward showed how difficult it is to wage war in cities, but how new technology, particularly drones, could desensitize urban warfare and allow the potential future use of weapons of mass destruction. (26)

As with the second day of the conference, three moving testimonies of cities were provided. Carme Ciurans of the City of Granollers, close to Barcelona in Catalonia – and also a Vice President of Mayors for Peace – outlined the impact of mass bombings of the city by Italian planes during the Spanish Civil War. Ms Ciurans outlined the devastating impact on Granollers, and their recent work with Guernica and other cities badly affected in the civil war to ensure the personal testimonies of the bombings are properly recorded. The writings of a Flemish journalist who wrote about the bombings, and links between his family and the city were also given as an example of such testimonies. (27)

Holger Gussefeld, a resident of the German city of Hamburg and a member of the World Futures Council, outlined the terrible destruction of his city during intense bombing during the Second World War. The largest bombing occurred on the 28<sup>th</sup> July 1943, which led to intense firestorms around the city, killing over 42,000 people and destroying most of the city. Mr Gussefeld was a young child at the time and remembered the harmful effects of the phosphorous bombs. He talked about the reconciliation that took place between Hamburg

after the war – it is twinned with St Petersburg for example – and the need for cities that have experience of the harmful effects of war to work together. (28)

A letter was also read out from the Mayor of Volgograd, who had hoped to attend the conference but was unable to due to a major event in the city. Volgograd, previously known as Stalingrad during the Second World War, was the site of one of the most destructive battles of the twentieth century. Also a Vice President of Mayors for Peace, the letter noted that Volgograd works hard to record the testimonies of those affected by war, and is twinned with many cities who have had similar experiences, like Hiroshima, Coventry and Cologne. Volgograd is planning major events in May to commemorate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Second World War. (29)

The final presentation of testimonies was by Raji Sourani of the Gaza Human Rights Committee. Mr Sourani is a recipient of the Robert F Kennedy Human Rights Award in 1991 and the Right Livelihood Award in 2013 and has been an Amnesty International Prisoner of Conscience. As a human rights lawyer, Mr Sourani has been an unreserved critic of human rights violations occurring on both sides of the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians. Mr Sourani powerfully and passionately explained the current plight of the Palestinian community in Gaza, particularly after the most recent conflict with the Israel Armed Forces. Mr Sourani called for countries and cities to recognise the right for self-determination of the Palestinian Authority. (30)

The final session of the conference was chaired by Aaron Tovish, International Director of the Mayors for Peace's 2020 Vision Campaign. It considered issues around international law and attacks on populated areas. Maya Brehm, a Researcher at the Geneva Academy considered how international law relates to the problem of cities under attack. She noted the patchy response of the international community to large-scale post Second World War attacks on urban areas. Whilst there have been some success at the International Court of Justice, there have also been a number of examples where injustice has gone unpunished. The current Syrian civil war could be such an example, given the complicated nature of the conflict. (31)

Thomas Nash of the International Network on Explosive Weapons (INEW) considered whether international law is respected during such conflicts, and whether violations are followed up. INEW is a coalition of NGOs that calls for immediate action to prevent human suffering from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. He noted that international law needs strengthening to support all sides affected by explosive weapons. The rise of international terrorism has complicated matters still further. INEW work at the United Nations to improve international law in this area, and 40 states have now made official statements calling on new international standards to restrict wide-area bombing of populated areas. (32)

Tomas Baum, Director of the Flemish Peace Institute acknowledged the weakness of international law in preventing wide-area explosive materials being used in urban areas. He encouraged the members of Mayors for Peace and other international local government organisations to work together on joint statements calling for improved international law. The Mayors for Peace 'Cities are not Targets!' campaign is a good example of such activity, and interaction with other NGOs to lobby governments at the United Nations level would have real benefit. (33)

The Conference concluded with a consideration of an 'Ypres Declaration' linking the outcomes of the conference with the work of Mayors for Peace. It was agreed that this finalised text would be sent to the Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace, which will also take place in leper in November, to consider its full adoption as part of Mayors for Peace policy.

Conference delegates finished with a group photo producing a symbolic 'wave' goodbye to nuclear weapons as part of the 'Global Wave' initiative. This is part of a global initiative prior to the beginning of the UN Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference highlighting the desire of civil society for a successful conference.

## **7. Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign Board Meeting & NPT Review Conference**

A short board meeting took place after the conference with some of the members of the Mayors for Peace's 2020 Vision Campaign Association. Chaired by the Vice Mayor of Ieper, the meeting considered its financial report, its secretary's report and an overview of its current campaigns. The most prominent of these is the 'I Was Her Age' project with the Japanese Peace Boat organisation, as noted above. It was agreed that, following the progress of the NPT Review Conference, Mayors for Peace needs to consider the future development of this core campaign at its Executive Conference in November, at which both the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki will be present. The 2020 Vision Campaign has served the Mayors for Peace very well from its inception in 2005, and the Executive Conference will be a real opportunity to consider how Mayors for Peace plans to develop its campaigning work over the next five years.

The 2020 Vision Campaign also played a role in a large Mayors for Peace delegation at the NPT Review Conference. (34) The delegation is being led by the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and Mayors for Peace delegates are attending the civil society part of the NPT Review Conference which takes place a week after the Ieper Conference. At the Review Conference, Mayors for Peace held a special assembly event and launched its 'New York Appeal', calling for more concerted action by nuclear weapon states and non nuclear weapon states to work together to establish a framework for a nuclear weapons convention by 2020. The Appeal is attached below as Appendix 2. The NPT Review Conference continues throughout May 2015. A report on its progress will be provided to the next meeting of the UK Mayors, Provosts and Leaders for Peace Chapter, which is scheduled for June 19<sup>th</sup> in Manchester Town Hall.

## **8. Making Peace exhibition**

On the 25<sup>th</sup> April the City of Ieper formally launched the 'Making Peace' exhibition, on the Ieper Ramparts close to the Menin Gate. Making Peace is a major public photographic exhibition that aims to teach the public, especially young people, what key elements are necessary to create a 'sustainable peace'. In a series of superb photographic panels, the exhibition is based on five themes – disarmament and non-violence, conflict prevention and resolution, economic and social justice, human rights law and democracy, and environmental and sustainable development. The exhibition pays tribute to the people who devote their time, energy and resources to the cause of peace. (35)

Making Peace was first produced to mark the centenary of the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to the International Peace Bureau (IPB) in 1910, and was originally held in Geneva. Adapted exhibitions have since been held in Utrecht, Stockholm, Strasbourg, Sarajevo, Basel, Cape Town and Linköping. The exhibition will be held in Ieper until the end of September. Discussions are ongoing to see if the exhibition can be held in the UK and Ireland in 2016.

## **9. Actions and recommendations**

UK and Ireland members of Mayors for Peace are recommended to read this report and consider it in full at the upcoming 19<sup>th</sup> June Chapter meeting in Town Hall. It certainly relates to previous Chapter discussions around commemorating notable centenaries, such as the centenary of the First World War and the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

The Conference focused on the Mayors for Peace's 'Cities are not Targets!' campaign in the broadest scope. Terrorist attacks on towns and cities around the UK and Ireland have sadly taken place on regular occasions in the past 70 years. The Chapter meeting allows for discussion on how this campaign can resonate amongst its UK and Ireland members, and in solidarity with towns and cities around the world blighted by the effects of urban warfare.

## **10. References**

- (1) For a list of Executive Cities of Mayors for Peace go to:  
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- (2) Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, 'Brief History of Chemical Weapon Use',  
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- (3) Ieper Municipality 2014-15 Remembrance Events  
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- (8) *ibid.*
- (9) Jonathan Tucker, 'War of Nerves: Chemical Warfare from World War One to Al Qaeda', Pantheon Books, ISBN 0-375-42229-3.
- (10) *ibid.*
- (11) See Reference (7).
- (12) Vera Brittain, 'A Testament of Youth', Macmillan Books, ISBN 0-14-012251-6.
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<https://icrc.org/en/document/centiry-weapons-mass-destruction-enough-0>
- (15) OPCW Ieper Declaration, 21<sup>st</sup> April 2015 <http://www.opcw.org/ieper-a-centenary-commemoration>
- (16) UN Secretary General's statement to the Ieper Conference, 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2015  
<http://www.un.org/sg/statements/index.asp?nid=8563>
- (17) Jean-Pascal Zanders, 'The Trench' project <http://www.thetrench.org/biography>
- (18) Tehran Peace Museum <http://www.tehranpeacemuseum.org/index.php/en/en-news/1124-years-conference-2015-news-en.html>
- (19) Dr Peter J Kuznick, 'The Decision to Risk the Future: Harry Truman, the Atomic Bomb and the Apocalyptic Narrative', The Asia-Pacific Journal, [http://japanfocus.org/-Peter\\_J\\_Kuznick/2479/article.html](http://japanfocus.org/-Peter_J_Kuznick/2479/article.html)
- (20) See Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign 'I Was Her Age' page:  
<http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/en/i-was-her-age.html> or <http://www.facebook.com/IWasHerAge>
- (21) International Peace Bureau <http://www.ipb.org>
- (22) Paul Walker, 'Abolishing Chemical Weapons: Progress, Challenges and Opportunities', Arms Control Association, November 2010, [http://www.armscontrol.org/act/2010\\_11/Walker](http://www.armscontrol.org/act/2010_11/Walker)
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- (25) ICAN – <http://www.icanw.org>, Unfold Zero – <http://www.unfoldzero.org>
- (26) In Flanders Fields Museum <http://www.inflandersfields.be/en>
- (27) Dr Martin Coward, 'Memorialising the Invisible', E-International Relations, 28<sup>th</sup> April 2015  
<http://www.e-ir.info/2015/04/28/memorialising-the-invisible>
- (28) See Peace Boat, 'Peace and Historical Recognition in Granollers',  
<http://peaceboat.org/english/?page=view&nr=174&type=20&menu=64>
- (29) For link to Holger Gussfeld's speech at the Ieper Conference on You Tube go to 'Recent Events' page of the World Future Council website - <http://www.worldfuturecouncil.org/events.html>
- (30) To find out more about some of the peace and war memorials in Volgograd go to:  
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- (31) Palestinian Centre for Human Rights – <http://www.pchrgaza.org/portal/en>
- (32) Maya Brehm, 'Protecting Civilians from the Effects of Explosive Weapons', UNIDIR  
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**Appendix 1 – United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-Moon’s statement to the leper 100 Conference.**

**Delivered by Ms. Virginia Gamba, Deputy to the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Ypres, Belgium, 22 April 2015**

I am pleased to greet all participants at this conference on the centennial of the first use of poison gas on a massive scale in world history. It is fitting that this event has been organized by the municipalities of Ypres and Langemarck-Poelkapelle, where chemical weapons were so catastrophically used in the war that many once hoped would be the war to “end all wars”.

This solemn anniversary is an occasion for the world to pay tribute to the victims of those horrific weapons. If those victims could speak, they would no doubt demand action to destroy all such weapons so they could never be used again.

We have a shared responsibility to pursue a universal ban on the possession and use of all weapons of mass destruction – nuclear, chemical, and biological. WMDs are inherently indiscriminate weapons and grossly inconsistent with international humanitarian law.

Today is about more than mourning the past – it is an opportunity to confront the present.

Conditions today underscore the need to eliminate all weapons of mass destruction. Force is still used as a tool of policy. Terrorists continue launching increasingly violent attacks against innocent civilians. Thousands of nuclear weapons are deployed and ready for use at a moment’s notice. Allegations persist about the continued use of toxic chemicals in the conflict in Syria.

This threat is particularly grave in cities, where civilian populations are most densely concentrated and where over half of humanity now resides. I applaud the interest shown by city leaders in addressing this challenge, particularly the work of Mayors for Peace and the strong support they have gained in thousands of cities around the world.

Rather than despair, we must build upon humanity’s natural repugnance against the indiscriminate targeting of civilians. It is not enough to aim to keep weapons of mass destruction from “falling into the wrong hands”. There are no right hands for weapons that are just plain wrong.

We have now had a century of WMDs. Our response to this tragic milestone can only be to declare: Enough! After all these years, let us honour the memory of past victims by ensuring that there will be no future ones.

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**Appendix 2 – Mayors for Peace New York Appeal  
Mayors for Peace Assembly in New York, 29<sup>th</sup> April 2015.**

On August 6 and 9 this year, the world will commemorate the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, respectively. These commemorations provide an opportunity for citizens everywhere to pay their respects to the hundreds of thousands of their fellow human beings who were casualties on those tragic days. It is also an occasion to honor the atomic bomb survivors (*hibakusha*) and to recognize the inhumanity of the nuclear weapons that they and their families have had to endure.

Mayors for Peace acknowledges with admiration that *hibakusha* are determined that “no one else should ever suffer as we have.” With this powerful message, they have been greatly contributing to the global movement to eliminate all nuclear weapons. Their message is addressed to all humanity and future generations.

Representing cities throughout the world and as members of Mayors for Peace, we issue today, upon the holding of the 2015 NPT Review Conference, this appeal for a renewed global commitment to achieve the total elimination of nuclear weapons. We make this appeal in recognition of our shared mission to protect the lives and property of our fellow citizens against any future use of nuclear weapons, the most inhumane and indiscriminate of all weapons of mass

destruction. We believe that in order to achieve this common goal, it is not enough that political leaders present nuclear weapons abolition as a simple “desirable goal”, but that they must hold a firm political will to turn this into a “concrete achievement”, and that the strong support of public opinion to push this forward is essential.

Mayors for Peace, with 6,649 member cities from 160 countries and regions around the world, is a politically non-partisan organization, transcending differences in nationality, race, and religion. Many member cities of our organization support the 2020 Vision, aiming for nuclear weapons elimination by 2020 – including not only cities from the five nuclear-weapon States Parties to NPT, but also from nuclear weapon states not State Parties to NPT. The number of member cities has risen by about 2,000 cities in just the past four years, and the rate of new membership is accelerating, with the total population of these cities now making up a seventh of all the people on the earth, or one billion people. I am convinced that this expanding worldwide network will certainly act as a powerful driving force in leading international public opinion towards the lofty goal of nuclear weapons elimination.

Ever since the Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference expressed its deep concern at the continued risk for humanity represented by the possibility that nuclear weapons could be used and the catastrophic humanitarian consequences that would result from the use of nuclear weapons, interest regarding the humanitarian impact of these weapons has been continuing to increase at an urgent rate. A joint declaration appealing the inhumanity of nuclear weapons has been proposed five times up until now, and with each time, the number of countries in agreement has been increasing. Furthermore, the international conferences on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons held three times in the past saw a turnout of 127 participating countries the first time, 146 the second time, and finally at the conference held in Vienna last December, a record high of 158 countries. Taking into account this reality, it is clear that awareness concerning the inhumanity of nuclear weapons has been steadily rising at the national level.

Nevertheless, we voice our deep concerns over the lack of substantive progress in nuclear disarmament and of negotiations on a convention to outlaw nuclear weapons or any other legal framework for achieving this goal. Furthermore, we as Mayors for Peace absolutely cannot agree with the statements claiming specious excuses such as cruel acts of terrorism and conflicts among nations are impeding these negotiations. Specifically now, when the understanding regarding the inhumanity of nuclear weapons continues to deepen, is the time for the policymakers of the world, especially those of nuclear weapons states, to demonstrate decisive leadership and work together towards nuclear weapons abolition and the creation of an international environment that will make it possible.

The Article VI of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) requires all its parties to enter into negotiations in good faith on nuclear disarmament, and the 2010 NPT Review Conference noted the reaffirmation by the nuclear-weapon states of their unequivocal undertaking to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals. Under this article, the policymakers of all countries attending the NPT Review Conference, must proceed any further discussion with an awareness of how much damage will be caused if nuclear weapons are used in their country or neighboring countries, and take steps towards accomplishing a peaceful and safe world without nuclear weapons.

We, the member cities of Mayors for Peace, are prepared to provide full cooperation to achieve those kinds of measures.

Centred around the lead cities of Mayors for Peace located worldwide, we will launch a new executive system of promoting activities on a global scale in regional groups. Furthermore, in collaboration with peace-related NGOs, parliamentarians, scholars, lawyers, doctors, human rights activists around the world, we are promoting measures at multiple levels.

On this, the landmark 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Mayors for Peace pledges that we will unite the voices of all the like-minded citizens here in New

York, and that we will contribute our very best towards nuclear weapons abolition by 2020, and the sublime goal of realizing everlasting world peace, the ultimate common goal of all of humanity.

**Appendix 3 – some photographs from the Ieper Commemorations and Conference**



The Cross of Resurrection War Memorial in Lizerne prior to the centenary event of the first use of chemical weapons in war.



The Canadian First World War Memorial and preparing for the centenary event for the first use of chemical weapons at Langemark.



Manchester City Councillor and Mayors for Peace representative Mark Hackett gives the exultation prior to the Last Post, Menin Gate, Ieper, 22 April 2015.



Mayors for Peace SG Komizo speaking at leper 100 Conference about Hiroshima.



Councillor Mark Hackett by the leper Peace Memorial, leper Ramparts.



Carme Ciurans outlines the suffering of Granollers during the Spanish Civil War.



Councillor Hackett by the Making Peace opening exhibition panel, leper Ramparts.



Mines Action Group panel within the Making Peace exhibition, leper.