

Press release for July 16, 2025

**80th commemoration day of the world's 1st atomic bomb explosion "Trinity":
Nuclear bombs kill before they are used!**

At 5:29:45 a.m. on Wednesday (July 16), peace activists of the Nonviolent Action Abolish Atomic Weapons (GAAA*) will commemorate those affected by the very first atomic bomb explosion with a vigil at the Büchel nuclear weapons base in Germany:

On July 16, 1945 (local time 5:29:45 a.m.), a 6 kg plutonium bomb codenamed Trinity (Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit) was detonated in Alamogordo, New Mexico/USA in the "White Sands" desert, near the border with Mexico. This bomb had approximately the same nuclear explosive power as the atomic bomb on the Japanese city of Nagasaki on August 9, 1945. 19,000 inhabitants**, mostly of Hispanic descent, Native Americans of the Pueblo and Apache tribes, as well as US ranchers, etc. lived in the 80 km blast area of the Trinity bomb. None of them were warned!

During this nuclear fission, the temperatures inside the bomb rose to 50 million degrees Celsius, a radioactive fireball hotter than the sun. The blast wave from the explosion shook windows 160 kilometers away. The spread of radioactive fallout led to radiation sickness, cancer and death among thousands of civilians.

To this day, the last survivors in the "Tularosa Basin Downwinders Consortium"*** are fighting for recognition and compensation as Trinity Downwinders. On July 4, 2025, President Trump extended a compensation act (RECA) that for the first time includes the victims of the Trinity "test". It is due to come into force before the 80th anniversary of Trinity. "However, Medicaid healthcare has been canceled, so the compensation will hardly help the people who fell ill," reports Marion Küpker from the GAAA.

To date, over 2000 nuclear "tests" have been detonated worldwide, of which around 500 were above ground. The United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR) estimates the worldwide release of plutonium isotopes from these atmospheric nuclear "tests" alone at approx. 3400 kg. These nuclear "tests" are certainly partly responsible for the rapid increase in cancer cases worldwide, as well as for global warming.

We are standing and warning here in front of the main gate of the Büchel airbase, because this is another source of threat and danger for further nuclear explosions. In 2026, the 20 or so new US nuclear bombs of the type B61-12 are to be stationed in Büchel ready for use. Nuclear deterrence means using them in an emergency and being a target at the same time. NATO doctrine even provides for a first strike with nuclear bombs. The stationing of nuclear bombs in Germany is called nuclear sharing in NATO, which violates international law.

As part of the peace movement, we demand that our government immediately joins the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and puts an end to nuclear sharing in Büchel. It is time for us to learn from history and become "capable of peace instead of war"!

We ask for coverage, are available for interviews and will send photos:

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* Since 1996, the GAAA has been organizing non-violent protests at Büchel Air Base and has gone through the courts several times via the path of civil disobedience so that the nuclear bombs stationed in Germany can be abolished (see 2nd appendix).

** www.kunm.org/public-health-new-mexico/2014-07-24/inhabited-desert-the-untold-story-of-the-trinity-test

*** www.trinitydownwinders.com/