

**To the Prime Ministers of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden**

*The National Red Cross Societies of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden will now increase their efforts towards a nuclear free world based upon our humanitarian mandate and the fundamental principles of international humanitarian law.*

*The Nordic Red Cross Societies will at the same time appeal to the Nordic Governments to grasp this window of opportunity to pursue with reinforced energy and priority negotiations aimed at prohibiting and completely eliminating nuclear weapons through a legally binding international treaty.*

The most fundamental principle of international humanitarian law is to protect those who do not participate actively in the conflict. Nuclear weapons are by nature a contradiction to these codified sets of rules of moral boundaries of warfare. As stated by the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross: "The currency of the debate about nuclear weapons must ultimately be about human beings, about the fundamental rules of international humanitarian law, and about the collective future of humanity."

The international developments the last years have revealed an historic opportunity to accelerate the work towards bringing the era of nuclear weapons to an end:

- The UN Security Council, meeting at summit level in September 2009, and the NPT Review Conference in May 2010, endorsed the objective of "a world without nuclear weapons".
- The US and Russia have signed the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, reducing warheads and stockpiles, and decreasing the role of nuclear weapons in their national security strategy.
- President Obama, representing the only nuclear power to have used a nuclear weapon, has proclaimed that he is taking on the moral responsibility to take the lead on the trajectory towards a world without nuclear weapons.

The Nordic Red Cross Societies will grasp this crucial moment in the international efforts against nuclear weapons. We will work to ensure that nuclear weapons are a priority item at the Council of Delegates in November 2011. The subsequent International Red Cross Conference provides States with an opportunity to discuss further steps based upon the principles of international humanitarian law and the limits to human suffering in warfare.

The Nordic Red Cross Societies appeal to our governments to give the highest possible priority to achieving a legally binding treaty prohibiting the use, development, stockpiling and transfer of nuclear weapons. This may, as a first step, include an initiative to negotiations aimed at prohibiting the *use* of nuclear weapons through an international legally binding treaty.

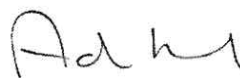
The Nordic Red Cross Societies are strongly committed to support all efforts from the Nordic Governments to completely eliminate nuclear weapons.

Best regards



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President, Danish Red Cross



Anders Ladekarl

Secretary General, Danish Red Cross



Anna Stefansdottir

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Secretary General, Finnish Red Cross



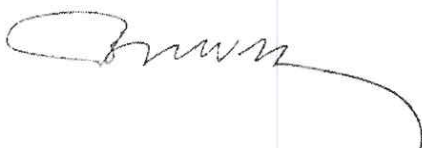
Sven Mollekleiv

President, Norwegian Red Cross



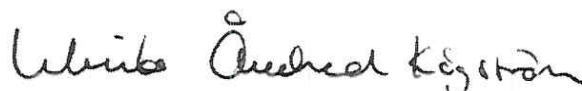
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CC: Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Members of Parliament Committees of Foreign Affairs and Defence