

**Bill Kidd MSP**

*Glasgow Anniesland*



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba



**Ms Kaci Kullmann Five, Chair  
Prof Olav Njølstad, Secretary  
The Nobel Peace Committee  
Henrik Ibsens Gate 51  
0255 Oslo  
NORWAY**

Dear Ms Kullmann Five and Prof Njølstad,

As a Member of the Scottish Parliament, I am honoured to submit a joint nomination of Nursultan Nazarbayev (President of Kazakhstan) and Karipbek Kuyukov (Honorary Ambassador of the ATOM Project) for the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize for their dedicated and effective actions to highlight the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, as well as for their leadership in promoting a nuclear-weapons-free world.

Nuclear weapons are recognized as the most extreme form of violence. They are the most destructive of all weapons in terms of their explosive force, the poisons they release (radiation), and the long-term and severe impact on human health and the environment, including their potential for catastrophic climatic consequences.

Despite the commitments made to nuclear disarmament by all governments through UN resolutions, political statements and treaty obligations, action by the nuclear-weapon-States and their allies to relinquish nuclear deterrence and to make concrete progress to achieving a nuclear-weapons-free world, is sadly lacking.

Your committee awarded US President Obama the Nobel Peace Prize in 2009 for advancing the vision for a nuclear-weapons-free world. President Obama is now leaving office, sadly without having made the hoped-for progress on this commitment. Indeed, with increased conflicts and tensions between nuclear-armed States (and those under extended nuclear deterrence), the risks of a nuclear exchange by accident or miscalculation have increased and the possibilities for nuclear disarmament led by those with the weapons has diminished. Last year the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists set the Doomsday Clock to 3 Minutes to Midnight, which is due to the increased threats from nuclear-weapons.

Times of high conflict, like those we are currently experiencing, can also provide opportunities for leadership, especially by those who may play a bridging role between the most powerful nuclear-armed States, and who can provide an example of an alternative to confrontation and conflict. It was during the height of the Cold War that the President of

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Iceland brought U.S. president Ronald Reagan and Soviet President Mikhael Gorbachev together for an historical summit that laid the ground for nuclear détente and an end to the Cold War.

**President Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan** is well positioned, and has shown willingness, to play a similar role today. Already he has led by example in the Central Asian region, and advanced a number of significant international initiatives for nuclear disarmament, the influence of which could only be enhanced by a Nobel Peace Prize award.

**Karipbek Kuyukov** is a civil society champion from Kazakhstan who is daily helping to build the global support for such leadership initiatives.

### **President Nazarbayev:**

President Nursultan Nazarbayev stands out as a leader who has taken a number of significant nuclear disarmament initiatives during his 22 years as leader of Kazakhstan. These include:

- **Closing the Soviet nuclear test site in Semipalatinsk.** The negative impacts of the nuclear testing led Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev to close the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site in 1991 as one of his first actions as President of the newly independent country;
- **Forgoing the world's third largest nuclear arsenal to become a nuclear-weapon-free country.** At independence, Kazakhstan had over 1700 nuclear weapons on its territory. This included 1,400 nuclear warheads on SS-18 Inter Continental Ballistic Missiles, and 40 Tu-95M long range bombers equipped with 320 cruise missiles. President Nazarbayev opted for Kazakhstan to become a nuclear-weapon-free country, and negotiated for the removal of all the nuclear weapons to Russia.
- **Leading the negotiations for the establishment of a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone in Central Asia.** The prospects for such a zone did not appear to be positive due to the complicated politics of the region and the intersecting military alliances and relationships with nuclear-weapon-States. President Nazarbayev used his influence to encourage the leaders of the other Central Asian States to create the political will to overcome such difficulties in achieving the Central Asian NWFZ Treaty.

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- **Establishing the UN International Day Against Nuclear Tests.** President Nazarbayev proposed and lobbied effectively for the establishment of a UN International Day Against Nuclear Tests. After a number of years of advocacy, the United Nations General Assembly resolution introduced by Kazakhstan was successfully adopted by consensus in 2009. Thereafter, the first International Day Against Nuclear tests was commemorated on 29 August, 2010, the anniversary of the closing of the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site. President Nazarbayev has ensured that the Day supports not only an end to nuclear testing, but also the achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free world. Indeed the social media and public promotion for the day leads with the phrase 'Embrace a nuclear-weapon-free world'.
- **Supporting the United Nations Secretary-General's Five Point Plan.** Under the leadership of President Nazarbayev, Kazakhstan has co-hosted a number of events at the United Nations to advance nuclear disarmament with a specific focus on supporting the UN Secretary-General's Five-Point Plan. This includes events featuring the UN Secretary-General as a keynote speaker. Kazakhstan also hosted the UN Secretary-General on a special visit to the Soviet nuclear test site in Semipalatinsk in 2010 to publicise the global campaign to end nuclear testing and achieve a nuclear-weapons-free world.
- **Hosting international conferences on nuclear abolition.** Since the establishment of August 29 as the International Day Against Nuclear tests, President Nazarbayev has hosted annual international conferences in Astana on August 29 to promote a nuclear-weapon-free world. These conferences are organised in conjunction with leading civil society networks, including Pugwash and the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (both Nobel Peace Laureate organisations), Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize by the Senate of Jordan) and the Nuclear Threat Reduction Initiative. These conferences have brought key constituencies together to cooperate on nuclear disarmament – including governments, United Nations representatives, international organisations, parliamentarians, academics, religious leaders, scientists, medical professionals, civil society leaders, youth and others.
- **Initiating the Universal Declaration for a Nuclear-Weapons Free World.** In 2015, the United Nations adopted a Universal Declaration for a Nuclear-Weapons-Free World, as proposed by President Nazarbayev. The Declaration expresses concern about the financial costs of nuclear weapons and the risks and consequences of any use; affirms that any use of nuclear weapons would be a violation of international law; re-affirms the universal obligation to achieve a

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nuclear-weapon-free world and calls on all States to adopt national policies supporting nuclear disarmament.

- **Launching a Manifesto for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.** President Nazarbayev was unable to achieve universal support for the Declaration for a Nuclear-Weapons-Free World because nuclear-armed States and their allies continue to rely on nuclear weapons for their security. Therefore, in response to this President Nazarbayev put forward a Manifesto for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century which outlines alternatives to nuclear deterrence for preventing war and achieving security, calls on all States to develop and implement these alternatives, and sets a timeline of 2045 (the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations) for the complete prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons.
- **Addressing military spending and Sustainable Development Goals.** In 2015, President Nazarbayev put forward a proposal at the United Nations for all countries to dedicate the equivalent of 1% of their military budgets to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals. This proposal has gained considerable interest from civil society as it appears to be a practical first step to implementing Article 26 of the UN Charter, which requires the UN Security Council to develop disarmament proposals in order to transfer resources from militaries to meeting economic and social needs. President Nazarbayev's proposal also has the capacity to build better cooperation between disarmament and development communities internationally.
- **Pledging action on nuclear disarmament in the UN Security Council.** In September 2016, Kazakhstan was elected as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for a 2-year term starting in January 2017. President Nazarbayev announced that nuclear disarmament would be one of the top priorities for their term on the Security Council.
- **Assisting regional conflict resolution.** Regional conflicts can fuel nuclear deterrence doctrines. As such, President Nazarbayev has hosted a number of important negotiation meetings for conflicts including Syria and on Iran's nuclear programme and he has offered to do the same for other conflicts.
- **Launching the Nazarbayev Prize for a Nuclear-Weapons-Free World and Global Security.** In August 2016, President Nazarbayev announced the establishment of the Nazarbayev Prize for a Nuclear-Weapons-Free World and Global Security. The announcement was made in response to a proposal made to him at an international conference in Astana that such a prize could help elevate the issue of nuclear disarmament globally. In October 2016, President Nazarbayev announced that the inaugural recipient of the prize would be King Abdullah II, to

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honour the King's leadership for peace, security and nuclear disarmament in the Middle East.

From the above, it is obvious that President Nazarbayev not only has a commitment to the achievement of a nuclear-weapons-free world, but continues to take a number of initiatives that are influential in the process to achieve such a world. A Nobel Peace Prize would enhance the influence and support these processes globally.

### **Karipbek Kuyukov:**

Any initiative at leadership level needs to have strong public support in order to overcome political impediments for success. This is why President Nazarbayev has supported a number of civil society initiatives to educate public about the nuclear weapons issue and promote nuclear abolition.

One of those is the ATOM Project, which is led by Karipbek Kuyukov.

Kuyukov is a hero of the nuclear age who is highlighting the tragic experience of his region in Kazakhstan – devastated by the long-term effects of Soviet nuclear tests. The project informs the world of the catastrophic humanitarian and environmental impact of nuclear weapons and the imperative for nuclear abolition.

A second generation victim of nuclear tests, Karipbek was born with severe health complications, including being born with no arms. He has overcome these to become a renowned painter (using his feet and mouth) – including paintings depicting the nuclear testing in his region. As Honorary Ambassador of the ATOM Project, he speaks at events around the world, telling story after story of the families that are still being severely impacted by birth defects, cancers and other health effects.

Along with the ATOM Project which was launched by President Nazarbayev and Parliamentarians for Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament in 2012, Karipbek and the ATOM Project are reaching millions of people through their website, social media, exhibitions, short online films (available in a number of languages) and an online global petition on ending nuclear testing and achieving a nuclear-weapons-free world.

Karipbek makes visible and real the trans-generational impact of nuclear weapons and the necessity to honour those who have suffered by abolishing nuclear weapons.

Awarding the Nobel Peace Prize jointly to Karipbek Kuyukov (the ATOM Project) and President Nursultan Nazarbayev would honour their leadership, publicise their vitally important initiatives, help elevate public awareness of the catastrophic humanitarian

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consequences of nuclear weapons, and support further steps and enhanced leadership at both public and political levels to achieve a nuclear-weapons-free world.

Yours sincerely,

Bill Kidd MSP

*Convener, Scottish Parliament Cross-Party Group on Nuclear Disarmament  
Council Member, Abolition 2000 Global Network to Eliminate Nuclear Weapons  
Co-President, Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament*