

February 26, 2020

Ambassador Jeffrey Eberhardt  
Office of the Undersecretary for Arms Control and International Security  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Ambassador Eberhardt,

We are writing to urge you to adopt at the upcoming Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Meetings a Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone in the Middle East (WMDFZME). We are gravely concerned that a very devastating nuclear conflict or war could break out in the Middle East and we hope the United States will do everything in its power to ensure this never happens.

We believe that Israel's security would be protected if the member states at the NPT Review Meetings voted to implement a WMDFZME. All states in the Middle East could be protected by regular and frequent IAEA inspections and verification. All states in the Middle East would be required to abide by IAEA regulations. Under a WMDFZME, all states in the region would be required to work together and develop a collaborative partnership to ensure no use of weapons of destruction; they would be working together to ensure that all Middle East states live in peace and security.

If there were use of nuclear weapons in the Middle East, the horrifying result would be massive loss of life and massive emigration as well as vast amounts of land rendered uninhabitable for the foreseeable future. A consequence of nuclear war is clouds of extreme radiation toxicity affecting every part of the world, this in turn would lead to global loss of agricultural lands and products and water supplies and massive starvation.

We urge you to put forward at the upcoming NPT Review Meetings a need for a WMDFZME. Hamas leaders offered to Israel a total truce and ceasefire (in Arabic, a "Hudna") in July, 2014; Hamas asked for no return of land, no right of return for refugees, no closing of settlements. Their proposal called only for "normal relations and the opportunity to trade and move across ceasefire lines." (Nicolas Pelham, Haaretz, July 14, 2014). Although Israel did not respond in kind to this proposal, we hope the United States will help broker a complete truce and prohibition of nuclear weapons, calling on all states in the Middle East to abide by a Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone in the region. We urge you to include a clause that prohibits all states from using weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

Thank you for reading our proposal. We sincerely hope you will present it at the 2020 NPT Review Meetings next month and all countries will agree to implement a WMDFZME.

Sincerely,

Odile Hugonot Haber  
Co-chair, Middle East Committee

Barb Taft  
Co-chair, Middle East Committee