



Gorbachev Foundation



Arias Foundation for Peace and
Human Progress



Rete Italiana per il Disarmo

Nobel Peace Laureates promote Arms Trade Treaty Rome, Italy

Following the annual meeting of the Nobel Peace Laureates in Rome, Italy, a group of Nobel Peace Laureates and Laureate organizations will participate in a press conference for the promotion of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) on November 13, 2004 at 12.00 in Campidoglio.

After a welcome message from the Mayor of Rome Mr. Veltroni, and with Riccardo Troisi (ControllARMI) chairing the Conference, Ms. Betty Williams and Ms. Marian Pink from Amnesty International will speak about the ATT initiative, the need for the international regulation of arms transfers, and the future of the initiative. Dr. Neil Arya from the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) and Ms. Mary Ellen McNish from American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) will speak about current data regarding gun violence and the worldwide up to-date activities in support of the ATT. Then Ms. Nicoletta Dentico from International Campaign to Ban Landmines will recall the similar path for the Ottawa Treaty and underline future challenges in this field. The five speakers will be followed by a video of Archbishop Desmond Tutu on the ATT and arms issues and other support interventions by Peace Laureates present in Rome (list to be confirmed further on).

The conference, attended also by representatives from the 30 organizations of the Italian Network on Arms Control and Disarmament (ControllARMI), will end with a short Q&A session.

The press conference will be organized by The Arias Foundation for Peace and Human Progress and the Italian ControllArmi coalition in cooperation with the organizers of the annual Peace Laureates meeting, the Italian branch of the Gorbachev Foundation, and the International Secretariat of Amnesty International. The goals of the conference are to raise public awareness of the history, status, Laureates' role and next steps of the international initiative, to increase support and activity for the Arms Trade Treaty, and to demonstrate the need for arms transfer controls. Some time will be devoted in illustrating the framework of action on arms control set up by the ControllARMI network of civil society organizations.

In October of 1995, led by Dr. Oscar Arias, a group of Nobel Peace Laureates pledged to promote an international initiative to establish an agreement on arms transfers. Together, they drafted the Nobel Peace Laureates International Code of Conduct on Arms Transfers. To date, this initiative has been endorsed by 20 individuals and organizations

awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. In 2000, drawing on the Laureates' Code of Conduct, the proposed Arms Trade Treaty was drafted.

In October 2003, Amnesty International, Oxfam, IANSA and organizations worldwide launched an international Control Arms campaign. The campaign is already making an impact with campaign groups winning signs of interest and possible agreement from a number of governments and gaining considerable press and media interest in the subject. The organizations involved are still building up their capacity on the issue of arms control and extending the participation in the campaign to all parts of the world through meetings, workshops, bulletins and mutual support.

The ATT seeks to establish *a binding international agreement* to control the arms trade according to established principles of human rights, humanitarian law, sustainable development and peaceful international relations. It would ban the transfer of arms that could be used to seriously violate international human rights standards and international humanitarian law and would require exporting states to avoid the sale of weapons that could have an adverse impact on sustainable development or regional peace and security.

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Additional information on the ATT or the Control Arms campaign is available at www.armstradetreaty.com or www.controlarms.com and www.disarmo.org