

To _____

I'm writing you because of a spiritual and political journey I am about to take. Nevada Desert Experience's annual Sacred Peace Walk will be held from March 30th to April 4th, with orientation on March 29. Beginning in Las Vegas and ending 65 miles later at the entrance to the Nevada Test Site, the walk will draw attention to **the nuclear dangers that continue to threaten our sacred planet and the community of life**. I'm looking for financial support to participate in this walk, and want to briefly explain why I hope you'll support NDE as a sponsor for me. (It's like a walk-a-thon!) NDE The Nevada Test Site (NTS) lies nestled among the jagged peaks and roiling desert landscapes on land that rightfully belongs to the Western Shoshone Nation. Speckled with trees and brush, outlined by the shadows of tremendous mountains and colored in an unearthly spectrum of hues, the desert land emits an air of purity—a feeling that starkly contrasts the reality of the Nevada Test Site. The NTS has been the location for nuclear and other weapons tests since the early 1950s; since the early 1980s, members of the Nevada Desert Experience (NDE) have sponsored numerous prayer-actions for peace and total nuclear disarmament centering around the test site. This year will be no different, with observances of Passover, Good Friday, Easter, a Western Shoshone Sunrise .

The Cold War ended in 1991, and the United States stopped full-scale nuclear testing in 1992, but the need for an event like the Sacred Peace Walk is as great as ever. The NTS remaining open is (at least) symbolic of the government's reluctance to follow through on its disarmament mandate and obligation. And despite President Obama's stated desire for a nuclear weapon-free world, his administration's proposed fiscal-year 2011 budget includes a request for seven billion dollars for enhancing the United States' nuclear-weapons stockpile and infrastructure—the United States currently has about 2,200 nuclear warheads—\$600 million more than Congress approved for the same purpose last year. New, immense buildings will be wastefully built to maintain the US stockpile even though disarmament is the official goal. The budget also explicitly states the goal of modernizing weapons systems and bolstering capabilities in Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS). Headquartered at Creech Air Force Base, which will be the site of a vigil during the Sacred Peace Walk, the Air Force's UAS program is responsible for the deaths of many civilians in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Iraq. Overall, Obama's proposed budget provides \$548.9 billion for the Department of Defense base budget in 2011, which is a 3.4 percent increase over the 2010 enacted level. The Obama administration also recently approved a \$8 billion loan guarantee in support of the construction of two nuclear reactors in Georgia. Pending the project's advancement and completion, the plants will be the first built in the United States since the 1970s.

The mission of the Nevada Desert Experience is to stop nuclear weapons testing and development through a campaign of prayer, education, dialogue, and nonviolent direct action; the Sacred Peace Walk embodies this mission to the fullest extent. As the United States becomes increasingly involved in funding new nuclear power plants, increasing the nuclear weapons complex, and using drones and troops to kill civilians in the Middle East, the need for the Peace Walk's message and healing is greater than ever. By joining me on NDE on this year's walk, or by sponsoring me, you can assist in working towards global disarmament, social justice and world peace.

If you would like to support me in this cause, let me know, or you can send a tax-deductible check to the following address or donate via Paypal online. Their website is <<http://NevadaDesertExperience.org>>. Nevada Desert Experience, 1420 W. Bartlett Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89106, (702) 646-4814.

Please join me in spirit, and keep us in your thoughts.

Peace and Blessings From _____