



IndependentWHO – Health and Nuclear Power

Citizens' Vigil outside the Ministry of Health in Paris every Friday

It is clear that in France and elsewhere, **the health consequences of ionizing radiation** emanating from industrial and military nuclear activities **are being covered up**. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and other UN international agencies such as the World Health Organization (WHO) are involved in this cover-up.

However, it is the WHO's mission to ensure that people attain the highest possible level of health. That is why we are challenging **the French Ministry of Health, jointly responsibly for the cover up**, because it represents our country within this particular international institution.

The objective of the collective "IndependentWHO - Health and Nuclear Power" is to get WHO to respect its constitution and fulfil its responsibilities independently on matters relating to exposure to radioactive substances and its consequences for health

As regards the health consequences of nuclear power, the WHO relies on the IAEA to assess them. In this way, the official toll for the Chernobyl disaster is still given as fifty deaths and 4000 cases of thyroid cancer in children – whom it describes as “effectively treated.” These figures need to be set against the figures contained in the study conducted by the scientist Alexei Yablokov; this study was published by the New York Academy of Sciences in 2009. It estimates the number of deaths caused by Chernobyl between 1986 and 2005 to be in the region of 985,000.

Our country is especially responsible because it is the most nuclearised in the world. We remember how the French government lied to its people while the cloud from Chernobyl passed over its territory. Today, **justice has still not been delivered to the victims**, including those suffering from thyroid disorders. The victims of French nuclear tests are even older, and are also waiting for recognition and compensation.

There is no guarantee that we will not have a nuclear accident, as André-Claude Lacoste, the director of the Nuclear Safety Authority (ASN), admitted in 2011. But in any case, even under supposedly normal operating conditions, no installation in the French nuclear network is completely secure. From uranium mines to nuclear power plants, from reprocessing plants to waste storage centres, the industry is releasing radioactive pollutants into the environment.

These discharges, at supposedly low doses, cause damage to health. **An epidemiological study was conducted by the University of Mainz in Germany, looking at children under 5 years of age living within 5 km of a nuclear power plant. Published in 2007, it reveals an increase in leukaemia (+ 2.2 times) and cancer (+1.6 times).**

Since April 26, 2007 the Collective has maintained a vigil, every working day, outside the WHO headquarters in Geneva, to denounce its criminal policy of concealment and non-assistance to victims.

The vigil in Paris, outside the Ministry of Health, will continue until France, as a member of the WHO, has done everything necessary to ensure that this international institution respects its constitution and, without subordination to the nuclear establishment, acts as the directing and coordinating authority in this area, as it claims to do.



The vigil outside the Ministry of Health takes place, from 9am to 5pm, every Friday, Place Pierre Laroque (on the corner of Avenue Duquesne and Avenue de Segur) Metro line 8, Ecole Militaire station or line 13 St Francis Xavier station

For more information : contact@independentwho.org

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