



**Religious Society of Friends (Quakers).
German Yearly Meeting**

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FWCC-EMES
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Ref. US-American nuclear weapons stationed in Buechel

Dear Friends,

As you can see from the attached minute, German Yearly Meeting at our meeting in November addressed the fact that US-American nuclear weapons are still stationed, ready for use, in the Eifel.

Prompted by our peace testimony, a working group gave special attention to the issue and drafted a declaration which we would like to bring to your attention. The declaration forms part of the attached minute.

As we journey together on the way of peace, we feel that it is important to keep in mind our conviction that nonviolent conflict resolution is the approach through which lasting help can be found, so that we can all live in a just and peaceful world.

Friendly greetings,

Ulrike Bechtel
(Schreiberin)

Neithard Petry
(Schreiber)

2017 Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) A decision of the Yearly Meeting, minuted on 5 November 2017

From time to time during this yearly meeting – in group sessions and during a meeting for the consideration of concerns – we have addressed the fact that US-American nuclear weapons are deployed in Germany (in Büchel) in readiness for use. A network has been created so that those amongst us who are involved in taking action on this issue may do so more effectively on behalf of us all.

We have heard the following declaration – drafted by a working group which concentrated on the issue:

We, the members of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) gathered today in Bad Pyrmont, raise our voice once again against the continued deployment – in readiness for use – of nuclear weapons on German soil and the plans to increase their readiness. We do not want to be “protected” by nuclear weapons under any circumstances. Nor do we want under any circumstances to allow immense suffering to be inflicted by a nuclear attack on other people somewhere else.

In 1960 Quakers initiated the German Easter Marches against nuclear weapons in both the East and the West with the words: “We must send out a strong signal.” Fifty years later, in 2010, the German Bundestag used the same words, “We must send out a strong signal”, when a resolution calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons and their removal from Germany was passed by an overwhelming majority. But so far no German government has taken action in accordance with this resolution.

There is still a huge threat. And the threat is growing – as is clear from the escalating conflict between North Korea and the USA about nuclear weapons, and the threats which are being exchanged between these two countries.

We therefore unite with those amongst us and all the other people who, for religious reasons or reasons of conscience, believe that it is urgently necessary to perform acts of nonviolent resistance, possibly involving civil disobedience, at the German nuclear base in Büchel and at other military sites.

We pledge our support for them and their actions.

Decision: We affirm and adopt this declaration as a way of supporting all those who become involved.