

*An informal translation by WLOE e.V. of the German press release issued on March 11, 2012:
[Rund 50.000 fordern schnelle Energiewende und Atomausstieg](#) by the anti-nuclear organization
[ausgestrahlt](#)*

Around 50,000 demand a rapid energy turnaround, and nuclear phaseout

Fukushima Demonstrations in six German Regions

Berlin: Under the motto: „Fukushima warns: Close atomic facilities now!“ some 50,000 people in six regions in Germany demonstrated on the first anniversary of the start of the reactor catastrophe in Fukushima.

Among their demands were the suspension of uranium enrichment in Gronau (North Rhine-Westphalia) and a new start in dealing with radioactive waste. (*Current waste sites at*) Gorleben and Schacht Konrad must not be nuclear waste repositories, and the atomic wastes now stored in Asse II and Morsleben must be removed.

Similar gatherings took place in Japan, France, Belgium, Luxemburg, Switzerland and Poland. The victims of the atomic catastrophe were remembered, with a demand to end nuclear power. In France alone, 60,000 people formed a human chain between Lyon and Avignon (235 km/146 miles; [see photos.](#))

The demonstrations in Brokdorf, Gundremmingen, Neckarwestheim, Gronau, Hannover and in the region around the atomic waste storage sites Asse and Schacht Konrad, were called for and organized by regional citizen action groups and the anti-nuclear organisation .ausgestrahlt, the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Schacht Konrad, Attac, (BUND/Friends of the Earth), Campact, the Bürgerinitiative Umweltschutz, ROBIN WOOD, the NaturFreunde Deutschlands, Netzwerk Friedenskooperative, as well as associations including the IPPNW, contrAtom and urgewald.

The (*long opposed*) nuclear plant Brokdorf was surrounded by a human chain of some 3000 demonstrators. At the Gundremmingen nuclear plant 5500 people demonstrated, and 5,000 came out at the Neckarwestheim station. In Hannover 7000 demonstrated against nuclear energy; more than 4000 at the uranium enrichment (fuel production) plant in Gronau.

(*Sunday evening*) around 24,000 people formed a 75 kilometer long „light chain“ in the region around the waste sites Asse and Schacht Konrad.

The impressive protests are for the organizers a clear signal to the national government to finally accept the consequences of the Fukushima catastrophe. The half-hearted and much too slow nuclear phase-out in Germany must be speeded up and the energy “turn-around” energetically promoted. The majority of the population is for a quicker nuclear phaseout. Chancellor Angela Merkel and Environment Minister Norbert Röttgen must also clearly confront the playing down of the Fukushima catastrophe by the heads of energy corporations.

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