

THE  
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Dear members of the House Committee on State Government & Elections:

My purpose in writing is to support House Resolution No. 7329 about the Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

In recent years we have seen war zones multiply, and also threats of the use of nuclear weapons. This is extremely disconcerting.

Last November, Reuters ran an article with the following headline: "Iran enriches more uranium as Gaza war rages, . . ." I quote:<sup>1</sup>

According to one of the two confidential reports by the International Atomic Energy Agency and seen by Reuters, Iran now has enough uranium enriched up to 60% purity — close to weapons-grade and a level Western powers say has no civilian use — to make three bombs.

It takes uranium enriched to 90% purity to make a nuclear bomb. In terms of effort, enrichment from natural purity — that is 0.7% — to 60% purity constitutes 98% of the effort of producing bomb-grade uranium. It sounds counter-intuitive, so let me say the same thing in different words: starting from 60% enrichment, it takes only an additional 2% of the total effort to produce bomb grade uranium.<sup>2</sup>

Libya and Iraq abandoned their nuclear weapons programs. We all know what happened to those countries. North Korea kept its program and nothing happened to North Korea. What do you think Iran is doing?

Barbara Tuchman was a celebrated World War I historian. The proliferating nuclear proliferation and instability across the world remind me of one of her observations:

War is the unfolding of miscalculations.

The same applies to thermonuclear war, except that after the resulting nuclear winter there may be nobody left to write the history of World War III.

Yours sincerely,



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<sup>1</sup><https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/iran-enriches-more-uranium-gaza-war-rages-us-vote-looms-2023-11-17/>

<sup>2</sup><https://peternightingale.substack.com/i/138847340/technical-note>