

# Manifesto for the independence of the World Health Organization

The controversy surrounding WHO's management of the A (H1N1) flu "pandemic" has shed a harsh light on the workings of this UN agency. Following the proposal of its former president, Dr Wolfgang Wodarg, the subcommittee on Health of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe has set up a commission of enquiry to investigate the question of possible connivance between vaccine manufacturers and certain expert advisers of WHO .

We would like this concern for transparency to extend to other areas, and in particular to WHO's relationship with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), one of whose objectives is to promote the use of civil nuclear power. Few people are aware that WHO and the IAEA signed an agreement, on 28 May, 1959 (WHA 12-40) which in practice prevents either of these two UNO agencies publicly adopting a position which could be detrimental to the interests of the other.

This agreement explains the disinformation emanating from WHO in relation to nuclear power, and notably in relation to the health consequences of the Chernobyl accident. The press release of 5 September 2005, co-signed by WHO and the IAEA, is an example. It announces a "definitive" total of fifty or so deaths and 4000 potential deaths following exposure to radioactivity after the accident, with not a word about the hundreds of thousands of liquidators from all over the USSR who cleaned up the site. And yet, of the 173,000 Russian liquidators, registered as victims following their work at Chernobyl, 10% were dead by 2001 and 30% were recognized as invalids (declaration of the Director of Health of Russia at the Kiev Conference on Chernobyl in 2001) Nothing either, on the health condition of the children in Belarus, despite the fact that, according to the Vice Minister of Health, only 20% of them were considered in "good health" in the year 2000, as against 80% in 1985.

The latest joint press release from WHO and the IAEA, dated 24 April 2009, implies that the territories affected by the accident are no longer dangerous for their populations and that all that is required is "to reassure through practical guidance" and to convince them of the need "to return to normal life". It is against this background that the independent institute Belrad, in Minsk, Belarus, which, since 1990, has been measuring levels of radionuclides in the bodies of children and treating them with cures of pectin to reduce levels of cesium 137 has been refused subsidies requested of the EU on the grounds that: "the theme of your project is no longer relevant".

However, a scientific study, *Chernobyl: consequences of the catastrophe for people and the environment* by Alexei Yablokov, Vassily Nesterenko and Alexei Nesterenko, has recently been published in an English version, by the New York Academy of Sciences. It contains an overview of 5000 studies undertaken in the contaminated countries and puts in doubt the conclusions of WHO and the IAEA.  
<http://www.nyas.org/Publications/Annals/Detail.aspx?cid=f3f3bd16-51ba-4d7b-a086-753f44b3bfc1>

The undersigned urge WHO to defend its independence through revision of the 1959 agreement with the IAEA in order that WHO may :

- **fulfil its constitutional mandate** which is "the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health" and "to assist in developing an informed public opinion among all people on matters of health";
- **encourage field studies** on radioactive contamination by independent researchers whose work has been deliberately ignored (for example Youri Bandazhevsky), and more particularly, organize forums;
- **support projects** of those who struggle to reduce the effects of the catastrophe.

Name	First Name	Profession	Address	Signatur
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**Please send signed manifestos to Paul Roullaud, Bourlinguette, 44530 GUENROUET, France**

*Manifesto initiated by the collective IndependentWHO which comprises a wide coalition of NGOs. Its objective is the independence of WHO in matters of radiation health. The action of the Collective, since 26 April 2007, is symbolized by the Hippocratic Vigils, a silent, permanent presence from 8.00 till 18.00 every working day, in front of WHO headquarters in Geneva. [www.independentWHO.info](http://www.independentWHO.info)*