

## Open Letter in Support of Amb. Bonnie Jenkins to Help Lead U.S. Efforts on Arms Control and International Security

June 21, 2021

As President Biden's [Interim National Security Strategy](#) notes: "Global dynamics have shifted. New crises demand our attention." It is a "moment of accelerating global challenges — from the pandemic to the climate crisis to nuclear proliferation ...."

This means that our nation has no time to lose when it comes to putting in place the leadership team in government that can harness America's diplomatic power, which is essential to advancing effective solutions to address the most difficult security and foreign policy challenges.

As arms control, international security, and foreign policy experts with years of experience in and out of government, we believe President Joe Biden — or any president — needs a strong and experienced team in place to address issues of international security, particularly the difficult and urgent challenges posed by nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons and the countries that possess them or that could develop them.

Five months since inauguration day, the president's nominee for one of the most important positions in this area — Amb. Bonnie Jenkins for Undersecretary of State for Arms Control and International Security — has yet to be confirmed. Further delays of this nomination will hamper our nation's ability to put its best diplomatic foot forward at a critical time.

In the coming weeks and months, her leadership will be important to help the State Department and the White House:

- follow up on the June 16 Biden-Putin summit by launching [strategic stability talks](#) with Russia to put the relationship on more predictable footing and to reduce the risk of conflict,
- open new diplomatic channels that bring China and its nuclear arsenal into the arms control process,
- backstop talks designed to rein-in North Korea's and Iran's nuclear ambitions,
- strengthen international support for the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty at the pivotal 10th Review Conference,
- build international nuclear security cooperation to prevent terrorist groups from acquiring or using fissile and radiological materials,
- bolster international biosecurity cooperation through the G7 Global Partnership and the November Biological Weapons Convention Review Conference to reduce the risk of illicit bioweapons use and to reduce the risk that dangerous pathogens escape biolabs, among other challenges and,
- strengthen both U.S. and multilateral efforts to further strengthen the norms against the use of chemical weapons.

We also recognize the important role Amb. Jenkins will play on positions the U.S. government is developing in other areas of international security, including arms sales and the effort to put human rights at the forefront of U.S. foreign policy.

We have known and worked with Amb. Jenkins, in some cases for decades. She has a comprehensive understanding of weapons-related security issues and is a very experienced international diplomat. She served as Coordinator for Threat Reduction Programs, was the State Department lead on the Nuclear Security Summits, the U.S. Representative to G7

Global Partnership, helped lead diplomatic efforts on the Global Health Security Agenda, and was nominated for the 2016 Secretary of State's Award for Excellence in International Security Affairs.

Amb. Jenkins' experience ranges from government service where she helped negotiate, seek advice and consent, and implement arms control and nonproliferation agreements as an international treaty lawyer, to the non-governmental sector, including establishing and leading a groundbreaking non-governmental organization, [Women of Color Advancing Peace and Security](#) and its many related [initiatives](#), to military service as a retired Naval Reserve officer called up to Active Duty on the Global War on Terrorism, to Congressional Commissions, including the 9/11 Commission.

With a Ph.D. in international relations, Amb. Jenkins has a strong record of scholarship and engagement with the academic and policy communities and has shown [exemplary leadership](#) in advancing new voices and diverse leadership in the fields of international security.

We strongly urge the swift confirmation by the Senate of the Jenkins nomination.

Sincerely,

James Acton, Co-Director, Nuclear Policy Program, Carnegie Endowment for Intl. Peace\*

Andrew Albertson, Executive Director, Foreign Policy for America\*

Daniel Baer, former U.S. Amb. to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace\*

Frederick Beinecke, Vice President & Chair, Nuclear Disarmament & Nonproliferation Program, Prospect Hill Foundation

Emma Belcher, President, Ploughshares Fund

John Beyrle, U.S. Ambassador to Russia (2008-12), Chairman, U.S.-Russia Foundation\*

Jeremy Ben-Ami, President, J Street\*

Reuben Brigety, former U.S. Amb. to the U.S. Mission to the African Union

Kenneth Brill, former U.S. Amb. to the IAEA (2001-04), founding Director of the U.S. National Counterproliferation Center (2005-09), and Board Member of the American Academy of Diplomacy

Rachel Bronson, President and CEO, *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*\*

Lauren Buitta, Founder and CEO, Girl Security

Matthew Bunn, James R. Schlesinger Professor of the Practice of Energy, National Security, and Foreign Policy, Harvard Kennedy School of Government\*

Susan F. Burk, former Special Representative of the President for Nuclear Nonproliferation, and head of the U.S. delegation for the 2010 NPT Review Conference

Johnnie Carson, former Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs

Jeff Carter, Executive Director, Physicians for Social Responsibility\*

Rebecca Bill Chavez, Senior Fellow, Inter-American Dialogue\*

Joseph Cirincione, Distinguished Fellow, Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft\*

James F. Collins, U.S. Ambassador to Russia, (1997-2001), and Senior Fellow, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace\*

Pierce Corden, Expert Adviser, Holy See Mission to the United Nations

Peter Crail, former senior advisor to the Undersecretary of State for Arms Control and International Security, Business Executives for International Security\*

Madelyn Creedon, President, Green Marble Group, former principal deputy administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration (2014-17), and assistant secretary of defense for global strategic affairs from (2011-14)

Richard Cupitt, Senior Fellow, Henry L. Stimson Center,\* and former U.S. Special Coordinator for UN Security Resolution 1540 (2004)

Mary Curtin, Diplomat in Residence, Humphrey School of Public Affairs\*

Toby Dalton, Co-Director, Nuclear Policy Program, Carnegie Endowment for Intl. Peace\*

Ruth Davis, Amb. (ret.), Association of Black American Ambassadors, and former Director-General of the United States Foreign Service

Edwin Dorn, Professor, LBJ School of Public Affairs, University of Texas\*

Jill Dougherty, Adjunct Fellow, Georgetown University\*

Tara Drozdenko, physical scientist formerly with the Arms Control Verification and Compliance Bureau, U.S. Department of State

Erica Fein, Senior Washington Director, Win Without War

Stephanie Foster, Co-Founder and Partner, Smash Strategies,\* and former senior advisor, Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues, U.S. Department of State

Seema Gahlaut, Director, Strategic Trade Management Initiative & Senior Fellow, Trade, Technology and Security Program, Henry L. Stimson Center\*

Robert Gelbard, President, Gelbard International Consulting\*

Rose Gottemoeller, former Undersecretary for Arms Control and International Security, U.S. Department of State

Thomas Graham, Jr., Amb. (ret.) and former U.S. nonproliferation and arms control diplomat, and Executive Chairman of the Board of Directors Lightbridge Corporation\*

Jonathan Granoff, President, Global Security Institute\*

Morton Halperin, Director of U.S. advocacy at the Open Society Institute, and former senior director for democracy at the National Security Council, as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense during the Johnson administration, and as a senior staff member of the National Security Council during the Nixon and Clinton administrations

Anne Harrington, former Deputy Administrator for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation, National Nuclear Security Administration (2010-17)

Mark Harris, Co-founder, Inclusive America\*

Newell Highsmith, former Deputy Legal Advisor, U.S. Department of State

James Jeffrey, Amb. (ret.), with assignments including U.S. Amb. to Iraq (2010–12); Amb. to Turkey (2008–10); Deputy National Security Advisor (2007–08); Amb. to Albania (2002–04)

Lionel C. Johnson, Chairman, Foreign Policy for America

Laura Kennedy, former U.S. Amb. to Turkmenistan (2001-03), former U.S. Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, and Special Representative for Biological Weapons Convention Issues (2010-13)

Duyeon Kim, Adjunct Senior Fellow, Center for a New American Security\*

Daryl G. Kimball, Executive Director, Arms Control Association, publisher and editorial contributor, *Arms Control Today*

Susan Koch, former Senior Advisor to the Under Secretary for Arms Control, 2005-07; NSC Staff Director for Proliferation Strategy, 2001-05; Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Threat Reduction Policy, 1994-2001; Director for Defense Policy and Arms Control, NSC Staff, 1991-93; and Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, Assistant Director, Strategic and Nuclear Affairs, 1990-91

Sara Kutchesfahani, Director, N Square DC Hub

Valerie Lincy, Executive Director, Wisconsin Project on Nuclear Arms Control

Alexandria Maloney, Board Member, Black Professionals in International Affairs\*

David Mathews, President and CEO, Kettering Foundation\*

Kenneth Meyers, President, CRDF Global\*

Stephen Miles, Executive Director, Win Without War

Steven Miller, International Security Program, Belfer Center, Harvard Kennedy School\*

Sylvia Mishra, New Tech Nuclear Officer, European Leadership Network\*

J.P. Natkin, Managing Director, Macro-Advisory Ltd.

Nancy Parrish, Executive Director, Women's Action for New Directions

William Potter, Sam Nunn and Richard Lugar Professor of Nonproliferation Studies, Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey\*

Matthew Rojansky, U.S. Executive Secretary, U.S.-Russia Dartmouth Conference\*

Amy Sands, Emerita Staff, Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey\*

Theodore Sedgwick, former U.S. Ambassador to the Slovak Republic (2010-15)

Andrew Semmel, former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Nuclear Nonproliferation (2003-07), Partnership for a Secure America\*

Anne-Marie Slaughter, Director of Policy Planning, U.S. Department of State (2009-11), CEO of New America

Shalonda Spencer, Executive Director, Women of Color Advancing Peace and Security\*

Donald Steinberg, Board Co-Chair, Women's Refugee Commission\*

Philip Stewart, Senior Associate, Kettering Foundation,\* and Director of the U.S.-Russia Dartmouth Conference\*

Alexandra Toma, Executive Director, Peace and Security Funders Group\*

Jenny Town, Senior Fellow, Henry L. Stimson Center\*

David Wade, U.S. State Department, Chief of Staff (2013-15), and Fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace\*

Paul Walker, Coordinator, Chemical Weapons Convention Coalition,\* and former professional staff member, House Armed Services Committee

Taylor Winkleman, International Affairs Fellow, Council on Foreign Relations\*

Jon Wolfsthal, Senior Advisor for Global Zero, and former Senior Director for Arms Control and Nonproliferation at the National Security Council

Alexander Vershbow, former Deputy Secretary-General of NATO, U.S. Ambassador to South Korea (2005-08), U.S. Amb. to the Russian Federation (2001-05), and U.S. Amb. to NATO (1997-2001)

Peter Zwack, Brigadier Gen. (ret.), Wilson Center Global Fellow at the Kennan Institute\*

*\*Institution listed for identification purposes only*