

We Honour....

People who played a significant role in the World Court Project
on Nuclear Weapons and International Law



WORLD COURT PROJECT

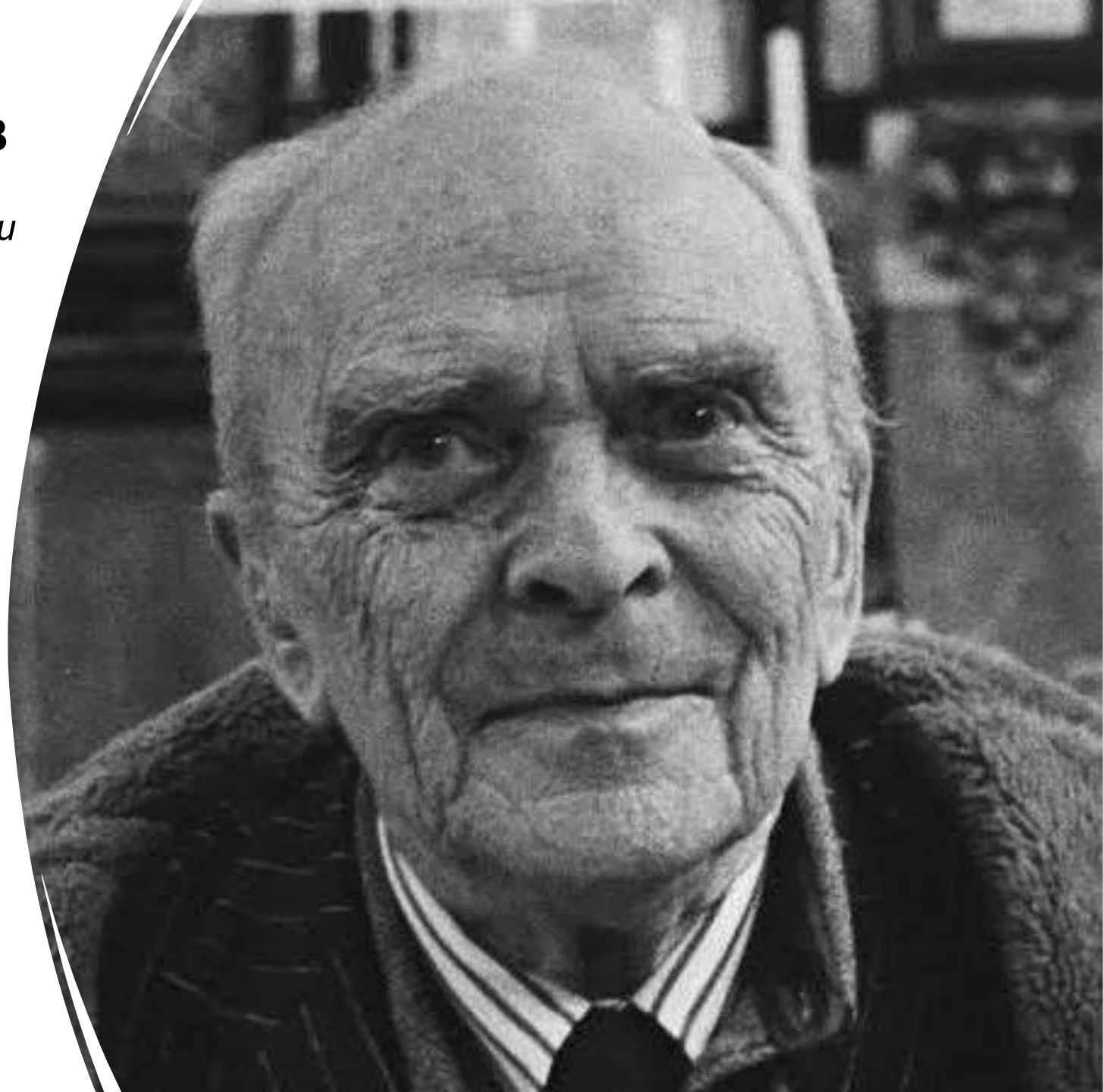
Note: Titles of the people are the positions they held at the time of the 1996 ICJ Advisory Opinion

Sean MacBride (Ireland) 1904-1998

Former Minister of Foreign Affairs

Former President, International Peace Bureau

Organised the **Appeal by Lawyers Against Nuclear War** (1986) endorsed by 11,000 lawyers. This Appeal, along with the 1986 London Warfare Tribunal, demonstrated the strength of international law against nuclear weapons and provided stimulus for the establishment of the *World Court Project on Nuclear Weapons and International Law*.



Prof. Richard Falk (USA)

Professor Emeritus of International Law at Princeton University

Board Member, Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy

Professor Falk was a judge in the 1985 *London Tribunal on Nuclear Weapons* (a peoples' court) which affirmed the illegality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons.

He was also one of the early proponents of an ICJ Advisory Opinion. Indeed, it was his discussion of this idea with New Zealand anti-nuclear campaigners on a trip to New Zealand in 1986, that persuaded Kate Dewes, Harold Evans and other New Zealanders to start the campaign for such an Advisory Opinion.



Judge Harold Evans (Aotearoa-New Zealand) 1916-2006

Member, International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms

In 1987, Judge Evans sent a 100-page Open Letter to UN Members having accredited representatives in New Zealand and Australia outlining the legal arguments against nuclear weapons and calling for an ICJ Advisory Opinion. This was the catalyst for the establishment of the *World Court Project on Nuclear Weapons and International Law*.

Judge Evans was instrumental in moving IALANA to join with IPB and IPPNW in launching the World Court Project in Geneva in 1992.

Photo: Harold Evans with Dr Kate Dewes



Judge Christopher Weeramantry (Sri Lanka)

1926-2017

Member of the International Court of Justice

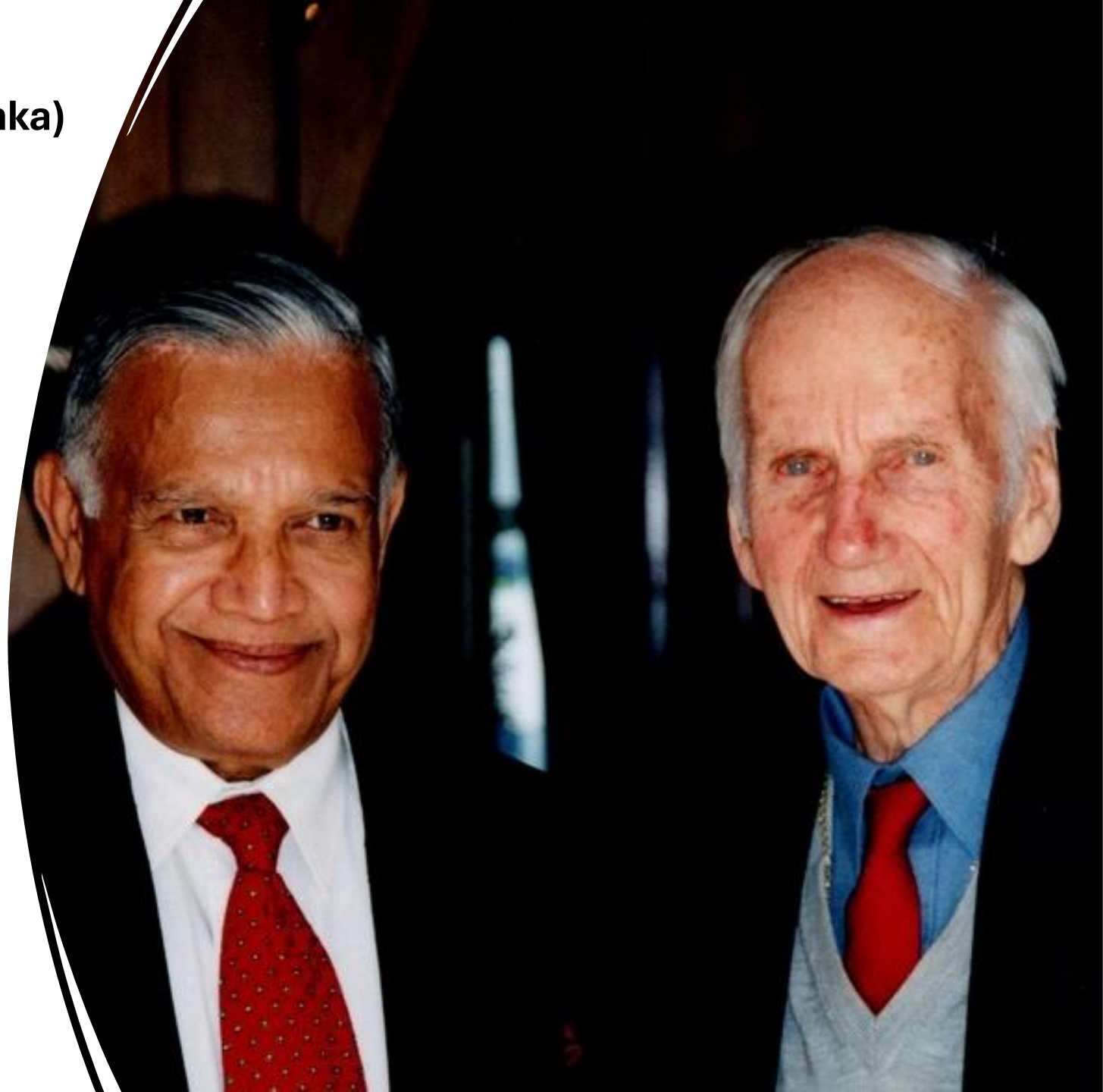
Former Judge, Sri Lanka Supreme Court

Judge Weeramantry was a passionate and articulate opponent of nuclear weapons long before being elected to the ICJ. He wrote the seminal book *Nuclear Weapons and Scientific Responsibility* in 1987, and included a proposed *UN Declaration of Scientific Responsibility in relation to Nuclear Weaponry* in the Evans' Open Letter to 71 UN member states in Australia and NZ.

Judge Weeramantry wrote a detailed dissenting opinion in the 1996 ICJ case, arguing that the threat or use of nuclear weapons is illegal in all circumstances.

Following his retirement from the Court, Judge Weeramantry became President of the *International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms* to continue advancing the illegality of nuclear weapons.

Photo: Judge Weeramantry with Judge Harold Evans



Dr. Kate Dewes (Aotearoa-New Zealand)

Vice-President, International Peace Bureau.

Committee Member, Peace Movement Aotearoa.

Founder, Peace Foundation Disarmament and Security

Centre. Member, World Court Project International Steering Committee.

Dr Dewes was a Co-founder of the *World Court Project on Nuclear Weapons and International Law*. She supported Judge Evans in the 1986 Letter to Commonwealth Heads of State, and was instrumental in moving the three core international organizations (IPB, IALANA and IPPNW) to jointly launch the project in Geneva in 1992.

Amongst other things, Dr Dewes moved the New Zealand government to support the UNGA resolution to request the ICJ opinion (one of only two Western states to vote in favour) and helped build the global WCP coalition of over 700 supporting organizations.

Dr Dewes has been active in other follow-up to the case. She wrote her PhD thesis on the World Court Project and is Co-author of *Aotearoa-New Zealand at the World Court*.

Photo: Dr Dewes speaking at the New Zealand press conference on the day of the ICJ decision



Alyn Ware (Aotearoa-New Zealand)

*Executive Director, Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy.
UN Advocacy Coordinator, World Court Project
Member, World Court Project International Steering
Committee*

Alyn's initial consultations in March 1991 with Permanent Missions at the UN indicated sufficient support for the New Zealand core team (Dr Kate Dewes, Judge Harold Evans and Dr Eric Geiringer) to move ahead to establish the *World Court Project on Nuclear Weapons and International Law*. Alyn then moved back to New York in 1992 to lead the advocacy for the UN General Assembly resolution to take the case to the ICJ.

To help ensure a successful outcome to the case, Alyn lobbied non-nuclear governments to participate in the written and oral phases. Following the successful ICJ decision, he remained in NY to focus on its implementation, including to help Malaysia draft and build support for the UNGA follow-up resolution, and also to support Citizens Weapons Inspection Teams, advance criminality of nuclear weapons in the Rome Statute for an International Criminal Court, and lead the drafting of a Model Nuclear Weapons Abolition Convention.

Photo: Alyn in Christchurch with Judge Harold Evans and Dr Kate Dewes, 1993.



Dr Erich Geiringer (Aotearoa-New Zealand) 1917-1995

*Founder of the New Zealand Medical Association
Board Member, IPPNW New Zealand*

Dr Geiringer was a *Co-founder of the World Court Project*. He initiated and developed the proposal to lobby the World Health Assembly to request the AO, which succeeded in 1993. And he was instrumental in securing co-sponsorship of IPPNW for the project.

Photo: Dr Geiringer at the World Health Assembly in Geneva with Dr George Salmond and Dr Ann Marie Janson



Commander Robert Green

(UK Royal Navy, retired)

Chair, World Court Project UK

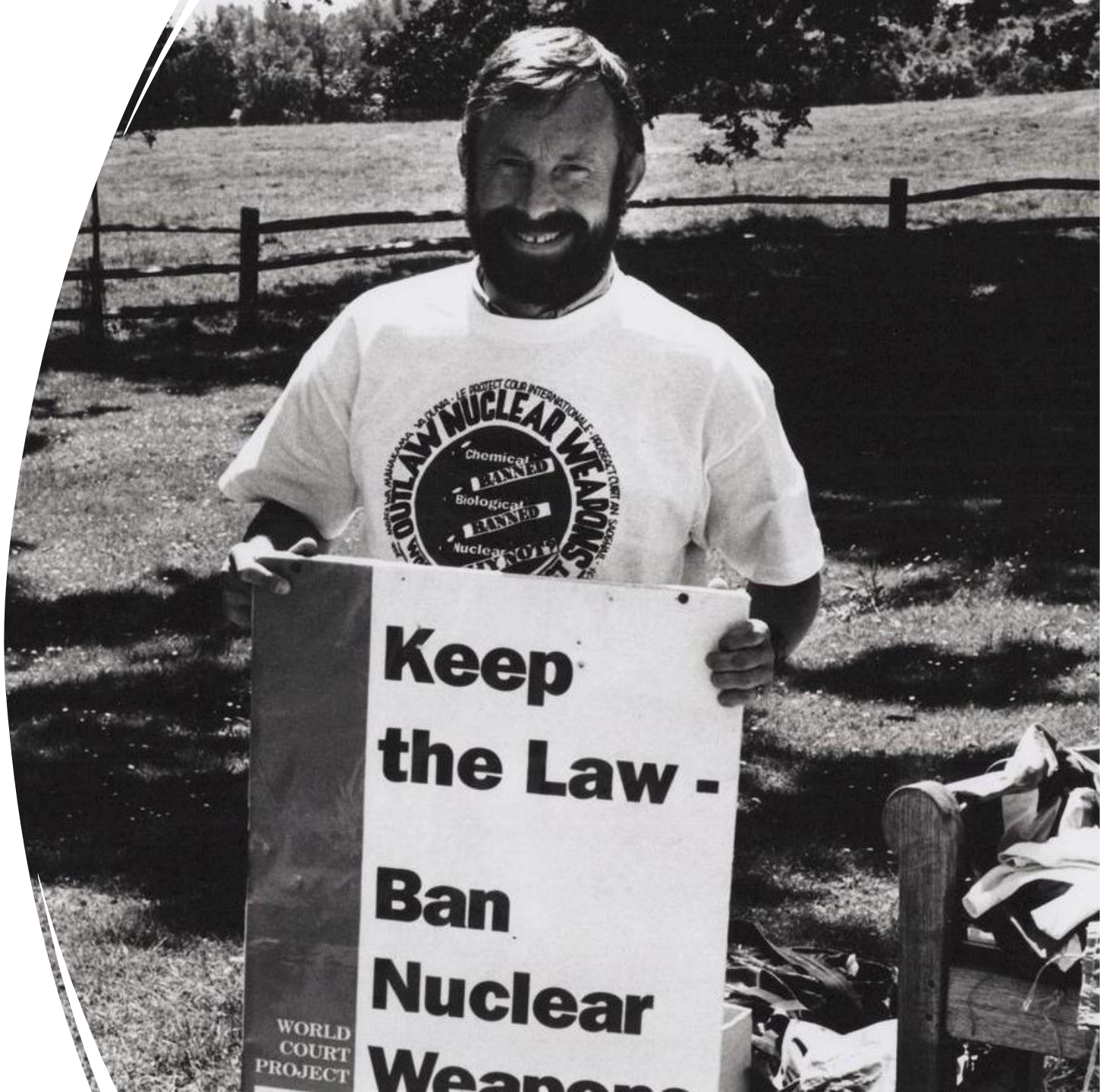
*Member, World Court Project International
Steering Committee*

Commander Robert Green, is a former operator of nuclear weapons navigating carrier-borne strike jets and then anti-submarine helicopters before his final appointment as Fleet Staff Officer (Intelligence) in the 1982 Falklands War.

Cdr. Green was a core member of the UN advocacy team for the World Court Project.

He is co-author with Kate Dewes of the 1998 booklet *Aotearoa-New Zealand at the World Court*. He is also author of the 2010 book *Security without Nuclear Deterrence*.

Photo: Cdr Green at the Magna Carta Memorial Fountain, Runnymede, June 1994



Colin Archer (UK)

*Secretary-General, International Peace Bureau
Member, World Court Project Steering
Committee*

Colin Archer organized and hosted the 1992 Geneva launch of the *World Court Project on Nuclear Weapons and International Law*.

He helped build, inform and engage a network of over 700 supporting civil society organizations in the campaign. This included, amongst other things, being editor and publisher of the campaign handbook: [From Hiroshima to the Hague](#).



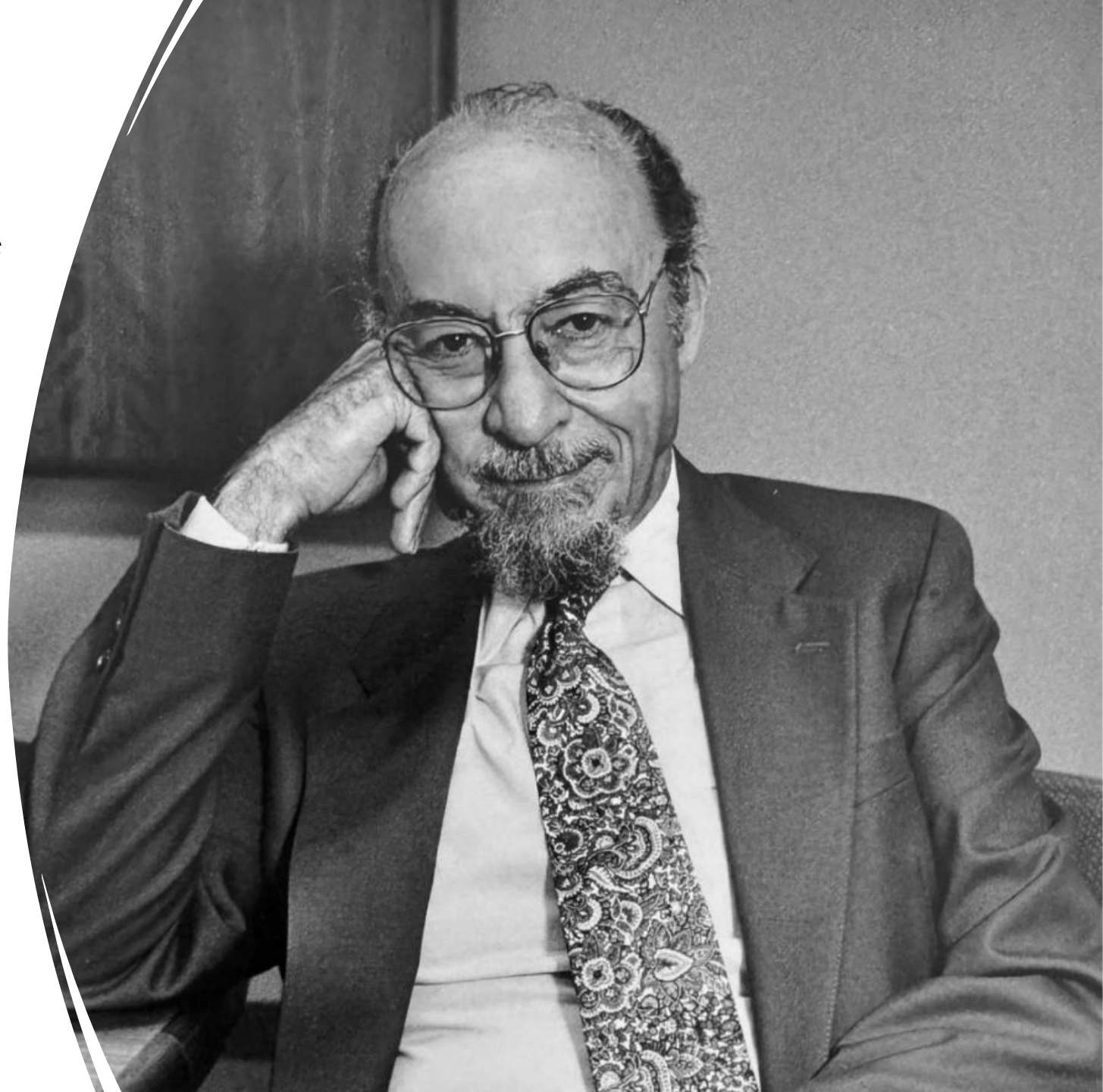
Peter Weiss (USA) 1925-2025

*President, Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy
Co-President, International Association of Lawyers
Against Nuclear Arms*

Peter was head of the legal team for the World Court Project on Nuclear Weapons and International Law.

He co-wrote a *Model Submission to the ICJ on the Illegality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons* which was used by a number of the States participating in the case.

He served as legal advisor to Malaysia, which provided coordination amongst a number of the participating states, and which introduced the ICJ AO follow-up resolution in the UN General Assembly.





Cora Weiss (USA) 1934-2025

*Vice-President, International Peace Bureau
President, Samuel Rubin Foundation*

Cora Weiss used her impressive rolodex (including civil society leaders, United Nations officials, parliamentarians and academics) to build both high-level and grassroots support for the World Court project.

As President of the Samuel Rubin Foundation, she also secured sorely-needed funding for the campaign.

Hilda Lini (Vanuatu) 1954-2025

Vanuatu Minister of Health

Vice-President of International Peace Bureau

Hilda was head of the Vanuatu Delegation to the World Health Assembly. She was instrumental in moving other delegations to vote in favour of the WHA resolution to request an Advisory Opinion from the ICJ in 1993. She also joined the advocacy team in New York for the UNGA resolution.

Photo: Hilda Lini promoting the World Court Project at an event in the UN Church Centre, New York



Prof. Saul Mendlovitz (USA) 1925 - 2015

Professor of Law, Rutgers University

Vice-President, Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy

Professor Saul Mendlovitz was a member of the World Court Project legal team. He co-wrote a *Model Submission to the ICJ on the Illegality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons* which was used by a number of the States participating in the case.

Prof. Mendlovitz also assisted the UN advocacy team. This included liaising with the Zimbabwe Attorney General Nathan Shamuyarira (a former law student of Saul's) to secure support from Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe were then instrumental in building support from the 105 member countries of the Non-Aligned movement to jointly sponsor the UN General Assembly resolution taking the nuclear weapons.

Photo: Prof Mendlovitz with Colin Archer at a World Court Project press conference



Phon van den Biesen (Netherlands)

*Co-President, International Association of Lawyers
Against Nuclear Arms*

Phon van den Biesen helped build support for the project from lawyers and legal organizations from around the world. He served as a member of the IALANA legal team for the project, providing legal assistance to non-nuclear States in their written and oral arguments to the Court.

Phon served as Co-Agent and Legal Counsel of the Marshall Islands in their case before the International Court of Justice against all nine Nuclear Weapons States; the case was about the Nuclear Weapons States' failure to negotiate nuclear disarmament

*Photo: Phon van den Biesen representing Marshall
Islands at the ICJ*



Keith Mothersson (UK)

1948-2009

Member, World Court Project UK

Keith Mothersson developed the concept of **Declarations of Public Conscience**, which was taken up by the campaign. He also wrote the book *From Hiroshima to the Hague*, which served as a handbook to civil society organizations supporting the campaign.

Photo: Keith Mothersson (left) outside the Peace Palace with boxes of Declarations of Public Conscience



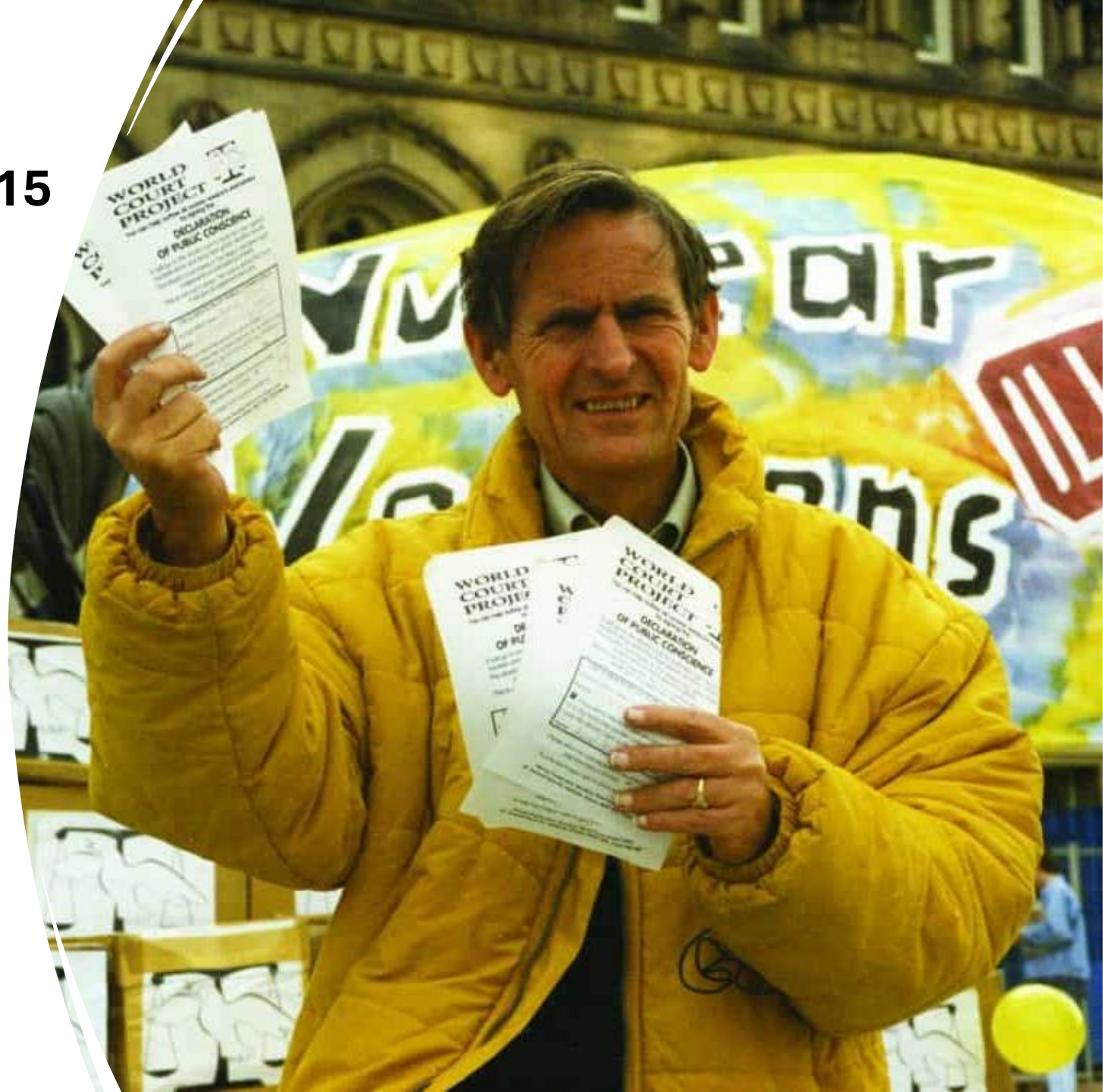
George Farebrother (UK) 1938-2015

Secretary, World Court Project UK

George Farebrother led the global campaign to collect Declarations of Public Conscience to present to the ICJ supporting the case. He arranged translation of the declaration into more than 40 languages.

Over 4 million declarations were collected with hundreds of boxes of them delivered to the court.

Photo: George collecting Declarations of Public Conscience in London



Pauline Tangiora (Aotearoa-New Zealand)

Maori elder from the Rongomaiwahine Tribe.

Member World Future Council.

Ambassador to the Earth Council International.

Life member, Maori Women's Welfare League

Pauline Tangiora helped build support for the World Court Project including from developing countries, indigenous leaders, Nobel Laureates, and United Nations officials.

Photo: Pauline speaking at a World Court Project event. On her right is Stig Gustafsson from IALANA Sweden





Edward St John (Australia) 1916-1994

Barrister. Former Member of Parliament.

Member of IALANA

Edward (Ted) St John worked in cooperation with Judge Harold Evans on the 100-page *Open Letter to 71 UN member states in Australia and NZ* outlining the legal arguments against nuclear weapons and calling for an ICJ Advisory Opinion, including to promote this to the Australian government and parliament and amongst Australian peace and disarmament organizations.



Rodrigo Carazo (Costa Rica) 1926-2009

Former President, Costa Rica

President Carazo promoted the leadership of Costa Rica in the initiative, including in the initial draft UN General Assembly Resolution to take the case to the court.

Costa Rica circulated the draft to a number of like-minded countries in early 1993. This was then picked up by the 108 members of the Non-Aligned Movement, a necessary move to protect the draft UNGA resolution from being scuttled by the nuclear armed and allied states.

Prof. Nick Grief (UK)

Professor of Law at the University of Kent

Prof. Nick Grief is the author of the 1993 *Legal Memorandum on the World Court Project on Nuclear Weapons and International Law* which served as a primary advocacy tool to convince governments to support the draft UNGA resolution seeking an AO on nuclear weapons. The memorandum was also useful in the advocacy for the World Health Assembly resolution.

Photo: Prof Grief with Dr Dewes in a World Court Project UK meeting, 1992





Maj-Britt Theorin MP (Sweden) 1932-2021

President, International Peace Bureau

Member, Parliamentarians for Global Action

Maj-Britt Theorin was a Swedish parliamentarian who served as President of IPB from 1992-2000, promoting in particular the World Court Project during this time. She secured support of Parliamentarians for Global Action for the project.

And she initiated the adoption of binding resolution in the Swedish parliament, forcing a reluctant Swedish government to submit a written statement to the Court that parliament drafted.



H.E. Razali Ismail (Malaysia) *Ambassador of Malaysia to the UN*

Ambassador Razali Ismail played a key role in securing support of the Non-Aligned Movement for the draft UNGA resolution to request the ICJ Advisory Opinion. When counter lobbying by the nuclear armed and allied states blocked action on the resolution in 1993, the NAM was preparing to drop the resolution. Ambassador Razali was instrumental in persuading NAM countries to return with the draft resolution in 1994, and ensure that it be put to the vote at the UNGA.

He then led the Malaysian team in the ICJ proceedings. And he presided over the UNGA when the ICJ follow-up resolution was adopted.



Robert van Lierop (USA)

Vanuatu Ambassador to the UN

Robert van Lierop played important roles promoting the draft UNGA resolution amongst Small Island States and facilitating connections between the WHA process and the UNGA process, in particular to assist the NY lobbying team.

Pete Waack (USA)

*Program officer, Lawyers Committee
on Nuclear Policy*

Pete Waack served as operational support for the World Court Project UN Advocacy team, including to produce campaign materials, set up meetings with diplomats (government representatives), organise team meetings and run the campaign office in New York.



Michael Christ (USA)

Executive Director, International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War

Member, World Court Project Steering Committee

Michael Christ built support from IPPNW affiliates for the World Court Project. He was also co-lead of the lobbying team at the World Health Assembly that succeeded in the WHA resolution requesting an ICJ Advisory Opinion.

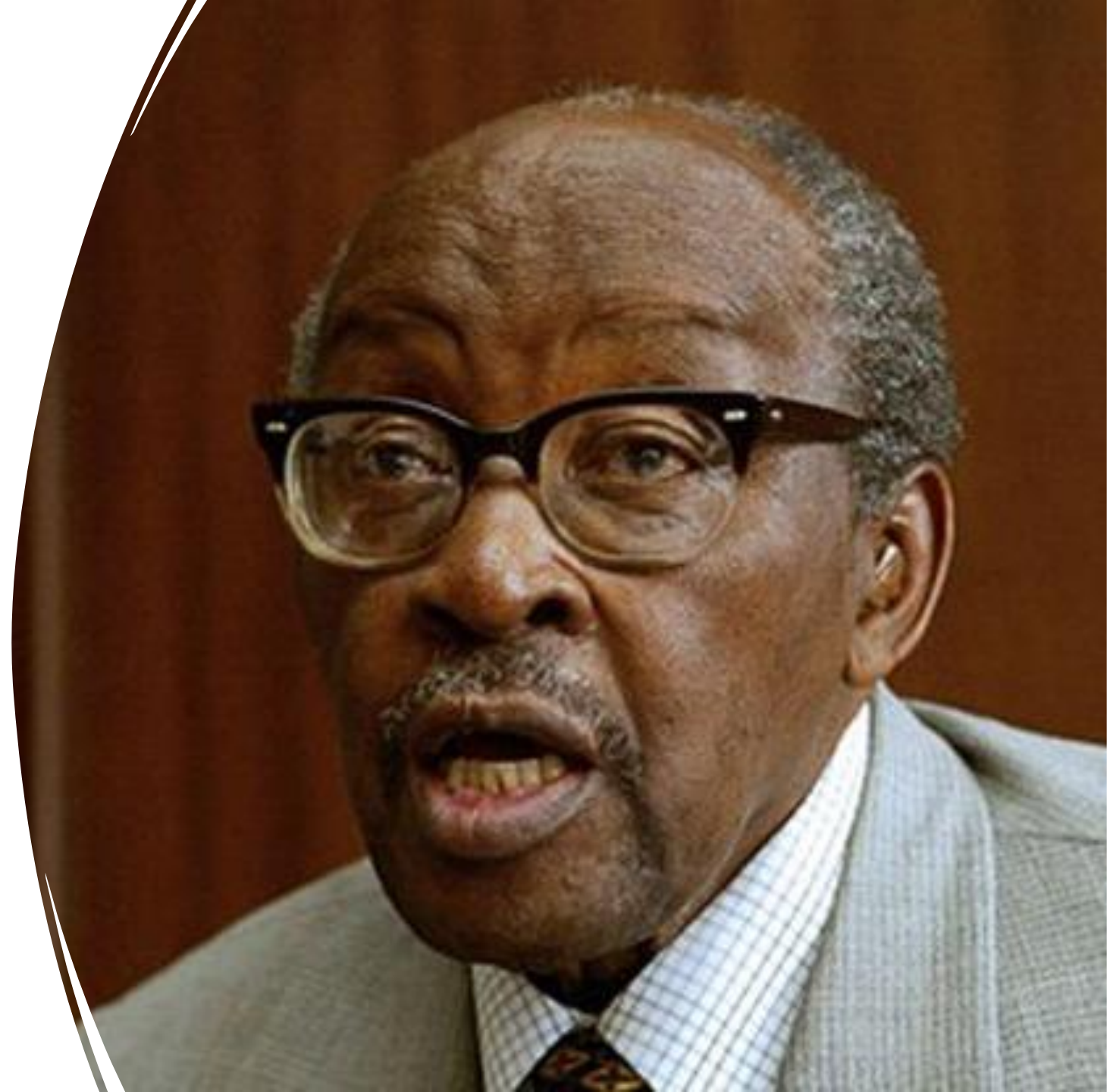
Photo: World Court Project Steering Committee meeting at the IPB Office in Geneva. Michael Christ is 2nd from the right.



Hon Nathan Shamuyarira (Zimbabwe) 1928-2014

Foreign Minister and Attorney General

Hon Nathan Shamuyarira facilitated the support of Zimbabwe for the World Court Project, after being approached by Professor Saul Mendlovitz, who at an earlier time taught international law to Mr Shamuyarira. The project resonated with the Zimbabwe government, which had been a leader of the Non-Aligned Movement, a group of 105 countries that traditionally opposed nuclear weapons. Zimbabwe led the campaign within the NAM that resulted in NAM collectively introducing the UNGA resolution to take the nuclear weapons case to the International Court of Justice.





Godfrey Dzvairo (Zimbabwe)

First Minister (Disarmament)

Zimbabwe Mission to the United Nations in New York

Once Zimbabwe decided to take a lead in the draft UNGA resolution to request an ICJ AO on nuclear weapons, Godfrey Dzvairo was appointed to build support from the Non-Aligned Movement Bureau and other NAM countries at the UN in New York, and to counter the efforts by the nuclear armed and allied states to block the initiative.

The New York Advocacy team for the World Court Project, led by Alyn Ware, engaged regularly with Mr Dzvairo in order to build success.

Lijon Eknilang (Marshall Islands) 1946-2012

Health care worker

Witness in the ICJ public hearings

Lijon Eknilang was a health care worker in the Marshall Islands. She was also one of the thousands of people whose health was severely impacted by the radioactive fallout from the US nuclear tests in the Marshall Islands. Lijon had eight pregnancies, all of which resulted in miscarriages or still-births of deformed babies.

Her testimony was instrumental in convincing the judges that *"The destructive power of nuclear weapons cannot be contained in space nor time"*



Rt Hon David Lange (Aotearoa- New Zealand) 1942-2005

Prime Minister

In 1984, Prime Minister David Lange ushered in a new policy banning nuclear weapons in New Zealand. Retaliation from the United States and other allies, was one of the key reasons the New Zealand peace movement proposed the ICJ AO on nuclear weapons, to help affirm a right to reject nuclear weapons.

Rt Hon David Lange continued to support the initiative even after a change in government prior to the UNGA vote. He spoke at World Court Project events and provided the foreword to Aotearoa-New Zealand at the World Court.

Photo: Rt Hon David Lange speaking at a World Court Project event in Aotearoa-New Zealand in 1992.



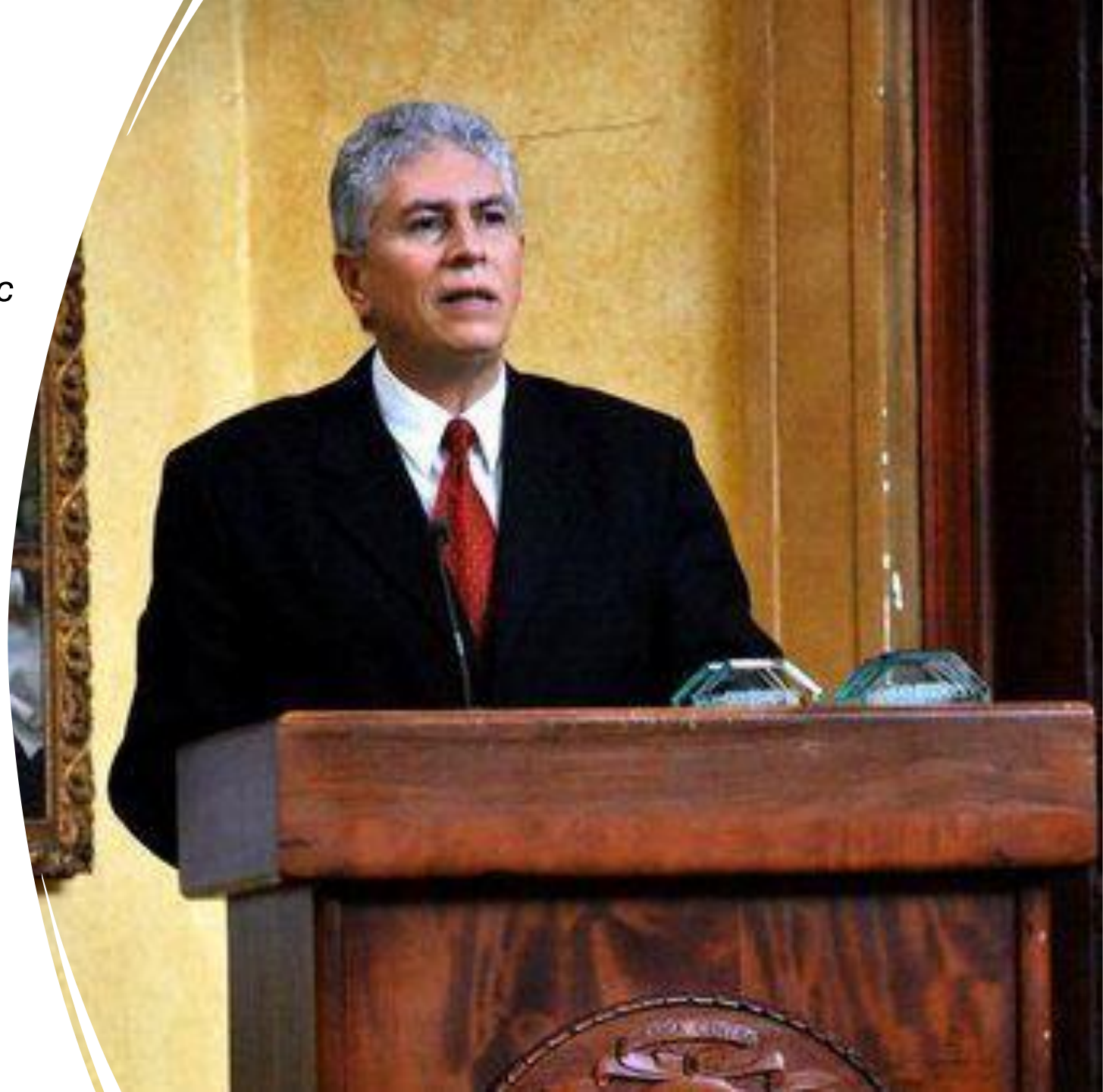
Carlos Vargas Pizarro (Costa Rica) 1950-2012

IALANA Board Member

Representative of Costa Rica at the ICJ public hearings

Carlos Vargas Pizarro was a respected international lawyer who represented Costa Rica in the ICJ Advisory Opinion proceedings. He used this position to formally submit to the Court a letter on the issue from the ICRC (as they did not have standing to submit it themselves).

Carlos became very active in international implementation of the ICJ AO, including in the initiatives for a Nuclear Weapons Convention, as called for in the UNGA follow-up resolution on the ICJ AO.



John Burroughs (United States)

Board Member, Western States Legal Foundation

Member of the IALANA legal team for the ICJ case

As member of the IALANA legal team for the ICJ case, John Burroughs assisted a number of States in their statements to the court. He was also a member of the Marshall Islands legal team in their 2016 case in the ICJ against the nuclear-weapon States.

John has written a number of books and articles on the ICJ case, including [The Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons: A Guide to the Historic Opinion of the International Court of Justice \(1997\)](#), [The Inadmissibility of Nuclear Threats](#), Arms Control Today, April 2024 and [The ICJ on the Nuclear Disarmament Obligation](#), *NPT News in Review*, vol. 21, no. 3, 7 May 2026.

In 2000, John was appointed Executive Director of Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy, succeeding from Ayn Ware.



Willemijn Straeter (Netherlands)

*Coordinator, International Association of
Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms*

*Member, World Court Project International
Steering Committee*

Willemijn Straeter provided essential administrative and program support in the Hague for the World Court Project.

This reached the height of activity during the public hearings, when the IALANA office (just opposite the entrance to the Peace Palace) was abuzz with lawyers, government representatives and civil society supporters.



H.E. Neroni Slade (Samoa)

Ambassador of Samoa to the UN

Ambassador Slade was very active encouraging Pacific Island States to support the UNGA resolution requesting the ICJ Advisory Opinion, and then to engage in the ICJ proceedings. Samoa did this in cooperation with Solomon Islands and the Marshall Islands.

Photo: Ambassador Slade with Alyn Ware at a reception in New York.



Prof. Roger Clark (New Zealand/USA)

*Professor of Law, Rutgers University
Board member, Lawyers Committee on
Nuclear Policy*

Professor Clark was a member of the Samoa legal team to the court and to the negotiations for the International Criminal Court. He is author of *The case against the bomb : Marshall Islands, Samoa, and Solomon Islands before the ICJ*.

He has also been active in follow-up to the ICJ decision, including in the proposal to included employment of nuclear weapons in the crimes under the jurisdiction of the ICC.





Dr Ann Marie Janson (Sweden)

Chair, IPPNW Sweden

Dr Janson was a Key member of the of the lobbying team at the World Health Assembly in 1993 that succeeded in the resolution requesting an Advisory Opinion.

Photo: Dr Ann Marie Jansen at the World Health Assembly in Geneva with Dr George Salmond and Dr Erich Geiringer

Dr Sergei Kolesnikov (Russia)

Co-President, IPPNW.

Member of Parliament

Dr Kolesnikov promoted the World Court Project amongst IPPNW affiliates and parliamentarians in Europe.

Photo: Dr Kolesnikov, far left, at a World Court Project press conference in the Hague.





Dr George Salmond (Aotearoa-New Zealand), 1937-2019

Former, Director-General of Health. Member, IPPNW

Dr Salmond was co-lead of the lobbying team at the World Health Assembly that succeeded in a WHA resolution requesting an ICJ Advisory Opinion on nuclear weapons.

Prof. Joseph Rotblat (Poland/UK)

Scientist. Chair, Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs.

Professor Joseph Rotblat provided crucial information to the ICJ on the humanitarian and environmental impacts of the use of small nuclear weapons directed against military targets, demonstrating that even this limited use of nuclear weapons would violate international humanitarian law.

The Solomon Islands delegation included Professor Rotblat on their delegation in order to be able to present information to the Court.

Photo: Professor Rotblat discussing the ICJ case with Alyn Ware



Jerome Elkind (New Zealand) 1940-2025

Associate professor of Law, Auckland University Law School

Jerome Elkind served as legal counsel to Nauru in their written submission to the ICJ.

He then played a key role with the Word Court Project in a somewhat subversive but successful, strategy to move Japan to attend the public hearings and include the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki as expert witnesses. Japan, under an extended nuclear deterrence relationship with the USA, was not planning on participating in the public hearings.

However, Jerome persuaded the government of Nauru to announce that if Japan did not go to the Court with the Mayors, Nauru would invite them to be expert witnesses on the Nauru delegation. This was a big media item in Japan, and successfully persuaded the government to participate with the two mayors in the public hearings.



Jackie Cabasso (California)

*Executive Director, Western States
Legal Foundation*

Jackie was a member of the media promotion team for the ICJ public hearings.

She also served as a member of the IALANA legal team for the project, assisting a number of States in their statements to the court.

She co-authored, with John Burroughs, [Nukes on Trial](#), an account of the 1995 oral arguments before the ICJ, published in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, March/April 1996



Kevin Sanders (Australia - USA)

Reporter, Director and Journalist. Member, War and Peace Foundation

The ICJ case took place before UNTV existed. However, Kevin Sanders filmed the oral hearings, 13 hours of which were screened on Court TV in the USA in conjunction with interviews of experts in the case including Alyn Ware.

Kevin also used excerpts from the hearings in *The People v the Bomb: Judgement at the Hague*, a 26-minute documentary produced and directed on the case.



Bruce Kent (UK)

*Former President, International Peace Bureau
Former Chair, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament
Chair, Movement for the Abolition of War*

Bruce Kent promoted the World Court Project amongst religious communities and grass roots peace organizations.





Dr Victor Sidel (United States), 1931-2018

*Founding Member, Physicians for Social
Responsibility*

Dr Sidel was active in building support for the WCP amongst IPPNW members including in the USA.

Anabel Dwyer (United States)

Board member, Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy

Anabel provided both legal and creative/artistic support for the project. She produced poetry, drawings and an opera about the campaign and its leaders. She was also active in building – grassroots support, including amongst civil resistance communities.





Fredrik Heffermehl (Norway), 1938-2023

Vice-President, International Peace Bureau.

Board Member, International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms



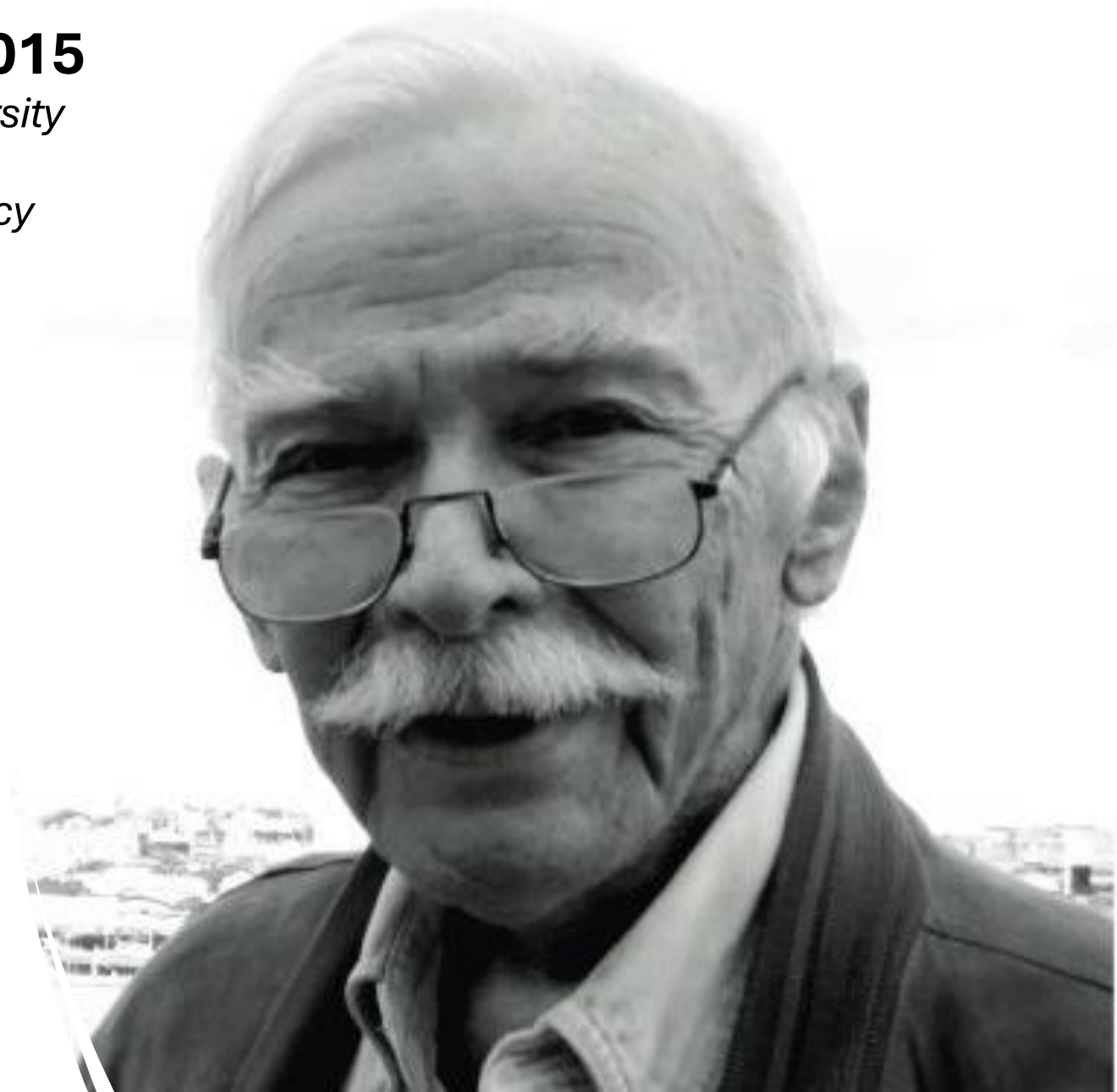
Fredrik Heffermehl promoted the World Court Project amongst lawyers and civil society organizations in Norway and Europe.

Prof Burns H Weston (USA) 1933-2015

Bessie Dutton Murray Professor of Law at The University of Iowa, specializing in international law and affairs.

Board member, Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy

Co-author with Peter Weiss, Saul Mendlovitz and Richard Falk of the Legal Memorial which a number of countries used in preparing their written submissions to the court



Mayor Takashi Hiraoka (Hiroshima, Japan)

President, Mayors for Peace

The Japanese government presented the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki to the ICJ public hearings so that they could introduce evidence of their cities' tragic experiences. However, this was done on the understanding that the statements of the two mayors would be made "independently of the position of the Japanese government."

Hiroshima Mayor Takashi Hiraoka concluded, *"It is clear that the use of nuclear weapons, which cause indiscriminate mass murder that leaves survivors to suffer for decades, is a violation of international law."*



Mayor Iccho Ito, Nagasaki (Japan), 1945 – 2007

Vice-President, Mayors for Peace

President, Japan Association of Nuclear-Free Local Authorities

The Japanese government presented the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki to the ICJ public hearings so that they could introduce evidence of their cities' tragic experiences.

Mayor Ito argued before the court that “*with their colossal power and capacity for slaughter and destruction, nuclear weapons make no distinction between combatants and non-combatants or between military installations and civilian communities, and moreover that the radiation released by these weapons cannot be confined to specific military targets. It can only be said, therefore, that nuclear weapons are inhuman tools for mass slaughter and destruction.*”

Photo: Mayor Iccho Ito with Dr Kate Dewes unveiling the Cloak of Peace sculpture in Nagasaki Peace Park.



Acknowledgment

We thank Dr Kate Dewes, Cdr Robert Green and the Disarmament and Security Centre (Christchurch, New Zealand) for assisting in the archival information about World Court Project leaders, and for permission to use a number of the photos in this slide show.



Photo and QR code: [A tribute to leaders of the World Court Project on Nuclear Weapons and International Law](#), 6-minute video message to the July 2026 commemoration event in the Hague.