

2007 World Conference against A & H Bombs-Hiroshima (August 6)



Greetings from National Government Representatives:

Miguel Ruiz Cabañas Izquierdo, Ambassador of Mexico to Japan

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am the Ambassador of Mexico to Japan. As a human fellow of you, as a member of the Human Family, and as a representative of my Government, let me express my gratitude to the organizers of this Conference, for having invited me to share some thoughts on our common objective: to liberate our planet of the existence of nuclear bombs.

I came here to transmit the message of solidarity delivered by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mexico to all participants in this Conference and to the worldwide movement against the existence of nuclear bombs.

Mexico, its people and its government have been historically engaged with the causes of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. Today, 62 years after the fateful August 6, 1945, we want to reiterate to the people and the Governments of Hiroshima and Nagasaki our deepest sympathy. We want to express to the national governments of all countries, but especially to those of the nuclear powers and the countries that today are seeking to develop nuclear arsenals, to its strong conviction on the need of total and definitive elimination of nuclear weapons. These weapons should not exist, nor constitute a

threat to the life of all living beings in our planet.

Today, the hundreds of thousands of victims of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki remind us that the international community is legally obliged to take concrete actions and effective commitments for assuring that such tragedies will never occur again. Nuclear weapons cannot be part of national defense policies and international security doctrines.

Mexico deplores the passing away of Mr. Ichio Ito, former Mayor of Nagasaki. Today, we reiterate our sorrow for the tragic act that ended the life of a distinguished and unflagging promoter of international peace.

Mexico recognizes the heightened threat posed by the access to mass destruction weapons by non state actors such as terrorist groups, and thus has contributed to the international efforts to eliminate this risk. Nevertheless, it is also true that this fight has not been accompanied by efforts directed towards nuclear disarmament. In this regard, my country considers that all efforts must be made to prevent further nuclear proliferation, especially among non-state actors. But, at the same time, nuclear powers must fulfill their expressed commitment enshrined at the NPT and other international treaties and instruments to effectively advance in the area of nuclear disarmament. Disarmament and non-proliferation are mutually reinforcing processes. Genuine implementation of irreversible, verifiable and transparent nuclear weapon reductions, leading to their total elimination, serves to diminish the perceived utility

of these weapons, and thus their desirability. We are not asking too much to all nuclear powers. Ten years ago, the International Court of Justice explicitly stated that: "There exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control."

Nuclear and non-nuclear States are both concerned by the probabilities of nuclear proliferation. Therefore, I would like to reiterate the consistent position taken by Mexico and the New Agenda Coalition countries (consisting of Brazil, Egypt, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa and Sweden), during the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), celebrated from April 30 to May 11, 2007: *It is imperative that all States Parties be held fully accountable with respect to strict compliance with their obligations adopted during the 2000 Review Conference of the NPT.*

Mexico is truly concerned with those emerging doctrines that emphasize the importance of new types of nuclear weapons, because by expanding the range of possible scenarios for use, such doctrines act as an incentive for both nuclear and non-nuclear weapon States to develop new ones. The New Agenda Coalition countries have underlined that States must refrain from developing nuclear weapons and must not adopt doctrines or systems that blur the distinction between nuclear and conventional weapons, or lower the nuclear threshold.

Mexico has insisted that the preference of some countries to preserve the nuclear option as a key component for their defense constitutes a trend that can encourage other countries to modernize their weapons and might lead to nuclear development by currently non nuclear states in order to gain deterrence capabilities.

Mexico has contributed to the international community efforts in the field of non-proliferation in order to enhance international instruments on this issue, and has also initiated an examination process of the political mechanisms for trade control, such as the Nuclear Suppliers Group. In this regard, Mexico has encouraged countries engaged in nuclear activities to fulfill the international commitments agreed in the framework of the non-proliferation global regime.

Mexico encourages initiatives focused on the abolition of nuclear weapons tests. In this regard, the Mexican Government underlines the importance and urgency to achieve the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and exhorts all the States to uphold and maintain moratorium on nuclear weapon test explosions, as well as to promote the installation of the international monitoring system of the Treaty.

Mexico has continued encouraging greater political coordination, as well as the strengthening of *Nuclear Weapons Free Zone* regimes. This year, we commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Tlatelolco Treaty, adopted in Mexico in 1967 to establish the first Nuclear Weapons Free Zone in the Latin American and Caribbean Region. As part of this effort in this field, in April 2005, Mexico hosted the first Conference of States that are Party or Signatory to treaties that establish Nuclear Weapons-Free Zones. We will call upon all nuclear States to give total guarantees that they will adhere to such regimes and will avoid using their nuclear arsenals against the members of these Zones of peace, stability, and hope.

My country has promoted the construction of a peaceful and safe world. We are entirely committed with the objectives of disarmament and non-proliferation under the effective compliance of the principles of transparency, verification and irreversibility.

Mexico will insist on the urgency to give strict compliance to legally binding instruments calling for nuclear disarmament such as the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), and will firmly continue encouraging total and definitive elimination of nuclear weapons during the 62nd session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, the preparatory process for the 2010 NPT Review Conference, the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and other international fora.

Please accept the message of solidarity of the Government of Mexico. Our most sincere acknowledgement and support to your valuable works towards worldwide abolition of nuclear weapons.

Before I conclude let me express my recognition to the extraordinary leadership shown by the Organizers and all participants in this Conference. Despite that there are very worrisome signals that today the risk of someone using a nuclear weapon against a perceived enemy is greater than at any moment during the Cold War Era; despite the risk that a terrorist group may get control of a nuclear device, we must strengthen our efforts. We cannot leave this issue in the hands of nuclear weapons. In fact I share entirely the opinion expressed by Mayor Tadatoshi Akiba last night to the representatives of more than 40 governments of all regions: "The struggle against nuclear weapons is a struggle the people can win. In fact, I believe it is the easiest global struggle we face. Eliminating nuclear weapons will be far easier than eliminating poverty, racism, social injustice or war. It is far easier than stopping global warming or pollution. Nuclear weapons are so obviously wrong. They are supported only by a tiny minority. The rest of us want them gone." Thank you.

Herminio López Díaz
Deputy Head of Mission/ Political
Counselor, Embassy of the Republic of Cuba
in Japan

Dear Friends,

As a representative of the Government of the Republic of Cuba, it constitutes an enormous privilege for me to address this World Conference - Hiroshima and be provided with the chance to verify once again the absolute coincidence between the noble cause advocated by the myriad of organizations that from different corners of the world have come all the way to this city of Hiroshima, this sacred place for all the peace loving forces of our planet: the cause of achieving a world free of nuclear weapons. I want to express my deep gratitude to the organizing committee for giving me this chance.

It has been more than four years that Cuban President Fidel Castro visited Japan in March 2003 and was able to fulfill his dream of coming to Hiroshima where he visited the Peace Memorial and the Museum and laid a wreath paying homage to the victims. Here, when he delivered a speech to the local authorities that warmly welcomed him, he spoke about the need for humankind to learn about the lessons of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. When he came back to Cuba, a few days later he explained to the national parliament: "*There are no words or enough time to describe how deeply moved we all were by the genocide perpetrated against the civilian population of Hiroshima. The human imagination cannot even begin to comprehend what happened there.*"

Notwithstanding the proclaimed end of the Cold War, there are around 32,300 nuclear weapons in the world, over 12,000 of them ready to be employed immediately. The nuclear weapons modernization programs have not stopped and the absurd military expenditures continue to multiply.

How much could be done if only a minimum fraction of the current military expenditures were devoted to solve underdevelopment-related problems and to reduce the growing gap between the richest and poorest countries?

With the resources currently being devoted to arms, 652 million people who suffer from hunger in the world could be fed during a year, or the 38 million HIV/AIDS patients could be supplied with retroviral pharmaceuticals during 40 years. Millions of people all over the world could escape poverty. It would be possible to educate every child in the Third World.

With just 10% of what is currently spent in weapons, the Millennium Development Goals could be achieved.

These are the realities that we should tackle with concrete actions. We cannot accept passively that more resources be spent on killing than on saving lives. With the seriousness of all

the problems affecting mankind today besides war and the danger of the use of nuclear weapons, from the environment to poverty, we cannot remain with our arms crossed.

The mere existence of nuclear weapons and the doctrines that prescribe their possession and use, represent a threat for international peace and security. That is why Cuba reaffirms the Non-Aligned Movement's historic position that nuclear disarmament is, and must continue to be the highest priority in the disarmament field.

The nuclear-weapons States have a legal obligation not only to pursue, but also to bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international verification.

Cuba opposes the intentions of some who try to ignore or minimize the relevance of nuclear disarmament and to impose a discriminatory non-proliferation approach, by virtue of which the problem does not lie in the very existence of nuclear weapons, but in the "good" or "bad" behavior of those who have them.

There cannot be a selective implementation of the NPT. The obligations related to nuclear disarmament and the peaceful use of nuclear energy cannot continue to be disregarded within this Treaty.

We strongly uphold the respect for the States' inalienable right to the peaceful use of nuclear energy, under strict observance of the commitments incurred under the NPT.

Likewise, we support the conclusion, as a high priority matter, of a universal, unconditional and legally binding instrument on security guarantees for the non-nuclear States.

During the First Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons held in Vienna this year, Cuba, representing the Non-Aligned Movement, expressed its concern about the uncertainty of the future of the NPT. The lack of balance in the implementation of the NPT threatens to unravel the NPT regime, a critical component of the global disarmament framework. The nuclear-weapon States continue to believe in the relevance of nuclear weapons, despite a globalized and interconnected world. The nuclear-weapon States and those States remaining outside the NPT continue to develop and modernize their nuclear arsenal, threatening international peace and security. We must all call for an end to this madness and seek the elimination and ban on all forms of nuclear weapons and testing as well as the rejection of the doctrine of nuclear deterrence.

In the last five years or so, a lot has happened outside the NPT framework. Concerns have been raised about weapons of mass destruction, in

particular nuclear weapons. We all have concerns about nuclear non-proliferation, both vertical and horizontal. We all have fears about nuclear terrorism; we fear for the possibility of individuals or groups and other non-State actors getting their hands on nuclear explosive devices and using them for terrorist activities.

The Heads of States and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement in the fourteenth Summit on September 2006 in Havana, Cuba, stressed their concern at the threat to humanity posed by the continued existence of nuclear weapons and of their possible use or threat of use. They reiterated deep concern over the slow pace of progress towards nuclear disarmament and the lack of progress by the nuclear weapons States.

The Non-Aligned States Parties of the Treaty remain fully convinced that the NPT is a key instrument in the efforts to stop the vertical and horizontal proliferation of nuclear weapons and an essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament. The indefinite extension of the NPT does not imply the indefinite possession by the nuclear weapon States of their nuclear weapons arsenals. If we, the States Parties, want to curtail the proliferation of nuclear weapons, we must also be prepared to accept that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

The Non-Aligned Movement whose members make up a large majority of the States Parties to the NPT, wishes to reaffirm the importance of achieving the total elimination of all weapons of mass destruction globally, in particular nuclear weapons. The ultimate objective of the efforts of States in the disarmament process should remain that of general and complete disarmament.

The Group of Non-Aligned States Parties reaffirms the inalienable right of States Parties to the NPT to engage in research, production and use of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes without discrimination. The free, unimpeded and non-discriminatory transfer of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes must be fully ensured. Nothing in the Treaty should be interpreted as affecting this right. Nuclear-weapon States, in cooperation among themselves and with non-nuclear-weapons States, and with States not Parties to the Treaty, must refrain from nuclear sharing for military purposes under any kind of security arrangements. There should also be total and complete prohibition of the transfer of all nuclear-related equipment, information, material and facilities, resources or devices and the extension of assistance in the nuclear, scientific or technological fields to States that are not Parties to the Treaty, without exception.

Cuba expresses its compromise to contribute as present head of the Non-Aligned Movement to lay

the ground for a successful Review Conference in 2010 and to chart the course for a better and safer world for our future generations. Our country will keep demanding that as a crucial key for achieving the survival of the human race the world cannot forget for a single second about the sad lessons of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We know we are not alone in this struggle and that supporting each other all the peace loving forces of this planet that all of you are representing here today will be able to reach our goal: a world free of nuclear weapons. Thank you very much.

Greetings from Hiroshima Mayor:

Akiba Tadatoshi Mayor of Hiroshima City

First of all, on behalf of Hiroshima City, I would like to express my heartfelt greetings of welcome. Delegates from all over Japan, as well as delegates from overseas, welcome to Hiroshima. I sincerely respect you for your day-to-day efforts for the elimination of nuclear weapons and for a world of permanent peace.

Thank you for giving me this occasion to present before you the activities of Hiroshima City for eliminating nuclear weapons. Let me speak about the work of Mayors for Peace, which our city organizes.

Now, the sixty-second summer anniversary of the bombings has come, reminding us once again of the horror and pain of war. The atomic bomb changed Hiroshima into a hell on earth, and 140,000 people died within the first year. Those who had barely escaped death are still suffering from leukemia, from various other diseases, and from serious trauma.

Recently, Japanese Defense Minister Kyuma Fumio and U.S. Special Envoy for Nuclear Nonproliferation Robert G. Joseph made remarks trying to justify the use of atomic bombs. But the use of weapons can never be justified. Kyuma was forced to resign because of his remarks.

Hibakusha, through their agony, have created a message of reconciliation, a beam of light shining the way toward the future of humankind. We must remember their contribution by continuously telling others of their experiences, which many of them would rather forget, to ensure that someday soon others will stop suffering as they have and to prevent the production, testing, and military use of nuclear weapons. Let us go back to the reality of the atomic bombings and listen to the messages of the Hibakusha.

In spite of these efforts by the Hibakusha, we are now faced with the crisis of the breakdown of the NPT, the only international framework for nuclear disarmament, as can be seen in the

development of nuclear weapons by North Korea, in the deal between the United States and India on Indian nuclear development, and in the development of new nuclear weapons by current nuclear powers.

Underlying these moves are old-fashioned leaders who are clinging to an early twentieth century world outlook adherent to the rule of brute strength, rejecting global democracy, and turning their backs on the reality of the atomic bombings and the messages of the Hibakusha. The twenty-first century, however, must be an era in which international conflicts are peacefully resolved by the power of the citizens.

Once, there were many regions which were colonized or under the control of other countries in every aspect, but now those former colonies have become nominally independent and have recovered theoretical sovereignty. The desire for democratic governments in which the will of the people is respected has taken root worldwide.

Learning lessons from history, international principles have been established prohibiting attacks on non-combatants, including children, women, the elderly, and prohibiting the use of inhumane weapons which injure excessively and cause unnecessary suffering. Humankind has also worked to make the General Assembly of the United Nations an instrument for the resolution of international disputes.

Cities and citizens have been targeted for nuclear attacks since the Cold War era began. We have become inured to abnormal international politics which hold innocent children hostage. We must reflect on the basic meaning of our lives. And now the mayors of cities, who have always walked with and shared the sorrow and pain of their citizens, are rising, and on the basis of human wisdom, they are leveraging the voices of their citizens to move international politics forward.

In order to solve the current critical situation, Hiroshima City has presided over the global NGO Mayors for Peace to promote various undertakings to eliminate nuclear weapons.

The Mayors for Peace organization was founded in 1982 for realizing a nuclear weapons-free and peaceful world. The Nagasaki mayor assumed the vice-chair, and the Hiroshima mayor became chair. Now, 1,698 cities in 122 countries, including London, Paris, Moscow, and Delhi, have joined the organization.

The Mayors for Peace organization is launching the global 2020 Vision project, an emergency campaign to eliminate nuclear weapons by 2020.

The objectives of the 2020 Vision include:

1. To de-alert immediately all nuclear weapons;
2. To start negotiations without delay toward the conclusion of a convention to totally ban all nuclear weapons by 2010; and

3. To realize the elimination of all nuclear weapons by 2020 in accordance with the nuclear weapons convention.

As part of this campaign, we launched both the Good Faith Challenge, calling on nuclear-weapons states to immediately commence negotiations to ban nuclear weapons, and the Cities Are Not Targets Project, calling on nuclear-weapons states not to target cities for nuclear attack.

In response to these calls by the Mayors for Peace, mayors throughout the world are working on pioneering initiatives based on the fact that cities suffer most from war.

In advance of the Cities Are Not Targets Project, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, in which 1,139 cities take part, adopted a resolution at its annual meeting last year calling on countries, including the United States, to rule out cities as targets of nuclear attack. A similar resolution was also adopted in its annual meeting this year.

In the Czech Republic, mayors are opposing the plan to deploy the U.S. missile defense system and are thereby defending the security of human life.

The City of Ypres in Belgium, which experienced a German gas attack during World War I, hosts the international secretariat of the Mayors for Peace in its city hall. Other Belgian member cities are contributing funds to support the international secretariat.

The City of Hiroshima is continuing its efforts to communicate the A-bomb experience to the peoples of the world by holding A-bomb exhibitions in 101 cities in the U.S. (in two cities in every state and in Washington, D.C.) as well as by facilitating the establishment of Hiroshima-Nagasaki peace studies courses in colleges and universities throughout the world.

Upcoming in October, the World Congress of United Cities and Local Governments, which represents the majority of our planet's population, will express the will of humanity, calling for the elimination of nuclear weapons.

It is each citizen living on the earth acting in concert who can decide the future of humankind. In this sense, it is very important that the 2007 World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs is held here, in the atomic-bombed city of Hiroshima, to discuss the elimination of nuclear weapons. I would like to express deep respect for your efforts.

I sincerely hope you will further endeavor, together with us, to achieve both the elimination of nuclear weapons and a permanent world peace.

Last but not least, allow me to extend my best wishes for the success of the World Conference and your continued health.

Hibakusha's Reports:

Kaneko Kazushi Director-General, Hiroshima Prefectural Federation of A-Bomb Victims Associations

Mr. Chairperson, thank you for your introduction. My name is Kaneko from Hiroshima Prefectural Federation of A-Bomb Victims Associations

Yesterday, we were able to meet with Prime Minister Abe. With regard to the Hibakusha lawsuits, we now have the undertaking that he shall have experts review the recognition standards that have been used to screen Hibakusha for A-bomb disease. Today, the Minister of Health and Labor, Yanagisawa made a constructive response that he would include Hibakusha members in the review team within the year.

I would like to congratulate the holding of the 2007 World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the places that suffered the atomic bombings, with the theme For a Nuclear-Weapon Free, Peaceful and Just World.

I was 19 years old when I was exposed to radiation when I entered Hiroshima city soon after the bombing. For the sake of time, let me just say this. The atomic bombings savagely deprived humans of their dignity and reduced them to subjects of a massacre. They degenerated tens of thousands of human beings to the level of lifeless objects, crushed and killed by the brutal force that destroyed everything. Nuclear weapons are weapons of the devil. "No more Hibakushas" is the earnest desire of the entire humanity. Today, government representatives, international organizations and NGOs in and outside of the country have come together to strengthen the global tide for the abolition of nuclear weapons. On the other hand, the United States thinks that nuclear weapons can be used. According to professor Sawada Shoji, who has long studied the health effects of residual radiation and internal exposure in support of the Hibakusha lawsuits, such thinking is based on the understanding that the effects of nuclear explosion would be geographically very much limited, or that they would not be ever-lasting but only be instantaneous in duration, therefore the use of nuclear weapons would not be a violation of international law. This is the reason why the US has long tried to hide the real and true effects of the atomic bombings and denied the health effects of residual radiation. This is the reason why successive Japanese governments went along for the ride and abandoned Hibakusha for the initial 12 years when they were in the depth of despair and suffering.

It was in 1954 when people started to take

strong action against atomic and hydrogen bombs in response to the hydrogen bomb testing at Bikini Atoll conducted that year. This led to the foundation of Japan Confederation of A-and-H Bomb Sufferers Organizations (Nihon Hidankyo) in the midst of the public's growing awareness of the need to offer support to and solidarity with the victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. In 1957, the A-Bomb Medical Treatment Act was enacted at last, followed by the 1968 Act on Special Measures for Victims of Atomic Bombings. But in 1980, the government succeeded in having its Council on A-bomb Issues issue the advisory opinion which stated that the effects of the atomic bombings should be "suffered and endured" for "the effects of war should be suffered and endured equally among the population." The government used the opinion to avoid official relief measures to Hibakusha being seen as state compensation and confined them within the framework of social welfare. It also decided to recognize only radiation effects as A-bomb damage. This policy is built on Japan's reliance on the US nuclear umbrella. As long as the country is under the wings of such an umbrella, the government cannot tell the US it must not use nuclear weapons. This is why this conference must strongly call for the need for Japan to break away from under the US nuclear weapons umbrella. Thank you for your attention.

Hamasaki Yoshimi Plaintiff, Kumamoto A-Bomb Collective Lawsuit

It is an honor for me to speak before you today. I am one of the Hibakusha plaintiffs who won the favorable ruling at the Kumamoto District Court on July 30.

Please let me speak on behalf of my late husband Tsuyoshi Hamasaki. He was exposed to the bomb when he was only 1 year and 11 months old at the Inasa district of Nagasaki City. I learned that he was carried on his mother's back when the bomb was dropped. He had been blown off by the blast when his mother realized. The force of the blast was so strong that the sling that had tied them together had been torn and blown off. From the next day, he began to suffer from a high fever and diarrhea. He also started to lose his eyesight. His mother went to find one doctor and another for her son.

When he was 29, he began losing hair, significantly. He would vent his anger at us. He would so often tell me that he would not want to suffer from anything but leukemia. Back then, I had no clue as to why he was telling me such a thing. It was only later he told me that he was a Hibakusha. I was surprised. It was from that

time he started to suffer from symptoms. I never imagined the exposure to the bomb would cause such diseases he suffered.

In July of 2002, he was diagnosed as having a malignant lymphoma. My mind, too, went completely blank when the doctor told us that. From that day on, the three of us, our two sons and I did all we could to nurse him to health only to see him pass away the next year on the 1 of September. I abhor the bomb that ordained the life of an only one year and 11 months old baby to suffer and die after all these 60 years. I still cannot see why he had to do so much to hide he was a Hibakusha. His mother, too, had died without telling me she was a Hibakusha. That is probably the way his family members tried to conceal their history from the public.

Now my sons are old enough to help me so that I have the privilege to speak before such a large audience. We need to make one more push to stop the government from appealing the Kumamoto case. I sincerely ask for your help to make them give up the appeal.

Greetings from the World Peace Movement Representatives:

Lee Jun Kyu Civil Network for a Peaceful Korea Republic of Korea

Peace, the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, and the East Asia Peace Community: What Kind of Peace Do We Seek?

I am Lee Jun Kyu of the Network for a Peaceful Korea, a peace movement organization of the Republic of Korea.

We are seeing step by step progress toward a peaceful resolution of North Korean nuclear issues. Recently, in the R.O.K. and in the U.S., we hear expectant voices predicting a peace treaty for the Korean Peninsula will be concluded in 2008.

The conclusion of a peace treaty for the Korean Peninsula is not merely the conclusion of another international treaty. It would mean that the entire Korean Peninsula would enter a regime of peace, ending the armed ceasefire. Further, it would mean the fall of the final curtain of the Cold War. The division of and war in the Korean Peninsula reflect the history of imperialism and of the Cold War, a period of military confrontations in which the threat of nuclear attack has always been present. The building of a regime of peace on the Korean Peninsula would facilitate the dismantlement of Cold War structures in East Asia.

However, there are still a number of difficult

tasks to be tackled on the way toward a peaceful solution of the North Korean nuclear issues and toward the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. The largest concern and the most difficult problem are at what stage we can expect the abandonment of the nuclear weapons that North Korea currently possesses and how to achieve that abandonment. We must overcome all difficulties through the power of peace, achieving a peaceful solution to the North Korean nuclear weapons issue and to the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula thus making the peninsula a peaceful one without nuclear weapons.

Even if North Korea abandons its nuclear weapons and a peace agreement for the Korean Peninsula is signed, true peace will not come to East Asia so long as the realignment and the strengthening of the Japan-U.S. and the R.O.K.-U.S. alliances continue to accelerate. This can be easily understood when you see the Pyong Taek bases in the R.O.K. and Okinawan bases in Japan. The abduction of Korean volunteers by a Taliban group in Afghanistan is a typical example of the consequences of our alliances with the United States. In light of the current arms race among the United States, Japan, China, and Russia, forces for peace should review their roles in realizing peace in the East Asian region. Recently, the R.O.K.'s government began to argue for joining in this arms race, a military build-up supposedly necessary for coping with the present situation in East Asia.

Now, we are asked to think about what kind of peace we hope and achieve. Do we want the vulnerable, false peace based on armaments centering on nuclear weapons or the true, sustainable peace based on peaceful cooperation rather than military power.

On 25 July, leaders of the Peace and Disarmament Center of the People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy, the Korean Youth Confederation (KYC), the Committee to Promote the Construction of the Peace Museum, the Youth Center for the Environment, and the Korean Federation of Environmental Movements (KFEM) met together at the request of our Civil Network for a Peaceful Korea. The meeting was to evaluate the peace movement in the R.O.K. and to propose future tasks on the occasion of the fifty-fourth anniversary of the truce that ended the Korean War on 27 July 1953. These organizations have consistently opposed North Korea's nuclear development, while being critical of U.S. policy toward North Korea.

Those who participated in the meeting came to the consensus that it is an urgent task to develop solidarity among peace organizations in the region to promote peace not only in the Korean Peninsula but also throughout East Asia by opposing nuclear weapons and the realignment and strengthening of

the Japan-U.S. and the R.O.K.-U.S. military alliances. The leaders also confirmed their belief that the international solidarity among citizens in various fields (not among bureaucrats and politicians of local and national governments) should be strengthened in order to achieve our peaceful ideals of complete nuclear and conventional disarmament. In particular, the importance of solidarity at the municipality level was noted. It was my honor and pleasure to make a report on this meeting.

Every day for quite some time until the very day I flew to Hiroshima, I have been participating in outdoor rallies and press conferences concerning the Korean nuclear issue and the hostage crisis in Afghanistan. I arrived here in Hiroshima totally exhausted. Moreover, whenever I come to Hiroshima or Nagasaki, I cannot sleep well at night, thinking about the 700,000 people who were affected by the A-bombs and remembering the epigraph on the monument for Korean A-bomb victims placed in the corner of the Hiroshima Peace Park.

But during my student days, whenever I went to Gwangju, a symbol of the democratization struggles of the Korean people, I gained courage and strength from the spirits of our forerunners who have been laid to rest there, feeling my responsibility as one of their successors. Now, Hiroshima and Nagasaki have become a place similar to Gwangju for me, giving me courage and strength. I want to continue working together with all of you. Thank you.

Ole Kopreitan No to Nuclear Weapons - Norway

Good afternoon all of you. My name is Ole Kopreitan and I have been a delegate from No to Nuclear Weapons -Norway to the World Conference against A and H Bombs every year since 1990.

I am indeed very happy to see so many faces of the peace veterans during these 18 years, but I am even more happy to see the faces of many new peace activists.

We all know there is a very critical situation for the case of the nuclear disarmament. After the very optimistic perspectives after the NPT-review conference in New York in May 2000, we have got almost a total deadlock in the nuclear disarmament since September 11, 2001.

The situation has even grown worse by the unwise undertakings of the USA and the attempts from new countries to acquire nuclear capacity.

As you know, some countries have been "successful" in their strive, others not yet. In addition we have the dangerous threat from terrorist groups, if they should be able to get hold

of nuclear material or even a simple nuclear device.

This is the dramatic background we have to face when the delegates to the World Conference for three days have been discussing this serious issue. Today the anti-nuclear and the peace movement has a strong position in the hearts of people of every county in the world and not at least in Japan. Almost every human being of the globe knows the name of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and this is a sufficient argument to take a strong position for abolition nuclear weapons. In addition, we do have the enormous work of millions of peace workers which every day try to form a basement against armament and war. It is our great challenge to form a strategy that makes the peace forces superior above the forces of war and armament.

Let me take an example from my own country. Norway, we have by hard working in almost 30 years managed to convince almost 90 % of the inhabitants of the country to support the abolition of nuclear weapons. The other 10% are only confused people who "don't know." In spite of the overwhelming majority against nuclear weapons, the Norwegian government in all years up to this date has supported NATO's nuclear strategy, which even promotes the first strike strategy.

In a country that is announced as one of the most advanced democracies in the world, we can observe a great democratic deficit, and that the government is willing to suppress the majority of the people on behalf of the loyalty of a military alliance called NATO. I think this is not special for Norway and that we can make the same conclusion for many countries in the world. Based on this analysis, I would form the statement that the main objective for the peace movement all over the world is to give a strong hand to revitalise the democratic process in that way that politicians in charge take their responsibility in earnest and act according to their democratic obligations.

In Norway we are now at this critical and interesting stage of convincing our politicians that they should listen more to their voters than to the claim from a military alliance. The main strategy in this work is to mobilise the broader part of the population with a signature campaign and other enlightening activities.

According to this, we are now eagerly running a signature campaign for a convention against nuclear weapons within 2020, which is initiated by Mayor Akiba of Hiroshima. In the spring of 2207 Mayor Akiba made a successful information campaign to the Scandinavian countries and also to Norway. In this campaign Mayor Akiba strongly promoted the worldwide "Mayors for Peace campaign" for nuclear disarmament until 2020. For the time being more than 50% of the

mayors of Norway support this campaign and we are working hard in order to get a stronger support. Hopefully we will get considerable support to reach this goal when Mayor Akiba will make a new information campaign to Scandinavia in November this year. Thank you for your kindly attention.

Milya Kavirova
Chair, Chelyabinsk Nuclear Victims
Organization "AIGUL"
Russia

Greetings to all the delegates and friends here today.

The two Japanese cities - Hiroshima and Nagasaki, experienced the Atomic bombing -- the most horrible disaster imaginable for the human race. Being a Russian citizen, I myself have never witnessed the tragedy. But in 1945, following the end of the war, the then Soviet Union decided to produce atomic bombs, probably in order to threaten other countries. Thus, Chelyabinsk region, my home, was chosen as the site for the production complex of plutonium, the main ingredient for making nuclear weapons.

In the aftermath of the war destruction, everything had to be done in the shortest possible time. As the technology for the bomb production was still immature, all works were carried out by trial and error. In the course of the plant operation, accidents occurred one after another, which brought enormous suffering to so many people.

By way of example, allow me to speak about what happened to my own family. We were a big family -- my parents had 7 children. My father died at age 44 from severe leukemia. My mother and 2 brothers followed him, dying from cancer. The remaining 5 siblings have suffered from various diseases, all officially recognized as radiation-induced. We were internally exposed to radiation by eating and drinking radiation-contaminated foods. But no one warned us of any danger from radiation. This information was deliberately hidden.

The morbidity rate of the local people is very high. According to the statistics of 1998, among 47 babies born in my village, 43 had a variety of congenital diseases. This explains that the local people are still exposed to radiation.

It is easy to contaminate the earth, but it is difficult to escape from radiation. As you know, the half-life of plutonium, the main material for nuclear weapons, is as long as 24,000 years. Until that time, how many more generations of people should continue to suffer and die? Leaders of superpowers only want to hold onto their dominance over the world using such deadly

means. It would never lead to a solution of our problems.

In Russia, we have a saying, "If you have a gun at home, it will eventually be used to shoot at someone". We must join hands and abolish these deadly weapons. There can never be peaceful atoms!

Iraklis Tsavdaridis
World Peace Council

Dear friends, fellow fighters for peace and justice!
Citizens of the martyr city of Hiroshima!

The World Peace Council underlines its respect and solidarity for the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, which suffered the unjust and murderous US bombing in 1945. History cannot be rewritten; nothing can justify what hundreds of thousands of human beings went through in these two cities, therefore we reject vehemently statements which hail or justify the genocidal bombing of the two cities.

The Japanese Peace Movement and the organizers of this annual conference prove once again their commitment to world peace, by keeping up the memories and the collective conscience of humanity about the aggression and the atrocities the USA committed 62 years ago against this people.

Today and the coming days many millions of people in dozens of countries are organizing solidarity events and initiatives around these two horrible anniversaries. In my country Greece for example, the Peace Movement will encircle with a human chain the Parthenon at the Acropolis in Athens, commemorating the victims here in Japan on one hand, and demanding on the other hand a stop of the war and imperialist aggressions and interventions nowadays in the world.

This would be also the wish of the victims, if they would be alive and of their families, not to stop fighting against war and militarism, not to rest in the struggle against occupation and injustice, not to accept a violation of International law and UN charter and of course to fight consequently for the abolition of all nuclear weapons in the world.

Last year the military expenditure worldwide reached the amount of \$ 1204 Billion USD. Only 10% of this amount would be enough to reach the Millennium Development Goals of the UN of the year 2000.

New warheads, including developments of nuclear weapons are built and deployed as well as new launchers and missiles. New satellites and satellite clusters are being deployed in space, for missions of surveillance and "security" control. The multiplication of ground and space bases and facilities, are increasing the imperialist domination and are signs for the new threats and military

aggressions.

New military bases are in plan to be established in Bulgaria, Romania and bases supporting the US "Missile Defense Shield" in Poland and the Czech Republic.

The WPC reaffirms its clear position in favour of the complete abolition of all nuclear weapons in the world. We are not in favour of nuclear tests and we condemn them, but at the same time we condemn the "double moral and standards" of the US administration, which considers some of the states which hold nuclear weapons as allies and others as terrorists.

By formulating the idea of the "axis of evil", USA can interfere in every country that they consider it has relations with terrorists or confront the US interests.

These developments have led the whole postwar system of international relations, which was based in the principles of UN in deep crisis. What applies now is the law of the jungle. The right of the mighty. The UN is either used to legalize this "new world order", or is set aside when the imperialist interests do not find any frame of compromise. The WPC defends the UN founding Charter and struggles for a different world order of peace and justice, free from imperialist domination and wars.

The WPC adds its voice and actions with the anti-war movement in the whole world, demanding the end of the occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan and the complete withdrawal of all foreign occupation forces so that the peoples will decide alone about their fortunes.

We express our solidarity to the people of Palestine in their desire for an independent state and with the Cuban people who are defending bravely their revolution for almost 50 years. We underline the right of the Venezuelan people to choose their own path, free from foreign interventions. We express our full support to the massive people's movement in Japan, which rejects the change of article 9 of the Japanese Constitution and we endorse the respective campaign of the Japanese Peace Movement.

We are actively on the side of the poor and the oppressed worldwide, fighting the causes for this injustice.

We strongly believe that the only "super-power" is the peoples! Long live the friendship and solidarity of the peoples of the world!

No more Hiroshima-Nagasaki!

Reports from Japanese Grass-Roots Movement and Youth:

Peace March:

Taniguchi Tomomi, Okayama Prefectural Peace Committee

I walked through the entire course in Okayama prefecture for 11 days from July 16th to 26th in the 50th Nationwide Peace March. I decided to be a through marcher, inspired by a Hibakusha's "experience of A-bombing" which I learned about at last year's World Conference against A and H Bombs. Also while supporting Ms. Kawanaka Yuko from Kurashiki City with her struggles in the A-bomb disease lawsuit in Okayama, I came to think that we must be the voices of Hibakusha who are still suffering and it is best to get rid of nuclear weapons from the world in order to make no more Hibakusha, and I also wanted more people, any number, to say "No to nuclear weapons."

The night before the march, I was too nervous to sleep and on the first day, we had a fierce thunder storm on the way to Bizen City. Since I don't exercise much usually, the march became "tough" on the third day. But as I was given greetings from the people joining the Peace March or from mayors and chairpersons of local government assemblies, I felt invigorated and was encouraged to go on walking.

Helped by encouragement from the people along the way, I would be able to complete all of the 11-day march in Okayama prefecture appealing for "abolishing nuclear weapons," and was very glad when I achieved it.

Walking in nature seeing blue sky and feeling the breeze together with kindergarten children, I strongly felt that "nature is precious for these children. We don't need any nuclear weapons. We must build a peaceful world." It was also nice that I made new friends and built new ties in this march.

The 50th Peace March is over, but the peace movement must go on. Until true peace is achieved, I'd like to take advantage of this experience to vitalize the peace movement in Okayama and enjoy keeping on working. Thank you.

Ikeba Tetsuya, Matsue Health Co-op Worker's Union, Shimane Prefecture

In Shimane Prefecture, responding to Japan Gensuikyo's proposal of a signature campaign "For the Swift Abolition of Nuclear Weapons," we have been organizing a peace march with a focus on conversation since last year. Matsue Co-op Workers Union produced Peace March goods, and joined the March for all days in relay fashion all the way through.

In Shimane prefecture, we have many people with A-bomb experiences. While collecting

signatures, I heard A-bomb experiences like “I went into Hiroshima the next day as part of an aid team,” “my friend experienced the A-bomb at the station,” and “I have a relative who experienced the A-bomb.”

On the 10th day of the March, we went through a community called Tane. 5 years ago, there was a lady waiting for us with one thousand paper cranes. She asked the date and time of the March at public hall and police station, and was waiting for us. Since then, she sends the cranes for us every year. Last year, she was introduced by a local cable TV, too.

Shimane, in general, is very conservative, but three town mayors have signed the appeal to support the “Declaration of a Nuclear-Free Japan,” marking a new step.

This year, 459 people joined the peace march in total, collecting 605 signatures “For the Swift Abolition of Nuclear Weapons,” and a lot of donations on the street. We could attend the World Conference again this year with various touching stories and achievements from the Peace March. I conclude my report by expressing my determination to keep spreading the wishes for the abolition of nuclear weapons from the grassroots.

No US Carrier-borne Aircraft Base!

Tsubota Keiko, Iwakuni Gensuikyo, Yamaguchi

I'd like to express my deepest gratitude for the support you have extended to us for our fight against the planned relocation of U.S. carrier-borne forces at the Iwakuni Naval Base.

Looking back, the Iwakuni Base has been deeply involved in nuclear weapons through its history. There have been deployments of nuclear bombers, the construction of an underground ammunition depot, anchoring of LSTs loaded with hydrogen bombs off Iwakuni shore, the presence of a facility for assembling nuclear weapon components and of nuclear weapon special teams, among others.

So for us, we work for the abolition of nuclear weapons not only because we want the immediate end to the thunderous roar the US bombers create as they fly over our heads, but because we are very concerned about the presence of nuclear attack forces in our backyards.

The previous petition campaign, “Appeal from Hiroshima and Nagasaki”, which was carried out throughout the country, was supported by 75% of the population of Iwakuni city, well over our initial aim of 50%.

We have also continued the street petition campaign on the 6th and 9th of the month for the past 13 years. When this conference is over, we will be immediately returning to Iwakuni and take to the street for our 166th consecutive street action in front of Iwakuni railway station.

Last year, 36 of us went door-to-door to visit

local people to ask for their support to the new petition for the “Swift Abolition of Nuclear Weapons,” and solicited 479 signatures.

This is not a big achievement, but we believe what is important is the taking of action itself with a view to reaching a broad range of people.

Last year, our city held a referendum on the planned relocation of the US carrier-borne unit from Atsugi (near Tokyo) to our city. As much as 87.4 % of the voters, or 51.3 % of all eligible voters expressed their opposition to the plan.

The government, however, has blatantly ignored our will and canceled the promised 3.5 billion yen subsidy for our city hall construction.

Our mayor has been very open and clear in his respect for his people's will demonstrated in the referendum, based on his commitment to public safety and security. This has been a spiritual support for us.

The tie between citizens' strong will against any further reinforcement of the base and the Mayor's commitment has now come to bear a significant meaning in our struggle.

As in the case of the planned deployment of a US nuclear-powered aircraft-carrier at Yokosuka in the Tokyo Bay Area, the Iwakuni's relocation plan is completely part and parcel of the US strategy of having more of Japan's military cooperation for its wars as it wishes.

A recently resigned government official said the atomic-bombing was inevitable and another supports vigorous discussion for Japan's possible nuclear armament. These are not slips of the tongue: they are speaking their true minds.

The Iwakuni Base has always been associated with nuclear weapons. Its extension would mean further reinforcement of its preemptive nuclear strike capability.

We are fully aware of the significant position Iwakuni holds in the movements against nuclear weapons. I conclude by expressing our firm determination to carry forward our struggle.

“Swift Abolition Signature Campaign:

Fukao Toshiko, Fukuoka Chapter, New Japan Women's Association

The New Japan Women's Association (NJWA), based on women's desire for no more war, has carried out activities for the abolition of nuclear weapons since its founding 45 years ago. Members are making efforts throughout the country to prevent Japan from becoming a country “to wage war”, and conduct “Peace Challenger Actions,” that include recruiting of new members, carrying out “6th and 9th Day Actions,” and two signature drives for the “Swift Abolition of Nuclear Weapons” and for defense of Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution.

Our NJWA Fukuoka-Nishi Branch is small in size, but we decided to set an ambitious goal to

collect 1,000 "Swift Abolition" signatures by the opening of the disarmament debate at the U.N. General Assembly Session this fall, with the initiative of our peace section members. In response to the call on each member to collect more than 10 signatures, one of our members has already collected tens of signatures from her neighbors and friends. As a result, our branch has collected altogether 880 signatures so far.

We also consistently carry out the "6th and 9th Day Actions" to collect signatures and donations in front of terminal subway stations, entrance gates of high schools, and at fundraising peace events. Every time we encounter those who have Hibakusha relatives or friends, it reminds us of the significance of the "6th and 9th actions."

The Fukuoka Nishi branch aggressively sends delegates to the World Conference. We set up a delegation of four members this year and held delegates' meeting. We studied a pamphlet of the World Conference and confirmed our determination to participate in it. The delegation will receive 12,000 paper cranes prior to the World Conference in Nagasaki. Six members of the Tsutsujigaoka basic unit, all in their 80s, made them as their way to express their hope for the creation of a nuclear-free world as soon as possible. Participation in the conference convinced us that there is a great hope if we look at the world and motivated us to develop our peace activities.

We also launched a campaign in 2005 to send peace dolls to children in other parts of the world.

We have sent 500 dolls to children in India who suffered from the big tsunami damages. We received positive responses telling us that they wanted to show us children's bright smiles. Now we are preparing for our third peace doll campaign. We also started to collect "one yen" donations in order to contribute to the medical expenses of those who were exposed to radiation during cleaning up of the area contaminated by the Chernobyl nuclear power accident. Through this activity, we have established a friendly relationship with Sapiega Hospital in Lithuania.

Renewing our conviction that each one of us has the power to create a nuclear-free, peaceful and just world, we are determined to carry out the Declaration of the International Meeting and establish solidarity among the people in the world.

Activities of the Youth:

Inoue Rie, Secretary, Youth Organizing Committee

Hello everyone! My name is Inoue Rie, the head of the secretariat of the youth organizing committee of the 62nd anniversary of the atomic bombing. We organized and prepared an "International Youth Rally", which was held yesterday. Here, I would like to introduce you to what kind of activities youth in Hiroshima have undertaken and how it has been done.

We took an initiative to launch "the Youth Organizing Committee for Peace Activities", following the last World Conference against A&H Bombs, With our resolution that it is not enough to feel "temporary sympathy" for the Hibakusha just during the Conference, We have carried out activities, including hearings of Hibakusha's testimony and visits to collective lawsuits for recognition of Hibakusha's diseases as A-bomb related.

In the hearings of Hibakusha's testimonies, while appreciating Hibakusha's strong desire for a peaceful world, we were left with a question: "What on earth does peace mean?" Some of us reached the following conclusion: "It means continuation of our struggles for a world where war and poverty is virtually zero. Not only an Ideal goal but also the process itself is important. That is our interpretation of peace."

After these discussions, the distance between the story tellers among the Hibakusha and listeners has been getting narrower: Our attitudes have changed from just hearing the stories of Hibakusha passively into listening to them actively through dialogue. Furthermore, through such actions as demonstrations for recognition of Hibakusha's diseases as A-bomb related in front of the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Labor in Tokyo or visits to hearings of lawsuits in Hiroshima, Hibakusha's experiences have gradually seemed to apply to us personally.

After becoming active thinkers on war and peace activities, we have met with difficult but important questions of whether the peace movement should continue to go the same way, or whether we should seek another way of "succeeding Hibakusha's experiences". After discussion, we decided on a theme of "deepening of succession" for this year's youth rally. We decided to have a platform of discussion and brainstorming with young people from all over Japan, while listening to stories of the Hibakusha.

One of the participants wrote their impression: "I would like to continue to participate in the peace movement, having my own opinion and thinking over the meaning of activities, not just following others."

We will continue on "succession" of Hibakusha's experiences and struggles even after all the Hibakusha and war-experienced generation passes away. Thus, it is important for us to digest the meaning and apply the lessons to ourselves personally when we listen to the testimony of Hibakusha or do any other activity. I feel that we can send above-mentioned message through the youth rally.

From now on, I will help promote deeper exchanges among youth all over Japan, hand in hand with many young people in their aspiration for peace. Thank you.

Determination on Future Activities:

Sato Mitsuo
Steering Committee Co-Chair, Organizing
Committee/ Representative Director, Japan
Peace Committee

The 2007 World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs - Hiroshima held with the theme "A Nuclear Weapon-Free, Peaceful and Just World" has served as a place to learn about the significant changes taking place in the world today and to be given confidence in our work for peace.

We have learned from overseas delegates on the situations of war and peace and work they are carrying out in their countries. In the United States, the movements against the war in Iraq are growing. In Britain, people are opposing the planned renewal of the country's nuclear weapons system. In Europe, the struggle against the deployment of US missile defense systems in Eastern Europe is growing. In Latin America, people are fighting against the neo-liberal policies and leftist governments are being established one after another. In South Korea, peace organizations organized an international conference against nuclear weapons for the first time in response to nuclear testing by North Korea. Their reports have shown us that the world we live in today is no longer compliant to big powers with powerful military strength

In building on these developments and creating a world free of nuclear weapons, I think that the conference was very successful in deepening our exchanges, discussions and solidarity among governments and NGOs. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the government representatives for the encouragement you have given us throughout the conference and wish you further success in your work for the General Assembly of the United Nations that starts this September and in other international fora.

I would also like to note the active participation of young activities from across Japan and from other countries. Your verve has changed the atmosphere of the Conference and inspired the participants. We also had the privilege of learning from a number of Hibakusha whose message is that humanity can never co-exist with nuclear weapons, a lesson drawn from their deepest pain and sorrow. The young people heard their stories in person for the first time and shed tears. They now say their view of life has changed and are determined to pass on the message of the Hibakusha themselves.

We have worked for the abolition of nuclear weapons together with people of the world against the backdrop of the Bush Administration's perilous nuclear policies and the Japanese government

subservience to such US policies. In order to truly be able to confront these forces, we must build a strong public opinion and movements to further strengthen the tide toward nuclear weapons abolition, looking to the next NPT Review Conference in 2010. We must urge the implementation of the "unequivocal undertaking" to abolish nuclear weapons agreed upon by all NPT member states, including the nuclear weapons states in 2000.

The Bush Administration, which has gone to Iraq to wage war despite strong opposition, is not only refusing the implementation of the undertaking and attempting to invalidate the agreement but is developing "usable nuclear weapons." In uncritically supporting these policies, the Japanese government is offering parts of the country to be used as strongholds for the US preemptive strike strategy. They have also geared up for destroying Article 9 of Japan's Constitution. This Constitution is a world treasure and our task to prevent the constitutional amendment is a great contribution we could make to the people of Asia and the world over.

This Conference has been the first opportunity for peace workers from across Japan to get together, after the elections for the House of Councilors in Japan. Those of us who have gathered here, let us be firm in our will to take a lead in the nation-wide popular movements to stop every attempt to destroy efforts for world peace. Let us multiply our efforts for the successful campaigns of the petition for the Swift Abolition of Nuclear Weapons, the Declaration of a Nuclear Weapon-Free Japan, A-bomb photo exhibitions, withdrawal of US military bases from Japan and many others at the grass-roots level. Organizing meetings to study the Declaration of the International Meeting and other documents of the conference would be a good starting point for our future actions. Actions we will be taking will determine the future course of the world. Let us walk hand in hand toward the goal of abolishing nuclear weapons.

Hiroshima Appeal

Give back my father, give back my mother;
Give grandpa back, grandma back;
Give my sons and daughters back.
Give me back myself,
Give back the human race.
As long as this life lasts, this life,
Give back peace
That will never end.

An Anthology of A-Bomb Poems. Toge Sankichi

At 8:15 on 6 August 1945, an atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. It completely destroyed the city and claimed the lives of tens of thousands of people within the next few months. It left those who narrowly escaped death with deep scars on their bodies, minds, and lives, scars which continue even after sixty-two years. The voices of Hibakusha, demanding “No more Hibakushas” and “Abolish nuclear weapons,” has merged into world opinion, and an overwhelming majority of governments also call for the same demands.

As a country that has suffered nuclear destruction and that has constitutionally renounced war, Japan should strictly observe its Three Non-Nuclear Principles: not to possess, not to produce, and not to allow nuclear weapons to be brought into its territory, and should take a leading role in the international community in pursuit of the abolition of nuclear weapons.

The recent string of official statements advocating Japan’s nuclear armament have enraged Hibakusha and the public, and public indignation forced the Minister of Defense to resign when he said that the dropping of atomic bombs could not have been avoided. The Abe administration tries to justify Japan’s past war of aggression, pushes to revise the Constitution, cooperates with the U.S. in reorganizing and transforming U.S. military bases in Japan, vigorously pursuing its efforts to turn Japan into a country that will “wage war with the U.S.”

Now is the time for us to make great strides in our movement. Let us reinforce our grassroots actions and expand our cooperation to achieve a nuclear weapons-free, peaceful, and just world, and a nuclear-free and peaceful Japan where Article 9 of the Constitution prevails.

The movements for the abolition of nuclear weapons are now rising to intensify their actions with the 2010 NPT Review Conference approaching. Let us urge the United Nations and all its member states, especially the nuclear possessing states, to take actions towards the abolition of nuclear weapons and to adopt resolutions for the commencement of negotiations on a convention totally banning all nuclear weapons.

Let us multiply our efforts to promote the signature campaign “For the Swift Abolition of Nuclear Weapons” in our communities, places of work, and school campuses, and let us expand it across the world.

Let us develop the campaign for a Declaration of a Nuclear Weapon-Free Japan, with which Japan will commit itself to the abolition of nuclear weapons and to the strict observation of the Three Non-Nuclear Principles, into a nationwide campaign, especially targeting local assembly sessions which start in September.

Let us strengthen nationwide actions and cooperation for the defense of Article 9, a world treasure, with all our might. Let us oppose the ongoing realignment and build-up of U.S. military bases in Japan, an effort integral to U.S. policies of preemptive strike and of the use of nuclear weapons. Let us work in solidarity and support of those struggling against the military build-up in Okinawa, in Iwakuni, in Yokosuka, and in many other places. Let us urge the government to withdraw the Japanese military forces from Iraq and the Indian Ocean.

Let us mobilize nationwide support for victory in Hibakusha lawsuits and for a drastic change of the government A-bomb disease recognition policies. Let us listen to Hibakusha’s testimonies, inherit their

messages, and pass them on to others and to future generations. To that end, let us organize A-bomb photo exhibitions, disseminate A-bomb photo panels, and hold film screenings, theater productions, musical performances, and other cultural events. Let us work to preserve the A-bomb ruins, as a reminder of A-bomb destruction for future generations.

We will move forward to achieve the goal of creating a peaceful and just world without nuclear weapons and without war together with Hibakusha, younger generations and seasoned generations holding hands.

No more Hiroshimas! No more Nagasakis! No more Hibakushas! No more War!

August 6, 2007
2007 World Conference against A & H Bombs - Hiroshima

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Special Resolution:

We Demand a Fundamental Resolution to the Problems of A-Bomb Disease Recognition

Victorious rulings have been achieved since last year in all six district courts of Osaka, Hiroshima, Nagoya, Sendai, Tokyo, and most recently at Kumamoto, in the collective lawsuits filed by the Hibakusha, who called for the government to recognize their health problems as A-bomb-related. All of these court decisions sternly criticized the unjust A-bomb disease recognition policy by the government and the current screening standards, which underestimate the effects of radiation. The court decisions admonished the government not to mechanically apply the current screening standards and urged it to examine Hibakusha's applications by taking into consideration the more general and comprehensive conditions of the applicants, including their particular experiences of the A-bombing and their histories of health conditions. We call on the government and the Ministry of Health to finally accept the judicial decisions this time, after their sixth defeat.

Sixty-two years have passed since the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It is absolutely unacceptable to force the Hibakusha, A-bomb survivors, to continue to bear the pain of the bombings unassisted after their health and their lives were destroyed and their family members were killed. Already, thirty-five out of the 266 plaintiffs of the lawsuits have died. Time is not on their side. The government and the Ministry of Health and Labor must immediately stop their insistence on improper standards for screening. We demand that they abolish the current recognition standards, which ignore the actual conditions of the Hibakusha and mechanically turn down their applications. We urge them to give official recognition to their health problems and illnesses, as long as the effect of radiation cannot be absolutely excluded, and to revise the screening system into one that conforms to the real situations of the Hibakusha.

Behind the government's underestimation of A-bomb effects we can find its tacit acceptance of the atomic bombings, as evidenced by the remarks made by the former Defense Minister. We reiterate our demand that the government change its improper position and take fundamental measures to solve the problems of the A-bomb disease recognition program. In addition, we urge the government to make drastic improvements to measures to aid the Hibakusha, including state compensation for A-bomb harm, the expansion of areas officially designated as A-bomb affected zones, a system which would enable Hibakusha living outside Japan to obtain Hibakusha certification and to file applications for A-bomb-related disease recognition, and the creation of programs to help the second generation of Hibakusha.

Further, we call on the government of Japan, as the only country to have suffered the damage from nuclear weapons, to play a positive role in the international community for achieving the abolition of nuclear weapons.

August 6, 2007
2007 World Conference against A & H Bombs - Hiroshima