



27 février 2022
32443WJ
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Nuclear deterrence: Putin's "dangerous game" denounced

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017, denounced Vladimir Putin's "dangerous game" on Sunday with regard to the use of nuclear deterrence.

"President Putin is playing a dangerous game by placing nuclear weapons on combat alert. Our campaign strongly condemns this action and we call for an immediate ceasefire, as well as the withdrawal of Russian forces from Ukraine," said Jean-Marie Collin, spokesperson for ICAN France, in a statement sent to the AFP.

"The world is approaching a nuclear catastrophe, so we urge all nuclear-weapon states to remove their arsenals from alert status and refrain from threatening to use their arsenals," he added.

On January 22, 2021, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) entered into force. Its scope remains limited: among the fifty or so signatories, there is no state holding the supreme weapon.

Nor was the treaty signed by Tokyo, victim of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombs in 1945. An unwavering ally of Washington, Japan is indeed very dependent on American military power to ensure its regional defence.

Pro-abolition activists hope, however, that the TPNW will stigmatize the possessing states and push them to change their mentality. "All States, in particular France and the other States with nuclear weapons, must join the TPNW and participate at least as an observer State, in July, at the first conference of this treaty", insisted Jean-Marie Collin.

dla/npk