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## August 29: International Day Against Nuclear Tests (Download PDF)

(September 20, 2017)

The International Day against Nuclear Tests was observed on 29<sup>th</sup> August to raise awareness against nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions. Seeks to promote peace and security and prevent nuclear catastrophes to avert devastating effects on humankind, environment, and planet.

*Map of Semipalatinsk Nuclear Test Site*

- Highlights urgent need for cessation of nuclear weapons as one of the means of achieving the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world.
- Various events such as symposia, conferences, exhibits, competitions, publications, instruction organized in academic institutions.
- The International Day against Nuclear Tests instituted by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in December 2009.
- Resolution initiated by Kazakhstan to commemorate closure of Semipalatinsk Nuclear Test site on 29 August 1991.
- Day was first observed in 2010 and since observed annually for banning nuclear weapon tests.

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## Semipalatinsk Nuclear Test Site

- Also known as The Polygon
- Primary testing venue for the Soviet Union's nuclear weapons
- Located on the steppe in northeast Kazakhstan (then the Kazakh SSR part of USSR), south of the valley of the Irtysh River
- Soviet Union conducted 456 nuclear tests on this site from 1949 until 1989 including 340 underground and 116 atmospheric explosions (equivalent of 2500 Hiroshima atomic bombs) ignoring the effect on the people and environment.

## Important Nuclear Test Sites in the World

*Map of Important Nuclear Test Sites in the World*

Over 2, 000 nuclear tests have been conducted, in over a dozen different sites around the world:

- **Amchitka Island, Alaska, USA:** Site of three underground nuclear tests in the 1960's and early 1970s, the Amchitka facility was closed in 1971.
- **Pacific Ocean:** Site of various French nuclear tests.
- **Nevada Test Site, Nevada, USA:** Established by President Truman in 1950 and now operated by the Department of Energy, the NTS has been the site of over 900 atmospheric and underground nuclear tests.
- **Fallon, Nevada:** Site of an American test.
- **Trinity Site, New Mexico, USA:** Site of first nuclear weapon test on July 16, 1945.
- **Carlsbad, New Mexico:** Site of an American test.
- **Green Valley, Colorado:** Site of an American nuclear test.
- **Rifle, Colorado:** Site of a American nuclear test.
- **Hattiesburg, Mississippi:** Site of several American tests.
- **Open Sea, South Atlantic Ocean:** Site of three American nuclear rocket tests in 1958.
- **Reggan, Sahara Desert, Algeria:** The first French nuclear device was detonated at Reggan on February 13, 1960. At the time, Algeria was a protectorate of France.
- **Ekker, Algeria:** Site of French testing.
- **Novaya Zemlya Island, C. I. S. :** Site of extensive Soviet atmospheric and underground testing, Novaya Zemlya was the site of the largest thermonuclear device ever tested, a 58 megaton bomb detonated on October 23, 1961.