

PRESS ADVISORY

**From the organizers of protests on the 1st anniversary of Fukushima,
March 11, 2012**

March 11: National protests in Germany to mark Fukushima anniversary

„Fukushima warns us: shut all nuclear facilities now!“

Berlin, 7 March 2012

At a press conference in Berlin, anti-nuclear and environmental groups presented the background and goals of planned nation-wide actions to be held on March 11, the first anniversary of the nuclear disaster in Fukushima. In Germany alone there will be five large demonstrations as well as a 75 km long evening torchlight human chain (a '*light chain*').

The focus of the protest is the commemoration of the beginning of the reactor catastrophe in Fukushima on 11 March 2011, as well as a sharp critique of the German government's unreliable atomic and energy policy.

As long as nuclear reactors remain on-line, radioactivity will be released into the surrounding areas, catastrophic scenes similar to those at Fukushima are possible, and the mountain of atomic wastes will continue to grow.

„The anniversary of the atomic catastrophe in Fukushima must be a warning to promote -- and not brake -- the energy transition. While nine nuclear plants continue to operate, the German government is trying to choke expansion of alternative sources of energy by cutting financial support for solar. At the same time, the administration takes no action for the important reduction of electricity consumption and tries to water down European energy efficiency guidelines,“ said Thorben Becker, energy expert from BUND (*Friends of the Earth Germany*).

„Despite its critical parallels to Fukushima, the nuclear plant Gundremmingen is supposed to run until 2021. That is an extension of operations totalling seven years for the two reactors, compared to the original phase-out plan from 2002. The plant at Neckarwestheim is supposed to run until 2022, although it is built on geologically unstable ground in an area vulnerable to earthquakes. And every other nuclear plant has its particular risks,“ explained Uta Wittich from the Bündnis Atomausstieg jetzt! (‘*Alliance to stop nuclear now!*’) in Ulm/Neu-Ulm.

„Citizens are used to false promises when it comes to nuclear energy. The supposedly scientifically based choice of Gorleben as a potential rad-waste repository proved to be politically motivated, and the retrieval of waste from (*the leaking storage facility*) Asse is being prepared as a solution, but not implemented,“ explained Peter Dickel from the working group Schacht Konrad (*another rad-waste site*).

„Both the expansion and continued operation of the country’s only uranium enrichment center in Gronau and the Hermes export credit guarantees make it clear that the national government does not take the exit from nuclear power seriously.

Whoever wants to quit the atomic energy business must not deliver uranium fuel for every tenth nuclear power plant in the world and actively secure the construction of new nuclear plants world-wide," declared Matthias Eickhoff from Aktionsbündnis Münsterland gegen Atomanlagen ('*Action alliance against nuclear facilities, Münsterland*').

We want a broad and quick development of renewable energy: decentralized, democratic and social. This goal is blocked by nuclear power. There is no peaceful use of atomic energy. The continued operation of the reactors and nuclear facilities now on-line cannot be defended.

Thus we demand: an exit from nuclear and a decentralized energy transition now!

Information (in German) on the first Fukushima anniversary is at:
<http://www.fukushima2012.de>.

Major demonstrations and human chains will be held on March 11th at: Gundremmingen, Neckarwestheim, Gronau, Hannover, Braunschweiger Land (Asse) and Brokdorf.

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