



# Republic of the Marshall Islands

## International Conference “Building a Nuclear –Weapon – Free World”

Republic of Kazakhstan

(August 28 – 30, 2016)

**Opening Statement By:**  
Honorable Speaker Kenneth A. Kedi  
Speaker of Parliament of the Republic of the Marshall Islands  
Senator of Rongelap Atoll

**SALUTATION:**

- H.E. Mr. President Nazarbayev (*Thank you for elevating the nuclear issue to another level*).
- Mr. Chairman (*Thank you for the Invitation to participate in this important conference*).
- Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Greetings of Yokwe to you all!

**OPENING:**

Nuclear testing and human should not coexist!

We need to disarm nuclear weapons, not today, not tomorrow, but yesterday!

I speak before you today, not as a disarmament expert, but as a victim and survivor of nuclear tests.

Also as a Speaker of Parliament of (RMI) and Senator representing the victims and survivors of nuclear tests in the Marshall Islands, most importantly the people of Rongelap who were directly exposed to the lethal fallout from the bravo bomb dropped on Bikini Atoll, in the Marshall Islands.

The people of the Marshall Islands are witnesses to one of the most inhumane atrocity experience as a result of the nuclear tests!

We continue to tell the world of the imminent need to avert the use of nuclear weapons. And we, support 110% the need for greater efforts

for nuclear weapons disarmament.

### **BRIEF BACKGROUNDS:**

Between the 1946-1958, Marshallese people experienced 67 nuclear tests. The tests conducted on Bikini & Enewetak were equivalent to 1.6 Hiroshima Shots Everyday for 12 years.

The Largest bomb United States ever tested was the 15 megaton bomb code name Bravo which was 1,000 times more powerful than Hiroshima Shot.

Let me put some more number into perspective!

### **NUCLEAR WEAPON YIELDS & COMPENSATION:**

(a) Marshall Islands – 108,496 kilotons, whereas

(b) Nevada Test Site - only 1,404 kilotons.

It is safe to say that the nuclear bomb tested in the Marshall Islands is 75 times more powerful compares to Nevada!

### **LEVEL of IODINE 131. RELEASED INTO THE ATMOSPHERE:**

(a) Nevada test site suffered from 150 million curies, whereas,

(b) Marshall Islands suffered from 6.3 billion curies.

What is more ironic is that – US compensated Marshallese \$150 million in accordance with the Agreement call the Compact of Free Association, signed by the US and Marshall Islands.

Whereas, the people downwind of Nevada test site were compensated over \$2 billion and continue to be compensated, while the Government of the Marshall Islands can no longer compensate

the Marshallese due to lack of funding.

**CONCLUSION:**

To conclude, the tragedy imposed on the people of the Marshall Islands as a result of the 67 nuclear bombs tested must never be repeated anywhere and we must not allow humanity and nuclear weapons to coexist!

Mr. President, Chairman, Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen

Kommol tata!