

**Interview with Mohamed ElBaradei,
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Mister ElBaradei, what is the biggest obstacle to the complex task of scanning a country for nuclear weapons and arms?

ElBaradei: Well, the biggest obstacle or challenge is the lack of an equivalent to the MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging), something with which we could get full transparency of all countries' nuclear activities. We do use a lot of technology. We use satellite-imagery, we do environmental sampling analysis and we send our people on-site to do inspections. But of course, we are still far away from the kind of full transparency that is afforded by a machine like the MRI or CAT Scan. There is still the challenge of discovering what people are planning or what purposes they are designing for. So there are always challenges but I think, as technology moves on, we are in better shape to provide assurances about a country's nuclear activities.

As Director General of the Atomic Energy Agency, if you had one wish that could be addressed to the world, what would it be?

ElBaradei: I think it's very clear that we would like to eliminate all nuclear weapons in the world. This was my message when I was in New York last week. I met with Henry Kissinger and we were both addressing the same urgent need: that we need to work to free our world from nuclear weapons because they carry with them the potential of annihilating our entire planet.

Why did you decide to participate in the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung photo series?

ElBaradei: For two reasons: firstly, because I love what you are doing from an artistic point of view and secondly, because I think it brings to the public's attention the importance of our work and the dangers that we are facing. The more people are aware of that the better and more secure our world could be.

What does the motif mean to you?

ElBaradei: It means all the world to me because that is what our work is all about – full transparency. The motif of transparency is our elusive hope. We would like to continue to work until, as I mentioned, we have an equivalent to the MRI.

From your point of view, how can print media contribute to more security in the world?

ElBaradei: The print media is very important. The world's issues require public attention. It is crucial for us to move on matters like nuclear disarmament and safe nuclear power reactors. The more print media talks about these issues and explains them, the more people become aware and active in expressing their point of view and pushing their governments to move into the right direction. I have now come to realise that the government is only one actor but that more and more, participation of several societies is vital to move us on major issues like climate change, arms control or HIV. Much more than government is needed and the print media has a key role to play.

Why would you advise young people to read newspapers?

ElBaradei: They have to read newspapers because it is not sufficient to just get the news. You need to understand what's behind the news. And that's what printed media is about: analysis. Analysing the event, explaining why something happened, what is going to happen after that, how we can prevent it in future if it was a bad thing or how we can repeat it if it was a good thing. Rigorous analysis is key and much more important than receiving the news out of context. Responsible media has to put the news in context, unadorned, with good, intellectual analysis and a look at

the big picture. That's all that young people need to know if they want to become responsible citizens and if they really want to live in a world that is at peace with itself.

What tips can you, as a clever mind, give to the clever minds of the future?

EIBaradei: I'm not sure whether I'm a clever mind but if you ask me the question, I would like to tell them that they should get all the information they can. There is a humongous amount of information available, so you have to choose carefully the kind of information you need. This way, you have your own independent analysis. You have to take time to reflect on it before you make a decision and you have to look at the big picture and understand that any solution you come up with, in whatever area of human activities, has to be fair and equitable. If it isn't, if it smacks of discrimination, it is never durable.

What are your wishes for the world's future?

EIBaradei: My wish for the future of the world is to finally come to the realisation that we are one human family. I see that 40 percent of the world's population live on less than two dollars a day. I see that we continue to rely on nuclear weapons for our survival, or in fact self-destruction. I see people dying everywhere, in several wars, without us preventing it. What I would like to see is a change of the values that we live by. I think the values we live by as an international community right now are skewed, distorted and we have to continue to revisit them. As I mentioned, we need values based on the right of every human being to live in peace and dignity and freedom. If we find ourselves in the situation that every human being is able to live like that, then we finally have peace and a world at peace with itself.

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