

# The Very Threat of Nuclear Weapons Is “Nuclear Terrorism” and a Crime Against Peace and Humanity: Prof. Francis Boyle

A comment on Francis Boyle's Humanity Must Abolish Nuclear Weapons Before Nuclear Weapons Abolish Humanity article

By [Dr. Rudolf Hänsel](#)

Theme: [Militarization and WMD](#)

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*Since the beginning of the war in Ukraine, the sword of Damocles of a nuclear exchange between the great powers USA and Russia has been hovering over humanity. According to the American international law expert Francis Boyle, the very threat of nuclear weapons is “nuclear terrorism” and, since the Nuremberg War Crimes Tribunal in 1945, a crime against peace and humanity. Boyle said this about ten years ago during a lecture at the XVIII “Courage to Ethics” Conference in Feldkirch, Austria.*

Professor Boyle accused the US government of,

“after the atomic bombs of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the incineration of 250,000 innocent people, to persist in the development of these weapons which threaten all humanity and thus to commit verifiable crimes like the Nazis. (...) Therefore, the government officials in all nuclear weapons states, not only those of the United States – they are of course the worst – (...) are criminals. They are criminals! For their threat to destroy all humanity! For their threat to repeat the Nuremberg crimes against peace, crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide! (...).”

Then Boyle made an urgent appeal to all people:

“Humanity must abolish nuclear weapons before nuclear weapons abolish humanity!

Everyone around the world has the basic human right to be free from the criminal practice of nuclear threat/nuclear terrorism’ and its spectre of nuclear extinction. All human beings (...) possess the fundamental right under international humanitarian law to engage in civil resistance to either prevent, impede or end these threatened acts of

international crimes.”

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Source

Transcript of the lecture by the author as well as article in the “Neue Rheinische Zeitung” (NRhZ) of 13 01 2016: <http://www.nrhz.de/flyer/beitrag.php?id=22455&css=print>

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