

# IndependentWHO – Health and Nuclear Power

For the **truth** about  
the health  
consequences of  
radioactive  
contamination



For the  
INDEPENDENCE  
of the **World Health**  
Organization

Since 26th April 2007, on every working day from 8.00 a.m. till 6.00 p.m., a Vigil has been held outside the headquarters of the World Health Organization at the Morillons crossroads in Geneva to demand "the Independence of WHO". This international action is supported by a large group of NGOs, who wish to expose the truth about the effects of the radioactive contamination produced by both the civil and military nuclear industries.

As the international health authority, the **World Health Organization** (WHO) is responsible for providing scientific and medical guidance to states in the interests of their population's health. **In line with its Constitution, that guidance must be free of all commercial interest.** However, WHO works very closely with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), one of whose aims is to promote the use of civil nuclear power...

What happens when there is a conflict between, on the one hand, WHO's responsibility to inform the public and to ensure their safety and, on the other, the promotional aims of the IAEA? The answer can be seen very clearly in the management of the health catastrophe at Chernobyl that has been going on since the explosion in the reactor occurred on 26th April 1986, and more recently in the handling of the Fukushima disaster.

Between 20th and 23rd November 1995, WHO held an international **conference in Geneva** on the health consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe. 700 experts participated and many of the findings they presented were very worrying. **The proceedings of this conference have never been published.** However, six months later (8-12 April 1996), the IAEA organized another conference in Vienna at which it produced an official total of the catastrophe which WHO endorsed : 32 deaths, 200 irradiated, 2000 thyroid cancers in children ! These figures were revised upwards on 5 September 2005 to less than 50 deaths, 400 irradiated and 4000 cancers, but even these are equally unrealistic. They take no account of the state of health among **children, 80% of whom are ill in the contaminated zones**, nor of the number of dead and ill among the 600 000 to 1 million "liquidators" who participated in the clean up operation in 1986 to prevent a much greater catastrophe. Among the Ukrainian liquidators alone, 25 000 died, according to the figure announced by the Ukrainian Ambassador to Belgium on 26th April 2004.

The New York Academy of Sciences, meanwhile, published in The Annals (Vol. 1181, December 2009) a comprehensive study, entitled "**Chernobyl. Consequences of the disaster for people and the environment**", which summarize nearly 5000 articles and field research. **The authors estimate that 985 000 deaths occurred worldwide between 1986 and 2001 due to Chernobyl.**

**As regards Fukushima, WHO did not denounce the criminal attitude of the Japanese authorities** who not only did not evacuate the population living in areas contaminated by as much as 20 mSv/y, but even encouraged people who had left to return to live in these areas. It should be noted that the **European Committee on Radiation Risk (ECRR)** recommends a maximum dose of **0.1 mSv/y** of ionising radiation for the population, in other words 10 times lower than the 1 mSv/y recommended by the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP).

**We demand that WHO acts according to the terms of its Constitution and does so with total independence from the IAEA**, particularly ceasing to be an accomplice to the disinformation surrounding nuclear power in general.

**We demand that it support the research efforts of the scientists and doctors who are trying to help those people who have received contamination** from the explosions at the Chernobyl and Fukushima reactors, from the 2020 nuclear weapons tests, from Hiroshima and Nagasaki, from the routine emissions of nuclear power stations, and from the use of depleted uranium...

**We demand that WHO take the initiative in research and prevention in relation to the controversial issue of internal, low dose radiation**, the effects of which continue to be toxic for periods varying from decades to thousands of years.



**Take part in the Vigil for one hour, one day, one week ... in Geneva**

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**[www.independentwho.org](http://www.independentwho.org)**