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I Fear

"I will never forget the hellscape that awaited us. Half burnt bodies lay stiff on the ground, eyeballs gleaming from their sockets. Cattle lay dead along the side of the road, their abdomens grotesquely large and swollen. Thousands of bodies bopped up and down the river..."(3) These words, spoken by Shigeo Matisumoto depict the horrific scene of the aftermath of the atomic bomb dropped into the city of Nagasaki in 1945. Just 3 days earlier, the initial and more fatal bomb was dropped into Hiroshima. Together, these two lethal bombs took away nearly 200,000 lives (4). These deadly weapons have control over humans, whether we realize it or not. They produce fear, and fear can be a real threat. Fear takes away your ability to feel free and safe and comes when you reveal the rational truth.

On October 30th, 1961 the most powerful nuclear weapon ever made, the Tsar Bomba, was detonated into the ocean with unimaginable force. Being over 1,570 times larger than both the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombs combined, the Tsar Bomba should be feared (2). It should be feared knowing that one bomb as such, would vaporize everything within about 36 miles and severely damage everything within 150 miles (2). It should be feared that one bomb as such, would obliterate an entire city and all the surrounding areas. It should be feared that although never made, nuclear weapons significantly larger than Tsar Bomba could be constructed. I fear.

As everyday people, we have no real say in how nuclear weapons are used for or against our country. But, we are the ones that feel the direct effect of political decisions made by our world leaders. Although we hear that weapons like these are supposed to keep us safe, they are what produce our fear. We shouldn't have to fear.

Winston Churchill once wrote, "Those that fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it" (1). We need to continue to teach and educate the world on the dangers and destructive ability that nuclear weapons pose to our livelihood. The only way to prevent more catastrophic events like the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki is to take the past and learn from the decisions that were made. These weapons of destruction need to be abolished before more innocent lives are taken.

When Beatrice Finn declared, "...it is up to us what the ending will be," I believe she meant it literally. We, as everyday people, need to come together to combat the existence of nuclear weapons.

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