



**ICAN** 2017  
NOBEL  
PEACE  
PRIZE  
**FRANCE**

**ICAN – France**

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*France, Lyon, July 14th 2021*

Dear Oscar Temaru,

Dear actors of the Polynesian civil society,

It is a great honor for ICAN France, the French International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, to be present at the *Maohi Lives Matter* demonstration, this July 17 2021, through the following message.

Since its creation in 2007, our International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) has always been committed to honoring and sharing the stories of the Japanese victims of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki nuclear bombings, and those of nuclear testing victims around the world.

It is by raising awareness and understanding of the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons that we have been able to convince States to work at the UN on a legally binding instrument prohibiting nuclear weapons.

ICAN France counts among its member associations, the *Observatoire des Armements*. It is a historical and important actor in the mobilization for truth and justice, on the nuclear tests that France carried out in Algeria and in Polynesia. This center of expertise was also at the origin of many disclosures concerning this particular nuclear test of July 17, 1974. Thanks to the work of Bruno Barrillot and Patrice Bouveret – who is pursuing his work – many secrets have been revealed, and progress has been made.

France carried out 193 nuclear tests in Polynesia. All had disastrous consequences, first, on a societal level, then on the environmental, humanitarian and sanitary ones.

These consequences are always forgotten in France, especially when the Ministry of Defense and the President speak, with pride, about nuclear deterrence. How can one be proud of a weapon of mass destruction, and the multiple human tragedies from the past and present?

The entry into force, on January 22<sup>nd</sup> 2021, of the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of nuclear Weapons (TPNW), has to be embraced by all of us. I strongly encourage you to do so. Different States have already become parties to the Treaty, such as Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Samoa and New Zealand.

This Treaty not only prohibits nuclear weapons, but also places environmental rehabilitation and the consideration of nuclear testing victims at the heart of the obligations to be fulfilled, while also prohibiting nuclear deterrence.

The TPNW must be a key instrument to disclose the suffering that Polynesia still endures to this day, as well as to commit future generations not to forget this dark part of the Franco-Polynesian history.

**ICAN France** est le relais national de la Campagne internationale pour abolir les armes nucléaires (ICAN), prix Nobel de la paix 2017. Cette campagne, lancée en 2007 regroupe 620 ONG partenaires dans 103 pays. Elle vise à mobiliser citoyens et gouvernement pour l'entrée en vigueur et la mise application du traité sur l'interdiction des armes nucléaires (TIAN).



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Each of you can rely on this international Treaty to call upon your mayor, the representatives of the Polynesian Assembly, as well as those of the French National Assembly, to urge France to comply with international law and to act in a sustainable manner, in agreement with the Polynesian civil society.

On behalf of ICAN France, thank you all for your actions. Together we will act for the memory of the victims, and for a world free of nuclear weapons.

Jean-Marie Collin, co-spokesperson of ICAN France

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