



**Contact:** Liz Woodruff  
General Media  
(208) 871-4597  
[lwoodruff@snakeriveralliance.org](mailto:lwoodruff@snakeriveralliance.org)

Jono Kinkade  
General Media  
(805) 215-9930  
[onojjono@gmail.com](mailto:onojjono@gmail.com)

Mariah Klusmire  
New Mexico Contact  
(760) 920-3247  
[mklusmire@gmail.com](mailto:mklusmire@gmail.com)

**June 8, 2010**

**For Immediate Release**

**National Youth Network Launches “Disarmament Summer”  
to Say “No More New Nukes”**

As national nuclear policy heads toward a nuclear relapse, a diverse coalition of youth is stepping up to confront the madness. Think Outside the Bomb (TOTB)— the largest youth-led anti-nuclear network in the U.S. — is organizing their “Disarmament Summer” campaign, which will host a series of events across the country and culminate in a 10 day action encampment this summer in New Mexico. Think Outside the Bomb launched this campaign in April by participating in protests at the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in New York City, the first of a series of events where TOTB is having a presence and building it's network. Meanwhile, the TOTB National Tour is crossing the country to build alliances and spread the word about confronting the nuclear industry and it's costly toxic.

The Disarmament Summer campaign will culminate in a global convergence near Los Alamos, New Mexico from July 30<sup>th</sup>-August 9<sup>th</sup>, hosting an encampment to continue building a youth coalition striving for a nuclear-free world. The encampment will see a wide array of opportunities for people to network, share experiences, information and strategies, and to organize a series of nonviolent direct actions focused on Los Alamos National Laboratory. Gathering where it all began, youth from around the world will call attention to the hypocrisy of using the rhetoric of disarmament while simultaneously revamping the nuclear infrastructure. Here TOTB will show that there is a new generation demanding an end to the cycle of violence that has devastated communities across the world, and show that it is possible to go the way of a more promising future.

Young people are fed up with the nuclear legacy left to them by the Cold War, and are frustrated that instead of moving the world to a nuclear-free future, the United States is in the midst of a nuclear relapse. Disarmament Summer organizer Lisa Putkey was galvanized into action by this hypocrisy, recognizing current policies remained constant even though President Obama promised change. “Obama got a Noble Peace Prize for talking about a nuclear-free world, but meanwhile he is increasing funding for new nukes by billions of dollars,” she said, referring to

plans to construct three new bomb making facilities, a move which would quadruple the United State's ability to make nuclear weapons [please refer to Nuclear Issues Explained document for more information].

TOTB intends to move the attention that is hampered on the common global rhetoric and refocus it to the true reality of the current nuclear policies. In bringing the campaign from New York City and Washington, D.C., through various communities in the U.S., and ultimately to New Mexico, TOTB hopes to highlight the ongoing environmental and health effects caused by the expansive, costly trail left by a history of waste and contamination. "There are no proposals to dismantle existing nuclear weapons and still clean up their deadly legacy," said Miguel Moreno, a youth leader with Products of Aztlán and Disarmament Summer organizer from Chimayo, New Mexico. Moreno points to a situation in New Mexico where 250 abandoned uranium mines continue to pollute their surrounding communities, while the thousands of people who are sick and dying from the effects are receiving woefully inadequate compensation and health care. "Our communities deserve more than the toxic legacy the nuclear industry has created on our land through intensive mining and weapons production. Disarmament Summer is a chance for people to come together to build that better future."

TOTB has already been hard at work. Recently in Denver, the group teamed up with Navajo leaders from New Mexico to visit the Uranium Recovery Conference, which was jointly-sponsored by the mining industry and Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC). By challenging conference goers and when necessary disrupting the proceedings, a wake-up call was delivered to the industry and the NRC that the rubber stamping of new mining permits will not be granted without a challenge from the people whose land would be impacted. This crucial juncture comes as mining companies plan to end a 30 year hiatus on mining and open or re-open 22 New Mexican mines. Many of the proposed mines are on sacred sites, and all are in direct opposition to a Navajo Ban.

"The current effort to open new uranium mines on native land in New Mexico is inexcusable, and if the NRC will not stop these efforts, we will continue to demand that no new permits for mining are granted," said New Mexico-based TOTB organizer Jennifer Nordstrom. "Whether its weapons production, nuclear power, or the mining of uranium, the effects of the nuclear fuel chain are not part of what our generation is willing to accept. TOTB is here to start building a better, more sustainable future than the nuclear industry can provide."

###

*Who we are:*

Think Outside the Bomb is a cross-cultural alliance of youth working together to reignite hope from below and build a grassroots movement that is consensus-based and. In partnership with the Tribal Environmental Watch Alliance (TEWA), TEWA Women United, the Multicultural Alliance for a Safe Environment (MASE), Products of Atzlan youth group, and the Southwest Indigenous Uranium Forum, we are committed to collective liberation, a sustainable future, and an end to the cycle of nuclear violence.

For too long, the US government and corporations have sacrificed the environmental integrity, the health, and the well-being of indigenous and poor communities to secure access to resources through the threat and use of force. We cannot reverse the course of a nuclear future unless we undo the legacy of racism and violence.