

Justice Mechanisms: A Case Study of Nuclear Testing at Semipalatinsk and the Marshall Islands

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Nuclear justice associated with the humanitarian consequences of nuclear explosions has become a prominent issue in the broader nuclear weapons discussion since the 2010 NPT Review Conference when States Parties expressed their “deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons.” Notably, the term “nuclear justice” within this work exclusively refers to the various forms of redress of communities affected by nuclear testing as well as environmental remediation. Non-nuclear weapon States have formed the Humanitarian Initiative, the latest joint statement of which has been supported by 159 States. Moreover, built upon the Humanitarian Initiative, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) entered into force in 2021. Nevertheless, other mechanisms exist in international and national law and practice forming a broader architecture of response to such humanitarian crises, and CTBTO is part of this architecture. In the research, I will explore how effective the existing instruments are and which have been successful in the cases of nuclear testing in the Marshall Islands and Semipalatinsk. The goals of this research are to identify how these cases have been addressed; what can be learned from the previous practices; what else can be done considering new emerging legal norms and what role CTBT(O) can play in this process.

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Promotional text

Nuclear justice associated with the humanitarian consequences of nuclear explosions has become a prominent issue in the broader nuclear weapons discussion since the 2010 NPT RevCon. CTBT(O) has its role to play in building architecture to respond to nuclear injustices.

Oral preference format

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