



For the INDEPENDENCE of the World Health Organization

Since 26th April 2007, on every working day from 8.00 till 6.00, the 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, on 28 May 1959, WHO signed an agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) which prevents either organisation from taking a public position on an issue which might harm the interests of the other party (Accord WHA 12-40). The IAEA was established in 1957 to promote civil nuclear energy.

What happens when a conflict of interest arises between, on the one hand, WHO's responsibility to provide public health information and maintain the health of the world's population and, on the other hand, the interests of the IAEA in promoting the nuclear industry? The answer becomes obvious from the way the health catastrophe of Chernobyl has been "managed" ever since the reactor exploded on 26 April 1986.

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 56 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 5.000 articles and field research. The authors estimate that 985.000 deaths occurred worldwide between 1986 and 2001 due to Chernobyl.

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 WHO supports the efforts of independent scientists in their attempts to provide assistance to contaminated populations since the explosion at Chernobyl.

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.

The vigil has also been maintained by distinguished members of the scientific, medical and political communities.

27th April 2008

Prof Yablokov, Prof Goncharova and Prof Nesterenko



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

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Sign up for the Vigil : Paul Roullaud +33 (0) 240 87 60 47 - paul.roullaud@free.fr
(Free accommodation)

Collectif "Independent WHO"
for the independence of the World Health Organization
www.independentwho.info

Contact: Eric Peytremann + 41(0) 22 735 08 77 - epeytremann@bluewin.ch