

原水爆禁止2015年世界大会

2015 World Conference against A and H Bombs

Hiroshima and Nagasaki, August 2-9, 2015



**Organizing Committee
World Conference against A and H Bombs**

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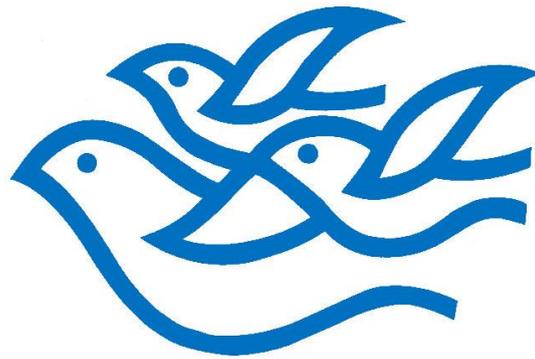
2015 World Conference against A and H Bombs

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Main Theme:

*- A Nuclear Weapon-Free, Peaceful and Just World -
Let Us Make the 70th Year of the A-Bombing a Decisive Turn
to a World without Nuclear Weapons*



Organizing Committee
World Conference against A and H Bombs

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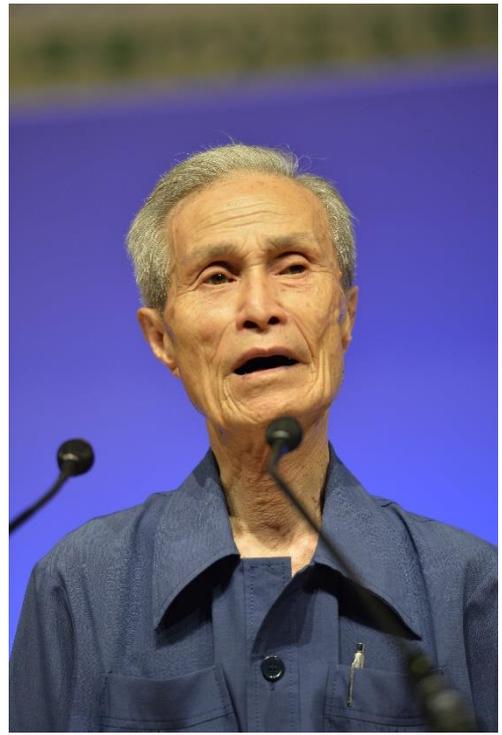
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Setsuko Thurlow, Hibakusha of Hiroshima



Taniguchi Sumiteru, Hibakusha of Nagasaki



Kim Won-soo, Acting High Representative for
Disarmament Affairs, United Nations



Muhammad Anshor, Deputy Permanent
Representative of the Republic of Indonesia
to the U.N.

2015 World Conference against Atomic & Hydrogen Bombs

Declaration of the International Meeting

It will soon be 70 years since atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki by the United States. This year also marks the 70th year after the end of World War II. We the delegates assembling in the International Meeting of the 2015 World Conference against A and H Bombs are determined to make this year a point of decisive turn to achieve a world without nuclear weapons.

The Charter of the United Nations pledged “to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind”, and the first resolution of the U.N. General Assembly called for “the elimination from national arsenals of atomic weapons”. This is exactly where post-WWII world politics began. Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution, which provides for the renunciation of war and non-possession of war potentials, is rooted in both the deep reflection on Japan’s war of aggression and colonial rule and the cruel experience of the suffering from the A-bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

With the Hibakusha, we say, “No more wars!” and “No more Hiroshimas or Nagasakis!”

There are still about 16,000 nuclear warheads in the world. The use of one of them, even by accident, would cause “hell on earth”, a situation beyond description. In Hiroshima and Nagasaki a total of 210,000 people died by the end of 1945, and those who survived in the moment were later afflicted both mentally and physically. As the Hibakusha warn, the damage to Hiroshima and Nagasaki shows that nuclear weapons are the “weapons of devil”, with which humans cannot coexist.

To root out this danger is an urgent task for world peace and the survival of the human race. In international politics, too, discussions and understanding on the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons are increasing, and the determination of not allowing nuclear weapons to be used ever again is gaining ground. Now is the time for the peoples, governments and international organizations to come together to accomplish the prohibition and the elimination of nuclear weapons without delay.

We regret that the 9th Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (April-May 2015) failed to agree on a final document due to opposition from the U.S., the U.K. and Canada to the proposed language on an international conference on a Middle East zone free of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction.

The conference, however, saw a number of important achievements reflecting public opinion and the movements: The voices calling for legally binding measures to achieve “a world without nuclear weapons”, including the start of negotiations on a treaty for the prohibition of nuclear weapons, represented the vast majority states, driving nuclear powers into a corner. This was shown by the fact that at the drafting stage of the final document, the need for a treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons was formulated for the first time. The process to achieve it should start at the 70th Session of the U.N. General Assembly. Further, as seen in the joint statement on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, joined by 159 states representing more than 80% of the parties to the NPT, the demand to prohibit nuclear weapons from the humanitarian viewpoint was so widespread that even nuclear powers had to express their “understanding”.

It is more important than anything else to note that these developments have been supported by the movements and public opinion around the world. In diplomatic negotiations on nuclear disarmament, the currents of democracy that bring together the voices of the majority is developing into a major force. Promoting further this process both at the grassroots level and in international politics, surrounding the pro-nuclear forces and increasing pressure on them will make it possible to open a road to a world without nuclear weapons.

The key to making further progress is to overcome the “nuclear deterrence” doctrine. Though achieving “a world without nuclear weapons” was agreed by the 2010 NPT Review Conference, nuclear powers are refusing straightforward discussion of the abolition of nuclear weapons, relying on their so-called “step by step” approach. This amounts to an attempt to maintain their own nuclear forces on the grounds of their “nuclear deterrence” doctrine, the assumption that their nuclear arsenal is needed for their own security.

With the heightening regional tensions involving nuclear powers, there are concerns over the danger of the use of nuclear weapons. The modernization of nuclear weapons, their build-up and training exercises, which squander a vast amount of resources, not only violate the NPT and other international agreements and their spirit, but also increase the danger of actual use of nuclear weapons. We categorically oppose them.

The Marshall Islands' case filed before the International Court of Justice against nuclear-armed states for their failure to observe their nuclear disarmament obligations commands broad support around the world.

The tragedy of Hiroshima and Nagasaki shows that the doctrine of "nuclear deterrence" cannot be justified for any reason whatsoever. It is important to press for the start of negotiations on a treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons, revealing the catastrophic consequences the use of nuclear weapons could cause. We note, in this regard, the fact that the "Humanitarian Pledge" which seeks "legal measures" for the elimination of nuclear weapons from the viewpoint of their inhuman nature draws support from 113 states.

To achieve regional peace and security on the basis of the peace principles of the U.N. Charter and by non-military means represents the major current of world opinion. To resort to deterrence simply generates a vicious circle of tension and arms build-up. We call for peaceful settlement of all international conflicts in compliance with international law.

We warmly welcome the final agreement on Iran's nuclear program reached through the effort for peaceful solution. We call for a diplomatic solution of North Korea's nuclear issue. We support the creation and expansion of nuclear weapon-free zones. We demand an international conference for a Middle East zone free of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction be promptly convened as agreed upon by the past NPT review conferences.

The Japanese people's movement against war bills, supported by public opinion, is making unprecedented progress. The planned war legislation is intended to enable Japan to exercise the right to collective self-defense and the Self-Defense Forces to use force abroad in violation of the Japanese Constitution. This reckless, anti-democratic action by those in power, who do not admit even the error of the past war of aggression, is eliciting protests from a broad range of people. Criticism against the Japanese government is also developing internationally as well as at home for its objection to the negotiations for a treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons, and for its stance that runs counter to the major world development. Underlying it is a policy to rely on the "nuclear umbrella" provided by the US and even to condone the use of nuclear weapons, the attitude that is utterly incompatible with its position as the only A-bombed country. Incorporated as it is in the U.S. nuclear strategy under the Japan-U.S. military alliance, the Japanese government now aims to railroad the war legislation through the Diet. This is a truly serious danger.

We express our solidarity with the movement of Japan to scrap the war bills in defense and advocacy of Japan's Constitution, the struggle of Okinawa against the construction of a new U.S. base and to the movement to achieve a nuclear-free and peaceful Japan.

The essential factor that promotes and maintains the global progress toward achieving the elimination of nuclear weapons is the movement of the peoples around the world and the support of public opinion.

-- Let us increase our efforts to make known the damage by the A-bombings and build momentum demanding the start of negotiations for a treaty for the prohibition of nuclear weapons. Exhibitions on the A-bomb damage everywhere in the world and signature campaigns that connect each individual citizen to the worldwide movement will serve as its mainstays. The International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, Disarmament Weeks and other U.N.-related occasions should be made good opportunities to develop joint actions.

-- Let us continue to extend our support and solidarity with the Hibakusha, whose average age has now reached 80, and help them to win their demand for State compensation. We must inherit from the Hibakusha their memories of experiences and struggles. Let us strengthen our relief and solidarity with the nuclear victims, including those of nuclear tests and nuclear power plant accidents. Let us strengthen our support to the victims of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant accident and develop solidarity with the movements for ZERO nuclear power plants. Let us support the victims of Agent Orange, depleted uranium and other war atrocities.

We will work in solidarity with the people who stand up against war, for peace, for the solution of poverty and social inequality, for the reduction of military expenditures, for people's livelihood, jobs and social welfare, for freedom and democracy, for climate change prevention and protection of global environment, for overcoming sexual and all other types of discrimination, and against social injustice. Together, let us move forward to achieve a "nuclear weapon-free, peaceful and just world".

August 4, 2015
International Meeting, 2015 World Conference against A and H Bombs

International Meeting

2015 World Conference against A and H Bombs

Main Theme:

*-- A Nuclear Weapon-Free, Peaceful and Just World --
Let Us Make the 70th Year of the A-bombing a Decisive Turn to a
World without Nuclear Weapons*

Opening Session (August 2)

Address of the Organizer:

Sawada Shoji
Committee of Chairpersons, Organizing
Committee of the World Conference

On behalf of the Organizing Committee, I would like to welcome and extend my heartfelt solidarity to all participants from abroad as well as from all over Japan at the 2015 World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs.

The 2015 NPT Review Conference was held amid increasing shared understanding about the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons and growing international opinion calling for starting negotiations for an international convention banning and eliminating nuclear weapons, in isolation from security issues. Although the Conference failed to adopt an outcome document, it has become clearer than ever that the nuclear weapon states and their allies have lost rationale for

resisting any ban on such weapons.

We welcome representatives of the United Nations and national governments that played a key role in the NPT Review Conference. We also greet leaders of peace movements, grassroots activists, Hibakusha and other nuclear victims who have assumed a great role in bringing together different citizens' campaigns, including the International Peace & Planet Conference held in New York ahead of the NPT Review Conference. Many of the World Conference participants took active part in petition drives in their respective communities to collect signatures in support of the Appeal for a Total Ban on Nuclear Weapons and took these petitions with them to New York to present them to the United Nations and the Chairperson of the Review Conference.

Need for a convention to ban nuclear weapons is even more evident

We know that the NPT Review Conference ended without adopting the final document because the U.S., Britain and Canada succumbed to pressure from Israel, which is not party to the Treaty, and

refused to accept the proposal on convening a meeting about potentially developing a Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction, even though it had been agreed upon at the previous NPT Review Conference. In the Middle East, a comprehensive agreement on Iran's nuclear program has been reached after persevering with negotiations. Every year at the U.N. General Assembly, Iran has voted in favor of an early start of negotiations on a nuclear weapon convention. By contrast, Israel, which is regarded as possessing nuclear weapons, consistently opposes such a convention. It will be very significant to hold peaceful discussions at a forum that includes Israel, with a view to creating a nuclear-weapon-free zone. If we miss this proposal for a precious opportunity, we will jeopardize the reliability of the NPT itself.

The chairperson of the First Committee of the NPT Review Conference proposed a final document draft based on what had been discussed in the committee meeting. It included the draft of a comprehensive nuclear weapon convention and "a roadmap with a time frame to the elimination of nuclear weapons". However, it was rejected by nuclear weapon states and their allies, including Japan that relies on the nuclear umbrella. They counterposed a "step by step" approach, but they were unable to deny the need for "legal provisions" and a "stand-alone legal instrument". In my view, the discussions of the NPT Review Conference laid the groundwork for future efforts at the UN General Assembly and other forums to get nuclear weapons eliminated.

From its preparatory stage, the 2015 NPT Review Conference was backed by growing discussions about the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons. People deepened their understanding that the use of nuclear weapons will have consequences that must not be condoned from a humanitarian point of view and that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only way to ensure their non-use. The concept of nuclear deterrence is premised on the possible use of such weapons. But, in the face of growing arguments about the atrocious nature of nuclear weapons, it has become difficult to argue that such weapons may be used.

Eliminate nuclear weapons to achieve a world of non-use of force

In June 1945, when World War II was about to end, the Allies wrote the United Nations Charter, which included the principle that the use of force should be excluded from international disputes so that they should be resolved by every possible peaceful means through negotiations. There were expectations that Japan's surrender would pave the

way for creating a peaceful world in which international disputes are settled through negotiations and without the use of force. During the same period, however, the development of the atomic bomb was under way. American historians revealed from accumulated historical facts that the atomic bombing was carried out primarily to intimidate the Soviet Union. As a result of the atomic bombing, the Soviet Union, which was supposed to be intimidated, countered the US nuclear development by developing its own nuclear weapons. That was how the Cold War began, led by a nuclear arms race, and the UN Charter's principle of non-use of force was neglected. Thus, the politics of nuclear blackmail persists today, 70 years after the end of WWII.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of both the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the end of WWII. The world should use this occasion to reaffirm the principles of the U.N. Charter and the First UN General Assembly Resolution and begin marching towards a total ban on nuclear weapons and peaceful resolution of international disputes. Nuclear powers that hold the key positions in the U.N. Security Council have a particularly important role and responsibility in this regard.

Stop the "war legislation" by bringing success to 2015 World Conference

At the NPT Review Conference the Abe administration betrayed the expectations of the people of Japan, the only A-bombed nation, by joining with nuclear weapon states in putting a stumbling block to concluding an international convention banning nuclear weapons. At home, the same administration on July 16 railroaded "war bills" through the House of Representative in violation of the war-renouncing Article 9 of the Constitution and sent them to the House of Councilors. It extended the current session of the Diet until 27 September to recklessly get them enacted.

Japan accepted the Potsdam Declaration and expressed remorse over its war of aggression. After the War, it established the Constitution, which applied the UN Charter's principle of non-use of force to its Article 9. It stands on the idea that Japan defends the security and peace of the nation by deepening mutual understanding with neighboring countries and building an international environment of peace. It should be considered as one of the highest achievements of humanity. Nevertheless, amid the Cold War between the U.S. and the Soviet Union, Japan was pressed into creating what is now known as the Self-Defense Force and hosting U.S. military bases in Okinawa

and elsewhere in Japan. Today, in violation of Article 9 of the Constitution, the Abe government is rushing to turn Japan into a country that can wage war abroad together with the U.S. forces under the name of exercising the right to collective self-defense.

Prime Minister Abe cites the changing situation relating to Japan as the main reason for seeking to enact the “war bills.” He understands nothing about the basic idea behind the Constitution. On the contrary, he holds a wrong perception of Japan’s history, in particular about the past Japanese war of aggression and colonization of Manchuria and Korea. He dares to pay official visits to Yasukuni Shrine. In addition, he is responsible for worsening the situation in East Asia by claiming that strengthening of U.S. bases in Japan and of Japanese Self-Defense Forces contributes to strengthening deterrence. With help from our overseas friends, we will bring success to the 2015 World Conference and use this success as momentum, to force Abe government to step down as soon as possible.

Solidarity with Hibakusha and victims of nuclear testing and nuclear accidents

The average age of A-bomb survivors has exceeded 80. They are still afflicted with aftereffects caused by exposure to radiation from atomic bombings 70 years ago. The government has underestimated or even totally ignored the effects of residual radiation, in particular those of internal exposure. Hibakusha’s concerted lawsuits demanding withdrawal of the government’s refusal to certify their illnesses as caused by atomic bomb radiation continue. In most of these lawsuits, courts have upheld Hibakusha’s call for residual radiation to be recognized as a cause of their illnesses. But the government would not revise the method for certifying Hibakusha with atomic bomb-caused diseases to one of adapting methods to the realities of atomic bombing for the Hibakusha. The legal suits have helped to prove that internal exposure by inhaling particles that fell from the atomic cloud were an important contributing factor to the consequences of exposure to radioactive fallout. This runs through as a common issue among people who were exposed to radiation caused by nuclear testing or nuclear plant accidents. The urgent need is for our movement for the elimination of nuclear weapons to work to build an effective system of protection against radiation exposure based on human rights, a system that will not be distorted by pro-nuclear weapon policies or policies promoting nuclear power generation, and to eliminate damage from exposure to radiation. At the same time, we

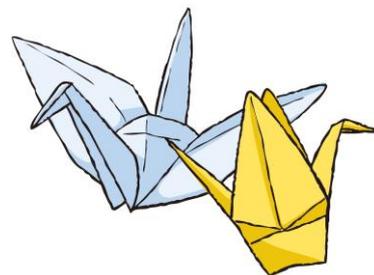
are called upon to provide assistance and support to nuclear victims and work in solidarity with them and those who are fighting against nuclear power plants.

A world free of radiation threats

Even though the actual state of the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant after the accident is not known, the Abe government has failed to come up with comprehensive plans for radiological protection and evacuation of local populations in case of major accidents at nuclear power plants in Japan, a country with so many volcanoes and earthquakes. It is now pushing ahead with restarts of nuclear plants that have been off line. Historically, Japan’s nuclear energy policy began with the aim of maintaining the infrastructure for the U.S. to manufacture weapon-grade enriched uranium. The government is doing everything in the interest of power companies and nuclear plant builders, giving the green light to nuclear plant exporters in disregard of the safety of the Japanese people. In fact, it overlooks the aggravating radiological environment in Fukushima due to a massive accumulation of radioactive waste, even though methods of disposal are not established, and ignores risks of accidents. Modern science and technology, if they work hand in hand with the administration, are capable of producing renewable energy, replacing currently used limited resources such as fossil fuel and uranium fuel.

Friends,

As was shown at the NPT Review Conference, the forces calling for an early elimination of nuclear weapons are driving into a corner the forces clinging to such weapons. On behalf of the organizers I would like to conclude this speech by expressing my wish that this World Conference will bring together the antinuclear forces, that through substantive discussions and reflection it will launch creative and concrete strategies for this 70th anniversary year of atomic bombing, and that this year will represent a decisive turning point towards the elimination of nuclear weapons.



Greetings on behalf of the Hibakusha:

Wada Masako
Assistant Secretary General,
Japan Confederation of A-and H-Bomb
Sufferers Organizations
(Nihon Hidankyo)

Message for friends who are working together for peace

My name is Wada Masako from the Japan Confederation of A-and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations, Nihon Hidankyo. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak to you.

Seventy years have passed since the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The Hibakusha are aging. The average age of certified Hibakusha reportedly exceeded 80 for the first time. While voices against the threat of nuclear weapons and nuclear wars are increasing, the A-bomb damage and sufferings are fading away as old memories as time goes by.

Allow me to talk about what happened on that day. I was born in Nagasaki in 1943. I'm one of the youngest Hibakusha. I was only 22 months old at that time, so I was too young to remember what happened. I cannot talk about the indescribable hardships that older Hibakusha might have gone through, but I was there with my mother and grandfather. Here is the story of my mother's atomic bomb experience as she related it to me.

* * * * *

August 9 - it was a sweltering hot day. I was preparing lunch with some food stuff used as a replacement for rice. There was no air-raid warning. My eldest daughter, Masako, who was born in October 1943, was playing alone on the dirt floor of the entrance of the house. I had told her to stay in the house to avoid the summer heat. We spent quiet hours before lunch.

It was 11:02 am. All of a sudden there came a Kaboom! When I came to myself I found that the floor of the room of my house was covered with 30 centimeters of dirt overburden. My house was in Imahakata-machi, 2.9 kilometers (1.8 miles) from the hypocenter. The windows, shoji sliding doors, lattice doors, clay walls and everything had crumbled into dust. I had no idea what had happened. I saw orange smoke hanging in the air. I could see none of the houses that had existed across the street from my house. People were crying, "A bomb fell on my house!" The tiles of every house in the area had slid off the roof to one side like scales scraped off a fish. The green mountains surrounding the city had turned brown.

After a while I saw a startling scene on the brown mountain path. A long black line, like a march of ants, was slowly moving down Mount Kompira to Tateyama. They came over the mountains fleeing from the fire that had broken out in Urakami, the hypocenter, and looking for water. They were suffering from burns and were wounded. They were almost naked. Their hair was stuck together with blood like horns. Many people may have died along the way.

The land next to my house was left vacant since the family was forced to evacuate. There was a well in my backyard. Those who were suffering severe burns or injuries came one after another to the well for water. Carrying Masako on my back, I cleaned the wounds of countless people. Pieces of cloth sterilized in boiling water, which I had collected, were helpful. There was no knowing what happened to these people afterwards.

In the evacuated land, bodies were cremated day after day, from morning till night. Due to the frightful stench of death, I was unable to eat at all. Box-shape garbage carts loaded with bodies arrived there. People collected roadside bodies and threw them into the cart, just like collecting the garbage. Charred hands and legs were seen sticking out of the cart like dolls. Each day we talked about whether a large or small number of bodies had been collected. Everybody became numb to sights like this.

What is human dignity? How can we tolerate this kind of treatment of human beings?

On August 15, when the War ended, I went to the gymnasium of the present school of economics of Nagasaki University to help the medical team treating the people for injuries and burns. It is difficult to describe how these people were and what the scene was like in the gym where they were laid on the floor. When the doctor visited each patient for treatment I accompanied him with antiseptic solution. But I was frightened to see their severe wounds. I screamed, "Please take this antiseptic solution!" then fainted. Medicines were invaluable at the time. When I was pulled back to consciousness, I found myself lying down on the gym floor as well. They said they didn't need a nurse like me and I was told to do cleaning. My job was to remove maggots with a broom from festering wounds. Maggots were crawling around all over the patients' bodies. They had grown as big as a thumb. I had never seen, and will never see such big maggots or so many.

A friend of mine, who lived in the Nishizaka district of the city near Nagasaki Station, told me that after the air-raid warning was lifted, she saw from the window upstairs a B29 overhead dropping three cocoon-like balls and fly away. Immediately after she saw them moving away toward Urakami,

there was a flash. Her younger brother quickly threw himself on her. She was saved from the heat. But her brother suffered burns on his back and died. I recently learned that the cocoon-like balls which she saw were parachutes equipped with radio sensors used to monitor the effects of the bombing.

Many Koreans, Chinese and even Allied military personnel who had been taken prisoners were among the many victims of the atomic bombing. They were people who happened to be there at that moment, regardless of nationality and race. I wonder if that recording device only reported to the US military the effect of the A-bomb, and not the state of each one of us, our families, and the preciousness of human life.

* * * * *

This is the account I heard many times from my mother. She died four years ago at the age of 89. She had suffered from stomach cancer, liver cancer and various other diseases, and had been hospitalized 28 times. She seemed pretty unsatisfied when she read this memorandum I wrote. That may be because she thought that her experience of hell on earth couldn't be described in such words. I am sure that other Hibakusha would feel the same. The two atomic bombs that were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki have left many Hibakusha and their families with diseases, agony, sorrow, anger and anxiety.

But we have never thought of taking reprisals. That's because we never want anyone else to experience the same tragedy. What is nuclear deterrence? Why are nuclear weapons necessary as a deterrent?

We have been calling for "No More Hiroshimas, No More Nagasakis, and No More Wars". This call should be the deterrent! You cannot deter anyone with many nuclear weapons. The first step to creating a world without war can only be taken when those who experienced war and those who heard about war experiences clearly understand how awful and insane it is to hurt each other or kill each other. The 2015 NPT Review Conference ended without a final agreement. That's very regrettable and disappointing. But the government of 159 countries proclaimed the inhumane nature of nuclear weapons. We will continue to take action with strong support from civil society.

You are in Hiroshima today. I ask you to visit the Peace Museum and listen to more Hibakusha so that you can better understand how horrible nuclear weapons are. Now it's your turn. Please tell your families, friends and people around you what you have heard from the Hibakusha. That would be the first step toward a world free of nuclear weapons. Let us move forward together to a world where human beings will never again lose their lives like "mere objects". Thank you for your attention.

Messages from the Heads/Leaders of National Governments and International Organizations

Heinz Fischer Federal President, Republic of Austria

70 years after the tragedy of the nuclear detonations over Hiroshima and Nagasaki, which killed thousands of people and so gravely affected the lives of the survivors and their families, humanity is still endangered by the existence of more than 16,000 nuclear weapons. Recent developments in many regions of the world have again increased tensions among nations, combined with a re-emergence of Cold War rhetoric, even including nuclear threats. Large-scale investments into nuclear weapon modernization are taking place in all possessor states and nuclear weapons are again presented by these states as

irreplaceable elements of their security strategies. Nuclear powers appear to be on the cusp of falling back into a new nuclear arms race and into the dangerous dynamics of "mutually assured destruction - MAD" as a means to maintain international security.

This has become particularly evident at the recent Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Nuclear weapons States did not commit to clear and credible steps away from a reliance on nuclear weapons, as demanded by the Treaty. No progress was possible and no consensus was achieved. This was not only a wasted opportunity. It was also a collective failure to live up to the expectations of the international community for a world without nuclear weapons - because, in fact, today, the

international community and humanity at large are more united against nuclear weapons and the deadly “logic” of nuclear deterrence than ever before.

However, the 2015 NPT Review Conference has sent a clear signal: 159 States expressed their deep concern at the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons in a joint statement that was delivered by the Foreign Minister of Austria Sebastian Kurz. During the past few years, the international community has focused on looking at nuclear weapons through the humanitarian lens. This clear focus is important. It has the potential to change how nuclear weapons are perceived: namely that they should not be considered as a means to ensure security but, rather, as a practice that is simply too dangerous and too risky for humanity to continue in the 21st century and that an urgent reappraisal and change in the discourse about nuclear weapons is necessary.

As President of the Federal Republic of Austria I support the recent humanitarian focus with conviction. Humanitarian arguments and the need to prevent nuclear weapons from ever being used again should be at the very centre of the international nuclear disarmament efforts. For this reason, Austria hosted the *Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons* last December. We also issued the “Austrian Pledge” – which is now called the “Humanitarian Pledge” – which was formally endorsed by over 110 States.

The Humanitarian Pledge represents a commitment to the urgent and full implementation of existing disarmament obligations under the NPT and to identifying and pursuing effective measures to fill the legal gap for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons. Moreover, it is a commitment to cooperate with all relevant stakeholders, States, International Organizations, the International Red Cross Movement, parliamentarians and civil society, in the efforts to stigmatize, prohibit and eliminate nuclear weapons in light of their unacceptable humanitarian consequences and associated risks.

It is an inescapable logic that the only guarantee to prevent the humanitarian consequences from happening is through the prohibition and elimination of these weapons. The strong and growing support for this notion makes me optimistic that reason will prevail in the end. It is in the interest of the very survival of humanity that nuclear weapons are never used again, under any circumstances. The catastrophic effects of a nuclear weapon detonation, whether by accident, miscalculation or design, cannot be adequately addressed. Austria believes that all efforts must be exerted to eliminate the threat of these weapons of

mass destruction.

The 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki thus serves as a reminder of our joint obligation. At the same time, it is a testimony of the unspeakable harm caused by nuclear weapons. In this regard, I warmly thank the organizers of the *World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs* as well as civil society in Japan for their ongoing commitment and work in this field.

Alexander Kmentt
Director for Disarmament, Arms Control and Non-Proliferation, Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, Republic of Austria

(Please see page 115 for his video message.)

Dilma Rousseff
President, Federative Republic of Brazil

It is an honor to address the World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs on the year in which we observe the 70th anniversary of the nuclear attacks against Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the horror of which lives on in the memory of the world. The accounts by the survivors illustrate in a stark manner the terrible human suffering caused by nuclear weapons and constitute a vigorous stimulus to the struggle for a world free of weapons of mass destruction.

Approaching nuclear disarmament with a humanitarian focus renews the debate on the issue and emphasizes the catastrophic consequences of intentional or accidental use of nuclear weapons. The recent Conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons highlighted that no country or organization is prepared to respond to a nuclear detonation or to offer adequate humanitarian assistance to the victims. They also underlined the long-term effects of such a detonation on the environment and on human health.

Around 17,000 nuclear devices still exist.

This is due to the nuclear armed countries’ resistance in fulfilling their commitments under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and in effectively engaging in multilateral negotiations towards nuclear disarmament. The existence of nuclear arsenals constitutes a destabilizing factor in regard to international peace and security. For as long as some countries consider that they have the right to possess nuclear weapons, there will be the risk that others will seek to acquire them. Maintaining and modernizing existing nuclear arsenals expends

resources that could be spent on economic and social development.

Brazil considers that the only guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is the total elimination of nuclear arsenals, by means of a transparent, verifiable and irreversible process of disarmament.

Concrete progress towards disarmament could positively influence the global order, reducing tensions and fostering peace and security. In multilateral forums, Brazil will continue to work in favor of effective nuclear disarmament measures.

They have been clear successes in non-proliferation, but the fulfilment of commitments related to nuclear disarmament requires urgent action and innovative ideas. Concern with the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons should inform all efforts in the field of nuclear disarmament. Brazil is one of the 108 countries who endorsed the goal enshrined in the “Humanitarian Pledge” of banning and eliminating nuclear weapons by means of an international legal instrument.

To this end, we will continue to count on the commitment and support of important civil society organizations such as Gensuikyo. Together, we must fulfill this urgent and critical mission.

Michael D. Higgins
President, Republic of Ireland

I have the distinct honour and pleasure of adding Ireland’s support to the efforts of the Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs.

It is now 70 years since Hiroshima and Nagasaki suffered the devastation wrought by these weapons, and as our understanding of the consequences has grown, so has Ireland’s commitment to a world free from the shadow cast by nuclear weapons.

In 2014, Ireland hosted a disarmament education symposium at which Hiroshima *Hibakusha* Setsuko Thurlow gave moving testimony about the human suffering brought about by these weapons. We know now that the world’s capacity to respond to a nuclear strike would be hopelessly inadequate and that the scale of the subsequent humanitarian disaster would be beyond the resources of most nations to alleviate. The focus on the catastrophic humanitarian consequences, aided by the work of this conference, should continue to motivate and mobilize civil society, states, and public opinion to work together with greater urgency towards a world free of nuclear weapons.

The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, championed by Ireland since its inception, is 45

years old this year, and it is incumbent on all states to live up to their obligations and see that its promise is fulfilled. It will take political resolve and solidarity, but the cause is a worthy one, and the potential costs of inaction or apathy are incalculably high.

The scars borne by the victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki demand the deepest reflection and respect. As we pay tribute to the victims, we should commit again to honour their memory by persisting in our shared endeavor to achieve a world free from nuclear weapons.

Choummaly Sayasone
President, Lao People’s Democratic Republic

On behalf of the Government and people of the Lao PDR, I would like to convey my heartfelt congratulations to the Organizing Committee and delegations of the 2015 World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs, which will be held on 2-9 August 2015 in Hiroshima and Nagasaki of Japan. This year marks the 70th Anniversary of the Atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. I very much hope that this Conference will play a significant role in mobilizing the solidarity of all peace-loving people against the production and the possession of weapons of mass destruction.

I believe that the unwavering efforts of the people of Japan and the peace-loving world community as well as the solidarity will help to continuously suppress the use of atomic and hydrogen bombs in order to build a world of peace and stability free from weapons of mass destruction in the future.

Once again, on behalf of the Government and people of the Lao PRD, I wish the 2015 World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs great success.

Tony deBrum
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of the Marshall Islands

(Please see page 27 for his message, included in Abacca Anjain Maddison’s speech)

Enrique Peña Nieto
President, the United Mexican States

Thank you for your kind invitation to the World Conference against Atomic & Hydrogen Bombs. I inform you that my country will be represented at

the highest level possible.

For Mexico, it is essential to continue to redouble its efforts to achieve a total ban and elimination of nuclear weapons, which is the only guarantee to prevent grave humanitarian consequences.

Wishing you the success of this important conference, I would like to extend my warmest greetings to you.

(Unofficial translation)

Didier Burkhalter
Head of the Federal Department of
Foreign Affairs, Swiss Confederation

I wish to thank you for your letter of 3 June 2015 regarding the “2015 World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs”.

The attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki 70 years ago have shown the unacceptable consequences of the use of nuclear weapons. These two cities and the Hibakusha’s testimonies exemplify until today the threat that nuclear weapons pose to human security and future generations.

A nuclear weapon detonation, whether by accident, miscalculation or design, would result in catastrophic consequences and represent a humanitarian disaster of such magnitude that the international community would have no response to it. We all share a joint responsibility to do everything possible to ensure that such weapons are never used again, under any circumstances.

It is a missed opportunity that the 2015 Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) was unable to find consensus and thereby charting a way forward to make more decisive progress. But no matter how complicated things are, we have to continue to work together, overcome progressively our differences, and strengthen global security. Switzerland is determined to facilitate this indispensable dialogue and to play its role as bridge builder.

I wish you a successful conference and am convinced it will advance our common objective of a world without nuclear weapons.

TRƯƠNG TẤN SANG
President, Socialist Republic of Vietnam

On behalf of the State leaders and people of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, I avail myself of this opportunity to extend the warmest greetings and regards to all participants in the 2015 World Conference against A & H Bombs.

2015 is a significant year for world peace

movement, which marks 70th Anniversary of the end of World War II and also 70th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. In Vietnam, we are also celebrating 70th Anniversary of our National Day and 40th Anniversary of the Liberation of South Vietnam and National Reunification. Decades have passed but consequences caused by the war, nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction are still days by days affecting the victims, and we are still trying our best to overcome such war injuries.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sympathy towards all losses and pain that the victims of atomic and chemical weapons as well as victims of the war in general are suffering from. I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to Japanese peace forces and organizations in particular and those across the world as a whole for your fine sentiments and precious support for Vietnamese people during our struggles for national independence as well as in our present national construction and defense.

We welcome continuous effort of the Japan Council against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs (Gensuikyo) to annually organize World Conferences against A & H Bombs since 1955 (on the 10th anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki disaster). We highly appreciate Gensuikyo’s initiative in launching a global signature collecting campaign in order to oppose atomic weapons on the occasion of the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons was organized in New York, the US early this year. I also appreciate the Vietnam Peace Committee which has actively participated in this meaningful campaign and has collected 1.528.730 signatures from Vietnamese people nationwide.

Having experienced numerous pains and catastrophic consequences of the wars, Vietnamese and Japanese people as well as people in many other countries always wish for a peaceful and stable environment for development, for an ever better life of the people. Still, in many regions of the world, wars and conflicts are threatening peace, security and people’s life. Peace movements and peace-loving people all over the world should join hands and raise their voices against the use of weapons of mass destruction, the threat or use of force, and violations of the lawful sovereignty of nations.

I am strongly confident that the 2015 World Conference against A & H Bombs will offer a chance for peace forces and organizations to broaden their ranks, enhance solidarity, and initiate new activities to push further ahead the world movement against nuclear weapons. I also believe that the Conference will reaffirm its solidarity with and support for victims of A & H bombs, Agent

Orange, and other war crimes in order, and pave the way for a future without any threats of nuclear weapons, a world of peace, stability and prosperity.

Let us unite and struggle for a world with “no-nukes, peace and justice”, a world without victims of atomic bombs and other weapons of mass destruction.

I wish you all good health and the Conference great success!

Peter Maurer
President, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

In this symbolic year of the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, events that have left an indelible mark on humanity’s conscience and consciousness, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) would like to commend the Japan Council against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs (Gensuikyo) for its support to the victims of the atomic bombings and its persistent efforts to help advance nuclear disarmament.

This year’s anniversary is a forceful reminder of the catastrophic and lasting cost of nuclear weapons, the incineration of two cities and their inhabitants, the wounds and illnesses of the survivors many of whom could not be immediately treated because medical infrastructure had been destroyed, and the slow and painful deaths suffered by many others.

The ICRC and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement’s involvement in the nuclear debate dates back to the moment the first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. Japanese Red Cross staff and Dr. Junod of the ICRC, the first non-Japanese doctor to assess the event, worked in unimaginable conditions and did what they could to aid the victims, but had clearly insufficient means

to alleviate the immense sufferings caused by the radiation, burns, blindness, and blast injuries. Seventy years later, there is no effective or feasible means in most countries or at the international level of assisting a substantial portion of survivors in the immediate aftermath of a nuclear detonation, while adequately protecting those delivering assistance.

Based on these experiences, the ICRC concluded as early as September 1945 that the humanitarian consequences of the atomic bomb are simply unacceptable, and since then, both the ICRC and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement have regularly voiced their concern about the dangers of weapons with such unique destructive power and have called on States to reach an agreement to eliminate them.

Although bold steps towards the elimination of nuclear weapons were unfortunately not taken at the 2015 Review Conference for the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, there is wide acknowledgement that the detonation of even a limited number of nuclear weapons would provoke a severe humanitarian crisis. One-hundred and fifty-nine States participating in the NPT Conference recognized and collectively expressed their deep concern about the “catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons” and acknowledged that “all efforts must be exerted to eliminate the threat of these weapons of mass destruction.”

For its part, the ICRC will continue its efforts to mobilize the community of States and people of good will to help ensure that nuclear weapons are never used again. We will also continue to call for negotiations to formally prohibit their use, and to eliminate nuclear weapons through a legally binding treaty, in accordance with existing obligations. We remain convinced that a world without nuclear weapons is the only way forward and that we all must ensure that those tragic days in August 1945 never happen again.

Plenary Session I:

A-Bomb Damage of Hiroshima and Nagasaki; Struggles of the Hibakusha (August 2)

Introductory Reports:

Yamada Sumiko

A-Bomb Survivor of Hiroshima

Good afternoon, everyone. Friends coming from inside and outside Japan to participate in the International Meeting of the World Conference against A & H Bombs, I have been impressed by your tenacious efforts for peace. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak.

I had just turned two years old when the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, so I cannot talk about my own experiences regarding how the A-bomb devastated the city of Hiroshima. But Hibakusha's sufferings did not end on that day. I can tell you about the hardships I have had continuously in my life since the bomb was dropped on Hiroshima.

On that day, I was at my mother's parents' house located 2.3 km from the hypocenter. I was with my oldest sister, who was 20 years old at the time. The blast from the A-bomb blew me about 1 meter away. Window glass was broken, and the fragments stuck into my face and head. My sister later told me that the scars from the injuries stayed on my body for about a year. My sister and I ran into a bamboo grove at the back of the house. There we saw the black rain full of radiation falling down on us.

I suffered poor health in my childhood. My oldest sister took me to the Red Cross Hospital. I was told that I had fewer than normal white blood cells. I still suffer from a low white blood cell count, but I have had a relatively healthy life without suffering from major diseases. However, my second son was diagnosed with thrombocytopenia. I cannot stop worrying if his disease is caused by a weakened immune system inherited from me as a Hibakusha. I used to think optimistically that second generation Hibakusha would not have radiation impacts. But now I am worried every day about how I could apologize to him as his mother if his disease has been caused by me. Hibakusha's sufferings continue even 70 years after the A-bomb.

Let me go back to my own A-bomb experiences and the damage done. I was born 0.7 km from the hypocenter in what is now called

Tokamachi Town. My parents were running a groceries wholesale business. Even during the war, my family never suffered from a lack of food. However, the A-bomb dropped on August 6, 1945 ripped apart the family.

On that day, on the order of the military, my father had gone to the Hiroshima Prefectural Office building near what is now Peace Park, and my mother to Koami Town near our house, both to engage in work to take down buildings. There they were hit by the bombing.

My father's remains were not found. My mother breathed her last on August 23. Until the last moment she was very worried about me, her two year-old daughter. Losing my parents, I also lost the days when I had lived without any inconveniences.

I was passed around from relative to relative. I stayed with them for a week at the shortest, for a month with some relatives, and at the longest for 12 years. Child as I was, I felt despair in my life. Gradually I became a child who gave no smile to anyone and closed her mind to others. When I was around 13 years old, I could not stand being a trouble to my relatives. I was so desperate that I even thought about committing suicide.

A turning point in my life came one winter, when I was 15 years old and just about to graduate from junior high school. My oldest sister's husband offered to take me under his care. I decided 57 years ago to move from Hiroshima to their place in Okayama. When I left Hiroshima, I made up my mind to start a new life and forget everything about my hometown Hiroshima.

After being taken in by my sister and her husband, I went to college and then worked for 37 years as a medical social worker in a hospital. Since then I have not looked back on the past. I have continued to live facing forward. As a medical social worker, I have given counsel to many Hibakusha and learned many ways of life from them, such as the importance of caring for others and the strength to never yield to anything. Now I am working as a counselor to help elderly people who have dementia or other types of disabilities to live in their own homes. I also give advice to Hibakusha. When I ask Hibakusha to talk about what happened when they were caught by the A-bomb, they say, "It's about the past. I don't

want to bring it back to memory.”

What is on Hibakusha’s minds is that they do not want to look back on or remember their own past. But I strongly believe that we should never forget what happened to us in the past. Children have the right to be raised by their parents. But I lost my parents in the war. Children should not experience what I went through, but conflicts occur in many parts of the world with killings taking place every day. In the middle of such a situation, the Japanese government forcibly passed the security bills through the House of Representatives in disregard of many Japanese people’s voices.

The Japanese Constitution in its Preamble declares, “We, the Japanese people,... resolved that never again shall we be visited with the horrors of war through the action of government.” During the war, lives of 20 million people were claimed by the Japanese Army in Asia, and 3.1 million Japanese people lost their lives in the war, including the Great Tokyo Air Raid, the Battle of Okinawa, and the A-bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Based on remorse over the war, Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution says, “the Japanese people forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes.” I am only 72 years old. I am determined to work to never allow another war or the use of nuclear weapons.

Komine Hidetaka A-Bomb Survivor of Nagasaki

I am honored to be given this opportunity to speak to friends from around the world at the International Meeting of the World Conference against A & H Bombs, marking the 70th year of the A-bomb tragedies.

When the atomic bomb exploded, I was on a farm in Nishigo-Karimata, Nagasaki City, some 1.3km from the center of the explosion. I was four years and eight months old. I was burnt on hands, body and both legs. I later learned that a doctor of the medical team who saw me said, “This boy cannot survive”, and turned us away.

I barely survived. In 1947, I entered the Nishi-Urakami elementary school, but my school life was like hell. I was bullied. “Rotten foot”, “Chicken leg”, and “Gane (swimming crab)” were my nicknames. It made me really sad. For me in those days, there was nothing I could do but put up with the pain of my wounds and heartache. By so doing I was facing up to the fear of death. In the midst of this life, my mother was special to

me. Until I reached fourth grade, I often said, “Mom, today I saw many jeeps and trucks with American soldiers passing in front of me. I wanted to throw stones at them.” One day, she said, “Hidetaka, you often say you hate America or GIs, but you should think carefully. What you should hate is neither America nor American soldiers. If you need to hate something, you should hate war and the atomic bomb.”

Such was my mother. She always stood outside our house to see me come home from school, unless there was something exceptionally important. I was grateful, especially in winter. Trudging sideways, it took me almost two hours to come back home. With warm words of appreciation, such as, “Great, you went to school in this cold”, she held me in her arms and took me into the house. She massaged my numbed hands and legs in a warm room, saying, “May Hidetaka’s hands and feet get warm now.” With the warmth of my mother, I felt as if I were in a cradle. “My mom must be a goddess”, I thought.

When I graduated from junior high school, yearning to become a sushi chef, I visited a sushi shop in front of the Nagasaki Railway Station. But my request was simply turned down. “Our business is to sell food. We cannot hire you. You are affected by the A-bomb” were the words given to me.

In 1956, I entered a night course at the Nagasaki prefectural hair-dressing school. Commuting from Sumiyoshi-machi to Suwa-machi every day by tram was like a dream. Three years later, when I finally got a notice saying that I had passed the state examination, it was as if I were on top of the world. It was summer and I was 18 years old. In those days I was not so conscious of myself being a Hibakusha.

In 1966, when I was 25 years old, I became acquainted with a woman. I was joyful every day. Then, I got a call from a man who said, “You should not go around with my daughter. You are a Hibakusha. What a nerve!” I was deeply hurt. I had no energy to go to work. After patience upon patience, then this came. Everything became loathsome, and I took poison to commit suicide, but that ended in failure. Mother said, “Hidetaka, you must not do it again. Even if something hard to bear happens to you again, you must by all means get over it. Even if you have to wriggle over, roll over, or slop over, still you have to live on.” Even now I do not fully understand what she really meant. But I felt from her eyes that she was telling me that I had to live on no matter what. Still I did not want to stay in Nagasaki any longer, so I left for Osaka.

At the time, I was surprised to find that the

woman whose parents opposed our close friendship ran away from home to follow me to Osaka. We got married, but on the first evening, when she saw my body she turned her back in surprise. Perhaps she was crying. If she said she would go back, I thought I would let her go. But she did not.

Later, we came back to Nagasaki, opened a small barbershop with two haircut chairs, and were blessed with three children. But some 10 years later, my wife began to talk about getting a divorce. Given the fact that I was Hibakusha with an ugly body, I had no other choice but to accept her decision. I was 36 years old at the time.

It was hard work to bring up three children. My eldest daughter, when she was in the second year of junior high school, meddled with paint thinner. Days of agony and despair continued like a nightmare. I tried to get through it by telling myself, "Don't give up, Hidetaka. You endured harder times when you were in elementary school."

In 1956, an organization with the name of "Nagasaki A-bomb Youth and Maidens Association" was launched. I was invited many times but did not join.

In 1982, I at last plucked up the courage to visit the office of Nagasaki Hisaikyo, "Nagasaki Council of Atomic Bomb Sufferers", to say "Hello". There I encountered the now familiar faces of Yamaguchi Senji, Taniguchi Sumiteru, Hayama Toshiyuki and others. None of them showed the slightest unpleasant expression. My irritated mood dispersed in a moment. There I felt as if I was a different person. Why? Was it because we were all Hibakusha? Was it because each of the lines etched in our faces carried deep untold tragedies? Although 20 odd years had elapsed since I had met them last, they accepted me as if we had been meeting one another every day. Although I did not talk of anything concrete, they looked as if they knew why I had suddenly visited them in their office. It was an air that I had never experienced before, as if I had found my brothers. I told myself, "I am really glad I came here!"

I was not born to suffer from the A-bomb. I wanted to live just like other people. But the atomic bombs harm even our offspring. Recently, my second daughter contracted cancer of the womb and had an operation.

We should not allow any more victim cities, like Hiroshima or Nagasaki, ever to appear on earth. Those who were killed by the bombs were not even allowed to die in dignity, and many are still suffering from diseases in agony. That's why we Hibakusha want the abolition of nuclear

weapons from the bottom of our hearts.

Kang Hojung Korean Atomic Bomb Casualty Association, Republic of Korea

I bring greetings to the organizers of the World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs, members of international and social organizations, who have come all the way to attend this event. I appreciate your attendance. I am happy to see you.

I am Kang Hojung. I am here on behalf of the 2,600 Koreans who were exposed to A-bomb radiation in Japan. This is my first participation in the World Conference.

At this gathering commemorating the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings, I vividly recall the awful images and stories that I have heard from my parents. My uncle died three days after the bombing due to the after-effects.

My uncle, who loved me so much, died without leaving even one word for me. My family was plunged in grief. I remember it was a rainy summer day. I could not understand at all what was going on but I still clearly remember just crying while sitting by the window.

The atomic bomb was detonated in August 1945, and my family returned to Korea the following year in 1946. All that we had with us then were the aftereffects of the bomb and hunger. What hurt us more than anything was the label of Hibakusha and the sense of alienation from society. This kept us from seeking help. To be honest, we were alone without any support.

A lot of Hibakusha lost their lives without decent medical support since during those days there were not many hospitals or medical institutions. Quite a lot of people are still suffering from the aftereffects of the atomic bombing even to this day. Furthermore, there are many second generation Hibakusha who are suffering from unknown diseases that they could only imagine the cause as the result of the atomic bombing, as if they had inherited the suffering from their parents.

The hereditary nature of radiation diseases should be fully elucidated and solutions be pursued. Otherwise, the A-bomb radiation will be a serious problem, affecting not only the Hibakusha but also the second generation. It is a matter of protecting the fundamental human rights as well as an issue of recovering the right to live for the Hibakusha and their second generation. This needs to be addressed promptly by the governments of the Republic of Korea and Japan, as the parties responsible for compensation for the damage caused by the A-bombing.

We, the atomic bomb survivors, are older than 70 years of age. We are still living in agony of all sorts of diseases and poverty. Even at this moment, survivors are dying.

At that time, 70,000 Korean residents suffered from the atomic bombing. More than 40,000 were killed, and more than 23,000 out of the 30,000 who narrowly survived went back to their country. Most of them died a painful death in poverty and agony, and to this day, only 2,600 are still living.

However, A-bomb survivors in Korea are discriminated against by Japan, the country responsible for the war. They are also unable to receive the necessary support from the Korean government. Countries with nuclear energy say they use it for peaceful means, but that is not true.

If they have a chance, they are trying to produce nuclear weapons. The northern half of the Korean Peninsula possesses nuclear threat to us in South Korea. We, the Hibakusha, have actually experienced the damage and aftereffects of the atomic bombing. We believe a tragedy like this must not be repeated. Nuclear weapons that cause such a dreadful misfortune and damage must be abolished by all means. Let us unite to get rid of nuclear weapons.

We pray for the victims of atomic bomb.

A-bomb survivors, friends from the Organizing Committee of the World Conference against A and H Bombs, and delegates of international organizations and NGOs who came all the way to participate in this conference, I wish you all the best and a successful world conference.

And let us vow to make efforts to pass a nuclear free, peaceful world on to our children and grandchildren.

Special Reports:

Saito Osamu, M.D.
Physician of Clinical Hematology at
Watari Hospital (Fukushima)/ Former
Director, Fukushima Medical Coop
Hospital (Hiroshima)/ Representative
Director, Japan Council against A and H
Bombs (Gensuikyo)

Inhumanity of Nuclear Weapons

[1] Seventy years after the first use of nuclear weapons, the international community still retains the possibility of using nuclear weapons as a means for resolving conflicts. Nuclear weapon states continue to maintain their nuclear arsenals,

because they see value in nuclear weapons evidenced by those tragic days that occurred 70 years ago. For any Hibakusha, this is nothing but an utter affront which will not allow them to live in peace. For the last 70 years, the Hibakusha have lived on with patience, carrying the memories of the atomic devastation and of their loved ones lost in the bombing.

[2] The atomic bombing by the United States was also to verify whether their atomic arsenals were powerful enough to enable them to fight the Cold War to their advantage. How was it possible? On that day, 2,314 students were mobilized for the demolition of buildings to make fire lanes in the city. They were not able to escape from the sudden attack by the Enola Gay at 08:15. Those students near Ground Zero were burned, torn to pieces and disappeared. The exact number of those students and where they were working at the time had been recorded, so it was possible to be sure that they had disappeared.

[3] When the flash and blast wind subsided, fire broke out all over the city and soon generated a gigantic cumulonimbus cloud. It caused Black Rain that showered radioactive substances on the citizens of Hiroshima, including those students. It was one of the major sources of residual radiation.

[4] Most of the students working near Ground Zero were killed instantly. What parts of the human body did the heat rays affect most heavily? One of the surveys conducted on a vast group of Hibakusha indicated that 70% of burns were concentrated on arms and faces. Another study showed that many of the dead had their spine and pelvis crushed by the blast, which prevented them from immediately moving. Most of proximal victims were killed on the spot, because they were unable to take refuge due to the burns on their face and their smashed spine and pelvis.

This slide shows the mortality rate curve of the students exposed to the atomic bombing when outdoors. Within 2 kilometers from Ground Zero, 80% of them died. It is this mortality rate curve that for the first time in the world allowed the killing power of atomic weapons dropped on cities to be evaluated. It was precise evidence of the destructive power of a nuclear bomb provided at the sacrifice of innocent children's lives. The collected data were stored as confidential for a long time at the U.S. Armed Forces Institute of Pathology.

[5] Three days later, similar atrocities were committed on Nagasaki. In the burned ruins, many corpses, petrified in a posture of trying to escape, were found scattered around. When such tragic scenes unfold one after another in silence, human consciousness gradually adapts to them,

assimilates them and, after some time, people are able to stand besides these strangely shaped corpses as if it were completely normal. However, this can be regarded as an advanced state of apathy.

The mental wounds sustained by Hibakusha are usually treated as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), but the total picture of this disorder has not been fully elucidated. The biggest reason is that traumas of each Hibakusha, surface and submerge repeatedly over decades, sometimes lay the foundation for different mental disorders. Among researches conducted about A-bomb aftereffects, those on Hibakusha's psychological wounds remain the most incomplete. When one thinks about a major event in which an entire city with hundreds of thousands of people living disappears in a very short time, what would be the most appropriate methodology to be used to analyze and explain the traumas sustained by the survivors? It is hopeless to find such a methodology. What should be kept in mind here is that not a few Hibakusha have lived accepting that hopelessness.

[6] In 1952, in Saka-machi town, Aki district in the north of Hiroshima City, the remains of 156 A-bomb victims were unearthed. They were buried because of the massive A-bomb dead had greatly exceeded the town's capacity for cremation. Blast pressure and heat rays were the major causes of death within 2 weeks from the atomic bombing. The victims were unable to understand what happened to themselves. In those days, an average family was made up of slightly over 4 people. Out of them, on average 2 or more members were lost in the atomic bombing. It was a very significant loss for the family and made the living of surviving members extremely difficult. The death of one spouse in a family significantly raised the death rate of the other spouse.

In the photo, lying on top of the long bones, the skulls with deep hollow eye sockets facing us seem to be asking, "Why has this happened?" There are also remains of children. To this day, for each child there is a father and a mother lamenting bitterly for not being able to find the remains of their children.

[7] Hibakusha who narrowly escaped death from the bomb blast and heat rays were stricken by radiation sickness. With most of the doctors and nurses in the city injured or killed, those doctors who entered the city from neighboring areas after the bombing could do nothing but observe the development of common symptoms appearing on victims' bodies. They were caught by a deep feeling of incompetence, realizing the fact that medical science was totally helpless to save them.

Hibakusha who developed violent radiation

disease eventually died without knowing why they had to die. A 21-year-old man who was at 1 kilometer from Ground Zero noticed loss of hair on the 12th day from the A-bombing. He started bleeding from his gums and skin on the 23rd day, developed fever on the 25th day, tonsillitis on the 26th, delirium on the 27th, and died on the 28th day. He was precipitated irreversibly towards death.

[8] A 29-year-old man who was A-bombed at a distance of 1 kilometer died on the 29th day. The postmortem found an abnormally large number of bacilli colonies in his bone marrow. They were not attacked at all by white blood cells and were proliferating as if they were in a seedbed. His bone marrow had stopped producing white blood cells. His body succumbed to the rule of the bacilli.

[9] A 23-year-old male, who was exposed at 900 meters from the blast center died on the 26th day. His heart was found with a large number of petechial hemorrhagic lesions. Although it sustained his life for 26 days, it was doomed to fail in the end. The hemorrhage of blood from the pumping system meant the failure of capillary vessels and depletion of platelets, indicating that not only his heart but all his internal organs were bleeding uncontrollably.

[10] The photo of two brothers who missed their parents was taken on August 10, 1945. The younger boy's face was badly burned. We do not know how much longer they actually survived after that. Many children in Hiroshima and Nagasaki were made orphans. The Hibakusha quoted on the first slide said, "Hibakusha lived with patience." These Hibakusha of course included many orphans.

On August 6, 1955, ten years after the bombing, 50,000 Hibakusha who gathered at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony appealed that surviving victims were in great agony. The Japanese government had not tried to establish any laws to provide relief for the Hibakusha. The short history of 10 years had taught us an important lesson: the inhumanity was inevitably further demonstrated in the fact that the government closed its eyes to the inhumanity of nuclear weapons. The year 1955 saw the convening of the First World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs. Hibakusha were determined to be self-reliant and take necessary actions.

[11] Now that 70 years have passed since the atomic bombing, are the traces of the radiation no longer visible among the diseases of the Hibakusha? It is said that leukemia, a typical condition among radiation-induced illnesses, would not affect people who had been radiated over 30 years ago, or after around 1975. However,

that was not the case at all. According to the latest report of 2013, leukemia incidence for Hibakusha was significantly higher than for the general public even 55 years after the atomic bombing.

[12] In conclusion, I want to make two points.

The first is the inhumane nature of nuclear weapons. The atomic bombs brought about unbearable tragedy to the citizens. They eradicated all lives without leaving even a trace of anything human. In addition, Hibakusha are still living with the possibility of encountering the atomic bombing in later years. Thus the inhumanity of nuclear weapons was two-fold: life-eradicating effects and sustained violation as long as the victims survive.

At the same time, we should remember that this inhumanity was created by humans. So the creators had to conceal the inhuman facts. Regarding the life-eradicating nature, they confiscated photos and banned press reports depicting the atrocious effects of the bombs, thereby hiding the facts from the public. In terms of the sustained violation, they tried to wipe out the traces of the misery and concealed the creators of the inhumanity by showing merely the relationship between radiation dosage and incidence of illnesses through epidemiological methods.

The second point I want to make is the power of the nuclear weapons abolition movement. The abolition movement was driven fundamentally by the inhuman nature of nuclear weapons. If we dare to ask, what is the power necessary for us to make progress in the movement to abolish these weapons? The answer is the understanding of the

history of the Second World War, which was the aggregation of such evils as massive aerial bombing, development of weapons of mass destruction, ethnic discrimination, the intentions of shrewd political leaders, etc. We need understanding so that we can prevent the recurrence. In other words, the power should be the positive understanding of history.

More concretely, what is necessary for solving international conflicts is moral thinking, and for political response and economic philosophy to remain absolutely separate from the military. It requires universal determination to seek justice and trust in relations with neighbors and all countries around the world, and to work together hand in hand in living the 21st century. In this sense, we can say that the Japanese movement to abolish nuclear weapons is now entering the most important stage in the last 70 years.

So far, the international movement for the elimination of nuclear weapons has been complex and never easy. However, the World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs, ever since its first meeting in 1955, has consistently worked actively to bring together, discuss and learn about national peace movements and nuclear related issues of different countries. Despite the complexity of problems, we have worked to advocate justice and build mutual confidence. The friendship we have built over these 60 years is so invaluable. I would like to express a heartfelt thank you to all our forerunners in different parts of the world for being able to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the conference.

Thank you for your kind attention.

1

被爆者は忍耐をもって生きた

2015. 8. 2 原水禁世界大会国際会議
齋藤 紀

Hibakusha lived with patience for a long time



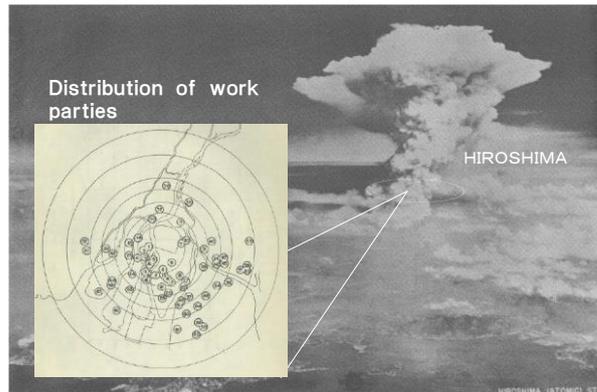
Hiroshima 尾木正巳撮影



Nagasaki, next day

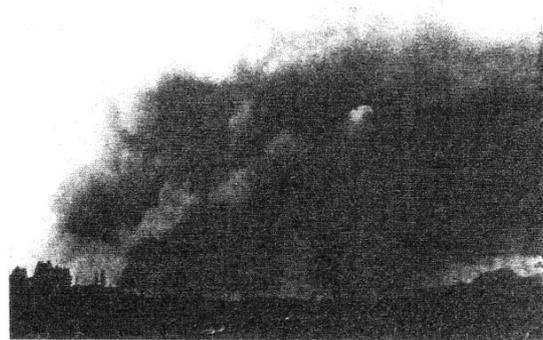
山端庸介撮影

原爆投下時、建物疎開作業に17,000人の学生が従事していた
17,000 students at work were exposed to the explosion



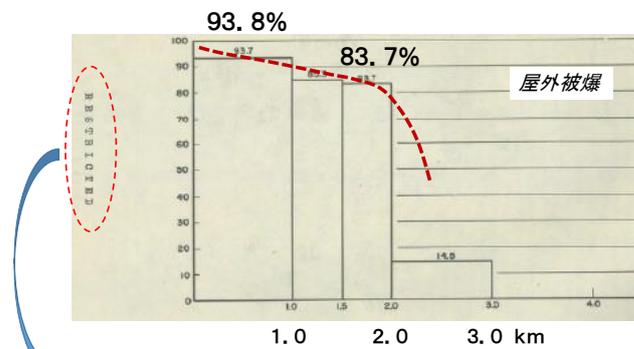
「原子爆弾の医学的効果」1951年 「Medical Effects of Atomic Bombs」1951 (M. E. A. B)

放射性物質を含む巨大な積乱雲
Gigantic dark radioactive cloud (cumulonimbus)



1945. 8. 6 at noon 松重三男撮影
北方から広島市内を望む

部外秘とされた屋外生徒の死亡率曲線
Mortality rate of "unshielded" working students



RESTRICTED 部外秘

(M. E. A. B)



倒壊家屋の下で焼死した被爆者のそばに立つ若い婦人

Young woman standing beside a burnt body

烧死体 a burnt body

8月10日 山端庸介撮影



物言えぬ遺体 ...

inexhaustible "Why",
from cavities of the orbits



1952年、安芸郡坂町で土葬された被爆者遺体が156体発見された

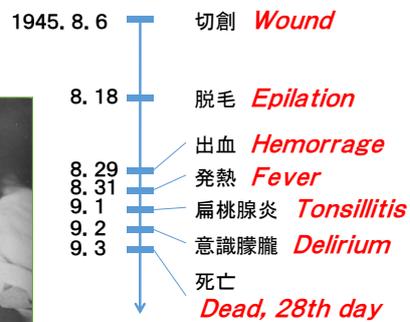
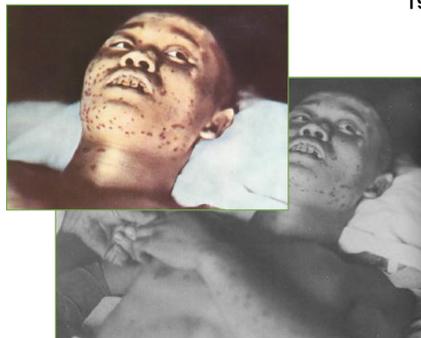
中国新聞社撮影

放射能症の不可逆的経過

Irreversible course of radiation injury

21歳男性、1000m

Age 21 Male, 1000 meters

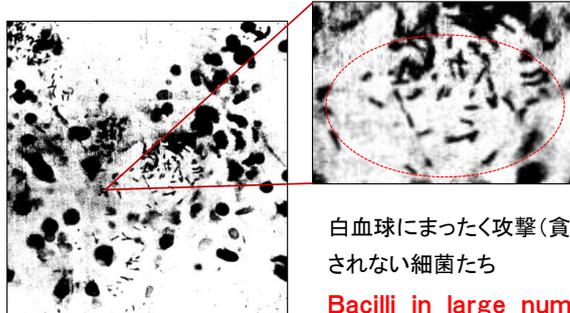


死亡2時間前の写真 木村権一撮影
Photo taken 2 hrs before death

細菌感染に思うままにされている人体 *Bacilli ruled the body*

29歳、男性、1000m被爆、29日目死亡、骨髄中の細菌群

Age 29 Male, 1000 meters, died on 29th day, bacilli in bone marrow



白血球にまったく攻撃(貪食)されない細菌たち

Bacilli in large numbers without cellular reaction

(M. E. A. B)

全身臓器からのとまらない出血 *Uncontrolled bleeding*

23歳、男性、900 m 被爆、9月1日死亡(26日目) 心臓の出血

Age 23 Male, 900 meters, died on 26th day, hemorrhage of the heart



心臓外膜の点状出血斑

Petechiae in epicardium

(M. E. A. B)

生きる ...

We will go on living ...

Nagasaki 1945. 8. 10



brothers

山端庸介撮影

Hiroshima 1955. 8. 6

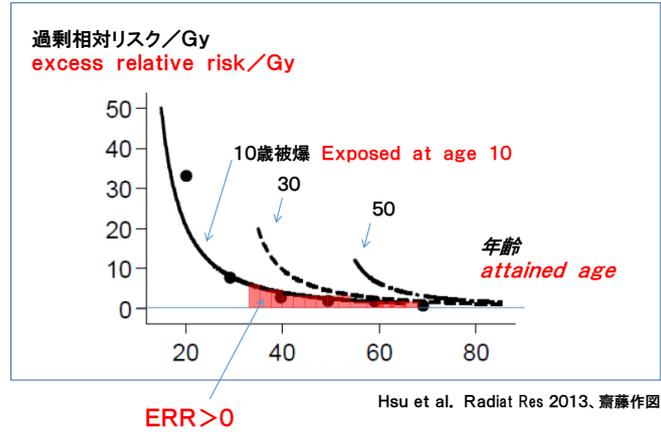


中国新聞社撮影

cf. 1957年 医療法制定
A-Bomb medical relief law

55年経過後も白血病リスクは消失していない

Increased ERR of leukemia 55 years after the bombings



最後に _____

In conclusion, I want to make two points



参加総数2627名
内、海外代表14か国52名

Hiroshima 1955. 8. 6-8, 8
中国新聞社撮影

**Miyahara Tetsuro, Lawyer
General Secretary, National Liaison of
Counsels for Collective A-Bomb Lawsuits**

**Exposure to A-bomb Radiation and
Inhumanity of Nuclear Weapons**

**1. International currents on the humanitarian
impact of nuclear weapons**

**(1) Intervention of Disarmament Ambassador
Kmentt**

It is a well-known fact that H.E. Mr. Alexander Kmentt, Austrian Ambassador for Disarmament (49 years old), was a key player in building up support for a “convention to prohibit and eliminate nuclear weapons” during the latest NPT Review

Conference. Austria reminds me of “The Sound of Music”, a musical film about the resistance against Nazi Germany’s military by the von Trapps, a proud Austrian family.

On June 26 this year, NHK satellite TV aired a very interesting documentary featuring Ambassador Kmentt, entitled “What Was behind the Breakdown” (A Convention to Prohibit and Eliminate Nuclear Weapons and a Diplomat). At the opening, the narrator said, “We witnessed how ripples created by a diplomat grew into waves”.

Unfortunately, the NPT Review Conference failed to adopt a final document. Although the draft final document did not refer to “a convention banning nuclear weapons”, it included the following passage: “The Conference recommends that the United Nations General Assembly

establish at its seventieth session an open-ended working group to identify and elaborate effective measures for the full implementation of article VI, including legal provisions or other arrangements that contribute to and are required for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons". Asked about the inclusion of this passage, which was included in the final draft, the ambassador told that it was a significant achievement; we succeeded in changing the perception of nuclear weapons". In the background of this comment, there was an attitude of nuclear weapon states that claimed in unison that a step-by-step approach should be the most effective and tangible way to achieve nuclear disarmament, while insisting that more consideration should be given to the global security environment.

What is more, as many as 159 countries, including Japan, supported the "Joint Statement on the Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons". Referring to this, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said that those support the joint statement account for about 80 percent of UN members; and this fact must not be overlooked.

Austria's "Humanitarian Pledge" (renamed from "Austrian Pledge") calling for filling the legal gap for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons was supported by a growing number of states. The number of those states increased from 76 at the beginning to 107 at the end. In explaining this development, Ambassador Kmentt said that during the Conference, the more confidence in the discussions about nuclear disarmament lost, the more support for the Pledge increased.

I was particularly impressed by footage shown at the end of the NHK documentary. Soon after it became certain that the final document would not be adopted, Ambassador Kmentt spoke at the closing of the Conference. Guess what he said. Instead of making a speech, he called out the names of all 107 endorsing countries and territories in alphabetical order beginning with Afghanistan and Argentine.

Ambassador Kmentt looked confident when he said that to appeal the folly of maintaining nuclear weapons is the mission of us, have-nots. He also stressed that there are many obstacles but that we should not give up, as so many countries are supporting the proposal of a single country".

(2) Global Tide Denouncing the Humanitarian impact of Nuclear Weapons

It may be somewhat misleading to say that a call made by a single diplomat eventually gave rise to a new trend, because discussions had already

occurred and a number of resolutions had been adopted in the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly on the inhumane effects of nuclear weapons. And what I consider particularly important is a series of "international conferences on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons" held first in Oslo, Norway, in March 2013, then in Nayarit, Mexico, in February 2014, and finally in Vienna, Austria in December 2014.

The chair's summary of the Conference in Nayarit, Mexico, states: "awareness of the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons is already changing the hearts and minds worldwide of those engaging in discussions concerning nuclear weapons. The broad-based and comprehensive discussions on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons should lead to the commitment of States and civil society to reach new international standards and norms, through a legally binding instrument".

2. What does the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons mean?

(1) Introduction

People around the world came to share a common awareness of the inhumane impact of the use of nuclear weapons thanks to the great contribution of Hibakusha's testimonies about the actual damage and after-effects of the atomic bombings. There have been numerous cases in which A-bomb survivors who, years after suffering from the A-bombing, developed heart diseases or liver diseases, not to mention cancers and leukemia, even though they had barely thought of the effect of the atomic bombing before. In dealing with this issue, we lawyers have for more than 10 years fought in support of over 400 Hibakusha in their court battles, along with Hibakusha and their supporters who are calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons. I would like to look at the meaning of the damage and after-effects of the atomic bombing, the struggle of the Hibakusha, and why their calls capture the hearts of the people around the world.

(2) A-Bomb Damage is not only the devastation immediately after the atomic bombing

a. Testimonies of Hibakusha first remind us of the devastation immediately following the A-bomb detonation. Survivors had their own houses destroyed, lost their relatives and neighbors and were deprived of their work. The city they lived in was destroyed. Human connections between people, things that made people human, and everything that had been familiar to people were annihilated in an instant, taken by a tremendous force that had nothing to do with humanity. Anybody can understand how cruel it

was. However, the Hibakusha's sufferings are not limited to what they went through on that day.

b. Sense of guilt: There are countless poignant stories: Parents had to leave behind their children; children had to leave behind their parents; husbands had to leave their wives, or wives had to leave behind their husbands in a sea of flames. Here is a story told by a Hibakusha: "I walked around desperately searching for my family. I became heartless. If I had remained merciful, I would not have been so coldhearted as to stomp over bodies. What scared me most were the eyes of those who were burned black. It was as if they were calling on someone to rescue them."

Dr. Robert J. Lifton, an eminent psychiatrist, wrote that the Hibakusha have a strong "sense of guilt" for having survived at the sacrifice of others ("Death in Life--Survivors of Hiroshima").

c. Obstruction of the Relief Operation by GHQ and the Policy of the Japanese Government: Dr. Marcel Junod on September 2nd received a telegram from Bilfinger whom he had sent to Hiroshima to investigate the city's devastation. It read: *"Visited Hiroshima thirtieth, conditions appalling stop city wiped out, eighty percent all hospitals destroyed or seriously damaged; inspected two emergency hospitals, conditions beyond description full stop effect of bomb mysteriously serious stop many victims, apparently recovering, suddenly suffer fatal relapse due to decomposition of white blood cells and other internal injuries, now dying in great numbers stop estimated still over one hundred thousand wounded in emergency hospitals located surroundings, sadly lacking bandaging materials, medicines stop please solemnly appeal to allied high command consider immediate air-drop relief action over centre city stop required: substantial quantities bandages, surgical pads, ointments for burns, sulphamides, also blood plasma and transfusion equipment stop immediate action highly desirable, also dispatch medical investigation commission stop report follows; confirm receipt"*

Dr. Junod on September 3rd went to the Supreme Command of the Allied Forces, carrying with him the telegram and the pictures depicting the catastrophic state of Hiroshima borrowed from the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He met with Brigadier General Sams in charge of the General Headquarters and requested to urgently send to Hiroshima foods and medicines for the victims. Despite this, only 15 tons of relief stuffs were transported to Hiroshima on September 8th.

On the contrary, Brigadier General Thomas Farrell, assistant head for the Manhattan Project, on September 6th met foreign reporters at the

Imperial Hotel in Tokyo to announce that "all those who should die have died and as of early September, none is suffering from A-bomb radiation". However, as he spoke, over a hundred survivors were dying in intense agony and tens of thousands others were suffering from A-bomb disease in first-aid shelters in Hiroshima and Nagasaki ("The A-Bomb Crime" by SHIINA Masae).

The United States tried to black out the existence of suffering Hibakusha from society primarily because they needed to cover up the atrocity and inhumane nature of the atomic bomb, as it would provide the strongest evidence that the atomic bomb is a weapon of mass destruction prohibited by international law that indiscriminately inflicts unnecessary sufferings and pains upon people. On September 19, GHQ issued the press code that lasted until the end of the occupation in April 1952. As a result, no Japanese newspapers, with a very few exceptions, reported anything about the atomic bombing of the two cities.

In addition, the Japanese government did not provide any concrete and positive relief to the survivors who were suffering in a dismal situation that was like an inferno.

d. "Do You Know Sadako?" -- Atomic Bomb Disease: Have you ever heard the phrase "Do you know Sadako?" How many Japanese people have been asked this question when they traveled abroad? But I wonder how many of them said "Yes, I do" and was able to explain about Sadako?

In Peace Park in Hiroshima stands a statue of warning. It's the bronze statue of Sadako (entitled "A-Bomb Child") stretching her arms high towards the sky, holding a golden paper crane. Many of you remember seeing it once. A large number of folded paper cranes are offered to Sadako's statue.

The novel "Sadako Will Live" (Sadako Wants to Live), written by Karl Bruckner, a writer born in Vienna, has been translated in 22 countries around the world. It is a long-seller that has been read by more than 2 million people. I want as many people as possible to read the message of Bruckner. It contributes to achieving a world without nuclear weapons.

Sadako was born as the first daughter of a barber. She was two years old and was at home at about 1.7 km from the hypocenter when the atomic bomb was detonated. She was not injured or burned. She grew up very healthy and was good at sports. When she was a sixth grader (12 years old), she developed leukemia and was admitted to the Hiroshima Red Cross Hospital. She died after 8 months in the hospital. She

believed the legend that “your prayer will be heard if you fold one thousand paper cranes”. She had made more than one thousand paper cranes when she died. The paper crane she made is now the symbol of the Hibakusha movement.

In the book by Karl Bruckner, Sadako’s father is quoted as saying: “This is beyond human imagination. My daughter looked much healthier than any other girls of her age. Two or three days earlier, she had taken part in a bicycle race and overtook many other racers. She was suddenly attacked with the disease. It came after 10 carefree and happy years of joyful and playful childhood. She was stricken and laid flat by a single flash. After 10 years, the Pikadon (A-bomb) was looking for new victims again, as if the death of 210,000 in Hiroshima and Nagasaki was not enough”.

Sadako’s story deeply touches our hearts and convinces us that how merciless the atomic bomb is even towards a defenseless innocent child.

e. Suffering of the Hibakusha: In his book, Bruckner wrote: “The 20th century science succeeded in inventing the atomic bomb but it has not been able to invent the means to heal the wounds it inflicts”. The unhealed wound is the delayed radiation effect. Lifton described it in harsher terms as “Carved seal of death”.

The Hibakusha are terrified not only to see people around them who are apparently healthy dying suddenly, but also to witness the brutal deaths that come after they become weak and vomit blood. A healthy man whom they see cheerfully riding a bicycle in the morning dies suddenly vomiting blood.

Many of you may have heard the word “A-bomb *bura-bura* disease”. Bura-bura disease is a symptom with an unknown cause. It includes physical conditions that make people feel tired easily or weary, and fall ill easily due to the mal-function of their immune system. Due to this after-effect, many Hibakusha have difficulty getting a steady job and making ends meet. The Hibakusha would force themselves to work and fall ill. They are thus inevitably driven into an inescapable plight.

What is more, Hibakusha are constantly tormented by feelings of guilt for those who were killed by the atomic bombing and are troubled with physical disorders caused by the bombing, loss of family members and discrimination in marriage and getting jobs.

Worse still, Japanese politics completely neglected the Hibakusha when they most needed public help and assistance in every aspect of their living. The Hibakusha were therefore obliged to help themselves and try to meet their own needs.

It was a “decade of distress” under the U.S. occupation that covered up the damage by suppressing the media and speech and under the policy of successive Japanese governments that could be described as abandonment of the people”. (“Transforming A-bomb Experience into Philosophy” by ISHIDA Tadashi). Imagine how human beings feel when they are placed in such a situation.

3. Conclusion –Hibakusha rising from distress

(1) A considerable number of Hibakusha have lost the will to live on, continuously tortured by the fear of living without knowing when it ends, of the end that may come anytime and of A-bomb disease that may also develop anytime. If there is no meaning to live today, there will be another meaningless 24 hours tomorrow. One may say, “I have lived for nothing meaningful” or “There is no meaning to life.” They began to suffer even deeper feelings of loneliness and despair. They gave up trying to be connected to the society they once belonged to. In fact, many Hibakusha thought: “I do not care what happens to society and to other people, and I do not care what they may do. It does not concern me at all” (“Transforming A-bomb Experience into Philosophy” by ISHIDA Tadashi).

(2) Hibakusha Rising to Fight: On August 10, 1956, after the 2nd World Conference against A and H Bombs, Hibakusha decided to rise up and establish the Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations (Nihon Hidankyo). The founding aim of Nihon Hidankyo was to demand the abolition of nuclear weapons (to allow no more Hibakusha to be created). It also demanded that the national government provide state compensation by enacting a Hibakusha aid law based on acknowledgement of the state’s responsibility for the war.

Nihon Hidankyo has been actively engaged in actions. It has organized various campaigns and other initiatives such as nationwide petitions, representations to members of the Diet (parliament), political parties and the government, signature drives, nationwide caravans, rallies and sit-ins in front of the health ministry. Hibakusha aid bills were introduced to the Diet several times and scrapped several times, but as a result of our campaigning, we have won three laws providing aid to Hibakusha.

In parallel with this movement, in April 1955, the Shimoda A-bomb lawsuit was filed with the Tokyo District Court. The plaintiffs claimed that the use of nuclear weapons is a violation of international law. It was followed by individual

lawsuits for A-bomb disease recognition filed by Ishida, Kuwahara, Matsuya and Konishi. In addition to these, lawsuits were filed by Hibakusha living outside Japan such as the Son A-bomb lawsuit for state compensation. The Hibakusha are fighting for justice about the delayed effects of exposure to atomic bomb radiation. These are the concerted lawsuits in which we lawyers are fighting side by side with the Hibakusha for A-bomb disease recognition, in what we call “No More Hibakusha Lawsuits”.

Nihon Hidankyo is also very active internationally in the campaign to achieve the elimination of nuclear weapons. It contributed to holding the three special sessions of the UN General Assembly on nuclear disarmament (SSD I, II and III) as well as to getting the advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice (ICJ) recognizing that the use and threat of use of nuclear weapons is against international law, especially humanitarian law. The actions of the Hibakusha for international solidarity gradually made the names of Hiroshima and Nagasaki enter the common language around the world.

(3) Transforming A-Bomb Experience into a Philosophy: ISHIDA Tadashi, Professor Emeritus at Hitotsubashi University, in a series of writings entitled “Transforming A-Bomb Experience into a Philosophy” presented the words of a Hibakusha who said: “What I, and only I, can do as a Hibakusha is to tell the world about the problems facing Hibakusha and to strive for the elimination of war and of nuclear weapons. Ishida then wrote: “Only by resisting the overwhelmingly painful experience of the atomic bombing and confronting it courageously, by going through this fight or this resistance, will they be able to recover their dignity and pride as human beings and accept and assert themselves as they are”.

What Hibakusha want is not compassion or pity based on a negative stereotyped perception that Hibakusha are weak, tragic and miserable people. Ms. Watanabe Chieko, a Hibakusha of Nagasaki, said: “I do not want to capitalize on my being an A-bomb survivor. I do not want to live on the pity or compassion of others”. She also said: “If you feel any compassion or pity for Hibakusha, please act with me” (from the same book).

In concluding, allow me to quote the words of Ms. Watanabe Chieko who was 16 years old at the time of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki. Here is what she said on the founding of Nihon Hidankyo. “An American atomic bomb took away the springtime of my life. It deprived me forever of the most beautiful days of my life. I tried many times

to kill myself. My sufferings lasted 10 long years. I am still bedridden, but I have begun to live a new life as a woman who believes in the future of humanity. The atomic bombing tried to destroy me, but a movement for destroying the atom bomb has started. Without the Movement against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs, I would not have lived till this day” (From “The A-Bomb Crime” by SHIINA Masae).

The call of the Hibakusha was born from their untold sufferings and it has spread. They give their lives to this call. Their movement is their resistance to the atomic bombs. We are deeply touched by their call because we somehow feel that it is the starting point for all of us who live in this nuclear age.

Abacca Anjain Maddison Ex-Senator/ President of Iju in Ean, Rongelap Atoll, Marshall Islands

“A-Bomb Damage of Hiroshima and Nagasaki; Struggles of the Hibakusha”

At this 70th year of the atomic bombing in Japan we should ask the question. What does it mean? What is to you as an individual, as a community, as a nation? Have we done enough? Are we doing the right thing? What is the next step?

I am from the Marshall Islands, a former senator for people of Rongelap and currently the president of Iju in Ean club, a non-profit organization owned by Rongelapese women. I am very honored to be at this very important conference and on behalf of the Hibakushas and families from Rongelap I express our sincere appreciation to the Japanese people for your continued support and friendship and thank Gensuikyo for the invitation.

I have been involved in the movement advocating for justice and human rights since I was 13 years old. My father was the first Senator of Rongelap. He led the people out of contaminated homeland to a temporary home on Mejatto Island at Kwajalein Atoll and convinced US Congress to admit that radiation level on Rongelap is beyond safety standard and approved a resettlement trust fund and called for immediate actions for clean-up and humanitarian assistance to improve their living conditions. This whole experience have taught me a great deal and in fact it’s an inheritance that has enriched life and has made me strong as a person who has nothing but strong will to speak out for human rights.

Sixty-one years ago, a hydrogen bomb called

Bravo Shot was detonated on Bikini Atoll on March 1, 1954. Its destructive power was 1,000 times greater than Hiroshima bomb and it was one of the 67 bombs US Military tested as part of the bomb testing program in the 1940s and 50s. Bravo Shot is a code name the United States used because it was a huge success as designed and intended. It made the US victorious in the arms and super power race world-wide until today. However, the other side of the story is the people of Rongelap and Marshallese people. Bravo shot brought devastations to our land and environment, damaged our health and livelihood, violated our human rights and forever changed our lives.

Late John Anjain, then Mayor and a victim of Bravo shot, also taught me a lot about his experience: As a result of US bomb testing program how his family and Rongelapese people overtime were inhumanely mistreated and suffered. Ordinarily in our culture, the elderly tell stories (folklore) to children, which we call 'inon', but instead Uncle John was telling horror stories. The bomb changed our culture and the way of our life and the younger generations have no choice but to live in the shadow of the bomb that includes suffering and death by radiation-induced diseases.

On the day the bomb was exploded, the sky displayed beautiful colors; but all of sudden loud thundering noise was heard; he thought the war broke out and then the strong wind blew off houses and he himself almost fell off his feet that really frightened him and everyone on the island. Later on, flakes fell off from the sky; he thought it was snow, children thought it was soap so they played with them putting on their hair and skin. Not for long, every one of all 85 residents including infants suffered from skin burns, itchiness, eyes irritation, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. Three days later everyone was moved to a military camp on Kwajalein.

Three years after they were told Rongelap was safe and they returned in 1957, that's when all the diseases appeared and people were transferred to US where medical treatment was available. Women gave birth to deformed and monster-like babies and had multiple miscarriages. Men and women were suffering from various types of cancerous illnesses including breast, liver and lung cancers. Today the Nuclear Claims Tribunal is closed and all claimants from other atolls including the Hibakusha have yet to collect half of their award from personal injuries and billion dollars more for land damages.

The people of Rongelap continue to live on a temporary home island called Mejatto where life is hard. Some have moved on to other islands and United States as well seeking better health care and

a better life. Like Fukushima, Rongelap atoll is a ghost town where brand new houses await for people to return but great fear still remain in a large number of community people. They don't trust the United States even after it declared Rongelap to be safe from radiation and regardless of ultimatum of withholding financial resources and other benefits.

There is too much burden our governments has to absorb now. Climate change and sea level rise is increasingly a threat to our islands, so that the people of Bikini on Kili Island has declared a state of emergency. The biggest inundation this year destroyed the environment. Sea water is springing in the middle of the island, causing floods, breaking up the septic tanks and flooding homes. It's so bad that they are reconsidering moving out of the island and calling on US to take responsibility should there be a repatriation. Unpredicted storms and waves are becoming the norm. Three weeks ago Majuro had an historical incidents of big boats capsized, ran aground or collided in the lagoon and people's beach front and sea walls, causing oil and gas spill in the lagoon. Marshallese Government is trying to make an assessment but already from what it looks, it will cause cost money the Government doesn't have.

Although it is a great disappointment to hear the end result of the NPT this year, we all gave our best try but we expected it the way it did. For Marshall Islands, it gives us all the more reasons to hold steady and remain strong with the law suit initiated at the International Court of Justice. However, there is a need for more and more support from individuals to sign on, especially from countries to sign on. Please help us lobby. This case is for all of us to save human kind.

Early this year, Ms. Tsuchida came to the Marshall Islands accompanying a journalist. At that time we were preparing to hold the first forum on nuclear and human right issues. It was a big help to make our people understand from the international stand point how important it is to network and to be in solidarity. Thank you Gensuikyo for always in our support and I understand there is a plan to visit Enewetak community, too. They really need your help. They are currently suffering from 3 typhoons. They are worried about contaminant waste underneath the dome to spread out to residential areas. I hope this visit will be materialized this year.

The theme of this session is 'A-Bomb Damage of Hiroshima and Nagasaki; Struggles of the Hibakusha' it is very fitting to the story of the people of Rongelap and Marshall Islands as a whole. The world should learn from the

experience of the Hibakusha and their struggles to ensure such tragedy should never be repeated. Lemeyo Abon, a survivor and advocate for human rights from Rongelap atoll expressed her desire for United States to put an end to her sufferings and injustice by making the return of her children and grandchildren to Rongelap possible and eliminating nuclear weapons in her life time. She is now 78 years old. "Money can't bring back the lives of my families I've lost, so this is the least United States could do" she said.

In closing, I'd like to include a message from Minister Tony deBrum. He says, "My heart and soul are a part of Gensuikyo and I believe with all my being in what they are doing and fighting for. I just wish I could be in three places at one time. Japan is also making rather confusing moves in Climate Change, Nuclear Peace and Sanity, as well as in its Defense and Military Ambitions in the world. So this would have been a good time to visit but please tell them my not being there cannot be in any way interpreted to mean I am less committed...I am just too old and cannot stretch as long as I used to be able to. Please give them my love and respect as always and you can speak with confidence for all of us."

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

Report and Message from Lithuania

Hello. I am Fukao Toshiko of the New Japan Women's Association's Fukuoka-Nishi Chapter. Thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak here.

Together with Mr. Kimura Isamu, former secretary general of Fukuoka Gensuikyo, I attended the 29th memorial ceremony of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant Accident held in Vilnius, Lithuania on April 27th.

The event consisted of a memorial ceremony, an international conference and a commendation ceremony conducted in Lithuanian and Latvian languages. They were very fruitful, sincere and interesting. At the international conference, an active exchange took place, including the presentation made by the representative of Latvia. At the commendation ceremony, Mr. Kimura was awarded for his significant support to the development of the Chernobyl movement in Lithuania. I also received an award on behalf of the Fukuoka-Nishi Chapter of the New Japan Women's Association for sending donation over

20 years in a form of 1-yen coin donation collection, to support the victims of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident, especially to give preventive vaccine of thyroid cancer for children.

The final part of the program was a signing ceremony. In order to ensure employment of more than 2000 survivors of the accident, an agreement was signed between the charity organization "Our Coast", for which Dr. Gediminas Rimdeika serves as the vice-president, and a governmental employment agency, similar to the Japanese Public Employment Security Office.

Unfortunately, Dr. Rimdeika cannot attend this year's World Conference, so he asked me to submit the report of the ceremony and conference to the chair of the World Conference, along with his condolences at the 70th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki tragedy and his best wishes for a success of this year's World Conference.

Now, allow me to read out the message from Dr. Rimdeika.

* * * * *

Message to the International Meeting of the World Conference against A and H Bombs

Gediminas Rimdeika
Vice President of the Lithuanian
Chernobyl Fund "Our Shore"

Dear Chairman of the Conference, dear Conference participants,

Today the whole world is commemorating an unprecedented event, the 70th year anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bomb explosions.

We, Lithuanian Chernobyl members, Chernobyl emergency workers, since 1992, when Gensuikyo delegation arrived in Lithuania, led by Isamu Kimura, actively started to take part in your struggle to prohibit and abolish the nuclear weapon.

Lithuanian schools for several years organized the children's drawing competitions – how they understand the tragedy of Japan, and the best works were brought to Japan, we organized the collections of the signatures as well, from schoolchildren, students, nurses, ministers, members of the Lithuanian Parliament.

The Lithuanian Parliament chairpersons, the heads of the Government of Lithuania have repeatedly sent the support and congratulatory letters for Global Conferences. Each year, while commemorating the anniversary of the Chernobyl accident, more than 7,000 young Lithuanian men

were taken to emergency works, at the conferences we discuss the painful past of Japan too. This year's Chernobyl annual conference we dedicated to commemorate the tragedy of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Please accept our conference printed material.

We all understand and accept Your goal – to eliminate nuclear weapons. A man cannot live with a nuclear weapon, as well as the so called “peaceful atom”, as there is no safe nuclear power – there is no peaceful atom. Chernobyl, and later happened bigger or smaller accidents at nuclear power plants, just confirmed that one more time. We welcome the world's countries and their governments that stop the nuclear power work, while Germany has already decided in 2022 to completely close all operating nuclear power plants. We welcome the these days reached agreement of the world's countries to limit Iran's capability to build a nuclear weapon; that is a great merit of the United Nations as well.

Today we want to thank the Japanese nation, the nation that lived through the tragedy and still found the strength to rise to the global fight for the welfare of other countries on banning nuclear weapons and its abolition. In this difficult, but very meaningful fight the whole world and a little Lithuania is together with You. We want to thank You for the great support, which Japanese specialists – doctors, gave us. With their help we have improved the treatment therapies of Chernobyl members, as well as improved their health condition.

Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Bikini Atoll, Chernobyl, Semipalatinsk, Nevada, Lop Nor – this is the most shameful list, we must say STOP for its extension. Your seventy years ago started Peace march across the World today gives the results. We join it and urge all advanced forces in the World to follow the Japanese people AND WORK TOWARDS THE GLOBAL ABOLITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

LIVE WITHOUT NUCLEAR POWER.

Plenary Session II:
***International Treaty for a Total Ban on Nuclear Weapons; A Nuclear
Weapon-Free World; Role of Peace Movement and Civil Society***
(August 2)

Introductory Reports:

Joseph Gerson
American Friends Service Committee
(AFSC) - New England, U.S.A.

Contradictions, Dangers and Opportunities

Friends, I am honored to return to the World Conference on the 70th anniversary of the United States' criminal and indiscriminate A-bombings. As you know, they were targeted against "densely packed workers homes"⁽ⁱ⁾ and the Soviet Union. With the development and use of nuclear weapons, humankind crossed the threshold in which all life is held hostage to those willing to risk omnicide to protect their power and privilege. Since then, in addition to our campaigning to prevent nuclear war and to rid the world of these weapons, luck has also played its part in our survival of nuclear blackmail, reckless dependence on deterrence, miscalculations and nuclear accidents.

Hibakusha, who have channeled their excruciating physical and emotional pain into the most powerful force for the abolition of these weapons of mass murder warn us that human beings and nuclear weapons cannot coexist. And the Russell-Einstein Manifesto, like the poet Toge, instructs us to remember our humanity and forget the rest.

I want to celebrate the courage of politically engaged Hibakusha, who have found and exercised remarkable inner strength to share their searing testimonies, who have travelled the world – sometimes rising from their hospital beds to do so – and who have appealed to humanity and governments to turn back from the path of nuclear annihilation. I am among the world's most privileged people, having known and been transformed by Hibakusha including Yamaguchi Senji, Watanabe Chieko, Taniguchi Sumiteru, Tanaka Terumi, Kodama Michiko, Kayashige Junko, and global Hibakusha including Dorothy Purley, Claudia Peterson, Nelson Anjain and Paul Ahpoy to name just a few.

The powerful influence of Hibakusha was demonstrated again in April, when they travelled to New York on the eve of the NPT Review

Conference and joined our Peace and Planet Mobilization. Many of our conference participants reported that our opening ceremony, with talks by Taniguchi-san and Thurlow-san, was a transformational high point for them. And the Hibakusha in wheelchairs who led and navigated the obstacles of our two mile march to Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, where eight million abolition petition signatures were delivered to the Review Conference, demonstrated inspiring commitment and courage.

This 70th anniversary is a moment of contradictions. Together, we have avoided nuclear war for seven decades, and we did much of the work that led 113 governments to sign the Humanitarian Pledge "to cooperate with all relevant stakeholders, states, international organizations, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, parliamentarians and civil society, in efforts to stigmatize, prohibit and eliminate nuclear weapons in light of their unacceptable humanitarian consequences and associated risks." Recall Ambassador Kmentt's participation in this conference last year, and appreciate the profound impacts it had on him, and thus on the Austrian government. With our work and the Pledge, we have widened the gap between the majority of the world's nations and the nuclear powers – providing a stronger foundation and new opportunities to achieve a nuclear-weapons free world.

BUT, even as we support the diplomacy that prevailed in the nuclear deal with Iran, the promised "good faith" negotiations for nuclear weapons abolition have yet to begin. The double standard remains, with Washington and Moscow still having more than 90% of the world's nearly 16,000 nuclear weapons. The US and Russia are again exchanging nuclear threats, increasing the dangers of miscalculations like those that ignited WWI one hundred years ago. We're faced with a new era of U.S./NATO-Russia Cold War, increasingly militarized U.S./Japanese-Chinese competitive interdependence, Abe's campaign to remilitarize Japan, and the modernization of the nuclear arsenals and their delivery systems. And now we know that a small nuclear exchange between India and Pakistan could lead to global cooling, famine and the loss of two billion lives.

With the relative decline of US power and influence, the challenges posed by China's rise to the post-WW II dis-order imposed and enforced by the US, and the collapse of the neo-colonial order in the Middle East, we face a host of uncertainties and potential dangers analogous to – but much more dangerous than – the 19th century mercantile capitalist and colonial competition. America's grand strategy is in "disarray"⁽ⁱⁱ⁾ with the Obama Administration and most Democrats focused on China as the greatest threat to U.S. hegemony. Meanwhile the Pentagon, John McCain and the right-wing fanatics competing for the Republicans Party's presidential nomination, who are blind to the ways NATO's and the EU's aggressive expansion sparked the Ukraine War and the new era of confrontation, cry that Moscow poses the greatest threat to the US. And, the U.S. is at war with Jihadist forces generated by decades of U.S. suppression of Arab nationalism and Washington's Afghanistan and Iraq Wars.

The one point of agreement among these war hawks is doubling down on militarism – including plans to spend \$1 trillion for new nuclear weapons and their delivery systems.

The Abe government is also doubling down on militarism. Despite the opposition of most Japanese, Abe is following in the footsteps of his war criminal and CIA –backed grandfather, Nobusuke Kishi, who brutally and undemocratically rammed through AMPO extension in 1960. Let me ask, is a government normal or legitimate when it mangles its constitution, democratic process and values, and prepares for war? This is compounded by the government's denial of the history of Japan's aggressions and sexual slavery, its disregard of popular will in Okinawa, and its campaign to trash Article 9.

Gensuikyo's resolute protests, Shinfujin's red cards, the opposition of constitutional scholars and of many others to Abe's war laws have been essential. They are in the tradition of those who resisted Japanese militarism in the 1930s and 40s. They require all of the support that those committed to democracy and peace can provide.

Hiroshima, Nagasaki & Nuclear Threats

There are also dangerous denials and continuities of history in my country, where the widespread belief continues that the atomic bombings were needed to end the war with Japan. There is still also broad acceptance of Truman's propaganda lie that the A-bombs saved the lives of half a million US troops. These myths serve as the ideological foundations for continuing U.S. preparations for nuclear war. It was to prevent

U.S. and other people from learning that many senior U.S. wartime military leaders opposed the A-bombings and from seeing photographs, including of Taniguchi-san's seared body, that the U.S. Air Force Association and right-wing members of Congress forced the cancellation of the Smithsonian Museum's exhibit on the 50th anniversary of the A-bombings.

In fact, the consensus among US historians is that the A-bombings were NOT needed to end the war. U.S. Secretary of War Stimson had advised Truman that Japan's surrender could be negotiated on terms acceptable to the United States; and military leaders, including General – later President – Eisenhower and Admiral Leahy, thought, "It wasn't necessary to hit [Japanese] with that awful thing."

Numerous factors, including Truman's election calculations, vengeance, racism, and institutional inertia contributed to the decision to destroy Hiroshima and Nagasaki. But, as General Groves told Joseph Rotblat in 1944, the bomb was designed to deal with the Soviet Union. The **determinative** reasons for the nuclear attacks were to bring the war to an immediate end, so that the U.S. could avoid sharing influence with the Soviet Union in Northern China, Manchuria and Korea and to intimidate Soviet leaders by demonstrating the apocalyptic power of nuclear weapons and Washington's willingness to use them – even against civilians.

Since then, the U.S., and to a lesser degree the other nuclear powers, have repeatedly used their nuclear arsenals. Daniel Ellsberg explains that the US has repeatedly used nuclear weapons "in the way that you use a gun when you point it at someone's head in a confrontation....whether or not you pull the trigger...[and] You're also using it when you have it on your hip ostentatiously." During wars and international crises, the US has prepared and/or threatened to initiate nuclear war on at least thirty occasions – at least 15 times during the Korean and Vietnam Wars and crises with China and at least 10 times to reinforce US Middle East hegemony. And the grim truth is that each of the other eight nuclear powers has made such threats or preparations at least once.

From the NPT Review to a Nuclear Weapons-Free World

Friends, going into this year's NPT Review Conference our expectations were not high, and you know the outcome. The P-5 resisted all efforts by non-nuclear weapons states to draft a final statement that would have required meaningful progress toward negotiation of a nuclear weapons convention, as required by

Article VI of the NPT. The Review Conference collapsed in failure when the U.S., Britain and Canada refused to accept language requiring the convening of the long-promised conference for a Middle East Nuclear Weapons and WMD-Free Zone. The US even said that the twenty-year old promise is now null and void.

The Review Conference's one achievement was widening the gap between the non-nuclear weapons states and the nuclear powers, codified in the Humanitarian Pledge, which will be a foundation for future nuclear disarmament initiatives, including the anticipated mandate this fall from the U.N. General Assembly for a new Open Ended Working Group.

While not wanting to overstate our contributions to this achievement, we should celebrate decades of dedicated organizing and action by Gensuikyo and our movements that helped to build the growing international pressure for nuclear weapons abolition. Building on our movement's history and Ban Ki-moon's admonition in 2010 that governments alone will not eliminate nuclear weapons, and that nuclear weapons abolition cannot be won without broad and intense pressure from below – we created the Peace & Planet mobilization to reassert people's power for a nuclear-free world.

We had two goals: First, to press the Review Conference to take meaningful action toward fulfilling the promise of Article VI. Second, to support, revitalize, and expand the bases of the US and other nations' abolition movements for the longer-term. Gensuikyo's leading roles in the mobilization were critical to our successes. Your strong presence and the spirit you brought to New York inspired the thousands of people we gathered. Angela Kane, the U.N. High Representative for Disarmament and Ambassador Taous Feroukhi, the President of the Review Conference, were both deeply moved by their experiences with us. So much so that during the opening days of the Review Conference they instructed the hundreds of diplomats gathered at the U.N. that our events and the nearly eight million abolition petition signatures we presented to them, represented the expectations and demands of worldwide civil society.

Many of you here were among the roughly 600 people from 20 nations together for the Peace & Planet International Conference, which provided a unique opportunity to learn from one another and from experts, to explore the connection between issues and our movements, and to develop plans for the future. Nudged by Rev. Mori of Japan Religionists for Peace, we organized an International Interfaith Convocation

that drew a standing room audience and which has received unstinting praise, including from the World Council of Churches. Between 7,000 and 10,000 people participated in our international rally, march and festival, with Angela Kane and Ambassador Feroukhi receiving the petition signatures from Gensuikyo, Mayors for Peace (whose petitions were presented by the Mayor of Hiroshima,) and by Peace & Planet's Co-Conveners. Deeply moving was the launch of the Global Peace Wave by a second-generation Kazakh Hibakusha. Imagine seeing all of our more than 100 Peace Wave actions in more than 50 countries.

Essential to our mobilization were our social and mainstream media campaigns. Via social media, we reached thousands of young people with our messaging. Nearly 20 articles appeared in the US press, including one that appeared in 250 media outlets. And we were inundated by Japanese media.

As we say at conferences like this, we're glad that you're here, but most important is the work that we will all do when we return home. With Peace and Planet we revitalized community-based nuclear disarmament and peace movement organizing in the US and elsewhere. We created, identified and popularized a number of strategies for future nuclear weapons abolition advocacy, brought young activists into the movement, and made connections to other issues and movements.

As we meet here, Peace and Planet activists are holding commemorative and organizing events across the US and internationally. Our next major push, led by Unfold Zero, will be a Global Peace Wave in September between the International Day of Peace and the International Day for the Complete Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.

Friends, as Daniel Ellsberg said during the Peace & Planet conference, we are living on borrowed time in which human survival still hangs in the balance. On this anniversary, here in Hiroshima and in the presence of Hibakusha, let us deepen our resolve that we will do all in our power to ensure Never Again to Anyone, that there are No More Hiroshimas. No More Nagasakis. No More Nuclear Weapons. And No More War.

(i) Joseph Gerson. With Hiroshima Eyes: Atomic War, Nuclear Extortion and Moral Imagination, Philadelphia: New Society Publishers, 1995, p. 15

(ii) Michael T. Klare. "The next Cold War is here: China, Russia and the ghosts of Dwight Eisenhower" http://www.salon.com/2015/07/02/the_next_cold_war_is_here_china_russia_and_the_ghosts_of_dwight_eisenhower_partner/

Dave Webb
Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament
U.K.

It is a great honour for me to be here representing the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and I bring greetings and solidarity from the UK. This year we are separated from the first use of nuclear weapons by 70 years - a lifetime - and we will remember all of those lives that were horribly cut short or severely affected by those criminal acts. The resilience and passion of the Japanese peace movement and the commitment of the Hibakusha to rid the world of nuclear weapons continues to be an inspiration.

As we continue our struggle to rid Britain and the world of nuclear weapons we are aware of the increasing challenges you face here. The US has pushed hard on Shinzo Abe to force through a law through parliament to allow Japanese armed forces to fight alongside its allies. This forced reversal of your country's renunciation of war and the preparations for war through Article 9 of the Japanese constitution is an unforgivable action taken by your Prime Minister against your wishes. The 'peace clause' is respected internationally and you have passionately supported and defended it. We support and stand with you as you continue to resist the growing tide of militarism and aggression.

The outcome of the 2015 NPT Review Conference made it clear that, despite the pressure exerted by non-nuclear weapon states and the citizens of the world, the nuclear weapon states have little intention of honouring Article 6 of the NPT and moving in good faith towards nuclear disarmament. However, 159 countries at the conference signed the Joint Statement on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons that was delivered by Austria and 113 countries have signed the humanitarian pledge to ban nuclear weapons. Although support for a ban is growing it may not mean much until a nuclear state signs up and so far none have. The UK is perhaps a likely candidate but is too closely tied to US policy and we will need to work very hard to make any progress. In 2016 the UK government is set to vote on a £100 billion replacement for the current Trident submarine based nuclear weapons system which could tie us in to a nuclear weapons programme for another 50 years. The result of the general election a few months ago means that it might not be a favourable outcome for us and we will have to work hard to make a breakthrough – but we will try!

We live in dangerous times, we are told that the global economy is in crisis and so we will

have to endure severe cuts in public spending on welfare with severe implications for the poor, the elderly and the infirm. The crisis does not affect everyone in the same way and the gulf between rich and poor widens. Existing policies are flawed and unsustainable. The failure to address climate change is beginning to show in crop failures and increased tensions over the scramble for diminishing resources. Conflicts arising from poverty and marginalisation have resulted in severe challenges and refugee problems. Yet instead of addressing the root causes of these problems governments are trying to divert our attention by the use of scare tactics and an emphasis on military action which is only leading to more problems. The aggressive expansion of NATO in Europe and the US push in the Pacific to contain Russia and China are fuelling a new Cold War and associated arms race. Despite all the additional humanitarian help that is needed, NATO is telling its members to increase military spending and the nuclear weapon states seem unprepared to relinquish the status that they think the possession of nuclear weapons gives them.

However, people are looking for alternatives to current failed strategies. In June some 250,000 people joined an anti-austerity march in London, many carrying messages to scrap Trident. In Scotland - where the Trident system is based – nuclear weapons became a huge issue during the vote on independence last year and in the run up to the General Election in May. The Scottish National Party brought a breath of fresh air to British politics by saying loud and clear that there is no place for weapons of mass destruction in Scotland. They won 56 of the 59 Scottish parliamentary seats, 50 more than they had previously, and destroyed the myth that nuclear disarmament is an election loser. The result also shook the Labour Party which lost 40 seats to them, only retaining 1 seat in Scotland and losing the election. Unfortunately, early indications are that the Party may mistakenly feel it needs to move even further to the right to get re-elected. Even so, a significant number of young Labour Party election candidates, some of whom were elected as MPs, were in favour of scrapping Trident and CND vice-chair Jeremy Corbyn is standing in the Labour leadership contest and doing very well! There is no other place in the UK where Trident submarines could berth and forcing a replacement on a Scotland that refuses it will not be easy for the government. It is even possible that the SNP will force another vote for independence before a replacement for Trident comes into service if they win that then there

could be nowhere for the nuclear submarines to go except the scrap yard!

The next few years will be difficult but like you we are committed to work for the total elimination of nuclear weapons. Campaigners around the world are saying that we need to strengthen alliances with other campaigns and build stronger links with international groups. Let us once more commit to our goal - and work together until the last nuclear weapon is gone.

No more Hiroshimas! No more Nagasakis!
No more Fukushima! No more Hibakusha!

Claude Ruelland

French Peace Movement

France

In the name of my delegation from France, I would first like to greet the Japanese people, in particular the Hibakushas, who had that tragic experience, one of the most cruel which humanity has known in the twentieth century, 70 years ago, when, this abominable summer morning, a monster collapsed on your city.

Although immediately following this tragedy and over the next decades, people tried to erase humanity's memory about the events which took place, the Hibakushas, admirable with courage and dignity, gradually found the strength to rise and remind the whole world, with the aid of Japanese pacifist organizations, of that tragedy which had instantly caused uncountable deaths and then inexpressible suffering for these decades, as well as for the next generations.

Admiring these people, who did not surrender despite their physical and psychological suffering, our delegation wants to contribute with all modesty required in the meeting today.

Alas, during the last NPT Review Conference which was held in New York in May, the countries armed with Nuclear Weapons, following the example of France, did not want to disarm, and imposed their vision of international security on the rest of the world, which is constructed under permanent threat. This is unacceptable.

Despite the fact that for the essentials the idea of Non-Proliferation functions well, the five armed States have still not realized their commitments to disarmament. In fact, over the years we have witnessed the permanence of nuclear weapons solely reserved to the five armed countries, with their exclusion to all the others. The NPT Review Conferences have shown that there is no consensus between the armed states and the numerous other nations.

What to do ?

Our objective is simple. We will do everything we can to help the project of the 107 countries. That means a treaty banning nuclear weapons. European countries, for the majority, constitute a major obstacle. It is necessary for us to construct, with all urgency, a strategy for our continent, and first of all our country, France.

- To construct a campaign for European countries to join the 107 countries and support Austria.

- To make the seventieth anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki a trampoline for this campaign. For example, the Mouvement de la Paix organizes a debate at the Memorial of Caen on the theme - Seventy years after Hiroshima and Nagasaki, what security for the people, with or without Nuclear Deterrence ?

Regarding the direction of an effective strategy, the debate is outstanding :

What is likely to create or raise a public debate during which a dynamic campaign could help us to win the majority of public opinion ? Is it our continued opinion-based campaign, founded on the denunciation of the destructive power of atomic bombs, targeting a rise in the pressure of public opinion on our governments to finally meet the commitments taken in 1992 by signing the Non-Proliferation Treaty, or a new campaign founded on human tragedy, the terrible carnage of which would be provoked by atomic explosion, signed before the harbinger end of the world ? Does one not also have to demand unilateral nuclear disarmament of our country in the framework of its commitment to the sides of the 107 countries on behalf of the adoption of the treaty banning these weapons of terror and the apocalypse ?

In any case, another struggle is on the insufficient knowledge of public opinion, in our country and across the world, about the tragedies experienced in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and about the breadth of human disaster which it has resulted in (which the international community always had the tendency to neglect, even forget). The struggle continues in making our citizens aware of the tragic occurrences experienced by the people of Hiroshima since August 6, 1945 until today, and leading them to understand the threat which weighs on humanity. Because of this they would have a reason to rally and demand that leaders of our countries commit to the European plan as well as the International, on the side of Austria and the 107 other countries, which have already mobilized.

Yasui Masakazu
Secretary General, Japan Council
against A and H Bombs (Gensuikyo)

To Achieve a Nuclear Weapon-Free World

First of all, I would like to extend my warmest welcome to all the delegates joining the World Conference against A and H Bombs as we commemorate the 70th year since the atomic bombing.

Also, I want to say THANK YOU again to our friends in the United States and from around the world, who prepared and took actions together in the Peace and Planet Conference, marches, rallies and the presentation of petitions to the NPT Review Conference last April in New York.

This year's World Conference is being held as part of all the great efforts waged both at the international political level and at the grassroots levels, trying to make this 70th anniversary a decisive turning point to achieve a "nuclear weapon-free world".

In Japan, even at this very moment, people all around the country are struggling to stop the war legislation, which would scrap the Constitution of Japan. People of all walks of life and all strata are raising their voices in opposition. They are surrounding the Prime Minister's Office and the Diet building and staging numerous protests in the form of rallies, marches and other actions on the street.

For the last 70 years, Japan has not killed a single soldier of other countries, nor had any members of Japan's Self Defense Forces killed in international conflicts. No doubt, this was thanks to Article 9 of the Constitution of Japan. The point of origin of Article 9 was the experience of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. People's strong desire for peace and nuclear weapons abolition is expressed in the unprecedented support for the nationwide Peace Marches, now walking towards Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Everywhere around the country, a larger number of people, about 100,000 in total, are joining the marches and young marchers are leading the way. These marches, following different courses, will come together to reach Hiroshima Peace Park in two days from now.

During these years, we in Gensuikyo have worked to build powerful opinion within civil society for the abolition of nuclear weapons. In this we have been encouraged by the international agreement to "achieve a world without nuclear weapons". Gensuikyo sent a large delegation of 1,058 members to New York to join the actions associated with the NPT

Review, and to deliver the voices of people of the A-bombed country to the international political arena.

Unfortunately, the recent NPT Review Conference failed to reach any agreement to take the next step toward a nuclear weapon-free world. But we witnessed significant changes taking place during the conference.

Concerned about the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons and in order to prevent the recurrence of a nuclear catastrophe, 159 countries, or over 80% of the States Parties to the NPT, issued a joint statement proposing to stigmatize, ban and eliminate nuclear weapons as the next step forward. They are determined to enhance the consensus for abolition, rally the will of the majority, and start a practical process to achieve the abolition of nuclear weapons.

This current is supported by civil society and has now become irreversible, despite the resistance of the nuclear-armed states.

Recent developments in the world are backing this current. The "Final Agreement" on Iran's nuclear program and the restoration of diplomatic relations between the U.S. and Cuba show that today's international problems can find solutions based on the principle of peaceful resolution of conflicts, as stipulated in the U.N. Charter, and from the standpoint of abolition of nuclear weapons. Threats and rivalries involving nuclear weapons have only worsened international problems.

We believe that our movement seeking a total ban on and the elimination of nuclear weapons is playing an important role to encourage the recent world current for peace, to encourage movements working to secure the survival of humanity and civilization, and to broaden the common foundation for future efforts.

Now, I want to share with you my determination to develop future actions.

The first thing is to broaden joint activities to make known the A-bomb damage and aftereffects to people throughout Japan and the world and also at the international political arena to share the lesson of Hiroshima and Nagasaki that the tragedy should not be repeated ever again. This includes creating opportunities for people to listen directly to testimonies of the Hibakusha, making use of films, theaters, audio recordings, books produced in the last 70 years, and other new means. It is especially important to attract young people, so as to lay a broad base of public opinion in favor of a total ban on nuclear weapons. These efforts are especially important in nuclear weapon states, their military allies—those relying on their nuclear umbrella

and in those involved in conflicts.

Secondly, even after the NPT Review Conference, we will continue to develop and bring our signature campaign to a higher stage -- a campaign more attractive with straightforward and clear-cut demands -- and start discussing it in this World Conference.

Ever since the preparatory process of the First World Conference against A and H Bombs in 1955, we have attached great importance to the signature collection campaign. The signature campaign will not only put pressure on those clinging to nuclear weapons, but also help each and every citizen of the world realize their own role in securing their own future, and the future of the entire human race.

Ambassador Taous Feroukhi of the NPT Review Conference said, "Disarmament is not an activity exclusively limited to States" and "Petitions give each citizen a personal role to play in this larger process of achieving a world free of nuclear weapons."

In conclusion I want to emphasize the role of Japan among all these efforts made internationally. We must make every effort to make Japan play its due role, as the country which experienced the A-bomb, to achieve the abolition of nuclear weapons and to achieve peace. So definitely we will NOT allow Japan to be turned into a country that wages war. We oppose the war bills now being debated in the Diet. I want to close by renewing my commitment to make every effort to make Japan independent from nuclear weapons, to defend our Constitution and peace, and to create broad-based public support for a total ban on nuclear weapons. The Japanese Movement against A and H Bombs will play its role.

Statements:

Ogata Yasuo Committee of Chairpersons, Organizing Committee of World Conference/ Vice Chair, Director of International Commission, Japanese Communist Party

We convene here today on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki while Japan's Diet is deliberating the passage of new security bills in its extended session. Japan has two faces which contrast sharply with each other. The one is the Japanese government. The government ought to

take on the solemn obligation to lead global efforts to eliminate all nuclear weapons. However, it has blocked the move to create a nuclear weapons convention in order to support U.S. nuclear policy and is attempting to lead the nation again onto a path to participate in wars by imposing new war legislation which thwarts the Constitution and goes against the public will.

The other face, as we can witness here, is the face representing peace in which the majority of Japanese citizens have made great contributions to promoting peace in their united efforts to raise public awareness around the world about the inhumane nature of nuclear weapons and have strongly opposed the war bills being discussed at present in the Diet. We are determined to work together to have this new momentum of the public contribute to the success of this year's conference.

It was unfortunate that the NPT Review Conference (RevCon) held this year failed to agree on the contents of the final document. Still, the discussions at the conference highlighted the complex dynamics in which an overwhelming majority of nations now stand against the nuclear-weapons states which are being forced to clearly reveal their resistance to establishing a world without nuclear weapons. I strongly believe that this new dimension in international relations reflects the important achievements made through the cooperation between governments and civil society globally over the past five years.

One of the RevCon First Committee's memos dated May 8 mentioned for the first time creating a legal framework including a nuclear-weapons-ban treaty within a specified timeframe. It states, "[T]he Conference encourages all states to engage, without delay, within the framework of the United Nations disarmament machinery, in an inclusive process to identify and elaborate the legal provisions required for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons." The legal provisions mentioned above can be enacted through various approaches including by a "stand-alone instrument", which could take the form of a nuclear-weapons-ban treaty or a comprehensive nuclear weapons convention that includes a phased program for the complete elimination of the weapons within a specified timeframe. That is what our movement has demanded for many years in our petition campaigns and this is a remarkable breakthrough.

Anticipating this move, the five nuclear-weapons states jointly made a statement dated April 30 to emphasize the need for "practical steps." It states, "We continue to believe that an

incremental, step-by-step approach is the only practical option for making progress towards nuclear disarmament, while upholding global strategic security and stability.” According to the statement, the “practical steps” mean full implementation of the New START Treaty between the U.S. and Russia; bringing the CTBT into force; and advancing negotiations on the FMCT as well as Nuclear Weapons Free Zones. However, history clearly shows us that such incremental steps have failed to make significant progress towards the elimination of nuclear weapons.

It is the “step-by-step approach” mentioned above that the nuclear-weapons states insist on as their final bulwark against the imposition of complete nuclear disarmament as their “nuclear deterrence” theory has been discredited. The U.S. government continues to repeat that argument. A U.S. report submitted to the RevCon this year emphasized the need for a “step-by-step approach” in order to reach an agreement on further nuclear disarmament. Behind the U.S. argument is the U.S. nuclear strategy which states, “The United States would consider the use of nuclear weapons in extreme circumstances to defend the vital interests of the United States or its allies and partners.” The strategy is now focused on modernizing its nuclear arsenal over the long-term.

The Russian government updated its military doctrine in December 2014 to strengthen its nuclear arsenal in order to counter the moves being made by the U.S. and NATO. It insists on keeping its right to use nuclear weapons in case of a nuclear or non-nuclear attack on Russia.

Equally troubling, the other nuclear-weapons states aligned their stance with the U.S. approach by signing off on the joint statement at the RevCon and tried to discourage support for a legally binding process toward the elimination of nuclear weapons. The attempt to maintain nuclear arsenals by insisting on a “step-by-step” approach is being taken by the other nuclear-weapons states as well. Deplorably, none of the five nuclear-weapons states in the joint statement introduced any initiative for complete nuclear disarmament during the conference.

Although the U.S. government advocated an incremental approach at the RevCon, it failed to provide any convincing logic for it. A U.S. representative just argued that “effective measures” were “not limited to ones that are legally binding.” Still, he had to concede, “We can also accept that the final phase in the nuclear disarmament process should be pursued within an agreed legal framework.” He acknowledged

the need for the ban and elimination of nuclear weapons by treaty though he said it would be in “the final stage” of the process.

Ambassador Taous Feroukhi of Algeria, Chair of the RevCon, delivered the Draft Final Document May 22. You see the outcome from the debates reflected in the inclusion of phrases such as “legal provisions or other arrangements that contribute to and are required for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons” or “the legal provisions could be established through various approaches including a stand-alone instrument or a framework agreement.” As the previous RevCon five years ago used the term “legal framework”, the term “legal provisions” used this time shows substantive progress achieved in the conference which the nuclear-weapons states were not able to block.

Our next challenge is to defeat completely the logic of the “step-by-step” approach which is at present the nuclear-weapons states’ trump card in response to an overwhelming majority of global public opinion supporting the enactment of a legal agreement, including a nuclear weapons convention, which will ensure a world without nuclear weapons.

Successive declarations adopted every year at the World Conference against A and H Bombs have contributed to galvanizing anti-nuclear movements among people and governments around the world and encircling the nuclear-weapons states that have insisted on keeping the weapons. I conclude my remarks by emphasizing the need for us to stay on course with perseverance to reach our final destination.

Alyn Ware **UNFOLD ZERO**

UNFOLD ZERO: United Nations initiatives for the abolition of nuclear weapons

UNFOLD ZERO is a platform established in 2014 by the Basel Peace Office, Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, Global Security Institute, Prague Vision Institute, Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign, NGO Committee on Disarmament and Lawyers for Peace.

UNFOLD ZERO highlights United Nations forums to advance nuclear disarmament, including the General Assembly, Security Council, International Court of Justice, International Criminal Court and UN Open Ended Working Group.

UNFOLD ZERO promotes United Nations initiatives for nuclear abolition.

And UNFOLD ZERO highlights the possibilities to achieve security and resolve international conflicts through United Nations mechanisms, approaches and forums. In this way the current dependence on nuclear deterrence can be eliminated.

One of the initiatives highlighted by UNFOLD ZERO is the 5-point proposal for nuclear disarmament advanced by the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. The proposal calls for negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention – a global treaty for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons. The proposal also calls for a number of simultaneous, reinforcing measures, including establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, nuclear non-proliferation agreements and conventional disarmament measures.

The proposal for a nuclear weapons convention has wide-spread support from around the world including from UN resolutions, the Inter Parliamentary Union, Mayors for Peace and Abolition 2000 – the global network of over 2000 non-governmental organisations.

Another initiative promoted by UNFOLD ZERO is the Nuclear Zero case in the International Court of Justice. The Marshall Islands has lodged cases against the 9 nuclear armed States. The cases are proceeding with respect to the United Kingdom, India and Pakistan – all of whom accept the compulsory jurisdiction of the court.

The cases allege that the nuclear armed States are in violation of their obligation to negotiate for nuclear disarmament. The case is a follow-up to the 1996 Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice which concluded that there is a universal and unconditional obligation to conclude negotiations on nuclear disarmament in all its aspects. The Marshall Islands case therefore calls on the States to commence negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention.

Other States parties to the NPT are invited to intervene in the case against the UK. UNFOLD ZERO asks non-governmental organisations to urge their governments to intervene in support of the Marshall Islands.

There is also an initiative by the government of Mexico to make the employment of nuclear weapons an international crime under the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court. They have proposed an amendment to the Rome Statute establishing the Criminal Court and are seeking support from other countries.

In 2013 the United Nations General Assembly established September 26 as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.

For the first commemoration of the day in 2014, UNFOLD ZERO coordinated actions around the world, including:

- A UN commemoration event at the United Nations in Geneva,
- Support for the day from over 100 non-governmental organisations in the fields of human rights, environment, peace, disarmament, development, inter-faith....
- Joint statements by Korean & Japanese parliamentarians and by European Parliamentarians
- Motions in several parliaments
- Global video action – ‘How many nuclear weapons in the world’
- And many other events

For the 2015 commemoration of the Day, UNFOLD ZERO (and the United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs) will be linking with the International Day for Peace on Sep 21, so that organisations can do actions/events anytime in the week of Sep 21-26.

We will organise a global action – encouraging civil society to call on your leader to highlight nuclear abolition and the international day in the opening session of the UN General Assembly which occurs in September in New York.

UNFOLD ZERO is working with Light Cone Pictures for an International Screening week of the movie ‘The Man who Saved the World’, which is about the incident on Sep 26, 1983 when we almost had a nuclear war by mistake. Please contact UNFOLD ZERO if you would like to organise a screening of the movie.

UNFOLD ZERO is calling on the UN General Assembly this October to establish an Open Ended Working Group on nuclear disarmament. This would pick up on the preparatory work done by an Open Ended Working Group that ran in 2013.

The 2015 NPT Final Draft Document included the recommendation that the UN General Assembly should establish an Open Ended Working Group. The proposal is supported by Inter Parliamentary Union which comprises 166 parliaments, and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly which comprises 57 parliaments.

An Open Ended Working Group is a common UN practice to pave the way for negotiations. A UN OEWG on the Arms Trade, for example, paved the way for the successful negotiations on an Arms Trade Treaty.

An OEWG could examine options to ‘fill the legal gap’ as highlighted by the Humanitarian Pledge, and pave way for negotiations.

The United Nations has decided to hold a High Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament no later than 2018. The OEWG could prepare a nuclear disarmament agreement (or agreements) for adoption at the High Level Conference.

For more information on these, and other UN nuclear disarmament initiatives, please visit www.unfoldzero.org

Kasai Kimiyo President, New Japan Women’s Association (Shinfujin)

Japanese women are marking the summer of the 70th year of the Atomic bombing amidst the epoch-making groundswell of people’s struggle.

Prime Minister Abe Shinzo addressed the US Congress this past spring, just when we were taking part in the New York Action for the 9th Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), and he promised to have legislation enacted by summer for enabling Japan to wage war with the United State. The war bills, now pending in the current Diet session, will destroy the Japanese Constitution which pledges Japan’s renunciation of war in order to remake Japan under the US nuclear umbrella into a “country that wages war” with the US, incorporating the country further into the US nuclear strategy. People and women of Japan will never allow this to happen.

The NPT Review Conference was not able to agree on a final document and most Japanese media reported that the Conference “failed”. But this is a very superficial view. The truth is that as a new trend addressing nuclear weapons focusing on their inhuman nature and growing actions of civil society are gaining momentum, the idea of introducing a convention banning nuclear weapons got into the Conference discussion for the first time with an overwhelming majority of State Parties supporting it. Some nuclear weapons states and their allies including Japan were miserably besieged and isolated. Through various activities organized under the theme of “Peace & Planet”, we civil society members shared a vision for realizing a bright future of a just society by eliminating nuclear weapons. Shinfujin members including myself who were there have worked to make all these known to our members and the public, as we gear up our campaign against the war legislation while organizing A-bomb photo exhibitions and

signature drives towards this World Conference.

In Japan today, the movement to block the war bills is developing involving people of different sectors, different communities and different generations. Above all, mobilization of young people and women is amazing, and the unprecedented rise of people’s movement is driving the Abe Cabinet into a corner. Facing the impact of the Great East Earthquake that took place on March 11, 2011 and the Tokyo Electric Power Company’s Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant accident, the growing gap between the rich and poor, and the coming of the extreme-right Abe Shinzo into power, those who started to feel “things were not going right” stood up at once, and a new power for democracy is popping up from day to day throughout the country.

In the searing heat, women are organizing red actions all over Japan almost every day, wearing red to show that they are giving “red card” to Abe Cabinet. Their actions are mobilizing public opinion from the grass roots. Young mothers marched through the streets of Shibuya, Tokyo, chanting, “We will not let anyone’s child get killed”. Those who saw the notice circulated on the Internet or those who just happened to be there joined the march one after another, and the number of the participants swelled to 2,000. Inspired by the success of the Shibuya demonstration, mothers have started to organize actions in their communities. Such actions like mothers’ “zoo jack” and “sea Jack (action in front of the aquarium) have spread so quickly in 33 prefectures. The Abe Cabinet’s reckless push for a war-waging nation has shaken up those who used to have little interest in politics or movement, and more and more people are saying “No” to the doctrine of maintaining military force as “deterrence” in opposing to the war bills as well as to the construction of a new base in Okinawa. The call for Japan to stick to peace diplomacy based on Article 9 as its security policy is gaining wider support.

Being women of the country that waged a war of aggression and of the only nation that suffered the Atomic bombing, Japanese women have carried forward the movement consistently calling for preserving war-renouncing Article 9 and for the abolition of nuclear weapons together with the Hibakusha. What is remarkable about the current development is that those who have long and tenaciously been committed to the movement and those starting to take actions are joining together in a common effort. Young people are chanting, “Thank you, seniors. We get the baton,” “Tell me what democracy looks like. Don’t decide without us. We are the ones to

decide our own future". The future they want is a society without nuclear weapons and war. Giving a priority to involving young generations in the peace movement, Shinfujin has worked hard to send younger members to the New York actions for the NPT Review Conference and the World Conference against A and H Bombs. All over Japan, Shinfujin local members have organized "Constitution Café", small group gatherings to learn about issues regarding the Constitution and war bills. Young members who went to NY are speaking about their conviction that the international community is greatly changing to work together to eliminate nuclear weapons. They are confident that our movement has pushed the world forward to this direction. These young members have become organizers taking the lead in collecting signatures in opposition to the war bills and in support of nuclear abolition towards this World Conference. The number of signatures for the abolition of nuclear weapons has reached 1.58 million, adding 80,000 to what we brought to NY last April.

To make the 70th year of the Atomic bombing a decisive opportunity to achieve the abolition of nuclear weapons, Shinfujin is resolved to do its utmost to block the war bills and knock down the Abe administration, so that Japan can finally take significant steps towards a world free of nuclear weapons and war.

Jammu Narayana Rao Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space

NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT HOW FAR

As it is stated in the Appeal for a Total Ban on Nuclear Weapons by GENSUIKYO "In August 1945 two atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki instantly turned the two cities into ruins and took the lives of about 210 thousand people. Even now, more than 200,000 Hibakusha, A-Bomb survivors, are carrying with them scars. Their tragedy should not be repeated anywhere on earth." On this occasion of the 70th year of this barbaric, Inhuman and deadly destruction of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki by the most terrific weapons of terror, by the United States of America which has specialized in mass murders and destruction of countries we have gathered here to take stock of our efforts to ensure Total Ban on Nuclear Weapons. The destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki was unprecedented in the Human History which was the height of cruelty.

Mankind, except of a handful of leaders who are in possession of the Nuclear Weapons who are determined to preserve and use them at some time or the other, the people of the World want total elimination. There are several UNO resolutions and treaties. But the end is not visible when these weapons will be totally abolished. The obstacle is United States of America which is the first country to test, produce and use these weapons of mass destruction. But President of U.S Barack Obama has created a hope that the abolition of Nuclear Weapons is not far off when he said on 5 April 2009 in Prague that "As a Nuclear Power as the only nuclear power to have used a nuclear weapon-the United States has a moral responsibility to act. We cannot succeed in this endeavour alone, but we can lead it, we can start it". Having said this he stands still abandoning any leading role, rather he is moving backwards instead of moving forward.

All the Presidents and Prime Ministers of the Nuclear Weapon Countries must be made to see collectively the destruction, death, suffering, agony of the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki preserved in the Peace Museums at Hiroshima and Nagasaki. These great people should be asked whether they want to do the same thing once again with greater force to the people now, with the Nuclear Weapons which they are preserving. If the nuclear deterrence is in their interest to save their people, the same logic can also be justified by other countries and the Nuclear Arms Race will continue.

Scientists and Physicians have created enough evidence what will happen if some of these deadly Nuclear Weapons are used, resulting in Nuclear Winter, Nuclear Famine, climate & ecological changes, draining of resources and ultimately obliterating life on earth. Handful of leaders are holding the billions of people of the world as hostages. The first resolution passed by the UNO, the NPT, the Canberra commission, Hans Blix Commission of Weapons of Mass Destruction, The Millennium Declaration and several resolutions world over are repeatedly drawing the attention of the Nuclear Nations about the need to work for the abolition of Nuclear Weapons.

According to the Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission headed by Hans Blix, there were 27,000 Nuclear Weapons in the year 2006. According to the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, in the middle of 2014, there are 16300 Nuclear Weapons. While the reduction of the number is a welcome trend, this cannot be a substitute for total elimination.

The demand for prevention and elimination of Nuclear Weapons started even before they were produced. Hungarian Physicist Leo Szilard along with 60 other scientists sent a letter to President of USA Franklin D. Roosevelt not to use the atomic weapons on Japan. It was followed by the Bertrand Russell and Einstein Appeal in July 1955 which states that “We appeal as human beings to human beings, remember your humanity and forget the rest. If you can do so there lies open to a new Paradise: if you cannot, there lies before you the risk of universal death”. Pugwash Movement of the Scientists, International Physicians for Prevention of Nuclear Weapons, International Peace Bureau, World Peace Council, Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space, and many International and National movements are campaigning for abolition of Nuclear Weapons. Above all GENSUIKYO is rallying the people world over, to voice for abolition of Nuclear Weapons. Now the UN Secretary General Ban-Moon has joined us to demand Abolition of Nuclear weapons with his Five Point Proposal. He should make step forward to emulate Gandhi and lead a movement of “Satyagraha”

Thanks to the bilateral treaties between the USSR and US several agreements beginning with Partial Test Ban treaty in 1963 to New START Treaty in 2010 have been adopted to reduce the Number of Nuclear Weapons and Carriers like missiles and rockets. But these two countries which hold 90% of the total Nuclear Weapons must work for the implementation of Article VI of the NPT, which states that “Each of the parties to the Treaty undertakes to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and nuclear disarmament, and on a Treaty on general and completer disarmament under strict and effective international Control”. This also has been emphasized by the International court of Justice which states in it’s advisory opinion on 8th July 1996 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”. The most practical steps in the direction of Nuclear Disarmament are suggested in 2007 Draft Nuclear Weapon Convention.

The Nuclear Security Summits which are being held at regular intervals of two years since 2010 are camouflaged to divert the attention from the issue of total abolition of Nuclear

Weapons. These summits are concentrating on preserving the Nuclear Weapons bringing the Terrorist threats into limelight. In none of the meetings not a single word of commitment of Nuclear Abolition is spoken or recorded in the declarations about total abolition of Nuclear Weapons.

The real solution or the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons lies in the proposed model Nuclear Weapon Convention 2007 which states that “all states would be prohibited from pursuing or participating in the development, testing, production, stockpiling, transfer, use and threat of use of nuclear weapons. Those States that possess nuclear weapons would be obligated to destroy their nuclear arsenals in series of phases. These five phases would progress as follows: taking nuclear weapons off alert, removing weapons from deployment, removing nuclear warheads from their delivery vehicles, disabling the warheads, removing and disfiguring the “pits” and placing the fissile material under international control.”

Lastly I quote Mahatma Gandhi what he said about the antidote to the Bomb.” I regard the employment of the atom bomb for the wholesale destruction of men, women and children as the most diabolical use of science.’ What is the antidote? Has it antiquated on-violence?” No. On the contrary, nonviolence is the only thing that is now left in the field. It is the only thing that the atom bomb cannot destroy. I did not move a muscle when I first heard that the atom bomb had wiped out Hiroshima. On the contrary, I said to myself,’ unless now the world adopts non-violence, it will spell certain suicide for mankind”.

Once again the NPT Review Conference of 2015 ended in a disaster.US and Israel teemed to sabotage it. A country devoid of compassion and concern for humanity cannot be called a Super Power. It is a satanic power. I suggest that let us collect signatures on an appeal addressed to the President of US to stop alibis and commit itself for total abolition of Nuclear weapons and submit it to the US Ambassadors in all Countries on the Hiroshima Day in 2015.

**Kisten McCandless
Campaign for International Co-operation
and Disarmament (CICD)
Australia**

The Campaign for International Co-operation and Disarmament sends its support and best wishes to the 2015 World Conference against A & H Bombs. We hope it will inspire, strengthen

and galvanise all participants to work towards eliminating the world of nuclear weapons as a matter of urgency.

The CICD believes that gatherings such as yours are important for developing solidarity with peace movements worldwide and for bringing the inhumanity and horror of these weapons of mass destruction to the attention of the public.

The majority of the world's people support a total ban on nuclear weapons. In Australia well over 80 per cent of people support a ban. We have a healthy and active peace movement in Australia of which the CICD is a part.

Gatherings such as this 70th Anniversary Commemorative Conference go a long way in putting pressure on governments – especially governments of nuclear-armed countries – by building up public opinion to defeat the nuclear deterrence theory that they rely on to justify having these weapons.

The Australian government does not have an independent foreign policy. We blindly follow the USA into their wars. We host and participate in joint military exercises in the top of Australia as part of America's Pacific Pivot strategy. We allow US spy bases to operate and expand here and we rely on the nuclear weapons of the United States and its nuclear deterrence policy for our "security".

The Australian government therefore puts at risk the security and well-being of the people it is supposed to serve by making Australia a target in the event of a nuclear war. Despite this, more than 100 Australian parliamentarians have signed ICAN's global appeal for a treaty banning nuclear weapons. (ICAN is the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons.)

Many people feel powerless and as a consequence defeated by what is happening in the world on the big issues of weapons of mass destruction, climate change, and the dangerous conflicts raging around the planet at the moment. There is a heightened and relentless level of misinformation being peddled by the world's mainstream media outlets that often results in people feeling fearful and apathetic about these issues.

This World Conference and 70th Anniversary is important for informing and educating the public about what is really going on and for motivating them to join together in demanding their governments negotiate for peaceful solutions to end these wars. This conference has a role to play in mobilising people to demand that these inhumane and uncivilised ways of conducting ourselves on this fragile planet has to

stop – that we are better than this and won't stand for it anymore.

Once the public is informed and motivated they can demand that the trillions of dollars spent on the military industrial complex be used for ending world poverty, raising the standard of living for all and preventing and reversing man-made climate change. Pressure will be put on their governments to end the threat of the ever-present danger of nuclear conflict in this unstable world by demanding the complete prohibition and elimination of the nuclear arsenals. Gatherings such as this conference can enlighten the public to realise their power in uniting together to demand their governments implement these goals.

Nuclear weapons bring insecurity and instability, not safety and protection. There are over 15,000 nuclear weapons on alert and ready to use in the hands of nine states. This is morally unjustifiable on every level and these states should be regarded as international outlaws; that eliminating those arsenals is an obligation that can no longer be deferred. The flimsy policy of nuclear deterrence is unjustifiable. Nuclear weapons are the antithesis of civilisation and humanity. They are pure madness. For some of those states that possess them they are the ultimate expression of imperialist aggression and dominance over others – that possessing them is a threat psychologically over the population of another country. Biological and chemical weapons are banned – so too should nuclear weapons.

One of the most powerful moral deterrents against the use of nuclear weapons are the personal testimonies of survivors. The survivors of nuclear tests from Australia, the USA and Marshall Islands to name a few should be heard and be made known to as many people as possible. But the most powerful testimonies in inspiring people to demand a ban on nuclear weapons are those of the Hibakusha.

On this 70th Anniversary Commemoration of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki the brave Hibakusha and their stories of what it was actually like to experience an atomic bombing in all its horror on them, their loved ones, friends and cities as they innocently went about their morning should be listened to, really understood and relayed to the world.

The CICD stands in solidarity with the Hibakusha on this important anniversary and world conference. We stand with these survivors in their steadfast call for the total elimination and ban of nuclear weapons; for no more Hibakusha.

Only through international co-operation and disarmament can all of humanity experience true well-being and our precious planet flourish.

Yours for a nuclear weapon-free, peaceful and just world.

Cesar Jaramillo
Project Ploughshares
Canada

Today is a somber day. But it is also a hopeful day.

Somber because we stand here to remember that dreadful month of August, 70 years ago, when death, destruction, and incalculable human suffering befell the men, women, and children of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Many died instantly; others in the weeks and months that followed. Up to a quarter-million people are estimated to have been killed. Farmers and teachers, singers and poets, sons and daughters, old and young.

Yet some survived: the brave Hibakusha, who have since offered firsthand, living testimony of the utter devastation caused by nuclear weapons and the long-lasting physical and emotional scars they leave behind.

So yes, this is a sad anniversary. A grim reminder that humankind has devised the means to destroy itself—efficiently.

But this is also a day of hope. Because the push for a ban on nuclear weapons is growing with every passing day. In intensity, in sophistication, in effectiveness, in numbers. People all over the world are working tirelessly and diligently to make sure that humanity never again witnesses a tragedy like the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

And how can the international community go about preventing such a tragedy? There must be a global legal ban on nuclear weapons, with specific provisions for the elimination of existing arsenals and a timeline for verified implementation. There is no other way to rid the world of the most destructive weapons ever made.

Regrettably, this issue has drifted endlessly without resolution, despite overwhelming evidence that nuclear weapons lack any legal, political, military, or moral justification. More than four decades after the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty came into force, and seven decades after the devastation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the states that rely on nuclear weapons consider serious work toward nuclear abolition.

The discriminatory nature of the NPT is untenable. Just consider the lopsided logic by

which the very states that have developed, stockpiled, tested, and used nuclear weapons deem themselves fit to chastise others on the risks of proliferation. The moral high ground claimed by nuclear-weapons states (NWS) is built upon an extremely weak and inherently unjust foundation.

The combined nuclear arsenal of these states is more than 15,000 warheads, many of which are tens of times more powerful than the ones that devastated Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Many are on high alert status, ready to be launched within minutes.

The risk of deliberate use is compounded by the concomitant risks of accidental or unintended use. But demands for nuclear abolition are mounting. Calls come from a growing number of scientists, legal scholars, mayors and parliamentarians, active and retired diplomats, statesmen and regular citizens—from both nuclear and non-nuclear weapons states.

The humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons should be the key consideration in all nuclear disarmament efforts. Indeed the only foolproof way to ensure that humans do not again suffer the devastation caused by nuclear bombs is to eliminate this category of weapons altogether.

The humanitarian initiative is not focused on merely recognizing the impact of nuclear weapons, but on drawing out the policy implications that follow from such a recognition. If the consequences of nuclear weapons use are unacceptable, and there is a clear and present danger that these weapons may be used by accident, miscalculation, or design, then they must be eliminated.

The process to establish a legal ban on nuclear weapons, with or without the participation of nuclear weapons states, would constitute a welcome step forward. It would be rooted in the widespread rejection of the continued existence of nuclear weapons and a full recognition of the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of their use.

The road to complete abolition will have obstacles. All the more reason to start a serious process now, before the accidental or deliberate detonation of a nuclear weapon—by a state or non-state actor—reminds the world of just how urgent this matter is.

Let me share a passage by the late author and Nobel Prize laureate Gabriel Garcia Marquez:

Since the appearance of visible life on Earth, 380 million years had to elapse in order for a butterfly to learn how to fly, 180 million years to create a rose with no other commitment than to be beautiful, and four geological eras in order

for us human beings, unlike our primitive ancestors, to be able to sing better than birds, and to be able to die from love. It is not honorable for the human talent, in the golden age of science, to have conceived the way for such an ancient and colossal process to return to the nothingness from which it came through the simple act of pushing a button.

The calls to address the fundamental injustices underpinning the global nuclear disarmament regime are getting louder and more determined. An engaged international civil society will continue to urge progress and scrutinize results. And decision-makers will be increasingly held accountable by their constituents for their failure to act.

The use of nuclear weapons is unacceptable and the goal of their complete elimination is not negotiable. It is thus imperative that decision-makers realize that they must have the wisdom, the courage, the foresight, and the audacity to rid the world of the most devastating instruments of mass destruction ever conceived. What better way to honour those who suffered the devastation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki?

The stakes are that high. And the cause is that worthy.

He Jun Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament People's Republic of China

I think it is significant for us to gather here in Hiroshima to review history and discuss ways to maintain the world's security and peace. Allow me, on behalf of the Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament, to express our cordial gratitude to the Organizing Committee for its proactive effort in preparation for the World Conference.

Seventy years ago, the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki caused tremendous human damage. I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest sympathy to all the victims of the tragedy. I'd also like to congratulate the people of Hiroshima, Nagasaki and the rest of Japan on the social development and economic growth they have achieved through efforts after WWII by pursuing the path for peaceful development.

With the world being polarized, the globalization of the economy underway, and society becoming IT-driven, the international community is becoming day by day a community sharing common destiny. Peace, development,

cooperation, and the win-win approach constitute an irresistible world trend. At the same time, we are witnessing the emergence of hegemony, authoritarianism, and new interventionism, thus intensifying international disputes among various international forces over a redistribution of power and interests and giving rise to terrorist activities day by day and making ethnic and sectarian conflicts and border or territorial disputes more complicated. Small-scale conflicts are constantly taking place; clashes are unstoppable; and crises are everywhere. The world is still exposed to real or latent threats of localized conflicts.

Coordination and cooperation have recently increased in the international community, perseveringly promoting global nuclear non-proliferation, nuclear disarmament, and the process of nuclear security. Our goal to achieve a nuclear-free world through a total ban on nuclear weapons and their elimination has been widely accepted these days. The international society has the shared awareness in regard to nuclear nonproliferation. Nevertheless, there are many pending nuclear issues that we cannot overlook. Global negotiations on nuclear strategies are intensifying and regional nuclear issues are diverse and complicated. The full implementation of the NPT is thwarted in many ways. Above anything else, we must pay attention to the issue of nuclear security, which is still a sword of Damocles hanging over our heads. Globally, we have already witnessed a number of nuclear accidents happening, which have brought about tremendous damage to humankind and the environment. With nuclear materials and technologies proliferating nuclear threats facing us is further increasing. I don't think we can be optimistic about the present world situation regarding nuclear weapons.

As a nuclear state, China has been working hard to promote nuclear disarmament, tenaciously calling for a total ban on nuclear weapons and their complete elimination. Soon after China possessed nuclear weapons, we cordially declared to the world our determination to not preemptively use nuclear weapons at any time and under any circumstances. China promised it will neither use, nor threaten to use, nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon states or nuclear-free zones. China's nuclear strategy is structured on self-defense. It maintains its nuclear forces at a minimum level to ensure the national security. It has never deployed nuclear weapons outside the country. It has never participated and will never take part in the nuclear arms race in any ways. In April this

year, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress discussed and approved the Protocol to the Treaty on a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone in Central Asia. This is intended to support the international nuclear nonproliferation regime and ensure the security of the neighboring areas. Amity, sincerity, mutual benefit, and tolerance are China's approaches to diplomacy with neighboring countries.

Here, I would like to take this opportunity to call on all nuclear powers to steadfastly implement their commitment to nuclear disarmament and not to seek to possess nuclear weapons permanently. In order to reduce threats of nuclear weapons, nuclear powers should abandon their policy of threatening with nuclear weapons based on the doctrine of the preemptive use of nuclear weapons, promise not to use nuclear weapon preemptively, and start negotiations on a treaty of non-first-use of nuclear weapons. Nuclear powers should also make clear that they will not threaten to use or use the weapons against non-nuclear countries or in nuclear-free zones. In addition, I hope countries should give up developing a missile defense system that changes the strategic stability of the world, promote vigorously multilateral negotiations on the use of space for peaceful purposes to avoid a space arms race, and create a good atmosphere for global strategic environments for nuclear disarmament.

If we make a step forward in the nuclear disarmament efforts, the world will be a safer place. We will continue to make efforts to contribute to achieving lasting peace. The Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament is the largest civil organization in China. Its main aim is to promote mutual understanding, friendship and cooperation between Chinese people and peoples around the world, work together to maintain global peace, oppose the arms race and war, call on the total ban and elimination of weapons of mass destruction including nuclear weapons, and facilitate the harmonious development of the world. Our association will work to promote mutual understanding and friendship among peoples as well as peace and security of the world.

Let us promote regional and international cooperation for nuclear security by increasing mutual communication and sharing experience, resources and platforms. Let us coordinate our efforts and work together to help more peace organizations join in the nuclear disarmament process, get benefits from that, and put energy in it. Let's respect the right of nations to adopt their

own nuclear security policies most suitable to their situations and advance international nuclear security cooperation proactively and moderately by holding mutual respect and fairness.

Today, as we meet here and witness the prosperity of Hiroshima that resurrected from its total devastation, we must keep in mind the importance of realizing that we can maintain social stability and people's happiness only if we take the path of peaceful development. We will join you in defending peace and justice of the world and oppose war. Let us walk hand in hand to help people gain confidence in the prospect of a nuclear-free, peaceful and secure world.

Eeva-Helena Inomaa Performers and Artists for Nuclear Disarmament (PAND) Finland

Peace and Love from Finland!

The members of our delegation are from an organisation called PAND - The Artists for Peace, PAND stands for Performers and Artists for Nuclear Disarmament. Our aim is to work for peace, human rights and nuclear free world. Besides of artists our members are from various fields of culture workers wanting to do something for peace.

I came to PAND through the story of Sadako, I love the art of origami and when I heard how the paper crane became the symbol of peace, I wanted to tell it to everyone. "No more Hiroshima!"

So 10 years ago I started the project The cranes of Peace in PAND. We have had workshops where I have told Sadako's story and we have made thousands of cranes. The workshops are not only for making cranes, but we talk about how senseless wars are and how to make people work for peace.

We have raised money with exhibitions of cranes for The Red Cross to the victims of wars. Every year there is a Hiroshima event in Helsinki, where people set the candles to the gulf of Töölö and PAND has made the origami cranes "fly" through the center of Helsinki and join the event to honour and remember the victims of Hiroshima.

Today, there are conflicts everywhere in the world and the threat of war is hanging above us, it is more important than ever to take action for peace!

So we remind people how destructive and dangerous nuclear weapons are and especially

how important it is to work for nuclear disarmament.

But what has happened? It seems that there is more and more armament race everywhere, it has to stop!

PAND wants to ask you by what kind of weapon do you aim for peace?

We arm ourselves with arts and aim for peace.

Through music, poetry, acting, dancing, literature and all various arts, we can bring hope to despair and overcome fear. With collaboration we can reach peace, together!

Arundhoti Roy Choudhury Thakurpukur Centre for Peace and Development Initiative, India

When we sit on the issue few questions crop up :

- As human beings what are our goals, whether short term or long term?
- We need to construct our planet or destroy it.
- If there is any danger existing in the world, is it dangerous for all or only for one?
- What are the things that can destroy humanity?
- Are we here only to exist/survive; only struggling?
- Who is tragedy struck at the end of the day—the bomber or the bombed?
- Who can choose the answers?

The only one to whom I can point to, for all the answer is 'me' or 'we'.

We only can advocate for nonviolence. Love, honor, and respect can be our shield. But we need to understand that when we all have the same home we have to all share equally, be it destruction or peace. And at the end none will be left behind.

The competition, which we are into is so dangerous -- one country has Nuclear Weapon, so why won't I? It is every one's responsibility and not my alone to think over the issue to make every one understand that disarmament is a compulsion. Why can't we try to put the cup upside down? No one has, so I won't have either. Now comes up the question, who will give up first? The one, who started with it, can take up the competition the other way round.

I add my voice to those urging substantial commitments and real progress towards the realization of a world without nuclear weapon. I believe, people who have never suffered the kind of irreparable damages those nuclear weapons would wreak, need to try to understand the issue. We all need to promise that Nuclear weapons must never be used, not even for testing – under

any circumstances. There can be no issue which can't be resolved across the table. We need to make use of the opportunity here, to once again remind the world about the tragic consequences of nuclear testing. We need to take a pledge on nuclear disarmament and push the global community towards more decisive actions to achieve a final and definitive ban on such testing or using. We have our talents; we have our virtues, why can't we reason out! All you need is a plan and the determination to see it through.

One after the other resolution is being made to achieve a permanent end to nuclear weapons testing and the total abolition of nuclear armament but still there remains a 'BUT.'

We say we are 'civilized'. I need to ask, 'Are we?' 'To get the answer I think, we need to go deep down into the meaning of the word 'civilized.'

We are well aware of the effects of the Nuclear Weapons. So why do we need to show our power to prove our superiority? When it is said that the world could be erased in a single flash of light with Nuclear Weapons, can't we do away with those for our global safety, security, society, economy, and ultimately our survival. We know that it takes patience, persistence good intention but for how long we need to wait? 70 years have passed since it was used and still we exist with a threat. It is high time we ignore the voices who tell us that the world cannot change. We have to achieve a global ban on nuclear testing. After more than five decades of talks, conferences, paper work it is time for the testing of nuclear weapons to be finally banned.

We need to think over - can we begin with the idea of 'catch them young'. Let us try out - Right from school education, and make our children understand the importance of nuclear disarmament. I quote from the National Council for Education and Research and Training (NCERT) India:

"When we are teaching English you are preparing the ground to spread the culture worldwide.

When you are teaching Sanskrit you are planning to dig the mines of knowledge.

When you are teaching Sciences, you are driving away poverty and diseases that are eating away the humanity.

When you are teaching social sciences you are preparing the fine leadership in your classroom.

When you are teaching Art, you are bringing the future generation close to nature and natural way of living.

When you are teaching Craft, you are making the hands of the child strong, so that it can live life in a dignified way.”

This is peace education. Peace is there in the classroom. Peace is there in the teacher’s teaching. Peace is there in the love for the child. We need to deliver it. We can show the Peace to the world as peace in action. In the present circumstances of global and local conflicts sometimes it may appear that to talk about peace is like moving the mountains --- it is like swimming against the tide. But obstacles can overcome with unity, dedication and hard work. There is no curse bigger than living a life of threat. Let us walk together in the pathways of peace along with children so that we can bring peace in the world. Enough of teaching our children ‘A’ for apple. Why don’t we start right from the alphabet and see if we can sow the seed of peace right from the time the child learns to communicate? **To you, who can fund, I say, fund not the nuclear rather fund a world “new and clear” of nuclear.** Let us make the kids on earth understand the following. I quote: **“All though we hail from different lands We share our earth and sky and sun Remember friends, the world is one”.**

The march of civilization started with the battle for survival of the fittest. Today as we are moving at lightening speed towards what seems like the end of civilization, the need of the day looks like another battle for survival and most certainly it has to be the survival of the weakest. The strong needs to willingly and lovingly lose this battle to the weak, ensure them that we will cohabit this world without demarcations of nuclear strong or nuclear weak. In this selfless defeat will lie the true victory of **humanity**.

Niranjan Chatterjee
Centre of Indian Trade Unions-West
Bengal State Committee, India

On behalf of Centre of Indian Trade Unions I must express my revolutionary greetings and solidarity to the all organizations those are fighting to create a nuclear free World.

Past History

We all know in August 1945, Hiroshima and Nagasaki were turned to a “hell” by only two bombs. By the end of the year, as many as 210,000 people died. Approximately 200,000 of those who barely survived have later suffered from diseases, wounds in both mind and body, anxiety on their health and many other unmeasurable agonies. Testimonies of the

survivors are telling us that nuclear weapons, if used, would cause catastrophic humanitarian consequences. There must never be another “hell” anywhere on earth.

US Hegemony

We have gathered here to observe 70th Anniversary of Nuclear Bombings on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. When imperialists powers such US and NATO are aggressively pursuing their military hegemony throughout the world. A Nuclear weapons free world and an International treaty for a total Ban on Nuclear Weapons cannot be achieved without fighting against imperialist forces. These battle also a battle of classes. Most people - even the leaders of nuclear armed states - say they want a world without nuclear weapons. Everyone recognizes the brutal consequences that would be caused by the use of nuclear weapons. But at the same time nuclear armed states continue to value nuclear weapons highly and invest billions of dollars in upgrading and developing them.

Non-proliferation Treaty

In May 2010, the 189 parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), including the Nuclear weapons states, agreed **“to achieve the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons.”** Now is the time to act to accomplish it.

The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference of **2015** has failed to make progress in controlling nuclear weapons. At present day world’s nine nuclear armed states are already directly or indirectly engaged in armed conflicts. When the Non-Proliferation Treaty came into full force in **1970**, it recognized 5 nuclear armed states, which are also the 5 permanent members of the United Nation Security Council. Of those, the US, UK, Russia had signed the treaty, along with 40 non-nuclear states. In **1992** nuclear armed France and China acceded to the treaty. Today there are 191 parties to the treaty, 189 UN member states plus the Vatican and Palestine.

NPT & After

After 45 years the number of nuclear armed states has increased to 9. The two major nuclear armed states, the US and Russia have reduced their nuclear arsenals to about 5000 each while other nuclear arsenals have stabilized to continue to grow. United States has embarked on an overhaul of its nuclear arsenals and infrastructure, a commitment that may cost 1 trillion dollars over the next 30 years. Between March 2004 and March 2015 both Russia and the United States slightly increased their numbers of deployed warheads and both countries are working on new

long range strike bombers. France is developing; a new cruise missile and UK will decide in the near future whether to replace its fleet of nuclear armed submarine. This is the reality of the world.

The role of Civil Society

Within civil society, international peace movement, the Red Cross movement and in diplomatic discussions between governments, there has been a renewed focus on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons. Banning nuclear weapons would likely entail the development of an international legal instrument prohibiting the use, development, production, stop piling, transfer, acquisition, deployment and financing of nuclear weapons, as well as prohibiting assistance with this acts. It could also recognize the responsibilities of the state to ensure the rights of victims of nuclear weapons use or testing, require decontamination and remediation of affected areas and provide for cooperation and assistance to meet these obligations. It could provide a frame work for the elimination of nuclear weapons within agreed time frames, for those states with nuclear weapons that join or that negotiates other agreements consistent with the treaty.

Preparation for World Convention against Nuclear Weapons

146 countries with 81% of world population support the immediate commencement of negotiations leading to a convention. Only 26 countries opposed to the idea and 22 seats on the fence. The whole of Latin America, Caribbean and Africa are in favour of a nuclear weapons convention, along with most nations in Asia, Pacific and Middle East. Support is weakest among European and North American nations, many of which are part of NATO. Countries of European unions are not favouring this move. 4 nuclear armed states China, India, Pakistan and North Korea support this move but US, UK, Israel, and France are against a total ban on nuclear weapons.

Task & Struggles

The ruling class of US and NATO simply wants business by promoting war and nuclear industry. They want to grab wealth of other countries by any means so they are engaged in war or proxy war to change the regime of other countries.

Only struggles of working class against the ruling classes of the imperialist forces can change the equilibrium and status quo. **WFTU is playing a pivotal role towards the present task of the time.**

It is the responsibility of all states to make progress towards negotiation on nuclear

disarmament. Banning nuclear weapons is a pragmatic way to confront the risk posed by nuclear weapons and is a logical evolution of nuclear disarmament discourse and process.

Conclusion

When we commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the Atomic annihilation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki we should keep in mind fight against nuclear weapons cannot be won without fight against neo-liberal rightwing policy onslaughts of imperialist powers. Only a class oriented movement and progressive forces who lead the peace movement can make a global opinion, participation to create a nuclear free world.

Now is the time to work for peace and nuclear weapons free world. Let us all boldly and finally move towards this goal. Give peace a chance.

Prakash Meghe Coalition for Nuclear Disarmament and Peace India

NUCLEAR WEAPON FREE WORLD: ONLY OPTION TO SAVE EARTH

Dear participants of the world conference against Atomic & Hydrogen Bombs, I earnestly thank the organizers for inviting me to participate in this conference as a Representative of **Coalition for Nuclear Disarmament and Peace (CNDP)**, India. I express deep gratitude towards organizers for granting me such unique opportunity to communicate with you on the occasion of 70th Anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombing.

Since the theme of the conference being "a Nuclear weapon free, peaceful and just world and to make 70th year of atomic bombing a decisive turn to a world without nuclear weapons", I chose this session to express my views in this conference.

When we talk about achieving a Nuclear Free World, then naturally the question arises, why nuclear weapons are invented or created in this world? Is it merely as one of the science experiment or invention or for some other ulterior motive or purpose? one cannot deny the fact that, when atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima on 6th August, 1945 and thousands and thousands people died, suffered from burns and disabilities due to radioactivity, the Uncle Sam from its Headquarters declared shamelessly that "Our experiment of science is successful". In this declaration there is hardly any shame for

such massive killings of people of Hiroshima. It seems the destruction of Human lives and property in Hiroshima was not sufficient for them, they went ahead to bomb Nagasaki. After 70 years, one can definitely say that the Nuclear Weapons are Weapons of mass destruction and they have potential to destroy the entire civilization and eco system of this planet.

After atomic bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the world opinion was totally against the U.S. Imperialism. However, the U.S. came out with their new strategy to distract the attention of people of the world from this ghastly and heinous crime which they committed at Hiroshima and Nagasaki with slogan of "Atom for Peace" by which they campaigned for Nuclear energy. In last 70 years, it is now clear to entire world that Nuclear energy is process through which Nuclear weapons can be built-up. Take example of India which declared for number of years that, they are using Nuclear material for generating only energy and then first atomic explosion was performed in 1974 and subsequently in May, 1998 conducted Nuclear Tests. It was followed by Pakistan on 28-29 May 1998 as a retaliatory measure. This brought a new unstable atmosphere with Nuclear threat and race of Nuclear arsenals between India, Pakistan and China.

Despite such drastic effect of atom bomb, Russia, France, U.K. and China went to perform Nuclear tests and armed themselves with Nuclear Weapons under the "Doctrine of Deterrence". Due to increasing piling of Nuclear Weapons, ultimately the pressure from Non-Nuclear states increased and due to sentiments of people in the decade of sixties, the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) came into existence which created lot of hopes amongst people to proceed towards a world without Nuclear Weapons. However even after the period of more than 48 years and after the failure to reach consensus in the Review Conference of NPT 2015, the hopes of a Nuclear Weapon Free World hit another blow. By rough estimates, more than 17000 atomic bombs are lying in storage with these Nuclear Weapon States and out of that more than half are with U.S. alone.

After the end of cold war in 1991 when the Soviet Union got dissolved, separated nations like Belarus, Ukraine and Kazakhstan decided to return the nuclear war heads to Russia and decided to join the group of Non-Nuclear States. It created another hopes amongst world people that U.S. in this era would avail this opportunity to go for abolition of nuclear weapons and particularly when two nuclear weapon states owning more than 95% nuclear weapons, even went for Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START-I) in 1994 and even (START-II) also

took place. However, lots of hopes were there from NPT Review Conference 1995.

After the advisory opinion of International Court of Justice which held that use or threaten to use Nuclear weapon is against International law and appealed to Nuclear Weapon States to negotiate for Nuclear Disarmament, a new momentum generated in organizations working against nuclear weapons. At the same time, group of Non-Nuclear States comprising of Brazil, Egypt, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, Slovenia, South Africa and Sweden came with joint declaration namely "Towards A Nuclear Weapon Free World: The Need For New Agenda", thereby forming New Agenda Coalition (NAC). This Coalition, in its unequivocal terms declared its objective to have nuclear weapon free world. The group also went ahead to bring resolution in General Assembly of United Nations based on verdict of International Court of Justice which passed with 114 Nations voting in its favor. These developments clearly revealed that, majority nations on this planet are for a world without nuclear weapons. Meanwhile Costa Rica moved Model Nuclear Weapons Convention which aims for eliminating nuclear weapons from this world and appealed to nuclear weapons states to negotiate on the issue of abolishing nuclear weapons. Not only that, the opinion polls on nuclear weapons convention during 1997-98 clearly in favor of negotiations on nuclear weapons convention. The Japan overwhelmingly voted with 78% for abolition of nuclear weapons.

Under these circumstances, the need of the hour is to bring the Nuclear Weapons States on negotiation table for wiping out nuclear weapons from this world by stages. This can take place only with the help of strong, committed people's movement against Nuclearisation and such initiative must come from civil society organizations. Almost all nations have democratic setup and the Governments of Non-Nuclear States can take initiative for bringing Nuclear Weapon States to have dialogue for annihilation of these weapons but, such initiative can be possible if, such movement develops in these countries. Number of Governments of Non-nuclear states have taken initiative by forming commissions and lobbying with nuclear states in this regard. After Fukushima disaster, even so called 'peaceful use of atom' is equally dangerous for humanity, is proved and therefore, the movement should be against nuclear weapons as well as against nuclear energy too.

Therefore we must try to develop movement demanding that:

1. Nuclear Weapon States should declare exact number of nuclear weapons in their storage and **also transparently account for fissile material stockpile.**
2. They should declare how they would reduce them by stages to bring it to zero level.
3. They should immediately stop Research, Design, Development, Testing and Production of Nuclear Weapons.

We must try to coordinate amongst all such groups at global level like 'Middle Powers Initiatives', 'Abolition 2000' etc. The recent initiative on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, by the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) has got encouraging response with more than 30 countries signing the humanitarian pledge. **In India, our coalition is engaged in active campaigns for nuclear disarmament in South Asia and the world through various campaigns and awareness programs.** The need is to campaign for a nuclear free world by spreading the evils caused due to atomic bombing took place at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, various documentaries showing the effects of radioactivity for generations together, to publish various literature jointly and particularly to counter the wrong notions created by nuclear weapons states like 'Deterrence', 'Self-defence' etc. Such mass movements can force various governments to declare reduction in Nuclear Weapons and their dependence on nuclear energy like various countries in Europe and other parts of globe did after Fukushima Disaster. Based on such strategy, the real movement against nuclearisation can be built up to save this planet from destruction and also its ecology.

Vidar Birkeland No to Nuclear Weapons Norway

The bomb is too dangerous for the politicians and military leaders to control. We, must all, in the spirit of the Hibakusha, join in the fight of wrestling our future loose from the leaders that set up the structures that will annihilate us all unless we overcome them.

70 years ago the Pandora's box of the nuclear age broke open over the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki killing 140,000 people on two bright August days. We must never forget the terrible atrocity that befell the people that lived here those fateful days in 1945.

The havoc wrought over the men, women and children in these two Japanese towns, was

not like any other military blasts. These explosives were aiming at the very fabric of life. Thus, these blasts have resonated for generations and revisited the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki as illness and deformities in the families of the brave Hibakusha. Like a flashflood of suffering and human degradation, this eternal scar has followed in what seems to become the eternal wake of the catastrophe.

But, this devastation was also, even though not as brutally unleashed on innocents when bombs were blasted over the plains and people of Kazakhstan and Nevada, over the islands north of Russia, in the Pacific and in northern Africa. The universal crippling effect of the atomic weapons can thus not to be doubted. Illness, death, handicap and suffering was always the toll felt by the people effected from St. George to Bikini and Kazakhstan.

But, the politicians instead of sealing the Pandora's box, when they all had realized the devastating effects of the new know how, through a universal ban on the technology, eagerly started using this technology as a new military and political tool. We all know there have been successes in closing Pandora's boxes before, when other possible devastating weapons realized through human inventions and research, have been deemed to destructive. Instead of finding a political resolution to this ultimate ethical question, the leaders continued to compete how to develop stronger, more accurate, faster and more devastating bombs.

It was proven again and again how this line of weapons was unique in its total lack of sustainability. After decades of developing and testing ever-stronger more accurate, faster and inhumane weapons, the common sense approach of ending the race has never seemed further from being realized. All seems to be based on the same terrible equation of insane logic shared by all parties acquiring the bomb, if our weapons only get stronger, more maiming and destructive and accurate we will deter the others from using their stockpiles on us.

As the margin of errors grew shorter and more fragile, the destructive capabilities increased through an everlasting increase in spending of funds and resources. All this happened in a world that cried out for basic necessities to be provided for starving millions.

We need to keep in mind, that our own leaders and politicians designed this insane reality. While they kept talking of disarmament, nuclear control and set up never ending processes that only could lead to naught, they always assured only one truth; the supreme rule of MAD.

It is long overdue that we the people, in the only decent way of remembering all those who died and suffered from the politician's incredible lack of common sense, now force a change to the nonsense disarmament game. We cannot let the Hibakusha's deaths be in vain, while letting the leaders continue to play power games that put our common future at stake. Let us all pledge, after decades of nonsense processes, that we shall no more respect non-proliferation talks to be true processes of peace. The inability even, in this year's non-proliferation talks, of making use of this unique opportunity of commemorating the victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, by making no progress at all at the meaningless last round of nonproliferation talks, must we never forget. This one, last nonsense process, if not all equal processes up till now was sufficient, proves to us, that nothing will be achieved unless we take up the struggle for the planet and humanity in the spirit of the survivors against the forces that caused their demise. These forces still rule over the destructive forces of the nuclear weapons and design the never-ending processes of nonsense.

We need no further proof. The current players have proven a total incapacity to achieve what all we people yearn for, a peaceful future and that the box of destruction released over Hiroshima and Nagasaki will be closed through a ban universally accepted forever.

We cannot continue to let the forces that created this ultimate madness decide over our common future. We cannot continue to let the politicians fool us to believe that they have tried to make a difference when all their efforts 70 years later have proven to be totally inadequate to deal with their own atomic monster. Shall humanity survive we collectively need to be able to avoid using all our advances to destroy our own existence. Thus, this fight is about more than the nuclear threat. It is about the everlasting enigma how humanity may keep control over the forces unleashed through their own advances.

If we let the atomic powers decide over our future, there will be no future. I pledge you all to stand up today in the presence of all the nations we represent, and all our organizations, to let this day be the first day of our common struggle. We must use this opportunity to start on the path to a new world where we the people force the nuclear weapons of mass destruction to become obsolete. We pledge to wrest the power from the technocrats, military establishment, big business that rakes it profit from this ultimate power game, and the politicians and government that created our world's most inhumane monster.

We will not let our future anymore, be decided in venues of endless nonsense talk of disarmament, while the arsenals increase its accuracy, velocity and destructive force. It is time for action. Let the powerful feel the soft power of sensibility and grassroots. Let the leaders feel the action of the common people, the young and those among us that still carries the ultimate sacrifice for this insanity, the Hibakusha.

We honor their memory and plight today and in all days to come in succeeding to brake the viscous circle of power arrogance of the leaders and lack of trust in the ability of people to dictate their own future as we through history has proven is possible again and again.

If this should not be possible today, when should it be? We are able to convene here in Japan through the incredible combined efforts of our committed hosts. We can regroup; reassess our resources and ties in a united world, and we will win because the people want peace and nuclear disarmament.

After a string of state conferences that started in Oslo, about the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, a ban on nuclear weapons is already high on the agenda. Over 150 countries have so far participated in the state conferences.

At the last conference in Vienna in December Austria made us all a promise (The Austrian Pledge) to work to stigmatize, prohibit and ultimately eliminate all nuclear weapons. The first step in the process, to put the scarlet letter, the stigma of nuclear weapons on nuclear weapon States, has already forced some nuclear weapons states to meet up at these conferences and defend their nuclear strategies. More than half the nations in the world, staggering 113 countries have so far supported Austria's pledge or rather "The Humanitarian Pledge".

At the NPT Review Conference this year a statement about the Humanitarian initiative was supported by 160 countries.

The Norwegian government is wary of The Humanitarian Pledge arguing, that our membership in NATO is an obstacle. As allied with nuclear weapons states it would be a foreign policy burden on Norway to take the lead in international efforts to ban nuclear weapons, claims the current rightwing government, but we don't agree.

I am convinced we can make the ban a reality if we only take up the torch of sanity, for a world freed of nuclear bombs. Come let us all be part of the moment that frightens the leaders because they cannot control it. Let us all convene on Austria to win the next battle of the fight, for we have to win, there is no alternative. Let us all be

the Hibakusha and let the planet be the ultimate survivor and the Hibakusha through our joint efforts.

As the Hibakusha survivors rebuilt their maimed life in postwar Japan, we all need to join in a combined effort to rebuild the sanity and sustainability of our world. I do not know if we

will succeed in the anniversary year of the ultimate catastrophe that happened here, but let us all begin here today in Hiroshima to succeed in fulfilling the final redemption of the Hibakusha, a nuclear free world!

**Wolfgang Schlupp-Hauck
Friedenswerkstatt Mutlangen e. V.
Germany**

Main Areas of Engagement

- Chairman of the association "Friedenswerkstatt Mutlangen", which is based in the village, wherein the 80th nuclear missiles have been deployed.
- Working closely together with Mayors for peace as 2020 vision campaigner
- Member of the Advisory board of the Global Network Against Nuclear Weapons in Space.

Former deployment site of Pershing II missiles is used today for housing and producing solar energy. A historical path remembers the military history



Nuclear Weapons today

- In Germany there is still on site, where nuclear weapons of the US are deployed.
- In Stuttgart there is the US Command responsible for it.
- In Büchel there are estimated 20 nuclear bombs on the airfield of the Bundeswehr, which offers the Tornados as delivery system

Picture shows the first drop-test of new B 61-12 nuclear bomb, July 1st 2015

The bombs are planned to be modernized and get more accuracy.

The same nuclear sharing takes place Belgium, Netherlands, Italy and also in Turkey.



About 50 Peace Groups and Organizations build a coalition in the “Trägerkreis Atomwaffen Abschaffen – bei uns anfangen”.

The main demands are:

- Withdrawl of the bombs
- No modernization
- A treaty which bans all nuclear weapons worldwide.
- The ways of engagement are together with Mayors for Peace
- advocacy work in the Bundestag and at International Conferences
- direct actions in Büchel
- blockading the base
- fasting campaign

(Ending on Nagasaki Day – Starting Each year one day earlier as long as the nuclear weapons are there.)

**Bicycle Tours
PEACE MAKER**

For sportive racing cyclist

300 km / one day

REGIO – TOUREN

For everybody Bicycle courier bringing petitions to government and embassies.



Flag day: Remembering the International court of justice decision of 1996 July 8th and the current complaint of Marshall Islands against all nuclear weapons states.



Direct actions at the nuclear deployment site Büchel

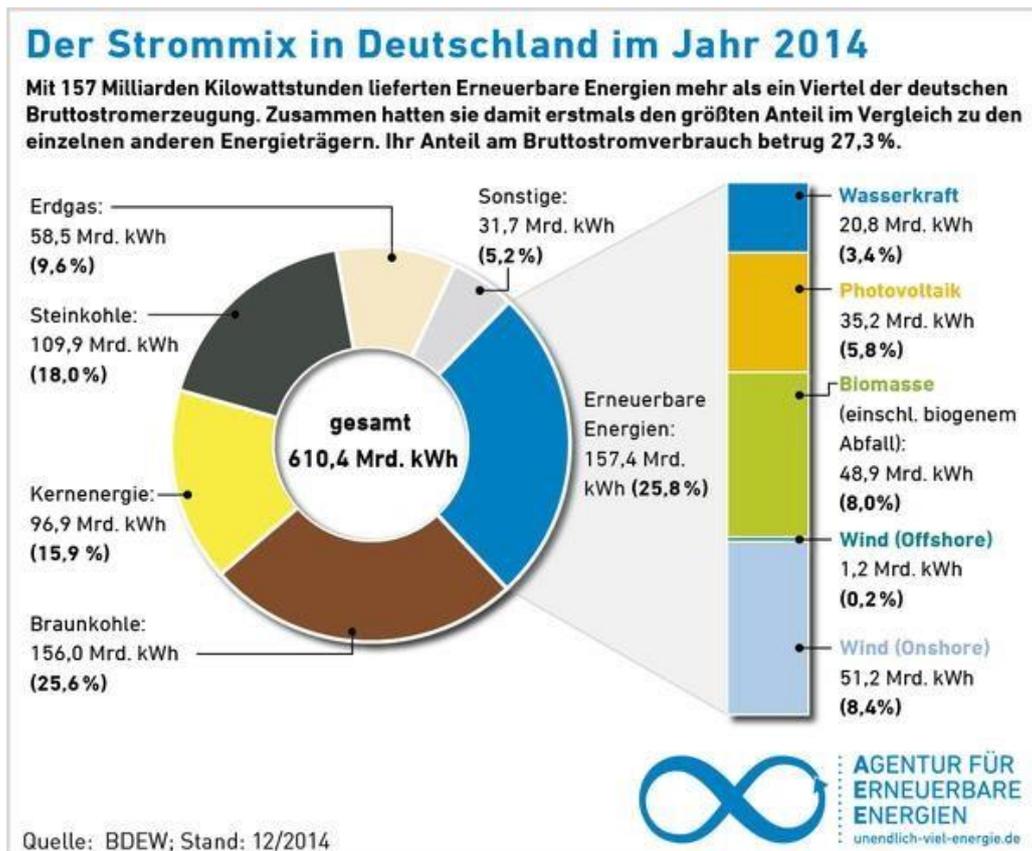


Advocacy work in the Bundestag and at International Conference

Nuclear Power Powers the Bomb – So let us stop both

Some words to Nuclear Energy Even if Germany has decided to phase out nuclear energy, there is nuclear industry, try to obstruct the process and is delivering to other countries. The percentage of renewable energy is growing and Germany is selling more energy to it neighbors then it has to buy.

In the year 2013 and 2014, 25% of the in Germany produced electricity was made by renewable sources. Germany is exporting about 5% of its electricity.



Plenary Session III:
For a World without Nuclear Weapons:
Overcoming Nuclear Deterrence Doctrine; Peaceful Resolution of Conflicts;
Sustainable Life and Environment
(August 3)

Introductory Reports:

Madelyn Hoffman
New Jersey Peace Action
U.S.A.

My name is Madelyn Hoffman. I am the Executive Director of New Jersey Peace Action, (NJPA) founded in November of 1957, as New Jersey SANE, Committee for a SANE Nuclear Policy. I was born in November of 1956, so it is sobering to me to realize that there has been a need for our peace organization every year of my life save one. I have been the director since August 2000.

New Jersey SANE's primary mission was and still is the abolition of nuclear weapons, what our founders called "a danger unlike any that had ever before existed," especially as a nuclear arms race was underway between the United States and the former Soviet Union.

Because of our work on this issue for so many years, I am most moved and honored to have been invited to Japan for the 70th anniversary commemorations of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. On July 16th, at a gathering for writers titled "The Story: Exploring our Personal Encounters with History," I had the privilege of meeting Dr. Midori Yamanouchi, one of the translators of "Listen to the Voices from the Sea." Dr. Yamanouchi is also a Hibakusha from Okayama. She described her experiences and memories of the day the U.S. dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima after weeks of firebombing throughout Japan. Dr. Yamanouchi described much death and destruction and certain unacceptable behaviors of U.S. civilian men and soldiers in Japan at that time.

In response to what Dr. Yamanouchi described, I apologized to her for some of the actions of the U.S. military in Japan during World War II. I wasn't alive at the time, but I felt nauseous thinking about the impact of U.S. actions on the Japanese – and the widespread belief that dropping the bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki was the only way to end the war. Not

only was that not true, but U.S. actions in 1945 in Japan still affect the Japanese today. The U.S. agenda for Asia is forcing Japan to make a decision about reversing 70 years of a commitment to pacifism under Article 9 of the Japanese constitution and to succumb to U.S. pressure to become a military ally in surrounding and isolating China.

After my apology, Dr. Yamanouchi turned to me and said, "You're the first American who has ever apologized to me for the actions of the United States during World War II."

But we aren't here only to look back at what happened 70 years ago, and the millions of people in the Asia Pacific who lost their lives during World War II, but to assess where we are today on the issue of ridding the world of nuclear weapons. We are here to discuss the legacy of the two atomic bombs dropped on Japan in 1945, for Japan, for the United States and for the entire world. Prime Minister Abe recently suggested that the New Security Deals currently under discussion by the Diet will allow Japan to change its status from an "exception" to becoming a "normal" nation once again, one that can act militarily in self-defense and help allies fight against their "enemies." In other words, Japan would finally shed its pacifism, originally adopted 70 years ago due to Japan's all-too-painful understanding of the dangers and terrors of war and free Japan to become more like the United States.

At the same time, those of us working for peace in the United States have looked to Japan post-World War II as a model for how a country should act internationally. We know that the majority of Japanese disagree with Prime Minister Abe and oppose the New Security Deals. We stand together with you in your efforts to maintain Japan's constitutional commitment to pacifism. Barack Obama said in a 2009 campaign speech in Prague that since the U.S. was the only country in the world to have used nuclear weapons, the U.S. has a "unique responsibility" to work for a world without nuclear weapons. Moving the United States closer in policy and perspective to Japan would

help to accomplish the abolition of nuclear weapons, not the other way around.

It isn't time for Japan's "peace experiment" end. In fact, it's time for Japan to become the new "normal" and to lead the way toward genuine peace and security by finding ways to resolve international conflicts that don't involve war. Peace Action will stand alongside you in resisting this change, first because it will help create a more thriving Japan and second, because if more countries followed Japan's lead, the world would be a better place.

If Japan were to become more like the United States and provide military support to advance the U.S. agenda, what would that mean? Current U.S. foreign policy requires a huge monetary outlay. The U.S. Congress typically agrees to spend between 45% and 55% of all the money it can decide how to spend (discretionary spending) on the military, or close to \$800 billion for 2016, leaving only 6% for education and less for individual items like housing, alternative energy, the environment and climate change, jobs creation, infrastructure improvement and more. You may have heard about the recent collapse of a 30-foot section of a bridge in California due to excessive flooding, leading to the indefinite closure of the bridge and a major highway between California and Arizona. We need more money to spend on infrastructure in the U.S. The U.S. agenda has already pushed Japan to allocate more money for the military, as for 2016, the U.S. is counting on Japan to provide half of the costs for Japan to become a U.S. military ally in the Asian-Pacific region.

In addition, Peace Action knows that 65% of Okinawans oppose the expansion of the military base in Okinawa. We know that U.S. plans are proceeding, despite protests from the people of the region concerned about the impact of such expansion on the environment and the increased militarization of the area. Haven't we already caused enough destruction to Japan? We know that people have been arrested because of their protests and that both the recently elected mayor of Nago City and the governor of the Prefecture oppose the expansion. We stand in solidarity with those protesters – both because of the impact that an expanded military base would have on Japan and for the costs of such an expansion to the U.S. domestic economy, ranging in the billions of dollars.

Peace Action is one of the main organizations behind a "Move the Money" campaign in the U.S., one that advocates for the U.S. Congress to take at least 25% of the money in the U.S. military budget and move it into the kinds of

programs the community needs. We also support legislation that calls for cuts in nuclear weapons spending and oppose the President's proposal to spend \$1 trillion in the next 30 years on "modernizing" the U.S. nuclear arsenal. Ironically, President Obama promised this in exchange for U.S. Senators' support for the new START Treaty on nuclear disarmament between the U.S. and Russia and while the world makes sure Iran doesn't acquire even one nuclear weapon. Additionally, in May 2015, the U.S. blocked the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference's final agreement because of a provision to hold an international conference on creating a nuclear-weapons-free, weapons-of-mass-destruction-free Middle East, already agreed to by all participants in 2010. Such a conference would have required Israel to look at the 200 – 400 nuclear weapons it possesses.

There is an unemployment problem in Japan, primarily affecting single mothers. In order to meet some of the financial obligations increased militarization of Japanese society would require, Japan's government is already cutting money for education and for other programs that assist single mothers and other low-to-moderate income people in making it through their lives. A more militarized society will demand even more money for war preparations and leave less money for the kinds of community programs necessary for a country (and a culture) to survive.

But this isn't only an issue of money, peace and security, it is also an issue of democracy. More than 50% of the Japanese people oppose this change. Many remember all too vividly the horrors of war, including the horrors of fire-bombing and the horrors of the atomic bomb. Does any politician have the right to ignore the majority of the people – particularly in matters of peace and war, life and death? I don't think so.

The Hibakusha have worked so hard for so long and have given so much of their time to travel all around the world to plead with world leaders and with ordinary citizens to never again allow atomic bombs to be used by anyone. NJPA has had the privilege of hosting many Hibakusha over the years and arranging for Hibakusha to speak to many gatherings. One such speaking event included the Hibakusha being given a key to the city of Newark, New Jersey's largest city and one of its poorest.

Despite these pleas, and the presence of hundreds of Japanese in New York City this April, before the five-year review conference under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, no agreement was reached for reducing the world's nuclear weapons for the next five years.

Thankfully, 110 countries have signed the Humanitarian Pledge calling for the world-wide elimination of nuclear weapons, so we can build on that. In addition, we believe that a “Move the Money” campaign, both here and in Japan could help create a movement large enough and strong enough to change our nations’ spending priorities – people affected by cuts to domestic spending or concerned about the environment or in need of housing, food, education or health care – can join together to oppose nuclear weapons and more war – as the war machine and war profiteers continue to steal money from our communities and funnel it into violence, death and destruction.

Thank you again for the honor of participating in this conference. Together we can promote Japan’s Article 9 as the model of a “new normal” for peace and make militarization the exception!

Lee Taeho
People's Solidarity for Participatory
Democracy
Republic of Korea

Minasan, ohayogozaimasu!

Hello! It is very nice to meet you!

My name is Taeho Lee, secretary general of People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy from South Korea.

I would like to thank the Organizing Committee for inviting me to the 2015 World Conference against A and H Bombs and giving me an opportunity to give a speech.

First, I would like to ask all of you to remember those who lost their lives by the nuclear bombs dropped here in Hiroshima and Nagasaki 70 years ago. My heart also goes to many Hibakushas who are still in pain.

And I would like to say heartfelt hello on behalf of the Koreans who agree with all of you gathered here today to create a world without nuclear weapon, and even further, a world safe from all kinds of nuclear disaster.

The world clearly witnessed the cruel and inhumane nature of nuclear weapons through the bombs dropped here in Hiroshima and Nagasaki 70 years ago. The weapons of mass destruction are against the humanity, and the voice of mankind that claims for the permanent elimination of these weapons is growing louder than ever.

In last May, the interest of international community for illegalizing and abolishing nuclear weapons was materialized into the Statement on Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear

Weapons before the 2015 NPT Review Conference. However, despite the global interest in abolishing nuclear weapons, the 2015 NPT Review Conference failed to reach any consensus agreement on the action plan after the conference.

Although the will of global citizens and most non-nuclear countries for abolition of nuclear weapons is growing, the anachronistic militarism obsessed with the nuclear deterrence still remains strong. As the nuclear powers keep delaying acting on their promises of reducing nuclear weapons, the possibility of nuclear proliferation and the threat of using nuclear weapons are gradually growing. The non-cooperation and double standards of some nuclear umbrella dependent governments are also the big stumbling block. Unfortunately, the governments of South Korea, my home country, and Japan, the host nation of today’s meeting, have chosen the military strategy that depends on the nuclear deterrence and joined the ranks of stumbling block to a world without nuclear weapon.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I said the same thing here last year, and I say it again today – it is a huge irony that the government of Japan, the government of a country that has become the first ever nuclear-bombed country, is obsessed with the nuclear umbrella. It is just as ironical for the government of South Korea, the government of a country with the stigma of some one hundred thousand of its people being conscripted by the Japanese government during the colonization and exposed to radiation when Hiroshima and Nagasaki were bombed, is mimicking the mistake that the government of Japan is committing.

Many South Koreans and Japanese say that they need the nuclear umbrella, because North Korea developed nuclear weapons and missiles. They do have a point. However, since the Cold War, long before North Korea developed the nuclear capacity, South Korea and Japan have been depending on the nuclear umbrella. The North Korean nuclear weapon is a dilemma created by the double standards of Northeast Asian countries toward nuclear weapon. Every Northeast Asian countries, where we belong, are obsessed with military strategy that depends on nuclear deterrence. The U.S., Russia, China, Japan, North Korea and South Korea... All of them are depending on nuclear deterrence.

But there is an exception. Mongolia, surrounded by the nuclear powers, independently declared that it is a nuclear-free zone and won the official recognition by the U.N. The government and people of Mongolia chose to maintain friendly and cooperative relationships

with all of its neighbors, instead of signing military alliance agreements with some countries or expanding its armament. Mongolia chose to maintain peace through a peaceful way. The case of Mongolia is a good example of removing the nuclear threat from the East Asia.

The Japan's Peace Constitution is also one of the strongest methods and recourses that can assure peace in East Asia and the Pacific, if it remains completely effective. The Peace Constitution is the promise of Japanese people to the international community and the safeguard that the dark histories of the World Wars and imperial invasion will never be repeated.

The history of the Peace Constitution mirrors the 70-year long light and shade of post-war politics in East Asia. As you may be aware, while Germany had been separated after the World War II in Europe, the Korean Peninsula has been separated East Asia. The world had to pay the cost of separated Korean peninsula for the safeguard for East Asia called the Peace Constitution. Thereafter, the Korean Peninsula fell into the civil war while the U.S. and Japan strengthened their military alliance by entering into the San Francisco Peace Treaty. The San Francisco Peace Treaty, where the Peace Constitution and military alliance awkwardly coexist, is inseparably related to the armistice system in Korean Peninsula that relies on military alliance.

Meanwhile, the Abe Administration is now claiming that Japan must 'overcome the post-war period' and become a 'normal' state that can start a war. The Abe Administration must be thinking that 'overcoming the post-war period' is achieved by denying the country's past. The Abe Administration is trying to practically abolish the Article 9 of the Peace Constitution, the safety pin of peace in East Asia, in the name of "re-interpretation." The Abe Administration is trying to allow Japanese military forces (Self-Defense Force) to engage in the war, together with the U.S., anywhere in the world, in the name of 'collective self-defense.'

I believe that Japan can truly 'overcome the post-war period' only by fully admitting the stain in her history and completely removing the legacy of militarism, not simply turning a blind eye to her history. The most meaningful contribution Japan could make for peace and prosperity in the East Asia would be improving the incomplete Peace Constitution into a complete one and turning into the exemplary peace-loving nation that does not rely on the nuclear umbrella or military alliance, instead of turning into a war-capable nation.

Fortunately, many Japanese people decided to disapprove the Abe Administration's legislating the security-related laws, and to protect the Peace Constitution. I thank the Japanese people for their fight and give my full support. Not only Japan under the Abe Administration, but also all nations in the world shall not adopt militarism to solve any problem. Every nation must adopt the Peace Constitution as their constitutions. The people of South Korea will stand in solidarity with the world to march toward the true democracy and peace!

Friends,

Another unique item in the post-war politics in East Asia is the Korean Peninsula still under armistice system. Ending the armistice system on the Korean Peninsula and moving on to the peace system is one of the most important tasks in overcoming the distorted post-war politics in East Asia. The separated Korean Peninsula is one of the world's most dangerous places where the largest armament can be found, as well as the largest military exercises are conducted every year. The peaceful Korean Peninsula, once achieved, can become one of the strongest elements of peace in East Asia, together with the Peace Constitution of Japan. This is why the social movements aimed at preserving the Peace Constitution and at signing a peace treaty on the Korean Peninsula must closely work together.

Peaceful resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue is directly related to peace on the Korean Peninsula, because the North Korean nuclear issue is created by the nuclear armament race in Northeast Asia and by the unstable state of armistice in the region. Even if South Korea and neighboring countries theoretically strengthen its dependence on nuclear umbrella and adopt the missile defense system, it cannot be a practical solution to the problem. Rather, it will trigger another armament race for greater nuclear deterrence, exposing the people in the region and the world to a greater nuclear threat.

Thus, reconvening dialogues without condition and rebuilding trust are absolutely necessary. The U.S., South Korea and Japan who have the upper hands in terms of military and economy should take an active role first. We must open the doors to dialogue, by making comprehensive and preemptive peace proposals to North Korea, which includes improving relations, signing a peace treaty, Negative Security Assurance, and restriction of military threat, etc. And other nations including South Korea must give up their military strategy of depending on nuclear weapons. This is why the issue of denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula

must be linked to the establishment of a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone in Korea and/or in Northeast Asia.

My friends!

The recent emergence of territorial conflict and hegemonic race, together with the Korean Peninsula under armistice system trigger nuclear armament race in East Asia. The Asia-Pacific region that once was the target of colonization by the West has now become the center of global economy. However, the deeper economic interdependence has become, the deeper the military tension and conflict have become.

The territorial dispute in East Asia is a sensitive issue resulted from the historic disasters that took place not so long ago. The outposts being built in the disputed seas in East Asia, and provocative military exercises conducted around such military bases and nuclear /missile armament races are likely to aggravate the conflicts that could have been diplomatically and peacefully solved, and turn the situation into a consumptive armament race and military conflict.

What is missing in the East Asia region is not the means of war, such as the outposts, artificial islands, AEGIS battleships, aircrafts, or submarines. Those most dearly wanted are the will of governments all aimed at peacefully solving the conflicts, cooperative framework for multilateral solution of disputes and capacity of civil society organizations that will materialize peace beyond borders.

Someone asked if the past of Europe would become the future of East Asia. The race for hegemony in Europe surrounding the Atlantic Sea triggered two world wars in the last 20th century. Japan, which adopted the industrial advancements of the West also joined the race for colonies in Asia during the same period. We must not allow the hegemonic race surrounding the Atlantic Sea in the 20th century to repeat itself in the Pacific in the 21st century.

I was at Gangjeong Village in Jeju Island, which locates southern part of South Korea until yesterday. Right after the South Korean government named Jeju Island as the island of world peace by its own initiative, it started to build a gigantic naval base in Gangjeong Village, large enough for two nuclear carrier ships and AEGIS battleships can simultaneously call at the port. The people of Gangjeong Village and Jeju Island have fought for 3,000 days to prevent the island of world peace from being turned into the outpost of war under the military alliance between South Korea, the U.S. and Japan. The peace activists from Okinawa, Saipan (Tinian Island), the Philippines and Taiwan, who had

been fighting to return their homelands into islands of peace, participated in the one-week long grand march and culture festival commemorating the 3,000 day of struggle against the naval base construction in Gangjeong Village.

I have a heartfelt respect for every one of those who are struggling to achieve true peace in the world, and I believe the world peace cannot be achieved by nuclear umbrella or missile defense system. I have no doubt that the unrelenting efforts of those activists will create a brighter and more peaceful East Asia and world.

No more Hiroshima! No more Nagasaki! No more Nuke! No more Nuclear Umbrella! No more War! Let's give peace a chance!

Colin Archer

International Peace Bureau (IPB)

Dear friends of peace,

Let me begin by conveying to you the warmest of greetings from the IPB: from Reiner Braun and Ingeborg Breines, our two Co-Presidents, our staff, Board and Council, and in a wider sense, all our 300 member organisations and individual members around the world. It is a great personal pleasure to be among you once again.

Above all else I wish to express our deep appreciation to the members of Nihon Hidankyo and all the other Hibakusha who have devoted their adult lives to the struggle to make sure that the tragedies experienced here and in Nagasaki should never, and nowhere, happen again. And of course to all of you who make up this wonderful World Conference.

In our lifetimes it has always been a dangerous period: whether we think of the terrible destruction of WW2, of the Cold War period with its apocalyptic terrors, or the period since 1990 in which public attention has been distracted from the menace of nuclear destruction. And there are new dangers now, both in East Asia and in East Europe, or indeed in the Middle East or in South Asia – all areas where the nuclear sword of Damocles hangs over us.

Time does not permit me to talk in detail about Ukraine. Suffice to say that the responsibility for once again bringing us to the brink of an all-out confrontation belongs with all 3 main external parties: Russia, the US, and the EU. The difficulty for peace movements is that we do not agree on what portion of the blame lies with each of the 3. This makes it hard to mobilise popular opinion, which is at the same time struggling to focus on so many other issues and

other conflicts. Yet we cannot turn our faces away. In part we are involved because of our own history, as activists who played our part in bringing an end to the Cold War confrontation and giving birth to what followed, even if in many ways it was not what we struggled for. We wanted social justice, for some the vision was socialism itself. We wanted a new equality among states, a generalised form of mutual respect. What we have got is neo liberal societies and the domination of western forces, giving rise to a new wave of authoritarianism and even war.

Let us set it in a global view: the US and its allies face (for the first time since 1941) essentially 3 adversaries. This time it is not Germany, Italy and Japan, but China, Russia and militant Islam. This alone would be sufficient to put the Pentagon a full war footing. Yet while there are preparations for war and many actual strikes with drones and other weapons, we are not in a full war situation. That could be because of Obama's relatively dovish posture (or indeed confusion); or war weariness after Iraq and Afghanistan; or lack of economic resources on all sides; or fear of a new Cold War; or China's policy of what I call 'non-aggressive militarism' – there are many explanations.

Nevertheless, these are not reasons for complacency – quite the reverse. There are serious dangers in the current situation and the new Japanese militarism of Prime Minister Abe – bolstered by the US and mirrored by China - represents one of them. For that reason the IPB expresses its solidarity with the Japanese peace movement in its efforts to reverse the legislation planned by Abe and its determination to stand by Article 9 and the values its embodies.

Since 2004 that IPB's main focus has been on military spending, militarism in general, and the impact of armament on sustainable development. We have acted as the initiator and coordinator of the Global Day of Action on Military Spending, which has now been run 5 times, starting in 2011. This has now been broadened into a year-round Global Campaign on Military Spending (GCOMS). In order to give greater power to this Campaign we are currently preparing a major world congress on the subject, to be held in Berlin from Sept 30 to Oct 3 next year. The Japanese perspective is an important one and we are hopeful not only of a strong participation at the conference, but also the organisation of one or more 'PrepComs' in this country in order to engage a wider participation in the campaign.

Three final points:

First: the importance of considering the geo-political dimension in whatever we focus on. I am convinced that among the most powerful driving forces in tomorrow's conflicts will be the issues of access to natural resources. We must urge our governments to resolve these tensions – which are probably inevitable – though international law and by cooperation among states and peoples. The alternative is too terrible to consider.

Second: we must think carefully about the link between nuclear and conventional war. Fear of an adversary's conventional forces tends to reinforce the temptation to go nuclear, or to use nuclear forces. Thus the effort to reduce everyone's military commitment is work that helps us avoid nuclear war too.

Thirdly: In this place and with this audience I scarcely need to stress the urgency of moves towards global nuclear abolition. And yet our politicians don't hear it, don't get it, don't remember it. We have to speak louder, both heart to heart, and still more convincingly, reason to reason.

Our future depends on being successful.

Nakajima Takashi **Head of plaintiffs in lawsuit for** **recovering pre-disaster living and** **working conditions and community,** **Fukushima**

My name is Nakajima Takashi. I'm the head of the plaintiffs in a lawsuit demanding revitalization of livelihoods and communities.

I have run a mini supermarket for 30 years, selling mainly fish in Fukushima's Soma City, which is located 40 km north of the power plant on the Pacific coast.

We are engaged in the court battle against the national government and Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO) to hold them legally accountable for causing the nuclear accident and demand that they fulfill their responsibility to restore the affected people to the status quo ante and take relief measures for the victims. With about 4,000 plaintiffs, this is the largest suit ever filed by nuclear disaster victims.

In court, TEPCO said, "It is technically impossible to restore pre-disaster conditions by carrying out decontamination." The utility continued, "Even it were technically possible, it would be financially impossible because it would incur huge costs for restoring the residents to the status quo ante.

TEPCO also referred to the plaintiffs' complaint that they are forced to live in fear of future health problems such as cancer among themselves and their children and that this has caused them to suffer from emotional distress and even mental disorders. It responded that there is no cause for worry about health problems even if people are exposed to low levels of radiation of around 20 millisieverts per year, and that the risk is similar to health risks like a lack of vegetable intake or exercise, or obesity."

The national government has also taken a somewhat attitude by saying that it has "no responsibility for the nuclear accident, which was caused by an unforeseen natural disaster."

At my supermarket, I'm selling fish caught under the name of "experimental fishing". Initially, many customers hesitated to buy those fish because of their fear of developing health problems. However, consumption of fish is rising. I'm not sure if this is because more people are tired of worrying about the safety or because they now recognize fish as safe.

But one day, an elderly customer said to me, "Local fish tastes really good. He said I don't have many years before I die. I would like to eat the food I like before I die." He uttered this in a casual tone but showed mixed feelings toward local fish he has been familiar with.

In Fukushima Prefecture, the number of children diagnosed as having thyroid cancer is on the rise.

The prices of rice produced in Fukushima in 2014 were the lowest among Japan's 47 prefectures. Sale price of fish and other seafood products is not good either. The same is true for peaches and other fruits, and vegetables. No matter what Prime Minister Abe says, the nuclear disaster is yet to be brought under control and radiation-contaminated underground water continues to flow into the Pacific Ocean every day. It may not be easy for consumers to stop themselves from worrying about radioactive contamination. I also have contradictory feelings because I need to sell local fish to make a living. Compensation payments offered by TEPCO for business operators are too small.

In Fukushima, there are 120,000 evacuees, who are forced to live at temporary housing units or in towns far from their own homes. Only a handful of people have been able to resume their pre-disaster jobs. Many are struggling to find jobs at places where they live as evacuees, or have few opportunities to work. Such people tend to stay home all day, which results in more health problems. Reportedly, the number of people with depression is increasing.

It appears that the Japanese government is trying to airbrush the nuclear accident itself out of history instead of taking relief measures for those people suffering from various kinds of damage and hardships. The government recently announced its plan to lift boundaries of restricted zones, such as "*areas in which residents are not permitted to live*", in March 2017. It also announced that in March 2018 it will stop paying compensation for mental distress and for damage to business to those who are forced to leave their homes in zones within 20 km from the crippled power plant.

In addition, the Fukushima Prefectural government will terminate its financial support for evacuees' rent payments in March 2017. Without this public support, it will be difficult for evacuees to keep on living away from their hometowns.

Everyone wishes to return to their home town where they grew up and lived for many years. However, radiation levels are high in the mountain areas close to their homes. People are not sure if a supermarket will be built at their town, or if a hospital will open. They are also concerned for the safety of their children. Their concern is so much that it is not easy for the evacuees to return to their homes.

How absurd it is for the government to try to force the evacuees to return to their homes! Without expressing remorse or having a sense of responsibility for the nuclear accident, the government is moving to promote nuclear generation again as if nothing had happened. For those who are in power, both damage from the nuclear accident and the tragedy caused by the use of nuclear weapons may be things of another world.

Those profit-oriented forces never care about people's sufferings and the government is tolerating infringement of human rights. We are called upon to act by increasing the awareness that we are sovereign citizens.

We are facing the danger of exposure to radiation from a nuclear power plant disaster in Fukushima, which came after exposure to atomic bomb radiation in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We must prevent such a mindless error from happening again. We have to build people's unity and make progress toward a society in which human rights are fully respected.

The movement you have developed over many years for the abolition of nuclear weapons is a lodestar that always points in the right direction. We wish to take part in this great movement with you.

Higa Mizuki
Member of Okinawa Prefectural
Assembly

Prospects for All-Okinawa Struggle
against a New U.S. Base

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to report at this International Meeting of the World Conference against Atomic & Hydrogen Bombs about what is going on in Okinawa.

The year 2014 marked a historic turning point for the Okinawan people. In fact, people of Okinawa Prefecture, by an all-Okinawa campaign organized regardless of differences in political position between conservatives and progressives, won the election of Onaga Takeshi as Governor. Onaga had publicly promised in his campaign to close down and dismantle the U.S. Futenma airbase instead of relocating it elsewhere within the prefecture. He had told the voters: "We Okinawans were divided and had been hurting each other for many years over the issue of whether to accept or reject the U.S. military presence that we had not asked for. Some people have had a gloat over our quarrel over it. They are the U.S and Japanese governments that have imposed U.S. bases upon us. That is why we need to make the utmost effort to get united on and defend the common position set out in the People's Petition. The Petition categorically rejects the construction of any new U.S. base in Okinawa. Let us hand down an Okinawa that we can be proud of to our children and grandchildren." Onaga's words deeply touched the Okinawan people, who had endured the history of sufferings. Inevitably he won a landslide victory with a large margin of more than 100 thousand votes over the incumbent Governor who had betrayed the prefectural people.

Ignoring the will of the Okinawan people shown in the election result, the Abe administration is trying to bulldoze through the construction plan for a new base at Henoko. Huge concrete blocks are being thrown into our beautiful sea which we can boast to the world and where endangered species of dugongs are swimming playfully. Precious corals are being crushed into pieces. State power has repeatedly cracked down on non-violent protest sit-ins by unfair arrests and excessively severe policing.

In April, Prime Minister Abe delivered a speech before the U.S. Congress. He assured the Congress that he would get the security legislation (or war bills) through the Diet by this summer. When he announced this, the bills had

not even been deliberated on in the Diet. To appeal his "loyalty" to the U.S., he dared to declare that building a new U.S. base at Henoko was the only solution and deliberately avoided mentioning the will of the people of Okinawa.

In May, an Okinawan delegation led by Governor Onaga went to the U.S. to explain to the U.S. public what the people of Okinawa actually wanted. As expected, the first response of U.S. federal lawmakers to our request was to remind us that the "relocation of the base to Henoko had been agreed between the U.S. and Japanese governments".

We then showed them the Okinawan newspaper with articles reporting about the large popular rally held just before our visit to the U.S. in which 35,000 people participated. We told U.S. congressmen: "An all-Okinawa call, united across the vast political spectrum, has now spread all over Japan. Nationwide opinion polls have shown that those who are against the new Henoko base exceed those who are in favor. What we call into question is not only the base construction issue but also the current shape of democracy in Japan and the U.S." We said to the congressmen, "The will of Okinawans is unwavering. We will never allow the base construction, even though the governments of the two countries have decided that Henoko is the only solution".

Some of the U.S. lawmakers who listened to our story made frank comments. One confessed, "We have never heard anything like that from Tokyo. Your story allows us to have a more detail idea of the real situation in Okinawa." Another said, "I personally have sympathy with the argument of the Okinawan people." It should be remembered that Kurt Campbell, former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State under the Obama administration, said in an interview with Japanese media: "Any agreement has to be done with the support of the people of Okinawa and their government, and so the fact that there is this kind of opposition causes all of us to stop and reflect. ...the governor's visit to Washington was an opportunity for Americans to hear from him directly about his vision for Okinawa."

Friends, we Okinawans are not isolated in carrying on our struggle. The sit-in that Okinawan grandmothers and grandfathers started at Henoko has grown into an all Okinawan movement and their voices have now reached as far as Washington. It is not Prime Minister Abe who determines the future of our country. It is the voices of each sovereign Japanese person and of their movements that drive politics forward.

The only ground that allows the Japanese and U.S. governments to forcibly invoke building a new base at Henoko is the “approval of Henoko landfill project” signed by former Governor Nakaima in violation of his own campaign pledge. Governor Onaga is now seriously considering the cancellation or withdrawal of this approval. He must take the final decision by this summer. I sincerely ask all of you gathered here from all over Japan and the world to extend greater support and solidarity to our unyielding struggle led by Governor Onaga.

This year is the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II. As I was born and grew up in Okinawa, I thought I knew Okinawa very well. Yet, the more I learned about the history of Okinawa, the more I wondered why older generations who lived under the U.S. occupation wanted Okinawa to be again part of Japan.

During the fierce ground battle that took place in Okinawa 70 years ago, a quarter of the population lost their lives. Why did our grandmothers and grandfathers, who were sacrificed for the Japanese imperial army to buy time to prepare for the decisive battle for the mainland, want the return of Okinawa to Japan? Even after the end of the war, Japan abandoned Okinawa by signing the San Francisco Peace Treaty. How could our mothers and fathers, whose basic human rights were infringed on under the U.S. occupation, want to revert back to Japan again? Even 43 years after the reversion of Okinawa, the U.S. bases remain there and the Japanese government continues to impose their presence on the Okinawan people. Why did the Okinawan people under the U.S. occupation struggle for the reversion of their islands to Japan? I could not understand it.

One day, my father gave me a straight answer to this question. He said, “Okinawans wanted to be under the rule of the Japanese Constitution. They wanted to be governed by the Constitution which stipulates the sovereignty of the people. They wanted their basic human rights to be guaranteed under the Constitution. And they wanted to have a Constitution which renounces forever wars and armaments. This is why all the Okinawan islands united and worked hard.” My doubt was gone like melting ice and I felt proud of being born and brought up as Okinawan.

The first atomic bombs used in war were those dropped 70 years ago on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Three million Japanese lives were lost during the Second World War. Our Constitution was born out of such a tremendous human sacrifice. And now, we are seeing the

Constitution being in jeopardy and Japan turning into a war-fighting country.

What Japan needs now is not the strengthening of Japan-U.S. military alliance or the construction of a new U.S. base at Henoko, not to mention the enactment of the war legislation. Instead, Japan should play a leading role in diplomatic efforts for peace and the elimination of nuclear weapons so as to ensure a peaceful solution of international disputes, making full use of our pacifist Constitution that we can boast to the world.

“Each individual has limited power but is not completely powerless.” This is what we have learned through the Okinawan struggle. Let us unite our strength and act together believing in justice and faith of peace-loving peoples of the world. We as individuals are sovereign in our country and it is we that have the power to decide our future.

Statements:

Guido Grünwald German Peace Society-United War Resisters (DFG-VK) Germany

Dear friends of peace, I'm glad to participate in the World Conference against A & H Bombs again after a longer break. This meeting is one of the few places where for now 60 years continuously and persistently total nuclear abolition has been demanded and discussions take place about ways to achieve that goal. At the same time the World Conference promotes the testimony of the Hibakusha and supports their demands. Over the years I had the privilege of meeting many Hibakusha both in Japan and during speaking tours in Germany. Your courage and vitality have enriched me and I'm very grateful that despite of all hardship you have been giving spirited testimony of the terrible consequences of the use of nuclear weapons and that you persistently repeat the request for a nuclear weapon free world.

The situation is grave. All states possessing nuclear weapons modernize their arsenals, none of them is ready for steps of nuclear disarmament. Within NATO the discussion held some years ago to withdraw substrategic nuclear weapons from Europe has fallen silent. Instead tactical nuclear weapons are being modernized and reintegrated into NATO's strategy. The German government approves of this development tacitly

and is not willing to renounce nuclear sharing in the framework of NATO's Nuclear Planning Group which is a violation of article II of the Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT). In April Russian President Putin threatened to use nuclear weapons should NATO enlarge its military Presence in the Baltic states. These and other alarming developments – regardless if induced by an expansionist approach or by fear of encirclement – indicate that the threshold between nuclear and conventional weapons is questioned again as this was the case in the 1980s. Obviously influential political and military circles are working towards taking away the stigma of moral non-use from nuclear weapons and integrating them like ordinary arms into the spectrum of weaponry.

The NPT Review Conference has shown that we can't count neither on the governments of the nuclear powers nor on the governments of their main allies. It must be us, the civil society actors in a broad coalition who give the push for the international de-legitimization of nuclear arms and for legislation against them. There is no alternative as we know the terrible truth: as long as nuclear weapons exist they will one day be used again with catastrophic humanitarian consequences.

Mankind faces enormous problems. To name just a few: climate change; worldwide poverty; a widening gap between poor and rich in many countries; mass exodus of refugees and migration; a progressive digitalisation of the economy (industry 4.0) with probably a revolutionary change in the structure of the workforce; erosion of democracy by means of so-called security bills and surveillance of citizens. While the nuclear deal with Iran has shown that a cooperative approach can be successful, confrontation and tensions increase up to military conflicts in many regions at the same time. That is true for the Arabic World as well as for the waters of southeast and East Asia and for Europe where the hostility between Russia and the states of NATO is building up.

Coming from Germany to Japan I'm always amazed about the similarity regarding the development of both countries. Germany and Japan played an evil role in unleashing WWII, they waged both a cruel war and established brutal regimes of occupation though the German war of annihilation in Eastern Europe and Russia and the extinction of the Jews were even more barbarous. After 1945 both governments sided with the USA in the Cold War but focused their efforts on building up the economy. Both governments didn't pursue a policy of peace at

all, they built up armies (though disguised in Japan) and supported military aggressions by the US government but at least they pursued a military culture of restraint and didn't participate in military conflicts. Since the end of the Cold War there has been pressure on the German and Japanese governments to abandon this restraint. The German army has already been restructured towards a force for intervention to a great part; it plays a leading role in setting-up a super-fast deployment force (codename spearhead) which NATO decided on some months ago. In Japan we face right now the attempt first to reinterpret the pacifist article 9 of the constitution and then in a second step to change it; already in April 2014 the Abe government lifted the ban on the export of arms. In both countries a clear majority of the population rejects further military build-up and especially military interventions abroad. Therefore both governments try to manipulate the people by propaganda. Prime Minister Abe calls his plans "a proactive contribution to peace" and speaks in a kinky way about "active pacifism" (sekkyokuteki heiwashugi) while the German government emphasizes the greater responsibility which a strong Germany is now assumed to bear. Significantly responsibility is defined solely in military terms, not as responsibility for refugees, for still widespread hunger and poverty or for building civilian institutions for solving conflicts.

I'm convinced that in addition to directly fighting against armaments and war we should also campaign for establishing the institutional and legal foundations of a peaceful international system. Alfred Hermann Fried, Nobel Peace Prize winner in 1911 and with Bertha von Suttner co-founder of the German Peace Society in 1892, already at his times consistently pointed that it's not sufficient to campaign for disarmament or "to love peace"; the essential task would be "to construct" peace, in fact on a sound institutional and legal base. By the way Fried over many years exchanged letters with the Japanese pacifist Tannejiro Miyaoka. Article 9 and the United Nations are existing though imperfect elements of a peaceful international system, they must be preserved and further developed. That can be achieved only by way of dialogue. Therefore I think that it's an important task for all of us to counter enemy images and speechlessness which increase or re-emerge in many countries. And of course nuclear weapons are incompatible with a peaceful international system; therefore we campaign for their legal prohibition and total abolition here at the World Conference and in our countries.

Mariannick Le Bris
General Confederation of Labour (CGT)
France

Message by CGT France

On behalf of CGT, I would like to thank Zenroren for the invitation to be represented at the World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs taking place in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The fact that we will be commemorating the 70th anniversary of atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki this August 2015 is giving to trade unions and peace movement an increased responsibility.

The NPT Review Conference has been unable to adopt a final document while more and more persons and groups are defending a total banning of nuclear weapons. This time again a little group of countries is imposing to the world their choice to defend and maintain nuclear weapons not respecting the democracy we need urgently to build a peaceful world.

CGT defends the total banning of nuclear weapons. What is at stake is democracy, human and sustainable development, a real struggle against inequalities and poverty and climate change, and improvement and respect of trade unions and workers' rights. Achieving another type of world development require all the existing resources. We cannot accept a system implementing an enormous waste to build weapons and maintain the nuclear powers based on the right of the strongest and on short term interests of multinational companies. We cannot accept policies leading to an increased violence because of the inequalities that are again rising between countries and inside our countries. We cannot accept that the interest of the countries building weapons and nuclear ones, of the companies involved and among them multinational ones, and of the big state powers decide for all of us. The essential needs of the world population and workers should be the priority of the economic and industrial policies.

Our objectives need a larger unity of workers and people, the development of a large movement in all countries. Let us oppose the competition between workers and people leading to xenophobia, racism, violence and potential war. Let us join and defend a better world eliminating the terrible threat represented by non-conventional weapons and particularly nuclear ones.

The CGT shares Zenroren involvement against nuclear weapons and for peace. It stands for enlarging and increasing the workers mobilisation.

Pierre Laurent
French Communist Party
France

"For a world of justice and peace, free of nuclear weapons"

The French Communist Party has chosen to be present for the commemoration ceremonies marking the 70th anniversary of the catastrophes of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, an expression of our enduring commitment to the struggle for peace. This year is especially important. Seventy years after the end of the nightmare of the Second World War, a war that brutally ripped through Asia, we are still trying to protect the world from another potential tragedy.

1945 opened a new period for the world: in Europe it was the end of Nazism and the horror of the death camps was revealed to all humankind. In Asia, Americans dropped atomic bombs for the first time in history, on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, creating a new threat for the future of humanity. The immediate destructive power of the bomb, in addition to its long-term effects on human health and the environment, wreaked devastation on a previously unimaginable scale. That same year, the world saw the creation of a new tool with the potential to work for world peace: the birth of the United Nations. And yet, despite the tragedy that we remember here today, nuclear arms have continued to develop in a world fraught by the Cold War, leading to a stockpile that could destroy the planet several times over. The conference for the review of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, held under UN auspices in New York last May, proved how far we have to go before we reach a world of peace, free of nuclear weapons.

Today, French Communists are concerned and appalled. Concerned to see that violence and war are spreading throughout the world, especially in countries where people already live in extreme poverty and humiliation; appalled to hear the leaders of the world's most powerful nations – who have been speaking out on the "fight against terrorism" for twenty years now – using the same disastrous methods. Indeed, military interventions have not only failed to produce any positive results with regard to their stated objectives, but they have in every case made the situation worse.

War, war and more war is the only solution offered – even though the destruction what has already been destroyed provides no basis for building the future. The arms trade enables the

great powers to hold on to their wealth; the maintenance of nuclear arsenals is erroneously called the "politics of dissuasion". This only serves to maintain inequality among nations and fuel the flames of war, threatening the very survival of humankind.

Rather than stoking the flames of war with more of the same, we need to invent new political solutions.

The world is dangerous because it is profoundly unequal and fanatics feed on this: poverty, injustice, inequality and humiliation. They take advantage of the vacuum left by failed and corrupt states, the sufferings of societies that are spilt and divided by religious and racial hatred.

The conviction of French Communists and millions of progressive women and men in France, in Europe and around the world is that we must redouble our efforts to unite our forces and raise our voices together to stop the insane machinery of war.

While the United States remains the leading world power, imposing its diktat on the world's progress and on the organisation of international relations, with the complicity of leaders – including French politicians – who yield up national sovereignty and independence, the fact is that the US is overwhelmed by current events. The monsters created by US policies designed to divide and weaken whole societies now have the power to threaten their creators.

The world is dangerous because it is not democratic, because international relations are not based on terms of equality: the most powerful few (G7 and G8 countries) are losing ground, while the majority of the world is expected to accept the old hierarchy.

This same "dialogue of the deaf" was prevalent at the last NPT conference: whereas the great majority of non-NATO countries are forceful in their demands for a treaty to abolish nuclear weapons, based on the three conferences in Oslo, Nayarit and Vienna, which reported on the disastrous, uncontrolled impact of any use of the atomic bomb, the five most powerful nations have turned a deaf ear and remain locked into their outdated concept of the world.

When the Cold War was past, NATO had no more reason to exist. This political and military organisation is an anachronism that has no legitimacy with regard to international law and agreements, or to the United Nations Charter. In addition, its existence lends legitimacy to the possession of nuclear weapons by other countries. The UN proposal to advance zone by zone, and to work on the denuclearization of the Middle

East is a phase that is not to be neglected, but its success is also dependent on the real power of the institution.

The UN must be deeply restructured, so that international relations are better balanced and democracy ameliorated. The United Nations Assembly is an essential component of any peaceful solution of conflict. It must be granted new legitimacy by the peoples of the world. The expansion of the Security Council, the rotation of responsibilities, the strengthening of the sovereign powers of the General Assembly, the reorganisation of decision-making processes – these are all levers for building new relations among nations. At stake is the recognition of multilateralism and the construction of peaceful relations based on cooperation among nations that are free and equal under law.

This combat cannot be separated from the combat for a treaty abolishing nuclear weapons, and more generally for seeking solutions that will bring progress to all nations.

In the struggle for peace, key elements are development, universal resources and the common good, education, health, food sovereignty, the right to energy and of course, disarmament.

As Jean Jaurès said, before he was assassinated because of his objection to the First World War: "The struggle for world peace is the greatest battle of all." This phrase is unfortunately truer than ever and this combat is ours; all of the bridges that we can build between the peoples of the world will contribute to winning universal peace.

Moñeka De Oro Guahan Coalition for Peace and Justice Guam

Konichiwa and Hafa adai,

As an Indigenous daughter of the island of Guahan (Guam) I am greatly humbled that the Mariana Islands has for numerous times in the past and are continued to be invited to join hands with the people of Nagasaki, Hiroshima as well as those gathered here both in presence and in spirit to unite to bring an end nuclear proliferation and to all wars. As a Chamorro, a mother, and a teacher I commit my life to ensuring that the world we pass down to our children is safe, secure and clean. I am honored to be here to share stories of struggle, strength and hope for a building a more peaceful and prosperous future.

Today, we gather to remember the devastation that many historically suffered in one form or another by the hands of war. For Nagasaki and Hiroshima, we must remember the thousands of lives lost, injured and displaced in WWII. It has been seventy years since the unnecessary attack on women, children, and elders by the United States military. For Guahan and her people, the trauma left by the Japanese Imperial Force's occupation still lingers in the heart and minds of many. During my childhood screams of terror from my nānā's (grandmother) nightmares recalling her war experiences would wake me. I grew up listening to my elders, tell stories of rape, beheadings and brutal massacres. Memories have been passed through generations as those in Nagasaki and Hiroshima. As part of history, those memories shall live on, but not as a tool to hold grudges or fuel animosity but to heal and learn from.

Our planet is in desperate need of healing, and peace. The destruction we as human kind have brought to our only home is alarming. Weapons and war have wreaked havoc on our seas, our soils and our souls. I stand here today representing the small yet significant fifteen islands of the Marianas, the homeland to the Chamorro and Carolinian people. The volcanic hills, limestone cliffs, mangrove forests, coral reefs and salty ocean waters that envelop it all birthed the Chamorro language and its unique culture, one of the oldest in the Pacific. A fear and admiration of the natural and spiritual realms guided and grounded the people. The connection and reverence for land and ancestry was one in the same. My archipelago spanning 400 miles just a few hours south of here (by plane) have been endowed to me from the ancestors to safeguard for future generations. As a result of war the lands and seas that have nourished the people for thousands of years have become toxic and sick.

Since WWII, sadly the sense of responsibility to steward the land that is embedded in indigenous knowledge is rapidly faded. The biggest impact of WWII has been the loss of important practices that protect and honor our natural resources. Due to large US Military presence, brown tree snakes began invading the land. As a result, nineteen species of birds have lost their voice, never to sing, and are wiped out of existence in Guam. Poisonous spray, land clearing,

Live-fire training, and air traffic noise from the many bases throughout the island has greatly impacted natural habitats for the Marianas Fruit Bat. The loss of birds and bats have had a

devastating rippling effect on the island's ecology, causing the dwindling population of significant plant life such as the cycad, a million year old Jurassic era tree. This is just one example of how the interconnectedness of all life is affected by the pursuit to wage wars. We must remember the lives of all those who suffered and died from all wars and on all sides of the battle field including the plants and animals.

Money, modernization and Western ideas have devalued our ancient ways of being. Native people throughout the world connect to mother earth in a spiritually meaningful ways. We must remember that all life, water and land are sacred. Not as things to own or to profit off of. War and weapons exists to destroy life. The destruction of our planet, along with the suffering and deaths of millions of people have made a few very rich. Dominance and greed are at the root of what we all must unite against to bring lasting peace. The American Empire and its consume and waste culture that has politically oppressed and disenfranchised my people. As teacher of history I emphasize the fact that 222 years of the 239 year history of the United States of America has been spent violently waging wars all over the world. And that approximately 40 cents of every US dollar is spent on fueling the US Military war machine, an insatiable monster that aims to devour more of the Mariana Islands in the very near future.

Today, my islands are under threat of increased US militarization. Guahan already has lost so much from the occupation of US Military bases and they want to acquire a Wildlife Refuge and ancient village for a firing range. Also, the US has its eyes on transforming the pristine sister islands of Tinian and Pagan into the world's largest military training complex. Millions of ammunitions and bombs will be stored and tested in on our lands, waters and our air. Communities that surround military bases are known for higher incidences of cancers from toxicity, higher rates of addiction, sex trafficking, crime and other social ailments of economic dependency. Chamorro people are a minority in our homeland host a disproportionate amount of the overall footprint US Department of Defense bases. Additionally, Micronesian people enlist, fight and die at much higher rates than any other ethnic group serving in the US Armed Forces.

We sacrifice our lands and our bodies for war yet are denied basic democratic rights. As US colonial subjects we cannot vote for the Commander in Chief. To add insult to injury all negotiations for the planned military bases have been between the US and Japanese government

with little to no consultation with our island's leaders. The government of Japan is paying \$3 Billion USD of the estimated \$8.6 billion to reduce the presence of Marines in Okinawa and move them to my homeland. Instead of relocating bases we need to fight to stop the need for war, weapons and the greed that drives the military industrial complex. We need to join our efforts to realize justice! I am here to pledge my support for all causes to bring needed peace and healing to our planet and to find solidarity for my people's resistance movement to protect our islands, the spirits of my ancestors and the generations to come.

Jnan Sankar Majumdar **Centre of Indian Trade Unions** **India**

Friends, On behalf of 5.5 million members of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) and the working class and other toiling people of India, I express my deep appreciation for organizing this World Conference against Atomic & Hydrogen Bombs; fully support the cause and commit for united and solidarity actions on the conclusions of the conference.

Nazism and fascism, which rose out of great world capitalist economic crisis of 1930s, was defeated in the Second World War not by Atom Bomb. The use of Atom Bomb in Japan by United States was an act of *Terrorism* for post-war world dominance through world-wide terror and subjugation.

"Nuclear deterrence is the ultimate expression of the philosophy of terrorism: holding humanity hostage to the presumed security needs of a few," stated by the then Prime Minister of India Rajiv Gandhi while introducing his 'Action Plan for a nuclear Weapon Free and Non-violent World Order' in the UN General Assembly in 1988.

The *Doctrine of Nuclear Deterrence*, in reality, is the doctrine of *Counter-Terrorism*.

The movement against Atom and Hydrogen Bombs and for peace, therefore, is the battle against nuclear-countries' terrorism to impose hegemony diverting attention from *nuclear disarmament* to the *danger of nuclear proliferation by non-nuclear countries!*

Regional 'defence' agreements are part of the grand design to impose world hegemony and a unipolar world system in the name of security. USA-Israel-India-Japan security axis is one of the challenges for peace movement. Because of this military nexus, specially between India and

Israel, Government of India changed its well-known foreign policy and did not support Palestinian cause against Israeli aggression in Gaza causing loss of large number of innocent human lives and on their right of homeland.

World peace movement has to address the regional conflicts led by USA and its allies.

Unfortunately, India's above stated position in UN General Assembly in 1988 changed after the rightwing parties' government in India embarked on Pokhran II tests of five nuclear bombs. Almost simultaneous nuclear bomb tests in May 1998 - Pokhran-II by India and Chagai-I by Pakistan - led to nuclear arm tension in the region.

There are several evidences to show that the private armed industry in advanced capitalist countries, for their own vested interests, are deeply involved in opposing nuclear arms free world. A military-industrial complex is in place abrogating the people's rights.

The world has learnt a lesson from tsunami-wrecked Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant and its serious effect on the people and the environment.

In India all nuclear matters are in the hand of the government and government controlled public sector companies. The Indian Parliament enacted a law on nuclear material supply to Indian nuclear power plants by foreign companies under condition of 'supplier's responsibility' in case of nuclear disaster. These companies from abroad are building up pressure on Indian government through US administration to change it to 'operator's responsibility' which means Indian public sector operators. The India's Modi government is yielding to such pressure through proposing measures circumventing the law.

Not only extreme right-wing government in India is giving concessions to the nuclear supplier's groups, but also is going ahead with private participation in defence production and foreign direct investment (FDI) in this strategic sector.

Opposing FDI in defence and other strategic sector of the economy, on other policy related issues, against government's attack on the legal rights of the workers and land rights of the farmers in favour of domestic and foreign corporates, against unemployment and price rise; Indian trade unions, irrespective of their political association/understanding is preparing for a historic general country-wide strike on 2 September, 2015 supported by the peasantry which is expected to involve vast majority of 1.2 billion people of India.

In India, CITU is organizing anti-imperialist campaign during 6 – 9 August, 2015 to observe 70th Anniversary of Atom bombing on Hiroshima and Nagasaki by bringing out rallies and holding public meetings.

The ongoing world economic crisis in this phase of neoliberal policies of the world capitalism is also giving rise of neo-Nazism and racism and political right-wing swing utilizing the sufferings of the workers and the people and galloping unemployment, at the same time giving rise of huge number of dollar billionaires bringing huge income disparity.

Peace movement is not just for peace, but a dynamic concept of movement for peace against nuclear terrorism, for disarmament, for democracy and national sovereignty, against economic and social disparity within and among the countries.

Peace for justice,
Peace for food security,
Peace for education,
Peace for health,
Peace for fraternity in the world

Sadhana Das Freelancer, India

The main theme of the conference is “A Nuclear Weapon-Free, Peaceful and Just World. Let us make the 70th Year of the Atomic Bombing a Decisive Turn to a World without Nuclear Weapons.”

The Global Zero, an international non-partisan group of 300 world leaders dedicated to achieving the elimination of nuclear weapons from the world by 2030 through a multilateral, universal, verifiable process, with negotiations on the Global Zero treaty beginning by 2019. (Source: Article by: Michael E O’ Hanlon titled” Is the World without Nuclear Weapons Really Possible?”)

I, a member of the teacher community would say that a decisive turn to a World without Nuclear World is indeed possible if we prepare our younger generation, then by the year 2030 as The Global Zero Organization’s goal is to rid the World of Nuclear Weapons would be really possible.

Some worries of our concern are:

i) Nowadays the students in the age group from 10 to 12 have adopted the language of grenade/cartridges/bombs instead of notebooks and books.

ii) We come across the little kids playing “fighting games” and pose to shoot or bombard.

These incidents are our great concern. Many times bullying starts in the classroom i.e. trying to suppress the other with ones power of strength and resulting in violence but of course violence is something bigger. But still it is a matter of worries. And, with the efforts of the teachers, I believe, the issue can be taken care of.

The teachers have the self-imposed moral duty to foster human unity and build sustainable peace and to prevent and resolve conflicts. It is our duty to make our future generation understand and nurture friendship, attitude of non-enmity, being helpful/empathetic/sympathetic. Inculcating the reason to respect others and their culture. The concept of oneness that fighting (in a broader sense - War) leads to nothing ultimately. Make our younger generation feel that the world is one. The words of our younger generation would be.....

People come in different sizes, colours, shapes and names

Though we are different on the outside

Inside I think we’re the same!

We love to laugh and play

And would never start a war

We’re all afraid of bombs and guns.

We know that one fight leads to more.

It’s time to try a different way

Where fighting isn’t in the plan.

We can be strong without our bombs

It’s time that all the bombs were banned

Kids like us live everywhere

Around the world in every land

The words we speak are not the same

But Peace on Earth we understand.

National Curriculum Framework-2005 India recommended inclusion of Peace education as an area of study in the curriculum for teacher education.

Peace as a precondition for national development and as a social temper is proposed as a comprehensive value framework that has immense relevance today in view of the growing tendency across the world towards intolerance and violence as a way of resolving conflicts. The potential of peace education for socializing children into a democratic and just culture can be actualized through appropriate activities and a judicious choice of topics in all subjects and at all stage.

It is true that Sustainable peace is a necessity for our younger generation who are not yet here to speak and act for themselves. It is our responsibility to speak for them and to do what we can to pass this planet intact to the generation that follows us.

Sustainability of peace requires resolving conflicts and protecting the Earth and its

biodiversity. It requires assuring the availability and quality of the air and the water. It requires protection of land for agriculture. It requires reducing greenhouse gases to limit climate change which is determined by our energy choices. Our collective efforts for or against sustainability reflect what we value and who we are. To our dismay mankind has developed Nuclear Weapons that are contradictory to the sustainability of peace of the planet. A world with these weapons would not only destroy civilization, it could foreclose the future for humans. We need to eliminate these Nuclear Weapons before they eliminate us. Self-awareness of the dangers posed by Nuclear Weapons would shed light for the public and our younger generation on the dangers preparing our younger generation would zero Nuclear Weapons and would show that a country was on the process of eliminating its nuclear weapons.

There is no reason for a country to threaten a non-nuclear country of its strength of using nuclear weapons against the other. The solution is to build peace among nations while eliminating all nuclear weapons from the earth. It is quite evident that Nuclear weapons would prevent sustainable peace of our planet. It would destroy the global environment, leading to the extinction of plants and animals, maybe mankind too. But let us hope that by 2030 our younger generation would be well prepared to eliminate Nuclear Weapons and make this world a better place to live in.

**Florine M. Hofschneider
Tinian Women's Association
Northern Mariana Islands**

Greetings from our islands in the Marianas, Tinian in particular and from our members of the Tinian Women's Association. We want to extend our sincere appreciation for welcoming our participation in the conversation for a Nuclear Free World. We extend our congratulations and appreciation to organizers and sponsors of this conference and to the New Japan Women's Association for their support and generosity.

The women of Tinian are facing with an enormous challenge. The U.S. military has released three environmental impact studies planning significant militarization of the Northern Mariana Islands. Our people, water, sea and air will dramatically change our way of life and the impact, based on our own analysis

will guarantee the demise of the Chamorro as people living in peace with their environment.

The draft Environmental Impact Study released April 2015 promises to:

1. Build military firing range including "live" ranges.
2. Amphibious landing facility at one of the most popular fishing grounds for people.
3. Disturbance of wildlife including the endangered species of Tinian Monarch; this bird can only be found on Tinian.
4. Disturbance of our wildlife destroying wild hot peppers that have significantly contributed to the cottage industry on Tinian.
5. Disturbance of our herbal medicinal plants that have been a traditional healing practice for thousands of years.
6. Significant disturbance to our ancestral grounds especially Long Beach and Masaluk Historical sites.
7. Closing of our air space that would significantly increase airfare from Tinian to Saipan that would close access to medical facilities that would increase significantly our cost of goods that are flown into the island.
8. Tap into the single water aquifer by digging five additional wells for use by up to 2,200 troops for up to 20-40 days a year.
9. Significantly impact on our tourist industry by closing air space and sea lanes 20-40 days out of the year at any time training is in progress.
10. The noise factor from these military activities will negatively impact the learning of at least 600 students enrolled in both public and private schools on the island.
11. There is nothing in any of our documents that guarantees the safety of our people and our tourist; there is nothing about mitigation on accidents caused by activities of the militarization of both Tinian and Pagan.
12. Economic benefit to this monstrosity is that 98 people will be employed.
13. The "pushing-out" or "out migration" of people as one of the results of this military build-up is not addressed in the EIS.
14. The Environmental Impact Study is filled with technical language making it very, very difficult for ordinary people to understand.
15. Two additional environmental impact studies have been issued and when one analyzes these documents, it is clear that the entire Northern Marianas is at the mercy of military build-up. Our air space, our ocean and our land will be in danger of these plans.
16. Expended bullets and other military weapons and equipment used will have negative

impact on our water; the same experience at the Yakima Firing Range in the Washington state.

The Chamorro people have been subjected hundreds of years of colonization by foreign powers. The Japanese not only exploited our natural resources, but also the arrogance of the Japanese rulers lingers in our elders' memory. WWII, a world conflict that our people had no control suffered and continue to suffer mentally and physically. This is the biggest scar that has reminded all of us through the stories shared by the Hibakusha as well as those of our elders. Militarization of both Tinian and Pagan presents opportunities for both to be used for nuclear weapons in many forms.

As people of this global world, we need to be smarter and more diligent in finding solutions to our differences. We need to unite to protect our Earth as it is the only home to the human species. Nuclear weapons cannot continue as it guarantees our demise. Our work toward a Nuclear Free world is the most significant step toward a truly peaceful world. That requires each one of us to be alert, stay informed and strengthen partnerships throughout the global community.

Thank you for your time and your commitment to protect our global community.

Bimal Khadka
Afro-Asian People's Solidarity
Organisation (AAPSO)
Nepal

First of all, please allow me on behalf of the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organisation, Nepal (AAPSO Nepal) and on my own to extend our warm Congratulations on the occasion of this conference. I would also like to express our sincere thanks to the organizer of the conference, the Japan Council against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs for their warm hospitality accorded to me and my colleagues.

Today, as we remember the terrible and inhuman nuclear bombings that humanity ever witnessed some 70 years ago, precisely in the year 1945, a harrowing tale of history lurks around inflicting pain and reminding us the vulnerability of human life and its essence.

Two beautiful cities were turned down to cinders, in a flash. Words fall short to even describe the inhuman brutality that Japan had to face. It's been decades since, but the wounds and scars are afresh and still wreak pain and havoc.

Till date nobody has been able to reply with logic and sensibility to questions like: What was the crime of the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki? Why did they have to be mute recipients to the adverse effect of war?

War imposed on people is dehumanizing and destabilizing them. The power play of ego and showcasing of strength victimizes the innocents. The wounds, disfigurement, pain, discomfort and stress remind us of the futility of wars. But again, to check the better sides of it, such traumatic incidents help unite us with poignancy and sincerity. A wake-up call to each one of us to help build a congenial home, an amicable environment, where subservience finds no room to invade.

The desire to own powerful nuclear energy, amongst many nations today, gives the feel of rather distorted and inexplicable competitions. This sullied pursuit of power has zoned this beautiful planet within the periphery of jeopardy. Any madcap pushes the button, a bang and what remains is debris and deeds.

This danger has rendered many with sleepless nights. It is indeed the rights of every individual to live without fear. Yes, it is the birth right of people to live in peace. Only in the soil of peace and brotherhood, the rose of love and compassion can grow. Today, more than anything else, humanity needs peace and prosperity. We need shared peace and compassion. With more effort and speed, we should unite to change this dream into fruition. I think, it is with this very motto, we are gathered here. To bring lasting peace and to avoid further conflict among nations, people and groups, we need a greater zeal and thirst for love and compassion. My understanding of peace is not derived from the meaning in a dictionary; rather I have realized peace from the heartbeat of a sleeping child and the blooming petals of a rose. If you look up for the word "peace" in a dictionary, it would suggest tranquility, non-violence and truce. All these word suggest of a situation where harmony exists. I think the wide significance and subtle fragrance of peace cannot be confined into this mundane sense. Peace is more than nonviolence. In my opinion, it is the core of existence; the nectar of life and the foundation of beauty. The huge money we are investing in the deadly nuclear weapons is fading away the very fragrance of the flower each day.

The threat of another world war is sabotaging the smile of every sensitive person. One cannot be fearless in the shadow of death. And the fragile rose of peace can't continue smiling in the cloud of fear. If we desire this ever lasting peace,

we should launch an anti-mass destructive weapon campaign. Anti-nuclear weapons laws should be passed in every nation. And everybody must tread on road of justice and peace to ensure a livable and affable environment. We must act to make a positive difference. My understanding and experience of life and world says that, true peace starts from smile of every individual. And you can't expect anyone to smile in the midst of hatred, fear, poverty and so on. Let us all then, unanimously voice our concern for a better living haven, free from ego class and nuclear energy insanity. Let everyone enjoy his or her rights to live in peace.

Lastly I would also like to mention here that AAPSO Nepal organizes conference against A&H Bombs (Gensuikyo) in Kathmandu every year within this August 6 to 9 in memory of the dreadful event that occurred in Hiroshima and Nagasaki of Japan.

Urging you all to unite for an optimistic vision and a hospitable milieu, I would like to put an end to my words here. I am grateful to you all for listening to me with the great patience.

Agneta Norberg
Swedish Peace Council
Sweden

Increasing Military activities by the US/NATO in the High North

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to present a paper at the event of 70 years since the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. I'm humble and grateful to you in Gensuikyo to be at a place, which has been decisive to enlighten the whole world about the horrifying consequences of a nuclear war. I have come to understand, through reading Joseph Gerson's, John Pilger's and Gar Alperowitz writings, that the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, were war crimes committed by the US, with President Harry S. Truman in power. The aim for this atrocity was not as much to scare Japan to submission, but mainly to send a warning to Soviet Union in front of the coming negotiations after the war.

I come from Sweden. Earlier, when I presented myself as a Swede I was a bit proud. We upheld a policy of nonalignment and neutrality. I am not so proud any more. The Swedish policy has totally changed. Sweden, together with countries in the North, have in fact become launching pads for war against Russia. Huge areas, large as about Germany in size, are

training grounds for numerous Nato-war exercises and platforms for various installations, which serve the numerous war exercises in the high North and in the Baltic areas and surrounding waters. I would say perpetual Nato-war exercises are ongoing on land, water and in the sky. Just one example: In late May, beginning of June, this year, Arctic Challenge Exercise, ACE 15, was conducted by the US, Great Britain, Germany, France, Switzerland, The Netherlands, Norway, Finland and Sweden. The Norwegian former prime minister, Jens Stoltenberg, is now the head of Nato why Norway, was the leading country in this war exercise. 115 warplanes took part on Swedish soil. The hypocrisy was shameless by calling this exercise peace promoting and that it was supported by the UN. They were NOT. Sweden and Finland are not Nato countries but in Partnership for Peace. One new frightening addition to this scary mix were two Airborne Warning and Control stations, AWACS, equipped with long-range radar and passive sensors capable of detecting air and surface contacts over large distances. And of course, we must not forget that all US Air wings, are dual-capable, they can be loaded by nuclear bombs, which are deployed in four bases in European countries and Turkey.

Gun-Britt Mäkitali and I, together with six other women, protested against these war preparations in Luleå. We cut the fence and crept in to the training field. We were of course arrested and interrogated by the military.

We received a paper the other day that informed that the District Attorney didn't want to take us to court. She wrote off the case. Of course, it would have been an enlightening spectacle to drag us in front of the court in Luleå, which the authorities wanted to avoid.

How come we are serving US policy to this extent?

The answer is that in December 2004, a decision was taken in the Swedish parliament, which had far reaching consequences for Swedish neutrality and nonaligned policy. This decision led to that Sweden opened up a large area in the north and invited foreign military and military corporations, to train all kinds of military equipment in the large training field-North European Aerospace Test range, in short, NEAT, which is large as the country of Belgium. They work in tandem with Swedish Space Corporation, The Swedish defense and Espace Robot Base. Espace is the world's biggest downloading station from satellites, not far from Kiruna.

Swedish Saab, now Ruag Aerospace, Sweden AB, has together with France Dassault, among others, made a drone prototype called nEUROn, which cannot be seen on radar. This prototype is trained at NEAT. It was ready to be managed in 2014 but I haven't been able to find out where this flying rock is stationed for the moment, maybe in Italy, one of the coproducing countries. At NEAT all kinds of war-equipments are developed and trained.

Among countries which has used NEAT as a training ground for their many wars is Israel, which tested their drone UAV Eagle, used in the war on Gaza. The US has been testing their space guided robot AMRAAM, which has been used in the war in Iraq, in former Yugoslavia, in Afghanistan and in the war on Libya.

NEAT in the North has become an important training ground for polishing the interoperability in front of US/Nato's many wars around the world. Among the many I will give some examples: In 2007, Nordic Air Meet, with US, France, Switzerland, Finland, Norway and Sweden. John B. Kelly the head of US Air Force in Europe, was very impressed by the large training area when another wargame, Loyal Arrow, took place and 15 Nato-countries trained together for Nato Response Force. The home-base was Luleå F21, which most probably will be the big centre for Nato forces and exercises when Sweden eventually join Nato. And after that we endured Cold Response numerous times with 16,300 troops in 2012 and 16,000 in 2014. This became known to the public, when a plane crashed into the mountain of Kebnekaise and five Norwegian died.

The Arctic area has become extremely focused, not only for the US. The Canadian forces are frequently using this area for war training. When the icecap is melting a treasure of oil and gas is available for exploiting. Norway has now moved its operational command into the Arctic, the only command centre above the polar circle in the world. They have purchased 48 F-35 fighter jets for Arctic patrol. Denmark is establishing an Arctic Command and an Arctic Response Force and military buildup at the Thule Airbase in Greenland. The US and Britain are conducting joint submarine warfare exercises under the Polar Icecap. In June this year, I watched a video showing numerous US war-vehicles downloaded from a ferry and rolled into a cave in Lofoten in Northern Norway.

The North also includes the Baltic states. The US has set up military bases on former Russian bases in all Baltic States: Amari in Estonia, Siauliai in Latvia, Lielvarde in Lithuania as well

as Krzysny in Poland and Taszar in Hungary. Warfighters from the US, Great Britain, Germany, Turkey, Spain, Denmark, Norway, Portugal, The Netherlands, Belgium, Czech Republic, Rumania and Sweden are among those who are training close to the big city of St Petersburg. All this is a breach of Conventional Forces Agreement in Europe. Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia have not signed the Treaty why Washington argues they have the right to deploy these warfighters in the vicinity of Russia.

Russia is today totally encircled by hostile installations and war training in the North and in The Baltics. Some of these installations, as in Poland, are part of the dangerous National Missile defense. Huge radars are installed in Vardö, at the tip of northern Norway, in Rumania and in Turkey. I am very scared for these hostile war preparations. The most scaring is that mass media almost on a daily basis, depict President Putin as the big danger for World Peace. He is demonized and sometimes depicted as lunatic. We, who dare to see what is unfolding, have to understand this development and go against this evil war propaganda which have reached a very dangerous level.

Subrata Ghoshroy
International Network of Engineers and Scientists for Global Responsibility/
Massachusetts Peace Action
U.S.A.

Dear Friends, My name is Subrata Ghoshroy. I am here today, first, as a human being and, second, as the co-Chairman of the International Network of Engineers and Scientists (INES) for global responsibility. It is a very small network. I often joke that our name, when fully spelled out, has more letters than we have active members.

Greetings to all the peace loving people from Japan and all over the world, who have gathered here in Hiroshima on this occasion. I am deeply honored to be participating in the 2015 World Conference against A & H Bombs. We all know that this is the 70th Anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Seventy years ago out of a clear blue sky monstrous weapons were dropped from an American B-29 plane that destroyed two peaceful and beautiful cities that had little military significance. It was no small coincidence that these two cities were saved from the type of firebombing, which cities like Tokyo, Osaka, or Nagoya had already experienced. As it happened, Hiroshima and Nagasaki, were only to be

butchered later as sacrificial lamb to carry out live testing of the uranium and the plutonium bomb designs, respectively.

I am particularly honored to say a few words about an organization of scientists and engineers because this year also happens to be the 60th Anniversary of the proclamation of what came to be known as the Russell-Einstein Manifesto. In his last letter to his friend the British philosopher Bertrand Russell, Einstein expressed his deep concern about the possibility of a nuclear war between the USA and the USSR and warned of the extinction of the species in such a catastrophe. Other than Einstein and Russell, nine other world-renowned scientists signed the manifesto including Max Born, Linus Pauling, and the great Japanese physicist Hideki Yukawa. It was the last act of the great scientist Albert Einstein.

Today, sixty years later, we do not have a Cold War, but tensions in the world have not decreased. A super power has run amuck destroying countries and civilizations. The expansion of a military alliance called NATO has stoked fires in a volatile region near the former Soviet Union. Unilateral abrogation of the Anti Ballistic Missile treaty is making possible development and possible deployment of space weapons. The Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty is being threatened because of missile defense deployment in Europe, which according to Russia undermines its security. The U.S. accuses Russia of testing cruise missiles banned by the treaty. The world faces urgent dangers from nuclear power and also climate change, whose effects are becoming all too apparent to ordinary citizens around the world.

It has been four years since the trifecta of a 9-Richter earthquake, a massive Tsunami, and a nuclear reactor meltdown struck the east coast of Japan all in a span of a short hour. It seared the name Fukushima forever in the collective memory of the Japanese people and the people of the world, who also remembers the nuclear accident in Chernobyl a quarter century ago.

Like Hiroshima, a city a few hundred kilometers to the south, Fukushima has become synonymous with the horrors that can befall a nation when atomic reactions cannot be controlled. In the former, it was a deliberate act to inflict as much casualty as possible. In the latter, it was an accident that many were predictable and hence preventable. Others feel that the risks are too high for nuclear power to continue in Japan, if not anywhere.

I traveled to Japan only last year for the first time in my life as a participant in what is called a Peace Tour organized jointly by the American

University in Washington, D.C. and Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto. It included among others, visits to Hiroshima and Nagasaki and meetings with the Hibakusha - survivors of the atomic bombings, which affected me deeply.

I got another opportunity to visit Japan in March 2015 to participate in a meeting of the Japan Scientists Association (JSA). It was organized jointly with my organization INES, and was held at the Yokohama National University.

The organizers of the conference included Keiji Ujikawa, Economics professor at the Yokohama National University and Prof. Yoshimi Miyake of Akita University. The coordinators of the conference were Shinjiro Hagiwara, Professor Emeritus of Economics also at Yokohama National University, and Fujio Yamamoto, Professor Emeritus of Mechanical Engineering at Fukui University.

Nearly 80 scientists, engineers, and academics from all over Japan attended. Many of the Japanese attendees were renowned academics in nuclear physics and engineering. Many had held high-level positions in the nuclear research establishment. But, there were young scientists too. Among international participants were myself from the U.S.; Reiner Braun, Prof. Jürgen Scheffran (co-Chair of INES), and Lucas Wirl - all from Germany, and Hye-Jeong Kim, a leader of the anti-nuclear movement in South Korea, who is also a member of the Nuclear Safety and Security Commission.

The importance of this meeting could hardly be underestimated given that Japan is at a critical juncture in its debate about which path to follow in its energy future. On the one hand, a conservative government led by the Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, backed by the powerful forces of business and the nuclear industry, is pushing hard to bring back the reactors and even to build new ones in the future. On the other hand, public opinion has been growing stronger in opposition. The voice of the scientific community that can make a credible case against the government-industry publicity campaign is critical.

In his brief opening remarks, the Conference Chair Tsuyoshi Kawasaki, Emeritus Professor at Tohoku University, who is an eminent expert on climate science, said it's a pity that the Japanese Government wants to not only develop nuclear power at home, but also export nuclear technology to other countries. He ended his brief remarks with these powerful words: "JSA believes that human beings and nuclear power cannot coexist." These words took on a real

human meaning for me as we toured the once-lively towns of the Fukushima prefecture that have been turned into ghost towns – Futaba, Tomioka, Namie, and so on. The objective of the Abe administration is to make the Fukushima tragedy a thing of the past and to promote the idea that the situation is getting back to normal. Our trip to Fukushima proved that it was anything but.

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), where I am now based, has a long history of association both with the making of the bomb and the subsequent opposition to it. There were scientists like the Nobel Laureate Henry Kendall, Phillip Morison, Victor Weisskopf, Bernard Feld were all renowned scientists who worked in the secret Manhattan Project to design the bomb. They later became major advocates for nuclear disarmament. Nobel Laureate biologist Salvatore Luria worked tirelessly for nuclear abolition and Institute Professor Noam Chomsky continues to this day his vocal opposition to wars and nuclear weapons. I feel a personal connection to these giants of science because I too have traveled a similar road, however insignificant in comparison. For many years, I was a part of the President Reagan's Star Wars program to build powerful lasers to shoot down Soviet ICBMs before leaving military research altogether and becoming a critic.

As we recall the collective horrors of Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Chernobyl, and Fukushima, we need to remind ourselves as scientists and engineers that we have a special responsibility to speak the truth about the dangers of nuclear power and nuclear weapons.

Meher Hans Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Committee U.S.A.

There is nothing more dangerous than the widespread, sheer lack of knowledge. We constantly try to escape the toils of our own lives – tribulations that seem so trivial when they are placed beside global ordeals, of which nuclear disarmament is just one of many. Yet, still, we consistently fail to see the importance of taking action. The reason for this pervasive dearth of initiative in large-scale matters is primarily ignorance. Very few people are properly educated and informed. The rest of us perceive these huge issues as nebulous matters that are so far away, we do not even need to concern ourselves with them. Most of us are incredibly ignorant. To achieve, we must realize our own

ignorance, and replace it with knowledge. Only then can we come together and attain the seemingly unattainable. According to Dalai Lama, “Where ignorance is our master, there is no possibility of real peace.”

When I was around 7 or 8 years old, I used to do workbooks to improve my reading comprehension. Every section would have an excerpt from a book along with corresponding questions. One time I read a passage from *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes*. This was the first time I had been so emotionally moved by an excerpt in one of my workbooks full of innocent, childish stories. After reading the passage, I scribbled down the name of the book and ran to the library. I spent all day reading it. It brought me to tears, even at such a young age. After finishing the book, I folded a beautiful paper crane with gold origami paper and placed it beside my bed before I went to sleep.

At that young age, I did not completely grasp the full weight of this catastrophic event. I did not understand the magnitude of the bombings. I did not understand that the bombings unleashed a full-blown movement against atomic bombs. I did not understand that it all had actually happened, and what intentions were behind it. Four years later, when I started researching the event, I would get lost in the research, completely immersing myself in it. Surrounded by memoirs, editorials, pictures, and statistics, I would forget time was passing. I uncovered all of these outrageous statistics about the number of deaths, and learned that this was all an attempt to end the war. Everything about Truman's decision was flawed to me. I was thirteen and I was completely revolted. Crime is unacceptable and punishable. Those bombings were crimes against humanity, far worse than any small-scale wrongdoing that we are constantly taught not to do.

It was not just the tragedy itself that upset me. I was frustrated because when I turned to my friends at lunch, they had no idea what the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were. When I read my World History textbook, there was barely a paragraph on the event. In the many years that my teacher had taught US History, no one had ever chosen the bombings of Hiroshima or Nagasaki to research for their project. In elementary school, we read countless fictional books that made it seem like everything was fun and games. We knew nothing about the world around us. William Shakespeare said, “There is no darkness but ignorance.”

While researching, I came across Mrs. Setsuko Thurlow, a survivor of the Hiroshima bombing. She was gracious enough to allow me,

a thirteen-year-old girl, to interview her. I would thank her a million times for giving me that opportunity. But she was not the first survivor that I had asked for an interview. I asked others as well, but they had brushed me off as an incompetent child. I understood. They are busy people. They wrote books, told their stories over and over again to different audiences all over the world, and for that, I have an enormous amount of respect for them. To relive their traumatic experience over and over again is not easy, to say the least. But, in my humble opinion, the youth of the world are most need of this kind of education. We are lucky to be alive to hear the last stories of survivors, but we cannot let this event in history fade away with them.

We will always have the statistics, the books, the stories, and the videos. But we will not always have the survivors sitting next to us to tell us their story. We will not always be able to see the pain and distress in their voices and faces and eyes. When I interviewed Mrs. Thurlow, I was not overcome by the same sadness that came upon me when I read *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes* or when I researched. It was different. My view of the world instantly widened beyond my family, friends, school, and community.

It all hit me hard and fast. I quickly scrambled to listen to the 90-minute recording of the interview, and every time I heard it, I trembled with emotion. I made a short film that included a few parts of the interview, along with statistics, pictures, and videos. My aim with this video was not to make people cry; my goal was to educate as best as I could.

When I presented the film to my eighth grade history class, my classmates were shocked. Some closed their eyes and tried not to listen to the gruesome and horrific details. But in the end, I think it's safe to say that every single person in the room agreed that if humans cannot live together on a planet in peace, if we are constantly drawing differences between ourselves and carrying bombs as threats or protection against these alleged differences, we would fail very quickly at preserving humanity. As a youth delegate from the US, my goal, my wish, is to get more people, especially young people, to *care* about nuclear disarmament; humanity should be able to flourish peacefully, without any more atrocities against our own race – the human race.

Nguyen Thi Hoang Van Vietnam Peace Committee

Distinguished guests, Dear friends, It is my great pleasure to be attending the World Conference Against A & H Bombs in 2015, a significant event which marks the 70th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Thank you the Japan Council Against A & H Bombs (Gensuikyo) for the chance you have offered as well as the generous hospitality provided for overseas delegates, including those from Vietnam.

I would like to convey my warmest greetings and best wishes to all international and Japanese participants in this conference. I am also honoured to hand over the message of solidarity from State President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Truong Tan Sang to the conference on this special occasion.

Dear friends, On behalf of the Vietnam Peace Committee, I would like to express our profound solidarity with all victims of the 1945 tragedies in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, as well as victims of Agent Orange and all other kinds of weapons of mass destruction. Although 70 years have passed since the atomic bombing of Japan, hundreds of thousands of people are still suffering from never-ending health problems. The situation is the same in Vietnam, where, 40 years after the end of Vietnam's struggle for national independence, millions of victims of Agent Orange are still living in agony, despite the great efforts made to overcome the war consequences.

We are aware that under various pretexts, weapons of mass destruction are still being developed and used, killing innocent people, including women and children, every day. In addition, increasing military spending, expanding military bases and terrorism are threatening peace in our world. We are also aware that growing tension resulting from sovereignty disputes over sea and land between nations are threatening peace, security and stability in the region and heavily impacting people's life, especially in defiance of international laws and agreements, and from the threat or use of force by big powers.

In response to Gensuikyo's signature collection campaign for a convention banning nuclear weapons, the Vietnam Peace Committee has managed to collect over 1.5 million signatures from Vietnamese across the country. By that, the Vietnam Peace Committee would like to join hands with peace-loving forces throughout the globe to call on governments and all stakeholders to work hard against research,

production, use and proliferation of nuclear or any other kinds of weapons of mass destruction. Such tragedies as those in Hiroshima & Nagasaki and Agent Orange should never be repeated.

I am strongly confident that the World Conference against A&H Bombs will continue to be a platform for peace organisations and activists around the world to unite and struggle for a peaceful world without nuclear weapons and all weapons of mass destruction. It will also offer us a chance to raise our common voice to request all parties to sovereignty disputes in Asia-Pacific, as well as in other parts of the world, to exercise self-restraint and settle disputes by peaceful means in compliance with international law and regulations, to avoid war and armed conflicts.

I wish for a successful conference, for a beautiful world freed from nuclear weapons, and wish you all good health and happiness.

No more Hiroshima! No more Nagasaki! No more Agent Orange/dioxin!

Justice for Hibakushas! Justice for Vietnamese Agent Orange/dioxin victims!

Iraklis Tsavdaridis World Peace Council

Dear friends and fellow fighters for peace, On behalf of the WPC we sincerely thank the Organizing Committee of the conference for the invitation and express once more our respect to the Japanese people for the suffering since 70 years due to the murderous atomic bombing of the USA on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

One must think and maybe repeat the reasons why the USA committed this crime against humanity in August 1945, when the WW II was actually already over. The USA wanted to show strength to the peoples and countries of the world, in particular to the Soviet Union, to punish the Japanese people massively and to carry out a macabre test in “real terms” on the consequences of atomic bombing on life and environment.

We declare our solidarity with the Japanese people and the Japanese peace movement in their strive for the total abolition of all nuclear weapons, as it was stated 65 years ago in the “Stockholm Appeal” launched and carried out by the WPC with more than 400 million signatures worldwide. This appeal is still valid more than ever before.

We emphasize also this year on the 70th anniversary end of the WW II, or better on the anti-fascist victory of the peoples, marked by the rise of the Red Flag on the German Reichstag in

Berlin on 9th May 1945, which underlined the liberation of the peoples from Nazi-fascism. This anniversary and the lessons from Nazism, Fascism and Militarism of that time are very relevant for today’s times where we observe the growing tendencies of fascism again in the world.

In order to understand better the historical developments we have to understand that the crime of the USA with the atomic bombing was the only of that type, but not to the only crime of the USA in a long list of crimes. Here we may not forget the imperialist aggression of the USA and its allies against the Korean people in 1950-1953, the dirty imperialist war against the people of Vietnam which ended up with millions of victims poisoned till today’s generation by the toxic “Agent Orange”. In the same way we recall the various coups and support by the USA to bloody dictatorships in Latin America and Europe till the 1970.

The same philosophy stands behind the aggression of the biggest war machinery ever, of US led NATO, against Yugoslavia in 1999 and the later the occupation of Afghanistan and the invasion and occupation of Iraq, the bombing and splitting of Libya.

It is always the imperialist drive to dominate over peoples and regions, to impose their rule for the sake of the control of energy resources, markets and spheres of influence. This has been witnessed as well on the African continent, where after the colonial rule was officially over, neo-colonial and imperialist rule took over supporting amongst others most reactionary regimes like the Apartheid regime in South Africa, fighting against the Liberation of the African countries by all means.

Dear friends, the global developments in the world are increasingly characterized by the growing aggressiveness of imperialism, its internal antagonisms under the light of the deep capitalist economic crisis for more than five years now. The global capital, the multinational corporations and monopolies are intensifying with the cooperation of the willing governments their attack on workers’ right, social security and welfare, trying to shift the consequences of the crisis to the shoulders of the working masses, the self-employed, small peasants, the pensioners and the youth. There is growing poverty and extreme poverty in previously high developed and industrialized capitalist countries, with the marginalization of new masses, huge rates of unemployment, phenomena of hunger, malnutrition and desperate suicide rates. At the same time the profits of the big capital, the

enterprises and monopolies are growing, despite the smaller rates in comparison to the past.

The ongoing and increasing wars and aggressions are resulting in huge waves of refugees, particularly from the Middle East (Syria, Iraq) and from Libya and other African countries. As consequences of the imperialist plans and policies in these regions violent regime changes took place, invasion and occupation of territories, while civil wars and clashes are daily phenomena. The hypocrisy of the imperialists of USA, EU and NATO is scandalous. On the one hand they trigger and orchestrate the instability and the wars, on the other hand they neglect and ignore the many thousands of refugees who are trying to reach the European coasts, running for their lives. Several thousands of them are dying in the sea, many more are victims firstly of the “smugglers of human souls” who earn millions of dollars and secondly of the inhuman detention centers in Italy, Greece, Spain, Malta, due to the reactionary Dublin agreements. This is the brutal face of imperialism which is spreading death and terror directly with its troops and bombs or indirectly through the armed religious fundamentalist groups and sends warships to face the poor refugees with the pretext of fighting the “smugglers of migrants”.

Dear friends, it is by the history of the imperialist crimes and by the resistance of the peoples how we have reached the recent years to new aggressions and to the imperialist plans in the Middle East, Eastern Europe and in Asia & Pacific.

We emphasize here on the US “Pivot to Asia” where the USA is shifting 60% of its military power to the Asia & Pacific region and the bilateral and multilateral military agreements with many of the counties which are creating new threats to peace and stability in the area. We express our concern about the tensions in the area of the “South China Sea” and reaffirm our position that whatever disputed should be resolved by peaceful talks amongst all involved parties based on the UN Convention of the Law of Seas (1982). At the same time we denounce the US presence in the region, which is offering its “good services” to various sides. The WPC expresses its discontent with dangerous nationalist tendencies in the region, which are not helpful for the peaceful and comprehensive solution.

We emphasize as well on the dangerous developments in the crisis in the Ukraine. After the imperialist intervention by USA and EU in November 2013 and the orchestrated Coup d'état in Kiev a reactionary regime was installed in the

Ukraine. Political and physical persecution of political opponents, demolition of symbols of the USSR and restoration of Neo-fascist (even in the government) are prevailing. The Russian speaking minority in the country and especially in its eastern part, is being harassed, thousands of civilians have lost their lives under heavy bombing of the Donbass region by the Kiev regime while the Communists and their party in the Ukraine have been illegalized, offices burned down and leaders physically attacked. NATO is increasing its troops in Poland and the Baltic States, along with the plans to affiliate Ukraine into NATO. The ground for all the above is the geostrategic importance of the Ukraine, in particular the energy resources in gas and its pipelines and the competition with the Russian Federation in the area.

We emphasize also on the necessity to keep on the efforts and the struggle against NATO, armed wing of imperialism and murderous tool of the imperialists. We do not forget the murderous bombing of Yugoslavia by NATO which led to the creation of the NATO/EU protectorate in the Serbian province of Kosovo. The imperialist aggression of NATO in 1999 became the precedent case for all later aggressions of NATO in Central Asia, Middle East and Eastern Europe today. The recent announcement of EU officials for a permanent EU army shows the growing militarization of the EU, the cooperation with NATO but also the ambitions of the European imperialists to play a greater role in their competition with other imperialist forces.

But the biggest suffering still takes place in the Middle East, where people are suffering from the consequences of imperialist domination and foreign interference. In the recent Regional Meeting of the WPC the situation was described *“as the most dangerous and bloody period with the imperialist forces to intervene in many countries directly with catastrophic results, killings, destructions, redrawing borders and division of the countries, aiming at the control and exploitation of the richest oil and gas reserves in the world without caring about the life and peoples”*.

The WPC took clear positions, from the very first moment, in regards to the imperialist plan for a ‘new Middle East’, which is endorsed by the USA, the EU, and its allies in the region by various means. The massive uprisings of peoples in 2011 against previously friendly to the imperialists and reactionary regimes in Egypt, Tunisia etc, were likewise used under the ‘Arab Spring’ for the purpose of their plans. The

Islamic fundamentalist forces, for so many years tolerated and nurtured by the imperialists themselves, assumed new role with armed “holy warriors” in various countries, particularly in Iraq and Syria. The project of “ISIS” is the other side of the same coin of the imperialist agenda in the region. It is aiming in the control of spheres of influence and energy resources; it requires willing regimes and ignores any consequences for the peoples of the region. The hypocrisy and double moral is paramount.

The crisis and instability created by the imperialists directly and indirectly through armed jihadist groups, is being used now for new military operations and invasions. The “model” of Libya which was bombed and cut in pieces is the danger for Iraq and Syria. The WPC did never accept NATO’s or any other imperialist intervention under any pretext. There cannot be any “humanitarian military intervention” by the ones who have slaughtered the same people. Special responsibility in all this is bearing the Turkish government, without which the plans in Syria would have not been able to be applied. The millions of refugees in Turkey and other neighbour countries is the tragic result of a plan to overthrow the regime in Damascus by multinational armed gangs entering mainly from Turkey, co-sponsored by the Gulf monarchies.

A core issue remains in the region the struggle of the Palestinian people for the end of the Israeli occupation and the establishment of an independent State of Palestine within the borders of June 4th, 1967 and with East Jerusalem as its capital. The WPC supports the efforts at the UN for the recognition of a full member status for Palestine. The Israeli government, fully backed by the USA and EU, is increasing its aggressions, harassments and apartheid policies in Palestine like with the recent killing of a Palestinian baby which was burned alive by Israeli settlers, near Nablus.

The recently concluded negotiations between Iran and the West about Iran’s nuclear program have reached an accord. Although we are still studying the matter we want to state that this does not mean that the threat and danger of wider conflict does not exist anymore. The antagonisms of imperialist forces in the region and the conflict in Syria and Iraq are increasing the possibility of the conflict, especially with the position of Israel against any agreement with Iran. In this context, the role that the Islamic Republic of Iran has been playing in recent years to ensure and promote its regional position must be noted. We will judge this agreement from the point of view of the interests of the Iranian people and the

peoples of the region. We hope that this agreement will not be at the expense of the peoples and the countries of the region, especially if we consider the call by the US on the regime in Iran to play a “constructive” role in the success of the US planned “New Middle East”, in particular in relation to the future of Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan, to ensure US vital interests. We are afraid to say that this accord is not reflecting the rights and interests of the people of Iran along with the peoples of the region.

Allow us to express two more thoughts about Japan.

Firstly we support the demand of the Japanese peace movement and of the JCP in particular, for the closure of all nuclear plants in Japan, an important conclusion after the tragic Fukushima accident.

Secondly and in regards to the efforts of the Japanese government to change by legislation “de facto” the article 9 of the Constitution, we join our voices with the Japanese Peace Movement and the peace loving people of Japan against this reactionary and dangerous line. We would like to remind that Japan is closest ally of the USA, along with South Korea, in the region and Japan is “hosting” more than 100 US military Bases on its soil. The fact that the USA is seeking for more and stronger involvement of its allies in various military missions and aggressions is not new, such effort took place under different pretext also when Japan was asked to send troops to Iraq supposedly for humanitarian aid.

The best way to honour the victims of the atrocities of the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki is to continue fighting against the crimes of imperialism today. And to this we are strongly committed in the World Peace Council.

Reference Papers:

**Balkrishna Kurvey
Indian Institute for Peace, Disarmament
& Environmental Protection/ No More
Hiroshima: No More Nagasaki: Peace
Museum, India**

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS & NUCLEAR TESTING

As per the groundbreaking report submitted by International Physicians for prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) and Physicians for Social

Responsibility (PSR) in December 2013, "Nuclear Famine: Two Billion People at Risk" and inputs from other like minded organization like Gensuikyo, World Conference Against A & H Bombs, Hibakushas Association of Japan and others, this paper is submitted for consideration.

Not in My Backyard: Countries which do not possess nuclear weapons and their cities are not target, think that nuclear war is a remote problem for them but "limited nuclear conflict", involving as few as 100 Hiroshima-sized bombs, would have global implications with significant cooling of the earth's surface and decreased precipitation in many parts of the world.

Regional Nuclear War in South Asia: Over the last several years, a number of studies have shown that a limited, regional nuclear war between India and Pakistan would cause significant climate disruption worldwide.

Even a modest, sudden decline in agricultural production could trigger significant increases in the prices for basic foods and hoarding on a global scale, both of which would make food inaccessible to poor people in much of the world. Global famine that would follow a regional nuclear war, it seems reasonable to postulate a total global death toll in the range of one billion from starvation alone.

Famine on this scale would also lead to major epidemics of infectious diseases, and would create immense potential for war and civil conflict.

A regional nuclear war would result in vast, worldwide climate disruption.

Consider a war between India and Pakistan involving 100 Hiroshima-sized bombs, less than 0.5% of the world's nuclear arsenal.

Studies by climate experts show clearly that even this limited nuclear conflict would affect weather patterns throughout the world. Soot and debris injected into the atmosphere from the explosions and resulting fires would block sunlight from reaching the Earth, producing an average surface cooling of -1.25°C that would last for several years

Limited nuclear war will follow 1) **Nuclear Winter:** smoke and dust produced by a nuclear war would result in a prolonged period of cold on the earth. **Climatic effects** 2) **Ozone depletion:** **Increase of cancer globally.** Regional nuclear war could spark "unprecedented" global cooling and reduce rainfall for years, a period of abnormal cold and darkness predicted to follow a nuclear war, caused by a layer of smoke and dust in the atmosphere blocking the sun's rays, death of life on planet Earth, 74% of the Sun's light would be blocked.

As a result of this cooling, there would be decreases in the growing season (frost free days), of 10 to 20 days in many of the most important grain-producing areas throughout the world. This decrease might completely eliminate crops that have insufficient time to reach maturity. Every crop has a maturity time. There would be decreases in the growing season.

There would also be major alterations in patterns of precipitation, with a 10% reduction in global rainfall, and large reductions in the Asian summer monsoon.

The most important direct effect of these changes in temperature and precipitation would be a decrease in global food production. If the soot injected into the atmosphere in a nuclear war caused significant ozone depletion that could cause a further major decline in actual food production.

Disruption of petroleum production would also cause a serious decline in food production, which is dependent on petroleum-based fertilizers and pesticides and on petroleum-fueled tractors, water pumps, and trucks.

Crops that were grown might be diverted to offset the loss of available gasoline. Today ethanol production is already using significant quantities of grain that would otherwise be available as food or livestock feed.

Regional nuclear war resulted in significant radioactive contamination of one or more major food producing countries, large quantities of food might need to be destroyed and significant areas of crop land might need to be taken out of production. The combination of failed harvests and a collapsed distribution system would prevent essential foods from reaching African countries and many others around the world.

It will be Global impacts of limited nuclear war on agriculture, food supplies, and human nutrition. For example, in China during the first 4 years, rice production would decline by an average of 21%; over the next 6 years the decline would average 10%. also decline of Wheat Production would fall 50% in first year. This will affect the food inaccessible to Global South.

The decline in available food would be exacerbated by increases in food prices, which would make food inaccessible to hundreds of millions of the world's poorest. Even if agricultural markets continued to function normally,

215 million people from the Global South would be added to the rolls of the malnourished over the course of a decade and it is estimated that billion people will die due to starvation.

Hording and Panic: However, markets would not function normally. Significant, sustained agricultural shortfalls over an extended period would almost certainly lead to panic and hoarding on an international scale food exporting nations suspended exports in order to assure adequate food supplies for their own populations.

Deaths & Epidemic: In the event of a protracted global cooling, triggered by a limited, regional nuclear war, it seems reasonable to fear that the total global death toll could exceed one billion from starvation alone. There is a very high likelihood that famine on this scale would lead to major epidemics of infectious diseases.

WHAT WE CAN DO: Role of Civil society. We will only be truly and permanently safe from the horrors described here if we ban nuclear weapons and eliminate them from the entire Earth. We have done this with chemical and biological weapons, and more recently with landmines and cluster munitions.

The time is right to add the abolition of nuclear weapons to the list.

Ajoy Barua Buddhist Brotherhood Assembly Bangladesh

I extend my heartfelt greetings and warm felicitations to you all assembled here from different countries at this historic gathering of 70th Anniversary World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs that was dropped by United State on the Japanese Cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6th in Hiroshima and on August 9th in Nagasaki in 1945. We are all aware the tragic history of heart-rending grief and suffering endured by the Japanese people. We pray for those people who died instantly and thousand more succumbed to burns, malnutrition and illness. It is our duty to remember these events. It is also our duty to celebrate the spirit of survivors and those who have dedicated themselves to ensuring that such events are never repeated and that Nuclear weapons are never used again.

Nuclear weapons are considered serious threats to the human race and have made the world an insecure residence for living organisms. Nuclear weapons are destructive weapons that obtain its force from nuclear fission and nuclear fusion reaction. Both are very harmful for the living organism. All nuclear weapons must be abolished around the world for making world secure, and save budget money. The entire world

will be more secure if the planet will free of the nuclear weapons. Nuclear weapons are the only type of weapons in existence that have the capacity to annihilate the human species and countless other species. The reactions of the nuclear weapons live alive after many years of it's used. The best example is Nagasaki and Hiroshima in Japan. The nuclear bomb was used on these cities during World War II, but Nagasaki and Hiroshima are still suffering with the reaction of nuclear bomb.

Today there are approximately 16,000 nuclear weapons in the world. The majority are owned by the United States and Russia. The UK, France, China, India, Pakistan, Israel and possibly North Korea are also nuclear-armed. Many of the nuclear weapons held around the world have hundreds of times more explosive power than the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 which completely destroyed the city and killed around 140,000 people.

Nuclear weapons have no legitimate purpose; nor would their use be legal due to civilian casualties being unavoidable. They are also genocidal and utterly immoral. When confronted with any of today's real security threats, nuclear weapons are irrelevant. They cannot be used to combat climate change, poverty, hunger, overpopulation, terrorists, cyber-attacks or pandemics, for example.

Not only do nuclear weapons kill indiscriminately but the radioactive fallout from their detonation means that their effects know no geographical boundaries. Immediate survivors in the vicinity of any nuclear exchange face devastating long-term ill effects or death. Research by the International Red Cross estimates that a billion people around the world could face starvation as a result of nuclear war.

Across the world, the desire for the global abolition of nuclear weapons is strong. 115 countries are part of nuclear weapons free zones which cover Southeast Asia, Central Asia, the South Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean and Africa. An intra-governmental initiative to consider the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons could lead to international movement on establishing a treaty to ban nuclear weapons. Austria has issued a 'pledge' to work towards a ban, which has been supported by 85 countries so far.

191 states have signed nuclear non-proliferation treaty. It commits its signatories to either not develop nuclear weapons if they haven't already, or to work towards disarmament if they do possess them. The UK is one of only

eight or possibly nine states that actually has nuclear weapons - the rest of the world realizes that their safety does not depend on owning weapons of mass destruction.

The NPT signatories meet every five years to review the treaty. The 2010 conference's final document called on the nuclear weapon states to 'undertake further efforts to reduce and ultimately eliminate all types of nuclear weapons', but the 2015 conference failed to reach any agreement.

We all see in the media these days how violence is erupting and escalating in many parts of the world, and this violence is related to both political and religious issues. The duty of any religion should be to uphold human dignity and guide us towards leading a peaceful life. In Gandhi's terms, the essence of religion is morality: 'I reject any religious doctrine that does not appeal to reason and is in conflict with morality. We are all aware that world situation has undergone a complex changes due to competition of use of weapons of mass destruction of some of the countries in the world

that poses threat to peace, stability and security of the world.

I am confident that this conference will pave the way and provide opportunity for peace movement strengthening cooperation among nations to work towards the abolition of nuclear weapons international conflicts cannot be resolved militarily and that solutions can be found only by bringing the parties to the conference table, which is through peace talks.

It is a great opportunity for me to attend the meeting thereby to exchange opinions and deepen solidarity among broad range of generations including those who bear the present and the future of the world. Once again I on behalf of my Organization as well as on behalf of the people of Bangladesh extend my utmost thanks and gratitude to the Organizer, distinguished guests, religious leaders, peace activists and wish wellbeing and prosperity of the entire nations- urge upon the Heads of States of nations to initiate concerted efforts for the abolition of Nuclear Weapons so that we may live in this world peacefully.

Closing Session (August 4)

Reports from Workshops:

Workshop I: A-bomb Damage of Hiroshima and Nagasaki; Struggles of the Hibakusha
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Yamamoto Yoshiko Japan Federation of Democratic Medical Institutions (Min-Iren)

Four people served as moderators of this workshop: Mr. Kalyanadurgam R Nagaraj of Nagpur Institute of Human Rights, India, Ms. Irene De Vera of Pangasinan State University, the Philippines, Ms. Yamada Hiroko of Democratic Women's Club, Japan and myself.

Workshop 1 began with testimony by an 86-year-old Hibakusha, who said it took 70 years for her to decide to talk about her A-bomb experience. "I could not talk about what I experienced without losing my calm, but realized that little time is left for me to leave my testimony and that only Hibakusha can do it," she said.

A number of other Hibakusha spoke about their A-bomb experiences. "When I came back to consciousness, I found myself crushed under the house and saw my mother alive. But as flames were spreading, she told me to run. So, I fled the house shouting 'Sorry, Mom'," said Sawada Shoji.

Kayashige Junko from the Hiroshima Federation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations (Hiroshima Hidankyo) said that she has had to live whole her life with burns on her face, neck, and hands. She also said, "Hibakusha decided to stand up to never repeat the same sufferings and the same mistake to happen anywhere in the world."

Takato Seiji is a member of a group called the Black Rain Association in Hiroshima. He spoke about radioactive fallout or "black rain". He said, "I saw a black mushroom cloud rising and pieces of burned-paper falling from the sky." He said "A friend of him, his neighbor, and his brother were amused to pick them up. Then, sticky black rain fell. After drinking water from an open well and eating vegetables, they felt sick and fatigued. Years later the friend knew that he was suffering from a chronic fatigue syndrome known as the 'bura bura disease'." Takato said that this Hibakusha died last year, leaving his last words that he wanted to donate his body for a study of internal exposure to radiation.

Yamada, a member of the local Hidankyo

spoke about health care services for Hibakusha. She complained that the health care program for Hibakusha was inadequate, as Hibakusha are excluded from free medical services if they live outside Japan or if their illnesses are not included in the list of free treatment. What's more, those Hibakusha living outside Japan have difficulty of applying for "Hibakusha health book" in the first place. The Hibakusha were denied access to the health program for 32 years since August 1945. It was only 51 years later, in 1996, that income restrictions for the Hibakusha allowances were listed. Yamada said many Hibakusha are working hard on lawsuits demanding the government recognize their illnesses to be caused by A-bomb radiation exposure. "No more Hibakusha lawsuits" are still carried on.

Second- and third-generation Hibakusha spoke about their efforts to pass the tragic history of their parents/grandparents down to next generations. Mr. Yoneshige is a second generation Hibakusha whose mother was exposed to A-bomb radiation by entering Hiroshima City after the bombing. Yoneshige stressed the need to attach more importance to the activity of the second and third generation such as organizing more gatherings to convey Hibakusha stories. Another second-generation Hibakusha, Shimehashi, from Hiroshima, said she didn't know that she was a second generation Hibakusha until she got married. Her mother kept the fact secret, worrying that being a Hibakusha would militate against her daughter's marriage or job. She choked up with tears when she talked about the memory of her mother singing, "Never Again the A Bomb" many times to little Shimehashi.

On education and the effort to tell about Hibakusha's experiences, a report on a panel discussion hosted by Nagasaki Hisaikyo and a group of Nagasaki second generation Hibakusha was presented.

Okoshi from Hiroshima Hidankyo told us that he had spoken about his A-bomb experience to about 5000 junior high school students each year on such occasions as students' peace monument tours. Okoshi said that the percentage of people who know the dates of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima/Nagasaki is only 30 percent, according to a survey. Even among peace education conscious schools, only 20-30 percent of them organize school excursions to Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park. He also said that he felt encouraged to see young people in Hiroshima standing against the war bills. "Hibakusha's storytelling effort has not been futile" he said.

A comic series "Barefoot Gen" has been published in 23 languages. Doctor Osamu Saito

suggested that we should convey Gen's vigorous energy to all children of the world so they will join hands, saying, "Barefoot Gen gives the best account of how children at that time survived after August 6."

A participant from Fukushima reported that 12 Fukushima people participated in the New York action on the occasion of the NPT Review Conference in May this year. In NYC, they called for a world free of both nuclear weapons and nuclear power plants. Some of them also attended the World Conference against A and H Bombs in the hope that the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant will not be forgotten and that a safe environment will be left to the children, though there is still a long way to go to complete the decommissioning of all nuclear reactors.

Regarding health problems of those who work for nuclear power plants, a participant reported that a government special agency is to study cause-and-effect relations between workers' radiation exposure and the rate of their disease incidence. He emphasized the importance of protecting these workers' fundamental human rights, taking into account the study results.

A new signature collection campaign is going to be proposed. The need to broaden the campaign throughout Japan and the world was emphasized at the end of workshop 1. We unanimously confirmed our determination to work even harder to this end.

Workshop II: International Treaty for a Total Ban on Nuclear Weapons; A Nuclear Weapon-Free World; Role of the Peace Movement and Civil Society

**Nishikawa Kyoko
New Japan Women's Association (Shinfujin)**

Participants of Workshop II discussed from various points of view how to develop the outcome of the NPT Review Conference and New York actions and what kind of steps should be taken next for the total abolition of nuclear weapons.

Firstly, many of the participants expressed their impressions and proposals in response to speeches Hibakusha made at Session I of the International Meeting of the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombing.

A representative of Nagano Gensuikyo said that he was "moved to tears" by listening to their testimonies. He said, "Nuclear weapons' damage

does not end at that moment but continues to chase the victims and their succeeding generations. Who could deny this inhumane consequences?"

A young woman living in Hiroshima said, by listening to Hibakusha's stories, she realized the importance of questioning what human dignity really is and of keeping to help spread their experiences and voices. She added that it is important to ask people if they can tolerate Hibakusha having gone through that as a human being. She said that her generation needs to spread Hibakusha's testimonies among the younger generation as she believes what countries and people clinging to nuclear weapons fear the most is seeing more and more people listening to Hibakusha's experiences. "This is what we will do," she expressed.

A woman in her 80s living in Hiroshima said, "When I got married and moved to Hiroshima, every branch (of the New Japan Women's Association) had one or more Hibakusha member. We collected their testimonies and began publishing a series of booklets entitled, 'Burnt like Fallen Leaves.'" The title was taken after Hibakusha Nagoya Misao's testimony that her younger sister was burnt like fallen leaves. "We are at a crucial point regarding whether or not we can pass their experiences on to the next generations. I am over 80 years old now, but I will continue this activity as long as I live," she said.

A second heated discussion focused on signature campaigns. A representative of Niigata Gensuikyo said, "Use of nuclear weapons is a crime. It is crucial for us to break through the step-by-step theory and show our demand with signatures for the immediate elimination of nuclear weapons." A proposal was made that a new international signature petition include text describing the inhumanity of nuclear weapons. A delegate from India said he agreed with the importance of conducting such a signature campaign around the world. A participant from Kyoto said, "To gather all people's efforts, we need to come up with a simple target, which should be a total ban of nuclear weapons." He also stressed that the campaign should be promoted by linking with other growing movements, such as those about poverty, the environment, and nuclear energy.

An overseas delegate representing UNFold Zero clarified the effectiveness of signatures by saying that the signatures brought by Japanese delegates to New York had a tremendous effect. He proposed another signature campaign targeting the period between the International Day of Peace (Sept. 21) and the International Day for the Complete Elimination of Nuclear Weapons (Sept.

26) as well as actions in October when the discussions on nuclear disarmament will be held at the UN.

The third topic was about the roles of the peace movements and civil society, especially in how to press nuclear weapons states and how to corner the Japanese government which depends on the “nuclear umbrella” and is rushing to turn Japan into a war fighting nation.

Each speaker on this topic mentioned the importance of appealing to Diet members. One of them called on others to begin with what they can do in their own country, such as a signature drive, Hiroshima Day and Nagasaki Day actions. A woman, who has taken to streets even on rainy, snowy, or intensely hot days to collect signatures, said, “Standing in the street to collect signatures has become a part of my everyday life. It has now gained support from local shop owners and residents.”

Reports on how activities against Japan’s security bills are expanding were astonishing. A delegate from Gifu described a local rally they held on the day when the House of Representatives Special Committee forcibly approved the security bills: although it was the day with pouring rain, passers-by came to join the rally one after another, and the number of participants of 30 at first became more than 80.

Participants were also impressed by actions initiated by people of faith. On July 24, more than 300 people got together at a rally in the Diet building regardless of difference of their faiths. They are planning to hold a “Diet jack” action on August 24. Changes seen in local areas were also mentioned. A representative of Mie Gensuikyo reported that their local peace march this year was joined by more young people and workers than ever, and their anger over the security bills was expressed in the peace march. Magiting Fabros of the Philippines said that Japan has not experienced war for 70 years and Article 9 of the Constitution needs to be protected. He pointed out the importance of learning from different movements and making links among them.

There was a moment when the hearts of the participants of this workshop were united. In this moment delegates from Finland representing “Artists for Peace” sang “We Shall Overcome”. They said, “We will arm ourselves with art. Art creates hope from despair and with art we can overcome fear. If working together we can achieve peace, so let’s work together!”

Workshop III: For a World without Nuclear Weapons: Overcoming Nuclear Deterrence Doctrine; Peaceful Resolution of Conflicts, Sustainable Life and Environment

Moñeka de Oro Guahan Coalition for Peace and Justice Guam

In a separate venue from the day's proceedings a little over 50 conference attendees from all over Japan and the world gathered to further discuss the themes outlined in Plenary Session III of this conference.

The Chairpersons decided to organize the workshop by breaking speech topics into the three subthemes for the workshop. The chairpersons that took turns facilitating the workshops were Caesar Jaramillo, Executive Director of Project Ploughshares based in Canada. He provided introductory remarks and moderated the topic of “Overcoming Nuclear Deterrence Doctrine”. Chisaka Jun, the Secretary General of the Japan Peace Committee moderated the second topic on “Peaceful Resolution of Conflicts.” And lastly Nagao Yuri, the Vice President of the National Confederation of Trade Unions (Zenzoren), facilitated speeches regarding “Sustainable Life and Environment”.

Speeches were limited to 5-7 minutes so that each person that signed up to talk were given the opportunity. All together 24 speeches were given on this very important theme in the hope that we can forge a pathway to peace and finally bring an end to nuclear weapons and war. For the whole 4 hours of the workshop participants shared stories of struggles and successes in movement work in a variety of war and peace related issues.

Subtheme 1: Overcoming Nuclear Deterrence Doctrine

Chairperson Caesar Jaramillo began the session providing historical background on problematic notions of the “nuclear deterrence doctrine”. The doctrine is a false belief that we can keep peace by possessing weapons of mass destruction and that the value of nuclear weapons is in the possession not the use. In this way nuclear weapons are created and kept for political purposes not military. He outlined the nuclear arms race between the USSR and the US during the cold war. He discussed the impacts of the Sept. 11 attacks on the US, the geopolitical realities and misguided need for nuclear weapons. Pointing out the complexity that we don’t just live in a world

of Nuclear States and Nonnuclear states, there is also the threat of non-state actors obtaining and using nuclear weapons. Five speakers from different areas of Japan (Tokyo, Kanagawa, Hiroshima, Okayama and Osaka) gave addresses to this subtheme. They and many more speakers throughout the workshop's other sub topic discussions brought to light the Japanese government's dependence on the US Security Umbrella. A general dissatisfaction with the Abe administration's policies was evident. Some even called for the immediate removal of the Abe government. Issues on the controversial war legislation, the negation of Article 9 in the Japanese Constitution, social and environmental problems associated with hosting US Bases and the Japan-US Security Alliance which further militarizes the Asia Pacific region were all discussed. The complete abolition of nuclear weapons and nuclear energy from the viewpoint of the harmful threat of pollution and problems storing the waste was also advocated for. This topic session ended with a high school teacher's report on lessons from her Constitution Class. Her students learn about the significance of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the importance of Article 9 and conducts debates on nuclear deterrence doctrine. These lessons teach the next generation about importance of Peace.

Subtheme 2: Peaceful Resolution of Conflicts

Chisaka Jun of the Japan Peace Committee facilitated this topics round, where he and eight others spoke on. He was exceptional at connecting issues together ensuring that the discussions were fruitful. Of the eight talks 6 were representatives from different Japanese Prefectures and two were international delegates.

Education as a solution to peace was a thread throughout the workshop. Speakers stressed the need to evaluate current textbooks and write new ones to ensure they promote peace and teach the realities of war. Several teachers from different parts of Japan from primary to secondary schools and even popular education (community teach ins, workshops) stated the fact that our children and adults too need to learn about history, they need to learn about Hiroshima, Nagasaki and the experience of Hibakusha to become critical of war, the US Military presence, in Japan as well as on issues of the environment. A senior member of the All Japan Teachers and Staffs Union began stating that education is essential in the abolition of nuclear weapons and in finding peaceful resolution of conflicts. She spoke on her organization's success in providing teachers with opportunities to learn about the struggles in

Okinawa and Fukushima. With pride she also spoke to the 6 million petition signatures that were collected in Japan and delivered this past April at the Non Proliferation Treaty in New York City. Teachers and students across the country were instrumental in the success of that petition. Speakers provided numerous examples of how classrooms are breeding grounds for the peace movement.

Regional stability (East Asia and Pacific) and notions of genuine security was another thread in the tapestry of all the sessions in the entire workshop. US Military presence and increased militarization of Japan and the Pacific was touched on several times. Several speakers were from host cities of current and former US Military installations. Many were critical of the impacts of the bases. They questioned the logic that having bases makes the country more secure. This thinking must be refuted. Many pointed out the poor quality of life for residents around bases, the myth of economic dependence for host cities, the frequency of car accidents and other problems associated with US military personnel, and noise pollution from training exercises. There have been many successes in mobilizing the anti-base and anti-war legislation movement in Japan. Thousands of people have attended recent rallies and protest. The Kobe Formula is a local legislation that bans bringing of nuclear weapons into its port, now no US warships have visited the port in over 30 years. In Yokota a popular slogan is "Protect Peace Constitution. Protect Article 9. Spread Peace around the World". This is chanted at protests of bases and the Osprey touch and go training at Yokota and Mt. Fuji.

A representative from Tinian in the Pacific Mariana Islands pleaded for support in her islands' struggle to prevent the use of 2/3 of the island from being used by the US military for training. The island is undergoing the US NEPA process which is culturally insensitive in that the language is too scientific and technical and that most people speak English only as a second language. Speakers from Vietnam and Japan also stressed the threat of China, their growing military power and their actions in the south China seas and the TPP (Trans Pacific Partnership) as impediments to peace and security in the region.

Before the final subtheme's session began Magdalene Hoffman of New Jersey, US spoke to the fact that the US government is the biggest obstacle in obtaining peace, ending nuclear weapons and environmental sustainability. There are many people within the US that recognize all that our government is doing. And the American

people want peace. The country has a culture of war but there are thousands of people organizing across the country to create a culture of peace that sustains the environment and all life.

Subtheme 3: Sustainable Life and Environment

This theme's 13 speeches was facilitated by Nagao Yuri, vice president of the National Confederation of Trade Unions (ZENROREN). Many speakers touched on overlapping issues from the previous sessions. Talks began with a representative from the National Federation of Traders and Producers Organization which has 20,000 member organizations throughout Japan. 700,000 members responded to their recent survey of small business. Business owners indicate that the "consumption tax hike" has made business much more difficult. The TPP will further their problems in that large corporations will not share the tax burden. The association is doing their part in educating its members on history of nuclear weapons and war.

Higa Mizuki of Okinawa and several others doing solidarity work throughout Japan reported on the movement work. Tens of thousands of people have rallied to shut down and remove all bases. It has become a major national issue and many people from around the world have supported the efforts. There is still much work to do to protect Nago and Henoko from the new base plans based on the Japan-US Security Alliance. Okinawans worry about the health of the environment, their economy development and the overall well-being of the community.

Specifically in regards to sustainability and the environment. The health of the ocean and the farm lands from toxicity and radiation were paramount in the proceedings. Juanita Mendiola of Tinian spoke on the role of women in protecting the environment. She spoke to modern conveniences (supermarkets and department stores) and how it has disconnected us. She urged everyone to have a respect for life and that we cannot rely on government to protect and manage our natural resources. Other speakers spoke towards the danger of nuclear energy and pollution, citing Fukushima as major disaster that has not been adequately addressed. Nuclear energy and nuclear weapons are very interconnected and should be banned, which represented some of the sentiments.

The youth voice and a hope for a brighter more peaceful future was another dominant thread in the workshop. One woman spoke about how impressed she was with a 9 year old girl who on her own accord created a nine day campaign to protest the war legislation, without backing from

any specific organization this young girl was able to get over 1000 people out to Sapporo Park to protest the war legislation. The bravery and conviction that this little girl has is admirable. The youth must be educated and their energy captured in bringing any real hope for peace in the future.

The discussions of this workshop touched on many key issues to bring about the goals of theme. Although not much can be accomplished in just four hours, participants walked away with a deeper understanding of our interconnected struggles. So many examples of success and the growth of strong movements gave us a renewed sense of purpose. We must not lose hope. Peace must be won. For the sake of our children and all future generations the work we do must continue.

Report from the Scientists' Forum

Yoshimura Takao Japan Scientists' Association

The Scientists' Forum met on Saturday, August 1, in Yamaguchi City as part of the 2015 World Conference against A and H Bombs marking the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The theme was "From Yamaguchi - Let Us Build a World Free of Nuclear Threat or Damage: The Damage and Aftereffects of the A-bombing; Support for Hibakusha; and Abolition of Nuclear Weapons". 102 participants in the meeting heard reports of seven speakers. The meeting was declared open at 10:00 am, followed by greetings from Morita Masafumi, President of Yamaguchi Prefecture A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations, and Fukue Toshiki, Yamaguchi Prefecture Gensuikyo representative. Messages from the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were introduced.

Okamoto Ryoji from the Japan Scientists' Association Fukuoka Chapter was the first to report. He spoke on the theme of "Differences and Common Features of Radiation Exposure between A-bombing and Nuclear Power Plant Disaster -- What actually happened and the worst case theory". Comparing an atomic bomb, which generates enormous amount of energy in forms of heat rays, blast and radiation, to a nuclear reactor, which accumulates tremendous amounts of radiation over a long period of time, the nuclear power plant exceeds in ratio of long-life radiation by an extremely large degree. Therefore, in case of a nuclear power plant accident, living in radioactively contaminated areas is more difficult for a longer period of time than that by a nuclear explosion. And it was explained that in the

accident at Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, various coincidental factors worked at each phase, saving us from experiencing the worst possible situation.

The second lecturer was Iwamoto Susumu, the director of Yuda-En, a Hibakusha support center in Yamaguchi prefecture, where the share of Hibakusha in population is the 3rd largest after Nagasaki and Hiroshima. His theme was "Support for the Hibakusha in Yamaguchi – over 40-years of History at Yuda-En." "Yuda-En" was built in May 1968 in the Yuda Onsen district of Yamaguchi City, as a "recreational facility with hot springs" for the benefit of Hibakusha in Yamaguchi. Regardless of ideology, religious faith, belief and thought, local people made efforts to build this facility to help Hibakusha and other people who are working for peace. This movement was known as a "Yamaguchi-style" project and drew attention from around the country. He also underlined that there was a "lost decade" after the atomic bombing in which the Hibakusha could not get any aid due to a black-out imposed by the U.S. Occupation Forces, who feared being accused of dropping the A-bombs. Therefore, the publication of accurate news by the media would be necessary to take relief measures and positive steps for the Hibakusha.

The third speaker was Sugano Hideo, a representative of "Northern Fukushima Association for Complete Compensation" for the damages and loss caused by the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant. He spoke about "radiation contamination in the Tohoku region and the challenges for the post-disaster reconstruction of the community." The total number of dislocated people from Fukushima is 110,000, including voluntary evacuees. However, the government support for room rent is to be terminated for people on voluntary evacuation and emergence of fascism. There is the danger of Japan becoming a nuclear power and moving to introduce a draft system. Therefore, he emphasized that reconstructing the movement was needed to press those in power to comply with the war-renouncing constitution.

The 6th speaker was Isao Tomio, professor at Yamaguchi Prefectural University. He spoke on the theme of "History of Measures on Civilian Damage from War". Regarding the war damage among civilians, the government had a serious discussion and took measures for the first time at the time of the Russo-Japanese War. It was in fact not really a compensation for civilian damages, but rather a "relief payment" to show sympathy. During WWI, some payments were made to Japanese who lived in Germany to make up for

they are now forced to make a difficult decision. His report covered various topics such as damage from the nuclear disaster, activity by an association seeking for compensation, a lawsuit demanding restoration of pre-disaster bread-and-butter jobs and livelihoods, and protests against the termination of national compensation and the restart of nuclear power plants.

In the afternoon, Joseph Gerson from the American Friends Service Committee-New England, was invited to the podium, as the 4th speaker to speak on the theme "70 years from Hiroshima and Nagasaki A-bombing: Contradiction, Danger and Chance". The recent NPT Review Conference failed to adopt the final document due to resistance from the U.S. However, it was significant that many people gathered in New York from all over the world, enhancing public opinion for the abolition of nuclear weapons. He stressed that the more important thing was "the actions to be taken when we go home". In addition, he reported about the activities of Peace & Planet, which was rapidly growing.

The 5th lecture was given by Koketsu Atsushi, Vice President of Yamagata University, on the theme of "True Meaning of the Right to Collective Self-Defense -- Beyond the Reckless Abe Government and the Japan-US Nuclear Alliance." By allowing Japan to exercise the right to collective self-defense, which is a clear violation of the Japanese Constitution, the system of joint military operation with the US will be materialized, intensifying tensions in East Asia. He suggested that there was a high possibility that the roles of the two countries may be changed from "Japan as the shield and the US as the pike" to "US as the shield and Japan as the pike". Indifference to politics would allow the

their losses. In the case of WWII, individual regulation could no longer meet the needs, so in 1942 the Japanese government enacted the "Wartime Disaster Protection Law". But it later ceased to exist by the introduction of the postwar "Public Assistance Act". Since then, no additional law was enacted to deal with the civilian war damage except the Hibakusha Aid Law for the atomic bomb survivors.

Lastly, Yoshioka Mitsunori from the Yamaguchi Prefecture Peace Committee spoke on "Issues of the Iwakuni Military Base Expansion and Realignment of Deployment." The history of the Iwakuni base goes back to 1938, when an air base was built by former the Imperial Japanese Navy. When Japan lost WWII, it was confiscated by the Occupation Forces, and has been used to

this day as an air station for US Marines. In 2000, construction to move the runway offshore started, which has been used since 2010. It was made clear that already in the 1950s nuclear-capable fighters were deployed to Iwakuni base. As the 2006 “Quadrennial Defense Review” of the U.S. Department of Defense, puts forward a policy that conventional force and nuclear force be operated as one, it is clear that Iwakuni base today is designated as a nuclear capable base where nuclear weapons could be brought in a military

contingency.

After the seven presentations, the floor was opened for discussion. We all confirmed that it was the scientists who either built or dismantle nuclear weapons; therefore, it was significant that we scientists stayed steadfast, never contributing to war-related research. Before closing at 16:40, an appeal was adopted for the “61st International Pugwash Conference” which will be held in Nagasaki City in November 2015.

Opening Plenary

2015 World Conference against A and H Bombs-Hiroshima (August 4)

Keynote Address on Behalf of the Organizer:

Tomida Koji Drafting Committee Chair

I would like to make a report on the International Meeting which is also the keynote address on behalf of the organizer.

Seventy years after the atomic bombings and the end of World War II, this year's World Conference is being held in the midst of a popular struggle for scrapping the unconstitutional "security legislation bill" or "war bills" and demanding the Abe government to step down. The struggle is filled with popular outrage and anger towards Abe, who is desperately trying to turn Japan into a war waging nation. During this period, innumerable rallies, demonstrations and street reachout drives are taking place in front of the Diet building as well as in many cities, towns and villages all over Japan with resounding calls of "No War bills" and "Abe resign".

At the outset, I would like to tell you that "the World Conference, which calls for a "world of peace and justice without nuclear weapons", is definitely united with that broad-based popular struggle and shares in the same spirit.

As the "Declaration" of the International Meeting clearly indicates, the rapid developments seen in the world, in particular the NPT Review

Conference in May followed by the definitive agreement reached with Iran on its nuclear program, as well as the normalization of diplomatic relations between the U.S. and Cuba, have brought us much closer to four goals, namely "democracy", "rule of law", "denial of deterrence doctrine" and "peaceful diplomatic settlement of conflict".

Although no final document was produced, the antinuclear public opinion manifested by the 6.3 million signatures we submitted to the Review Conference was present at the NPT Review Conference and drove nuclear weapon states into a corner. This is what we value and call the "evidence of democracy in the disarmament area". Pushed by this democratic tide, the international community is now seeking to achieve a "legal measure" that is the establishment of "rule of law" on the nuclear weapons issue. Democracy and rule of law are two features of the irreversible and steady current now prevailing in the Review Conference, despite the tenacious resistance of the nuclear weapon states.

The only ground the opponents of the democratic tide are clinging to is "deterrence theory", according to which a war can be deterred by huge military power. This is nothing but an obsolete idea and a mere illusion. The successes of the efforts made for diplomatic and peaceful settlement of conflicts such as the Iran Deal have demonstrated this eloquently.

Needless to say, the attempt of the Abe government to make Japan a "war fighting nation"

runs counter to each of the 4 goals I have mentioned and to which the unstoppable international tide is headed.

In fact, the government has systematically undermined “rule of law” and the “Constitution” in the way it tried to impose the “War Bills” in defiance of the Constitution by giving a perilous twist to its interpretation. It has been hostile to democracy by ignoring the voices of the Japanese people, who are sovereign of the Japanese nation. It has an idea of the state of the world so out of date that it claims that the “War Bills” will increase deterrence. And it is an anachronism close to absurdity to believe that international conflicts should be settled by force not by diplomatic or peaceful efforts.

Friends, with its ideas and behaviors defying the global tide advancing towards a “peaceful and just world without nuclear weapons”, the Abe government has isolated itself from the rest of the world.

The Abe government does not miss an occasion when it comes to question its opponents about alternatives. If asked, we would say that what is needed with the unconstitutional war legislation is not to find an alternative but to scrap it flatly. However, if they ask us to present an alternative, we would say: “The alternative to Abe’s aim of making Japan a war waging nation is the ‘peaceful and just world without nuclear weapons’ proposed by the World Conference against A and H Bombs”. The alternative to his war bills would then be the “Declaration of the International Meeting” you all have with you now.

Dear friends, allow me now to execute my assignment to deliver the organizer’s report by commenting briefly on the “Declaration of the International Meeting”.

As the “Declaration” reminds us at the beginning, this year coincides with the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings and World War II. It offers an appropriate occasion for us to return to the point where we started our movement 70 years ago and renew our commitment to renunciation of war stipulated in the United Nation’s Charter and the Japanese Constitution.

As the “Declaration” indicates, the origin of postwar world politics was the U.N. Charter with the pledge to “save succeeding generations from the scourge of war (...) which brought untold sorrow to mankind” and the very first resolution adopted by the U.N. General Assembly calling for “the elimination from national arsenals of atomic weapons”.

For Japan, postwar politics was based on the severe self-criticism of the war of aggression it waged and colonial rule it imposed on other nations. It also embodied the unequivocal pacifism of Article 9 of the Constitution rooted in the atrocious

experiences the atomic bombs inflicted on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The 2015 World Conference against A and H Bombs, building on this past and hand in hand with the Hibakusha, will say the call loud: “No more wars”, “No more Hiroshimas and Nagasakis”.

However, the “Declaration” states that the world is still loaded with about 16,000 nuclear warheads. If even a single one of them is used, it would bring about a “hell on earth” beyond description. This is what the tragedies of Hiroshima and Nagasaki eloquently tell us.

In fact, two atomic bombs were enough to produce a living hell in these two martyr cities where people could neither live nor die in dignity as human beings.

The massive energy of the nuclear explosions took different forms: heat rays equivalent to several thousand times the sun, shock waves faster than sound, and tremendous radiation. They mercilessly assaulted the human communities in Hiroshima and Nagasaki and transformed instantly these cities into a hell of roaring flames and radiation.

Streets, houses and people, all were burned, destroyed and killed. Those people who escaped immediate death died one after another due to burns and acute radiation disorders. By the end of 1945, 140,000 people had died in Hiroshima and 70,000 in Nagasaki, killed by the atomic bombs. It was the worst mass destruction in history, the worst mass killing.

The damage did not end there. The survivors who had merely survived the radiation hell fell victim to delayed radiation disorders, including leukemia and cancer. Today, 70 years later, cancer, liver disease and other illnesses are still gnawing at their bodies and threatening their lives.

Their sufferings are not caused by diseases alone. They also bear deep scars on their minds because of the appalling experiences: sense of guilt towards their families and friends whom they could not save, cruel social discrimination, etc. At each event that marked their lives, such as marriage and childbirth, they were caught by fear and anxiety. They also suffer poverty and solitude, because of their illnesses and wounds in their hearts. All these years, several hundreds of thousands of survivors have endured various sufferings and pains in their lives, bodies, minds and livelihoods.

Friends, as the “Declaration” severely points out, the realities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki show that nuclear weapons are devilish weapons and cannot coexist with human beings.

Dear participants,

It is an urgent and compelling task for the survival of humanity to eradicate the dangers of the potential use of nuclear weapons. On the 70th

anniversary of the atomic bombings, we wish to remind ourselves once again, and to remind the peoples of the world, their governments, and international organizations that it is high time that they work together to achieve the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons.

The NPT Review Conference held this spring could not produce a final document, but realized an extremely important achievement. It reflected the development of the opinion and the movement of the world, including the Japanese movement whose representatives went to New York in large numbers to stage colorful and creative actions there.

This was nothing but the illustration that in the Review Conference, a majority of voices called for the commencement of negotiations for a convention banning nuclear weapons and other legally binding measures for achieving a “world without nuclear weapons”. Their voices encircled the nuclear weapon states and drove them into a corner. In other words, the tide in favor of “rule of law” has become stronger and wider.

At the same time, as the “Declaration” indicates, the joint declaration denouncing the inhumanity of nuclear weapons and demanding their elimination has been supported by 159 countries, obliging nuclear weapon states to express their “understanding” concerning the joint declaration. This was also a remarkable and important achievement.

However, the most important of all is the fact that the opinion and the movements of the peoples around the world, including the Japanese movement, have helped this change to happen. This is the proof that democracy is steadily gaining ground and forming a mainstream in the fora of diplomatic negotiations on nuclear disarmament and nuclear elimination.

As the “Declaration” insists, if we can build an overwhelming majority opinion and succeed in encircling those forces that cling to nuclear weapons and isolating them, the way towards a “world without nuclear weapons” will surely be opened. Friends, let us firmly believe in this.

Dear participants of the World Conference,

What is relevant for making further advances is to defeat “nuclear deterrence theory”. It goes without saying that the inhumanity of the use of nuclear weapons, as evidenced by the realities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, is the most solid ground for denying any attempt to justify that theory.

In that sense, the fact that the “Humanitarian Pledge” that calls for legal measures for the elimination of nuclear weapons on the basis of their inhumane nature, was initiated by the government of Austria and is now supported by as many as 113 countries, must draw our attention. Recalling that

Ambassador Kmentt, who was a central figure in this initiative, played an important role in last year’s World Conference, as well as the NPT Review Conference, we wish to express our full support and enthusiasm for his effort.

The “Declaration” says that achieving regional peace and security on the basis of the peace principles of the U.N. Charter and by non-military means represents the major current of world opinion.

We therefore strongly demand that the North Korean nuclear issue and all other international conflicts be resolved peacefully and diplomatically. Participants of the World Conference,

As I said earlier, the Abe Government’s policy to make Japan a warring nation and its attempt to get the “War Bills” voted in by the Diet are both contrary to the world tide in every aspect. The “Declaration” expresses our overwhelming solidarity with other movements and struggles, in particular the Japanese movement for scrapping the “War Bills”, the movement for preserving and ensuring the observance of the Japanese Constitution, the struggle of Okinawa against the construction a new base of U.S. troops, and the movement for a non-nuclear and peaceful Japan.

Friends, let us live up to this solidarity and renew our resolve to defeat Abe’s dangerous attempt by building a powerful movement worthy of the only country that experienced atomic bombing,

Dear participants,

The “Declaration” sets forth two categories of actions, emphasizing that the fundamental force that supports and promotes the progress of the world towards nuclear abolition is to be found in the opinion and movement of the peoples of the world.

It is up to the discussions that you commence today to give rich contents to the proposed actions. Allow me to conclude the organizer’s report by wishing you fruitful and enthusiastic discussions in the days ahead. Thank you very much.

Greetings from Hiroshima Mayor:

Matsui Kazumi

Mayor of Hiroshima City

(Delivered by Mr. Tanimoto Mutsushi, Head of Citizens Division)

I would like to convey my heartfelt greetings to 2015 World Conference against A and H Bombs. Thank you for coming to Hiroshima. I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of you on behalf of 1.18 million Hiroshima citizens. I also would like to express my heartfelt appreciation for your continuous effort for achieving the abolition of nuclear weapon and permanent peace of the world.

On August 6, 1945, Hiroshima was burned to ashes by a single atomic bomb. Tens of thousands of innocent citizens including infants and the elderly were killed, and 140,000 people died by the end of the year. Nuclear weapons are the “absolute evil” that not only claim precious lives but also deprive people of their warm family affection and future dreams, and destroy their lives.

To eliminate this “absolute evil” from the earth, it is necessary to build up a world in which friendly future-oriented relations is established irrespective of difference in nationality, race, and religion while use of force that produces a chain of hatred and drives us to threat and kill each other is negated.

Experiencing the devastating hell 70 years ago, the Hibakusha have kept calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons with strong determination not to make it repeated on anyone on earth, while struggling to overcome their anger and hatred.

Thanks to their appeal, the trend to seek a ban on nuclear weapons has been growing. Though the NPT Review Conference this spring could not adopt a final document, the necessity for a legally-binding framework for a ban on nuclear weapons was widely and surely recognized. This was demonstrated by the fact that 107 countries supported “Humanitarian Pledge”, proposed by Austria, which called for filling the legal gap for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons.

It is important to make the trend more prevailing and continue to put pressure on all the governments, in particular those of nuclear weapon states, to set a forum for negotiating a legally-binding framework to prohibit nuclear weapons. For this purpose, Hiroshima will make further endeavor to inherit, spread the A-bomb damage to the world and pass it on to the future generations. Also, Mayors for Peace, for which I serve as the president, has been making effort to enhance the international opinion in favor of a start of negotiations on a convention banning and eliminating nuclear weapons by taking advantage of the network of more than 6700 member cities in 161 countries and regions and cooperating with like-minded NGOs and citizens.

In order to realize a “peaceful world without nuclear weapons”, the earnest wish of the Hibakusha, without delay, your corporation and support is essential. In this context, your initiative to hold 2015 World Conference against A and H Bombs is truly significant. I commend your effort to mobilize such a large number of peace-loving participants to the conference and inherit the message of the Hibakusha. I wish the conference of the 70th year will be successful and renew your resolution to work harder for peace.

I conclude my greetings, wishing you all good health and every success in your work.

Greetings from Guests:

Tsuboi Sunao Co-Chairperson, Japan Confederation of A-and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations (Nihon Hidankyo)

I am a Hibakusha of the Hiroshima A-bomb. I was blown away by the A-bomb blast while walking on a street 1.2 km away from ground zero. I was a 20-year-old university student at the time, and was on my way to school. My whole body was terribly burned, and to my surprise, my shoulders and waist were bleeding. My white shirt and shorts were half burned off; my undershirt was actually on fire. I looked around but couldn't see even 100 meters away.

Knowing that some kind of bomb exploded in such close proximity, I instinctively cursed my ill fate. At the same time, being a youth of a militaristic nation, I was outraged thinking “Bastard Americans, you attacked us. I will pay you back for sure.”

People were wandering about but nobody was steadfast. Tottering people would die 1 or 2 hours later. I saw a female student who had one eye bulging out. There were people pierced with broken pieces of glass. There was a woman whose guts were gushing out from her stomach and was trying to push them back inside. It was indeed a scene of a fragile death march.

People who got caught underneath debris were crying in agony, “Help me, water please.” They were so desperate but I was so helpless that I could not offer anything to save them.

I saw dead people whose faces were hard to recognize. There were dead people's torsos without legs. There were dead people whose sex was hard to tell. It was an unimaginable sight produced on earth. It was nothing but Hell. I couldn't find any help from my university or family. Someone told me that there is a temporary aid station set up at the west side of Miyukibashi Bridge. With every last ounce of strength I had, I made it to the bridge, but I only found some injured people gathering there. (This was the last step I could make.)

I was alone. My student ID was burnt up and gone; all I could was just wait there half naked.

Many Hibakusha share the kind of experience to some degree. We lived through a time when we lost the sense of being dead or alive. In my case, I guess I wanted to confirm my being. I scratched letters in the sidewalk of the end of the bridge with a stone, “Tsuboi died here”. With the remaining strength in my injured hand, I inscribed it, knowing that nobody would see it. 5 years later, I visited

the same place, but I found no trace remaining on that sidewalk.

Some days after the bombing, I came to my senses briefly at the sound of my mother's voice. I don't remember anything before that though. I stayed unconscious, so I don't know when the war ended. Until September 25th, my memory is completely lost and vacant.

One year past, and I finally started walking again. I've lived a long 70 years since then, struggling with various illnesses. I was hospitalized 12 times (including three when I almost died). I still suffer from two forms of cancer, angina, and chronic aplastic anemia. Like other Hibakusha, I received a lot of help from many people. I would like to use the rest of my life to return all the kindness that I have received. I am thankful for the progress of medicine that Japan enjoys today. I am grateful for all the medical institutions, doctors and staff. I humbly pray in gratefulness.

This year marks the 70th commemoration of the A-bombing. As Hibakusha become older, the more forgotten the A-bombing becomes. But we must not let the experiences of Hibakusha being swept away into oblivion and give up fighting. The effects of radiation otherwise known as modern evilness is nothing less but an unacceptable Hell. Hibakusha were killed so effortlessly, and those who survived were hurt physically and mentally. Survivors had to endure illnesses for a long time, yet we resolved never to allow another Hibakusha. Our appeal will never change. We will employ all our might to ban nuclear warfare, totally abolish nuclear weapons, and build a world free of war.

In closing, what about the recent social situation? The Diet has not reached a final resolution, yet there have been noisy debates over the issue of war. However, the fundamental basis of Japanese Constitution is the renouncement of war (Article 9).

Since time is limited, I will just list my current concerns as following.

1. The 1st priority for the nation is Article 9 and we should conduct a national referendum to protect it.
2. Current national representatives were not elected over the issues regarding the suggested security bills.
3. The war promoters are never at risk because they stay in the back; it's always the youth to fight on the front line.
4. The warmongers should sign an agreement that they would lead the attack if war is waged.
5. We should never repeat the history of accepting war as a necessary evil.
6. Terrorists are trying to acquire nuclear

weapons.

I protest against the current move of the government in promoting war.

Say absolutely NO to wars that kill people. Never give up in your lifetime. Friends, let us say, "Never give up!"

Moritaki Haruko
Co-Representative, Hiroshima Alliance
for Nuclear Weapons Abolition (HANWA)/
World Nuclear Victims Forum

I extend my greetings of solidarity from Hiroshima to so many of you who are gathering here in Hiroshima as we commemorate the 70th year of the Atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The Atomic bombing brought the ultimate, inhumane tragedy without parallel in human history to untold numbers of citizens of Hiroshima. Hundreds of thousands were mercilessly burnt, blown away, and exposed to fatal doses of radiation. Those who survived the bomb have also had to endure suffering of all kinds for these 70 years, struggling with diseases, poverty, discrimination, fear of genetic effects to future generations, and breaking-off of human relations.

Nuclear victims are not only those who suffered the A-bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. At all stages of nuclear development, radiation damage has created countless Global Hibakusha, and the number is increasing. I have been to several affected areas to conduct research and give assistance.

At the Jadugoda uranium mine in a remote village of India, the heart of India's nuclear weapons program and nuclear power generation, I saw many cases of congenital defects, both physical and intellectual, problems giving birth, and untimely death from cancer and other diseases.

In Nevada, where one of the world's nuclear test sites is located, I learned that the US citizens living downwind of the test site were suffering from cancers and other problems, which have had devastating impacts on their livelihood.

In Iraq, where depleted uranium munitions, which are radioactive weapons, were fired all over the country during the Iraq War following the Gulf War, I had to witness many children and citizens struggling with leukemia, cancers or birth defects and dying one after another.

And in Fukushima, an enormous amount of highly contaminated water remains in the basement of the crippled nuclear power plant. The situation is desperate as the water continues to leak into the ocean. People who lost their homeland have been

forced to endure great hardships. Their lives have been destroyed, their health is at risk and they are increasingly concerned about the future of their children.

Common to all nuclear victims is that they suffer from radiation damage and that the most vulnerable to the damage are children, women and the powerless people who are discriminated against.

Nuclear damage is produced in all the processes of utilization of nuclear power, starting from the mining of uranium ore, through nuclear weapons production, nuclear testing, nuclear war, worker exposure during the operation of nuclear power plants, nuclear accidents, production of plutonium by reprocessing spent nuclear fuels, and finally from the use of depleted uranium munitions made from nuclear waste. Nuclear damage will see no end unless we understand this whole picture and eradicate its root.

However, the Japanese government and gigantic capital aim not only to restart and export nuclear reactors, but also to continue stepping up the production of plutonium by persisting with its nuclear fuel cycle policy.

Hiroshima appeals to the world. As long as human beings make use of nuclear power, humanity will be denied by nuclear power. I would like to call on the world once again in this 70th year of the Atomic bombing to absolutely reject nuclear weapons and to embrace the idea born out of the A-bomb experience that humankind and nuclear weapons cannot coexist

I am resolved to move forward with all my might in solidarity with all of you who are fighting all over Japan and the world to abolish nuclear weapons and depleted uranium munitions through a convention banning nuclear weapons, and to eliminate nuclear power plants. In November in this 70th year of the A-bombing, nuclear victims from different parts of the world will gather in Hiroshima for three days at the "World Nuclear Victims Forum," to join hands together for ending all forms of utilization of radioactive substances and for the relief of nuclear victims. I would like to ask you for your cooperation and participation.

The Abe administration is out of its mind the way it is trying to steamroll the war bills. They will expose people of this country to the danger of dependence on war, nuclear power and nuclear weapons. Let us unite to be one big power to stop the Abe Administration.

Takarada Akira, Actor (Main character in the 1954 film "Godzilla")

I am afraid the time allotted to me will be too limited to talk about all I want to. So, I would be happy if you understand my concerns about it.

I have been asked by the Japan Council against A and H Bombs to speak at this event marking the 70 years since the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the 60 years since the First World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs. I managed to come to Hiroshima to join with you, who assembled from around the country. Taking the rostrum is a pleasant and sobering experience for me.

Seventy years ago, I lived in a cosmopolitan city called Harbin in former Manchuria, which no longer exists. My father was a South Manchuria Railway Company employee. On August 6 that year, while listening to the radio in the company housing, the tragic news came in that a kind of chemical bomb had fallen on Hiroshima and that hundreds of thousands of people had been burnt alive in an instant. I was a fifth grader. My parents were clenching as they attentively listened to the radio news. As I was a militaristic boy, I also felt I was gutted both physically and mentally.

Three days later, on August 9, news came in that a similar bomb fell on Nagasaki. On the afternoon of that day, Soviet forces crossed the borders into Manchuria after the Soviet Union unilaterally broke a friendship treaty with Japan. Most settlers from Japan, Japanese residents, and garrison personnel were driven out, and everybody was so miserable on that day. On August 15, the War ended. A week later, on August 22, Soviet armored units rolled into Harbin, central Manchuria. All offices of the public institutions were quickly shut down and seized by Soviet troops. All schools and health care facilities were closed. Amid anarchy, Japanese nationals were thrown into the streets all at once. For nearly two years after that, they experienced an exceptionally hard time. I had a near-death experience when a Soviet soldier fired at me. I was one of the last Japanese repatriates from Harbin to manage to return to Japan.

I entered film company Toho in 1953. The next year, the company produced two big movies. One was "The Seven Samurai." It was directed by Kurosawa Akira. Mifune Toshiro was the leading actor. The other was "Godzilla" starring Takarada Akira. It was directed by Honda Ishiro. The production of "Godzilla" was motivated by a US hydrogen bomb test explosion in the South Pacific. The *Daigo Fukuryūmaru* (The Lucky Dragon No. 5), a fishing boat from Yaizu Port, Shizuoka Prefecture, was showered with radioactive fallout

from the thermonuclear test explosion while fishing at Bikini Atoll. Several hours after the sun set in the west, a huge fire ball dozens of times larger than the sun rose in the west, as testified vividly by the crewmembers. The *Daigo Fukuryumaru* was exposed to radiation all too soon and returned to its homeport. Unfortunately Kuboyama Aikichi, the radio operator, and many other crew members died.

Since Japan is an atomic-bombed country and the *Daigo Fukuryumaru* was exposed to radiation, the film company could not help but raise its voice against such tragedies. It decided that no one but Toho or Japan could warn the world on the danger of nuclear war. That's how the filmmaker came to produce "Godzilla." Data shows that about 9,610,000 people, or more than 10 percent of the Japanese population of 88,000,000, watched "Godzilla" when it was shown in 1954. No other Japanese movies have probably attracted more than 9,000,000 people. It was an unprecedented hit.

Two years later, a US firm bought and screened "Godzilla" across the United States. But the US distributor was so insensitive that it screened the film in the US after cutting out everything that is unfavorable to the US, the superpower, including criticism against nuclear weapons, the superpower. The US version was shown by using Raymond Burr, an actor who played lawyer Perry Mason, and by making changes in the story. It was a miserable patchwork of bad modifications. Still, the activity of "Godzilla" was acclaimed in the US. Seventeen years ago, when the original "Godzilla" was simultaneously screened in 20 major US cities, it was critically-acclaimed by The New York Times and other media, which learned for the first time about the true message sent by the original Japanese "Godzilla" on the issue of nuclear war. That was how the first of the original series of the film got an unearned praise.

Over the 50 years between 1954 and 2004, 28 Japanese Godzilla films were produced. Every one of them became a big hit. In the US, a remake of the film, entitled "GODZILLA" has recently been screened. Look at this title of the US version and you can imagine that the first three letters are associated with God. This title was not made by a Japanese producer. Although Godzilla is an imaginary underwater creature, the three letters (GOD) could be taken as an expression of a sacred beast made by God. It entered a hall of fame in the US as a great hero. "Godzilla" has reigned as a great hero of the world for 60 years.

Following the 1954 tragedy of the *Dai-go Fukuryumaru*, opposition to nuclear weapons arose throughout Japan, paving the way for a signature collection campaign calling for atomic bombs to be prohibited. This led to the First World Conference

against A and H Bombs. It's been 60 years since then.

Today, as it looks as if a war is imminent. Japan is an A-bombed country. It has the world's pre-eminent Article 9 of the Constitution. But we are passing through a perilous period in which the war-renouncing Constitution could collapse and is buried in the earth without due discussions. Let me be brief from here, as time is running out. Prime Minister ABE Shinzo might be the only person in Japan that cannot sleep at night as he gets depressed. At dinner table he might discuss with his wife whether it was appropriate to introduce war bills. His wife might advise him to give up the legislation as so many people are opposing it. In response, Abe might admit that he had thought of giving up the legislation but say, "I am strongly supported by a group of key young politicians...."

I would dare to tell Prime Minister Abe to raise a white flag, which does not signal a disgraceful retreat but an honorable and glorious withdrawal.

I traveled to Harbin from July 13-18 to make a documentary film marking the anniversary of the War's end. Chinese people would not willingly express what they have in mind. When I reached out to a group of young Chinese people and asked them how they feel about what's going on today, they first said Abe is wrong. They even said Abe should die. I also interviewed middle-aged Chinese people. They refer to Abe as we talked more with them. They spoke about the Nankin (Nanjing) Massacre. I had nothing to retort. I turned 81 this year. In interviews, elderly Chinese people of my generation or older would talk a lot about how they suffered from the war and about how critical they are of Prime Minister Abe.

You cannot allay the sentiments of people of the countries that fell victim to Japanese aggression in the past by distributing banknotes. If Japan is to earn the trust of the people of the rest of the world, junior high and senior high school textbooks for required subjects should include the clear description of Japan's past mistakes in waging war. Students should be taught about it in required subjects. Such earnest and step-by-step efforts would help to earn the trust of the rest of the world. I would be happy to talk more, but my time has already run out.

In a drama I staged in July, I sang a song entitled "My Wish." It's a simple but very heart-warming song. Allow me to close my speech by singing it.

Statements by Government Representative:

Muhammad Anshor Ambassador/ Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Indonesia to the U.N.

Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Ohayō gozaimasu. (Good morning.)

*Watashi no namae wa Muhammad Anshor desu.
(My name is Muhammad Anshor.)*

Watashi wa, Kokuren e no Indonesia no jōchū daihyōdesu. (I am a permanent representative of Indonesia at the United Nations.)

*Watashiwa Nihongo ga jyouzudewa arimasen.
(I am not good at Japanese.)*

At the outset, allow me to thank the GENSUIKYO for inviting me here and for making this visit possible. I am greatly honored to be here among you in the historic city of Hiroshima.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Seventy years have passed since the Hiroshima bombings, yet the sense of despair and devastation stemming from that fateful day has not been able to escape our collective thoughts.

We are perpetually reminded of the inhumane, indiscriminate and senseless destruction caused by nuclear weapons every time we visit Hiroshima, every time we meet with the Hibakusha, and every time we look back at World War II history.

We cannot help but feel a sinking sense of sadness every time we see the horrifying images of the bombing victims, many of whom were innocent women and children. The famous photograph of a young boy carrying his deceased younger brother, killed in the Nagasaki bombings, for example, continues to haunt me to this very day.

Hiroshima and Nagasaki, therefore, continues to be an extremely painful reminder of the horrific impact to humanity that the detonation of nuclear weapons can inflict.

That is why, truth be told, the lessons of Hiroshima and Nagasaki continues to be one of the main driving forces behind Indonesia's unabashed and unequivocal support for the total ban and the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

The total absence of nuclear weapons, after all, **is the only way to guarantee** that the human race shall never be harmed by those monstrous weapons of mass destruction, never again.

Ladies and Gentlemen, The 2015 NPT Review Conference, held three months ago, despite not being able to produce an outcome, was successful in highlighting that evidently, the majority of countries stand on the **right side** of history.

During the NPT Review Conference, as many as 159 countries reaffirmed their support for the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons initiative, which places the humanitarian narrative –where the sustainability of human existence is paramount- as the key issue in underlining the urgency of eliminating nuclear weapons, once and for all.

The overwhelming support for this initiative also serves as a firm declaration on the part of the majority of the global community in underscoring that nuclear weapons must never ever be used again, **under any circumstances.**

The growing support for the humanitarian initiative thus places a substantial amount of pressure on nuclear weapon States to review their pro-nuclear possessing policies.

Such pressure magnifies exponentially when civil society also decide to make their voices heard.

It was therefore very encouraging to see the level of activism displayed by the Japanese civil society delegations during the NPT Review Conference, who visited the United Nations in droves to cite their support for nuclear disarmament.

I am thrilled to see that such level of enthusiasm and energy is still alive and well today, here in this auditorium.

I salute you, ladies and gentleman, for being an example of what a grass root movement should be, and I hope that governments and the civil society can continue to work together in striving for a world free of nuclear weapons.

Ladies and Gentleman, In the UN, Indonesia along with the majority of UN Member States are working hard to expedite the commencement of negotiations on a comprehensive nuclear weapons convention, which will prohibit and ban the possession, development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

The entry into force of such an internationally binding legal framework, is, in our view, the most effective way to put an end to the nuclear weapon era.

Using the same approach, the international community has been successful in banning other weapons of mass destruction, namely biological and chemical weapons.

It is thus very timely that the world rids itself of the most destructive weapon of them all: nuclear weapons.

Naturally, our effort to bring forward negotiations on a comprehensive nuclear weapons convention continues to be challenged by nuclear-weapon benefactors, namely nuclear weapon States and States who still see merit in the nuclear deterrence doctrine.

This is why we need your help –the civil society,

in reaching out to your counterparts here and abroad, to convey the urgency of nuclear disarmament; to convey that the humanitarian risk of maintaining nuclear weapons is too high to even be considered; to convey that the risk of a nuclear weapon detonation today is higher than it has ever been before, especially due to the rise of terrorist organizations worldwide; and to convey that the immense financial costs of continuing to maintain and modernize these weapons are a direct affront to common sense and decency.

In a world where more than 1.3 billion people still live under extreme poverty, how is it still acceptable for some States to spend 35 billion US dollars a year to maintain weapons that do virtually nothing to counter the emerging security threats of our era?

Do nuclear weapons improve food security? No they do not.

Do nuclear weapons deter terrorism? No they do not.

Do nuclear weapons strengthen cyber security? Do they make global financial transactions safer for consumers? No they do not.

Do nuclear weapons help in mitigating the adverse effects of climate change? The answer is once again: no they do not.

The message is clear: not only does the maintenance of nuclear weapons require vast amounts of public funds, it is also not very useful in protecting public interests. Reverting back to my previous point: the safety and security risk of maintaining nuclear weapons far outweigh their benefits.

It is therefore crucial that all of us participate in getting those points across globally, as, in democracies, nothing is more effective in promoting policy change than issues relating to public safety and the notion of obsolete public spending.

Ladies and gentleman, The horrific humanitarian aftermath following the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings 70 years ago, serves as a reminder of the devastating destruction that nuclear weapons are capable of.

As intelligent beings capable of learning from past actions, we have the obligation to avoid making the same error twice. As members of the global community, we have the duty to prevent unnecessary, wide-scale and indiscriminate harm from occurring to anyone, at any place, under any circumstances.

The continued existence of nuclear weapons not only jeopardize our existence, it also jeopardizes our freedom to live free from fear.

As human beings, therefore, we have the responsibility to underline that there is no place for

nuclear weapons on this earth. Not now, not ever.

No more Hiroshima, no more Nagasaki.

Doomo arigatoo gozaimashita.

Peace Movement Representatives from Overseas:

Joseph Gerson American Friends Service Committee U.S.A.

I am honored to return to the World Conference on this painful anniversary. I want to thank those who came to New York for the NPT Review Conference and our Peace & Planet mobilization. Yes we were disappointed in the Review Conference's outcome, but our accomplishments were many, and the U.S. and the international movements owe those who came from Japan an enormous debt of gratitude.

Friends, many of my compatriots have yet to recognize and beg forgiveness for devastating Hiroshima and Nagasaki, a crime wrought so that the U.S. could avoid sharing influence in Asia with the Soviet Union, and to intimidate Soviet leaders at the dawn of the Cold War. With those indiscriminate A-bombings, humankind crossed the threshold in which all life is held hostage to those willing to inflict genocide, possibly omnicide, to protect their power and privilege.

Friends, this anniversary is full of contradictions. We have prevented nuclear war and laid the foundations for 113 governments to sign the Humanitarian Pledge, committing them "to stigmatize, prohibit and eliminate nuclear weapons in light of their unacceptable humanitarian consequences and associated risks." We widened the gulf between the majority of the world's nations and the nuclear powers, providing openings opportunities for our continuing struggle for human survival.

Yet, the double standard of nuclear apartheid remains. Washington and Moscow possess more than 90% of the world's nearly 16,000 nuclear weapons. They are again exchanging nuclear threats, increasing the dangers of intentional or accidental nuclear war. We face a new era of U.S./NATO versus Russia Cold War. And here in the Asia-Pacific we see confusions by increasingly militarized U.S. / Japanese-competitive interdependence with China and territorial disputes. The dynamics are dangerously similar to those that triggered WW I a century ago. We are also challenged by Abe's reckless militarism, and with the U.S. in the lead, all the nuclear powers are modernizing their nuclear arsenals and missiles.

In Washington, U.S. foreign and military policies are failing and in disarray as US leaders debate whether the greatest challenge to US power and security comes from China, Russia or Jihadists. But they do agree on doubling down on militarism, including spending \$1 trillion for new nuclear weapons and their delivery systems.

Abe is also doubling down on militarism as he follows in the footsteps of his war criminal and CIA backed grandfather, Kishi. Friends, is a government legitimate when it mangles its constitution and democracy and threatens peace? The broad and Arab Spring-like campaigning to defeat the war laws and defend Article 9 should be supported by all who are committed to democracy and peace.

And friends, recall that going into this year's NPT Review our expectations were not high. We were right. The P-5 rejected language pressing implementation of Article VI. And the Review Conference collapsed when the U.S., Britain and Canada refused to accept a Middle East Nuclear Weapons and WMD- Free Zone conference.

The Humanitarian Pledge was the Conference's one achievement, opening the way for future nuclear disarmament initiatives. We should celebrate our movements' contribution to this growing international pressure for nuclear weapons abolition. Our Peace & Planet mobilization had two goals: Press for the implementation of Article VI, and support, revitalize, and expand the abolition movement for the longer-term. Gensuikyo's leading roles were critical to our successes. Angela Kane and Ambassador Feroukhi were so moved by their experiences with us that they instructed the Review Conference that our events and petition signatures represented the demands of global civil society.

Friends, we must not forget that we are living on borrowed time, with human survival still hanging in the balance. On this anniversary, here in Hiroshima and in the presence of Hibakusha, let us deepen our resolve to do all that we can to ensure that there are No More Hiroshimas. No More Nagasakis. No More Nuclear Weapons. And No More War.



Nguyen Thi Hoang Van Vietnam Peace Committee

Distinguished guests, Dear friends, It is my great pleasure to be attending the World Conference against A&H Bombs 2015, a significant event which marks the 70th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Thank you Gensuikyo for the chance you have offered.

Dear friends, On behalf of the Vietnam Peace Committee, I would like to express our profound solidarity with all victims of the 1945 tragedies in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, as well as victims of Agent Orange and all other kinds of weapons of mass destruction. Although 70 years have passed since the atomic bombing of Japan, hundreds of thousands of people are still suffering from never-ending health problems. The situation is the same in Vietnam, where, 40 years after the end of Vietnam's struggle for national independence, millions of victims of Agent Orange are still living in agony, despite the great efforts made to overcome the war consequences.

We are aware that under various pretexts, weapons of mass destruction are still being developed and used, killing innocent people, including women and children, every day. In addition, increasing military spending, expanding military bases and terrorism are threatening peace in our world. We are also aware that growing tension resulting from sovereignty disputes over sea and land between nations are threatening peace, security and stability in the region and heavily impacting people's life, especially in defiance of international laws and agreements, and from the threat or use of force by big powers.

In response to Gensuikyo's signature collection campaign for a convention banning nuclear weapons, the Vietnam Peace Committee has managed to collect over 1.5 million signatures from Vietnamese across the country. By that, the Vietnam Peace Committee would like to join hands with peace-loving forces throughout the globe to call on governments and all stakeholders to work hard against research, production, use and proliferation of nuclear or any other kinds of weapons of mass destruction. Such tragedies as those in Hiroshima & Nagasaki and Agent Orange should never be repeated.

I am strongly confident that the World Conference against A & H Bombs will continue to be a platform for peace organisations and activists around the world to unite and struggle for a peaceful world without nuclear weapons and all weapons of mass destruction. It will also offer us a chance to raise our common voice to request all parties to sovereignty disputes in Asia-Pacific, as well as in

other parts of the world, to exercise self-restraint and settle disputes by peaceful means in compliance with international law and regulations, to avoid war and armed conflicts.

No more Hiroshima! No more Nagasaki! No more Agent Orange/dioxin!

Justice for hibakushas! Justice for Vietnamese Agent Orange/dioxin victims!

Hereafter I would like to also hand over symbolically some of the signatures to Gensuikyo on this very special occasion.

Lee Taeho People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy, Republic of Korea

Minasan, Konnichiwa! Annyunghaseyo!

First, I would like to ask all of you to remember those who lost their lives by the nuclear bombs dropped here in Hiroshima and Nagasaki 70 years ago. My heart also goes to many hibakushas who are still in pain.

And I would like to say heartfelt hello on behalf of the Koreans who agree with all of you gathered here today to create a world without nuclear weapon, and even further, a world safe from all kinds of nuclear disaster.

The world clearly witnessed the cruel and inhumane nature of nuclear weapons through the bombs dropped here in Hiroshima and Nagasaki 70 years ago. This weapon of mass destruction is against the humanity, and the voice of mankind that claims for the permanent elimination of this weapon is growing louder than ever. However, the anachronistic militarism obsessed with the nuclear deterrence still remains strong.

The non-cooperation and double standards of nuclear powers and some nuclear umbrella dependent governments including Japan and South Korea, my home country, are also the big stumbling block.

Many South Koreans and Japanese say that they need the nuclear umbrella, because North Korea

developed nuclear weapon and missile. They do have a point. However, since the Cold War, long before North Korea developed the nuclear capacity, South Korea and Japan have been depending on the nuclear umbrella.

Mongolia, surrounded by the nuclear powers, independently declared that it is a nuclear-free zone and won the official recognition by the U.N. Mongolia chose to maintain peace through a peaceful way.

We have another example, Peace Constitution in Japan. The Japan's Peace Constitution is also one of the strongest methods and recourses that can assure peace in the East Asia and the World, if it remains completely effective. Meanwhile, the Abe Administration is now claiming that Japan must 'overcome the post-war period' and become a 'normal' state that can start a war.

I believe that Japan can truly 'overcome the post-war period' only by fully admitting the stain in her history and completely removing the legacy of militarism, not simply turning a blind eye to her history.

The most meaningful contribution Japan could make for the peace and prosperity in the East Asia would be turning into the exemplary peace-loving nation that does not rely on the nuclear umbrella or military alliance, instead of turning into the war-capable nation.

Fortunately, many Japanese people decided to disapprove the Abe Administration's legislating the security-related laws, and to protect the Peace Constitution. I thank the Japanese people for their fight and give my full support.

The separated Korean Peninsula is one of the world's most dangerous places where the largest armament can be found, as well as the largest military exercises are conducted every year.

The peaceful Korean Peninsula, once achieved, can become one of the strongest elements of peace in the East Asia, together with the Peace Constitution of Japan. This is why the social movements aimed at preserving the Peace Constitution and at signing a peace treaty on the Korean Peninsula must closely work together.

To dismantle the North Korea's nuclear program, other nations including South Korea also must be prepared to give up their military strategy of depending on nuclear weapon. This is why the issue of denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula must be linked to the establishment Nuclear Weapon Free Zone in Northeast Asia.

The recent emergence of territorial conflict and hegemonic race, together with the Korean Peninsula under armistice system trigger the nuclear armament race in East Asia.

What is missing in the East Asia region is not the

means of war, such as the outposts, artificial islands, AEGIS battleships, an antiballistic missiles. Those most dearly wanted are the will of governments all aimed at peacefully solving the conflicts, cooperative framework for multilateral solution of disputes and capacity of civil society organizations that will materialize peace beyond borders.

Last week, I was at Gangjeong Village in Jeju Island, which locates southern part of South Korea. The people of Gangjeong Village and Jeju Island have fought for 3,000 days to prevent the island of world peace turning into the outpost of war under the military alliance between South Korea, the U.S. and Japan. The peace activists from Okinawa, Saipan(Tinian Island), the Philippines and Taiwan, who had been fighting to return their homelands into islands of peace, participated in the one-week long grand march and culture festival commemorating the 3,000 day of struggle against the naval base construction in Gangjeong Village.

I have a heartfelt respect for every one of those who are struggling to achieve true peace in the world, and I believe the world peace cannot be achieved by the nuclear umbrella or missile defense system. I have no doubt that the unrelenting efforts of those activists will create the brighter and more peaceful East Asia and world.

No more Hiroshima! No more Nagasaki!
No more Nuke! No more Nuclear Umbrella!
No more War! Let's Give Peace a Chance!

Cesar Jaramillo Project Ploughshares, Canada

Today is a somber day. But it is also a hopeful day.

Somber because we stand here to remember that dreadful month of August, 70 years ago, when death, destruction, and incalculable human suffering befell the men, women, and children of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Many died instantly; others in the weeks and months that followed. Up to a quarter-million people are estimated to have been killed. Farmers and teachers, singers and poets, sons and daughters, old and young.

Yet some survived: the brave Hibakusha, who have since offered firsthand, living testimony of the utter devastation caused by nuclear weapons and the long-lasting physical and emotional scars they leave behind.

So yes, this is a sad anniversary. A grim reminder that humankind has devised the means to destroy itself—efficiently.

But this is also a day of hope. Because the push for a ban on nuclear weapons is growing with every passing day. In intensity, in sophistication, in

effectiveness, in numbers. People all over the world are working tirelessly and diligently to make sure that humanity never again witnesses a tragedy like the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

And how can the international community go about preventing such a tragedy? There must be a global legal ban on nuclear weapons, with specific provisions for the elimination of existing arsenals and a timeline for verified implementation. There is no other way to rid the world of the most destructive weapons ever made.

Regrettably, this issue has drifted endlessly without resolution, despite overwhelming evidence that nuclear weapons lack any legal, political, military, or moral justification. The lopsided logic by which the very states that have developed, tested, and used nuclear weapons deem themselves fit to chastise others on the risks of proliferation is untenable.

More than four decades after the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty came into force, over a quarter century after the end of the Cold War, and seven decades after the devastation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the states that rely on nuclear weapons still consider serious work toward nuclear abolition “premature” when it is in fact long overdue.

The humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons should be the key consideration in all nuclear disarmament efforts. If the consequences of nuclear weapons use are unacceptable, and there is a clear and present danger that these weapons may be used by accident, miscalculation, or design, then they must be eliminated.

The establishment of a legal ban on nuclear weapons, with or without the participation of nuclear weapons states, would constitute a welcome step forward. It would be rooted in the widespread rejection of the continued existence of nuclear weapons and a full recognition of the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of their use.

As the late author and Nobel Prize laureate Gabriel Garcia Marquez said nearly thirty years ago:

“Since the appearance of visible life on Earth, 380 million years had to elapse in order for a butterfly to learn how to fly, 180 million years to create a rose with no other commitment than to be beautiful, and four geological eras in order for us human beings, unlike our primitive ancestors, to be able to sing better than birds, and to be able to die from love. It is not honorable for the human talent, in the golden age of science, to have conceived the way for such an ancient and colossal process to return to the nothingness from which it came through the simple act of pushing a button.”

The use of nuclear weapons is unacceptable and the goal of their complete elimination is not negotiable. It is thus imperative that the leaders of states with nuclear weapons have the wisdom, the

courage, the foresight, and the audacity to rid the world of the most devastating instruments of mass destruction ever conceived.

An engaged international civil society will continue to urge progress and scrutinize results. And decision-makers will be increasingly held accountable by their constituents for their failure to act—as they should be.

Claude Ruelland French Peace Movement, France

In the name of my delegation from France, I would first like to greet the Japanese people, in particular the Hibakushas, who had that tragic experience, one of the most cruel which humanity has known in the twentieth century, 70 years ago, when, this abominable summer morning, a monster collapsed on your city.

Although immediately following this tragedy and over the next decades, people tried to erase humanity's memory about the events which took place, the Hibakushas, admirable with courage and dignity, gradually found the strength to rise and remind the whole world, with the aid of Japanese pacifist organizations, of that which had instantly caused uncountable deaths and then inexpressible suffering for these decades, as well as for the next generations.

Admiring these people, who did not surrender despite their physical and psychological suffering, our delegation wants to contribute with all modesty required in the meeting today.

Alas, during the last Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty of Non-Proliferation which was held in New York in May, the countries armed with Nuclear Weapons, following the example of France, did not want to disarm, and imposed their vision of international security on the rest of the world, which is constructed under permanent threat. This is unacceptable.

Despite the fact that for the essentials the idea of Non-Proliferation functions well, the five armed States have still not realized their commitments to disarmament. In fact, over the years we have witnessed the permanence of nuclear weapons solely reserved to the five armed countries, with their exclusion to all the others. The Review Conferences have shown that there is no consensus between the armed states and the numerous other people.

What to do now?

Although the question of Nuclear Weapons was broached over the years in light of their destructive power and the power of domination that they bring to countries which are equipped, a new approach was seen during the past months to denounce the unimaginable human sufferings that would be

caused by new nuclear explosions. It's on this basis that, behind Austria, 107 states engaged in a new international campaign for a new international treaty banning Nuclear Weapons.

Three meetings already occurred: in Norway, Mexico, and in Austria, revealing the will of people and their states to succeed as soon as possible.

Our objective is simple: do everything we can to help this project. European countries, for the majority, constitute a major obstacle : it is necessary for us to construct, with all urgency, a strategy for our continent, and, first of all, for our country, France, making the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki a trampoline for this campaign.

During the time I speak, the pacifist organizations in France are preparing numerous events to commemorate the seventieth anniversary: meetings, walks, ... a call for the abolition of nuclear weapons in front of the Ministry of Defense in Paris, our Peace Movement organizes a debate at the Memorial of Caen on the theme "Seventy years after Hiroshima and Nagasaki, what security for the people, with or without Nuclear Deterrence?"

A large part of our struggle is against the insufficient knowledge of public opinion, in our country and across the world, about the tragic occurrences experienced by the inhabitants of Hiroshima, leading them to understand the threat which weighs on humanity. Because of this they would have reasons to rally and demand that leaders of our states commit on the side of Austria and 107 other countries, which have already mobilized.

Next Steps after the NPT Review: Relay Talk of Grass-Roots and Young Participants

Yoshida Takehiko and young members of Kushiro Gensuikyo, Hokkaido

Dear friends from across Japan and from all over the world, we are Kushiro Gensuikyo of Hokkaido. Twenty-three members from the east Hokkaido region are here, representing 5 organizations and 3 towns. And 5 of us are high school students!

Representatives of other regions of Hokkaido would participate in Nagasaki part of the World Conference only, which makes our delegation rather small, but we are happy and excited to be here to speak before you. Please listen to some members of our delegation:

(a) In our town of Shibecha-cho, the people of the "Action Committee for a Town of Peace" send

high school students to Hiroshima and Nagasaki every year. Travel costs of nearly 200,000 yen per person and the cost of study workshops are covered by donation from the townspeople. We visit them door to door and explain about the World Conference and its cause. In return, we hold a report-back meeting in September to share what we experienced and felt in the Conference. We sincerely hope that what we do would contribute, even a little, to promoting our efforts in schools and local community to abolish nuclear weapons.

(b) We are from Betsukai Town. Yausubetsu Training Area, the largest exercise field of Japan's Ground Self-Defense Force, is located in our town. Because the US Marines is scheduled to come to our town every year from Okinawa for military exercise, our town mayor was the only one in the eastern Hokkaido region who had not signed the petition, "Appeal for a Total Ban on Nuclear Weapons."

(c) We explained that 175 municipal mayors of all 180 regions, including Hokkaido governor, have so far signed our Appeal. We showed a map of Hokkaido in which we colored the municipalities whose heads have signed in the Appeal, and told the mayor, "Isn't it embarrassing to see only Betsukai still left vacant in the middle of east Hokkaido?" It came as a surprise that the mayor finally signed in the Appeal in this year's Peace March and even gave his signature to a pennant for the march.

(d) Hello, I am from Kushiro Town. My town is engaged in a peace project to send its citizens to Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Every year, the town's General Division contacts Kushiro Gensuikyo asking to choose representatives, and ask them to take part in the World Conference. After the Conference, our members' reports and feedback are posted on the town's website. Currently, this delegation is limited to adults only, but it should cover the participation of high school students. I am going to write a report myself and submit it to the town, so the town administration might consider this idea.

Peace March in east Hokkaido, unfortunately, cannot be connected through by walking. In a vast area, there are 12 municipalities and visiting all of them even by car would require more than 1000 kilometers of driving. But we do visit all of them every year and most of the mayors, assembly chairpersons and heads of boards of education welcome us.

But we also face a challenge: All the Self Defense Forces bases and exercise fields in Hokkaido are jointly used by U.S. forces. If the war bill is passed, military exercises will become more intense. Only a few municipal assemblies are willing to adopt resolutions opposing the current war legislation. But the first troops to be

dispatched to the frontline would be from Kyushu, Tohoku and Hokkaido regions. We only have 3 signatures left for completion of all mayors of Hokkaido to sign our "Appeal for a Total Ban on Nuclear Weapons". We would like to link our will for the elimination of nuclear weapons with larger solidarity against all wars.

Strongly united with the "All Okinawa" struggle, we the Hokkaido people will continue to work together with you, upholding the three slogans: No nuclear weapons! Scrap War Bills! U.S. army go home! We shall overcome!

Higa Naoto Okinawa Federation of Democratic Medical Institutions (Okinawa Min-Iren)

Dear participants in the World Conference, I am pleased to be here to represent Okinawans' will and report about the current situation in Okinawa.

Even at this moment, the Abe Cabinet is going ahead with the preparatory work for the landfill operation at Henoko. A new base to be built at Henoko will become a gigantic U.S. base which integrates all facilities from a military port and ammunition stores to a training field. F35 stealth fighter jets will be deployed to this base. New barracks and houses will also be constructed.

While paying lip service to reduction in Okinawans' base burdens and the removal of hazards, the Abe government has taken high-handed attitude. It is just like the way of doing by the U.S. forces: 60 years ago they seized land from residents by using "bayonets and bulldozers" and by setting fires to their houses.

In protest against the Abe Cabinet trampling on Okinawan people's will, an anti-base organization called the "All Island Council for Realizing Okinawa's Petition and Creating a Bright Future" (Shimagurumi-Kaigi) was established last year, demanding a prompt halt to the construction work at Henoko. The organization has been formed at municipal levels, too. Furthermore, last year, Henoko base opponent Onaga Takeshi was elected as governor.

The Abe Cabinet seems to assume that Okinawan people will give up before too long, I think. But it's wrong. They underestimate us. The more pressure the government put on us with stronger force, the stronger Okinawans' unification will become, and it will never be defeated. This is what the foundation of the "Shimagurumi-Kaigi" shows. With strong support from people across Japan, the ongoing sit-in protest at Henoko has been growing day by day.

The pivot of solidarity among Okinawans is the petition submitted to the Abe government in

January 2013. Calling for (1) the withdrawal of the Osprey deployment, (2) an immediate closure and removal of the U.S. Futenma air base, and (3) the cancellation of the planned base relocation within the prefecture, in addition to all prefectural assemblypersons, all 41 municipal mayors and local assembly chairpersons signed and sealed the statement. Those assembly chairs visited Tokyo to hand it to Prime Minister Abe directly and marched in demonstration through Tokyo streets.

This petition represents the souls of Okinawans killed in the Battle of Okinawa and those who were killed or whose land and properties were taken away under the U.S. occupation. It speaks for the spirits and peace aspirations of Okinawans who are now forced to endure hardships caused by U.S. bases, and bitter stories, spirits, and desires of Okinawans wishing to hand down to children peaceful Okinawa without bases. The consensus of the people of Okinawa described in this petition will never be shaken despite some people's betrayal, which was proved by the Shimagurumi-Kaigi. What the Shimagurumi-Kaigi proposes is that although individual voices of Okinawan people are weak, they are not powerless and that by uniting their voices, we can mark a step forward, rock the Japanese government and also Washington across the Pacific Ocean.

In order to create a new history of the "all Okinawan" movement, we are calling each and every one to stand up, mobilize families, colleagues at work and people in communities to join forces in the struggle in unity.

However, the base issue cannot be resolved only by the efforts of Okinawa. The key is the mobilization of the people all over Japan. In conclusion, I would like to ask for your cooperation to increase public awareness of Okinawa's reality in your areas.

Moñeka De Oro Guahan Coalition for Peace and Justice Guam

Konnichiwa, Hafa Adai. My name is Moñeka De Oro. I'm from the Guahan Coalition for Peace and Justice.

The United States Department of Defense has identified sacred spaces throughout the Mariana Islands and intends to use them for live-fire testing and training activities proposed on Guam, Pagan and Tinian. If the military succeeds in its plans, this area would be the largest training range in the world. And our people will see an increasing testing of bombs, sonar, machine guns, grenades and various forms of military live-firing in our air, water and land.

The bases are part of the plan to move the U.S. Marines of Okinawa to my homeland. We do not want any of our islands to be destroyed by military activities. We were once caught in the cross-fires of war between the United States and Japan that led to the death and destruction here in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We do not want our islands to be used for a war. We want to unite with all of you for peace.

Fujioka Ayame Action Committee for "Love & Peace Wagon Journey", Gunma Gensuikyo

Hello friends, I'm Fujioka Ayame from Gunma Prefecture.

I first read "Barefoot Gen" when I was in elementary school. It shocked me a lot. I couldn't believe that it really happened in Japan. Since then, I always wanted to know about war, but I haven't had any chance to do so. Then a chance came to me, and I decided to participate in the World Conference. I called on my schoolmates whom I often talk about war and peace with to join me in the conference. Seven of my friends decided to come with me to this event!

In preparation for our visit to Hiroshima, we made our own travel guide. In the process, each of us decided on a theme and did prior-learning activities on that theme. We also went to a photo exhibition on war held in our community.

I myself walked through from Isesaki to Kiryu in the Peace March of Gunma on July 11, wearing a sash of the "International Youth Relay March" across my chest.

Under the blazing sun, I sometimes felt like giving up but carried through the 20-kilometer course, which was the longest among all courses in the prefecture. Seeing old men in their 70s and 80s vigorously walking all the way in the prefecture, I cheered myself up, "You are still 17. The 20-kilometer course is nothing. Don't give up!" Thus, I was able to complete the walk to the end. Along the way, I felt very happy that many people waved to me from cars. During the march, I learned a lot from listening to those who have more experiences in life than me.

Through my participation in the World Conference, I learned about the hardships undergone by the Hibakusha and listened to opinions and experiences of many people. I want to continue to think about what I should do in order to prevent the tragedy from happening again.

Reports on the 2015 Nationwide Peace March:

Japanese Through Peace Marchers:

Takeda Akihiko, Hokkaido-Tokyo Course

Thank you everyone, for all the supports I received. This year, the International Youth Relay Sash became very popular, and a total of 109 people signed on it during the march going from Hokkaido to Tokyo. The age of the signers varies from 5 years old to younger members of the Pensioner's Union. And this banner was made to carry the voices of youth and students in Niigata, and I have carried this all the way through to Hiroshima. I'll keep up with my work.

Nishida Shigeyoshi, Toyama-Hiroshima course

I am Nishida from Shiga. Throughout the Peace March, I sang the song "Peace Calendar" by Kasagi Toru for 112 times. I'd sing it for the last time, so please listen.

"♪People of unknown names, sing sing sing; We are all peace-loving singers; It's been 68 years since we were born; 68 years without war; We came this far putting on years of work for peace ♪" Thank you.

Matsunaga Yoko, Tokyo-Hiroshima Course

Hello friends! I'm Matsunaga Yoko from Shizuoka Chapter of Japan Pensioner's Union. Thanks to the support from my Union, I was able to complete the Tokyo-Hiroshima Peace March as a through-marcher! Thank you. I'm so grateful to all the people I met on the way for their generous support. It took 91 days from Yumenoshima, Tokyo, to Hiroshima Peace Park. Do you know how many steps I have made? Hard to imagine? Let me tell you -- 2,427,205 steps!

Yamaguchi Itsuro, Tokyo- Hiroshima Course

I was introduced as an 83 years old marcher. But when I marched, I believed I was 38 years old! Three years ago, people encouraged me, saying that I had golden feet. This year, I carried the letters of "Peace" formed by paper cranes that Hoshino-san from Shiga crafted. I am grateful to everyone all over Japan for your support, especially to those of the 12 prefectures I marched through. I did it!

International Youth Relay Marchers:

Mary Popeo, American Friends Service Committee/ Global ZERO, U.S.A.

Hello everyone, I'm Mary Popeo. I'm an anti-

nuclear activist from Boston, Massachusetts in the United States. I feel so privileged to march this year. I want you all to know that there are many young activists just like me in the United States working very hard to eliminate nuclear weapons. And to tell you the truth, after the NPT, I think that the youth are a little bit disappointed and frustrated. A lot of people tell me and I think other young people as well that because we are young, maybe we cannot make as much difference and people say you have no experience of war or you are not an expert of nuclear weapons...so why are you doing this?

But you do not need to be an expert on nuclear weapons to see the humanitarian consequences. I want you to know that when I go back to Boston I'm going to bring my experiences to the young people there and I think that we really need to emphasize action. We'd have lots of discussion and we'd have a lots of really important dialog and we need to act.

Magiting Fabros, Nuclear-Free Philippines Coalition

Hello everyone, I'm Magiting Fabros from the Philippines. I walked through Aichi to Gifu prefectures and I am very happy to meet you. I also send my greeting to Peace Marchers and to those who have been supporting us. The Peace March is a movement where we can make ourselves heard and seen, and deliver our message to the people in Japan and the world. The National Peace March that have started in year 1958 and the great movement against nuclear weapons in Japan are strong and meaningful efforts to make sure that tragic incident should never happen again.

Congratulations to all of us and Gensuikyo for the successful peace march. And we invite all the young people to join the March in the coming years. Let's struggle together!

Guerrero M. Saño (A.G. Saño), Teach Peace, Build Peace Movement, the Philippines

I'm A.G. Sano from the Philippines and I walked through Fukuoka, Saga and Nagasaki prefectures. Thank you Fukuoka, Thank you Saga and Thank you Nagasaki. Each step that we made for this march makes us one step closer to our goal, which is lasting peace. Let the painful past remain in the past but let it's memory inspire us to make future better. Let us continue to walk forward to a nuclear and war free world.

No more Hiroshima. No more Nagasaki. No more war.

International Forum:
“Achieving a Nuclear Weapon-Free World - Dialogue between
Governments and NGOs”
(August 5)

Panelists Presentations:

(Transcribed from oral presentations)

Muhammad Anshor
Ambassador/ Deputy Permanent
Representative of the Republic of
Indonesia to the U.N.

It is indeed a great honor for me to be part of this forum. I am not an expert myself but while we exchange our views to promote a common platform on how civil society and governments can advance the common efforts in striving for a world without nuclear weapons, certainly I will learn from you, each and every one of you, and other panelists as well.

I will start with the Indonesian general view with regard to nuclear disarmament. For Indonesia, nuclear disarmament always has the highest priority among disarmament issues. It's not just because the ultimate threat that nuclear weapons pose to humanity, but certainly the existence of nuclear weapons indeed is not compatible with universal norms. So it is in our constitution that it is the mandate of the government of Indonesia to contribute to the promotion of peace and take part in the creation of world order based on humanity and social justice. So we see the existence of nuclear weapons as not compatible with international norms and also not compatible with our constitution. That explains why we are together with other countries, including especially with Non-Aligned countries advocating the total elimination of nuclear weapons and achieving a

world without nuclear weapons. And to that end we are advocating for a comprehensive nuclear weapons convention which will aim at the prohibition and banning totally the possession, production, stockpiling, transfer, development and the use or even the threat of use of nuclear weapons.

It is not an easy endeavor because we are interacting with other countries with different views and different priorities, and within the United Nations, as you all know, challenges we are facing. So with regard to my country Indonesia, together with other partners also and at the same time, advocating for the convention, legally-binding measures or instrument for the security assurances for all non-nuclear weapon states and as well we are working with partners for the early entry into force of the CTBT (Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty).

And now I will refer to the last NPT Review Conference -- how we see it. We understand that the majority of us are not happy, because it failed to produce an outcome document. But certainly, the Review Conference offered the platform for us, for every 5 years all the membership of the United Nations take stock of what happened in the past 5 years since the previous NPT RevCon in 2010, and to see what progress has been achieved or what setback has happened, the challenges that are faced by the membership or the States parties to the treaty.

While it is disappointing that no document came out from the conference but in our view it is better than having a weaker document produced by the conference. But we really wanted to have a stronger document than before which consisted of two parts: mainly one on the reviewing what has been happened in the past -- I think it is very important --

as opposed to identifying the challenges that need to be confronted in the next five years.

But as you know, many sticking points remained as stumbling blocks to achieving the consensus of the States parties to the treaty. But in the middle of the disappointment we see something which is promising, which may strengthen the NPT Review Conference, which is the initiatives focusing on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons gaining momentum and increasingly the support from many States parties.

This is an important development. To Indonesia, my country, it is important because now we start to look into the issues beyond the issue strictly of security issues and defense doctrine, but we put the issue to a larger context related to relevant context. This is one of the entry points, the important points to deal with the issues as multi-dimensional.

We see the issue of nuclear disarmament from the perspective of humanitarian law, which is familiar with regards to other issues relating to weapons like anti-personal mines and cluster munition. Then I fear the continued existence of nuclear weapons by any standard is not compatible with the humanitarian law principles, like principles of distinction, principle of humanity and other principles prevailing in the humanitarian law.

So by viewing the issue from that very angle would strengthen our common effort, having legally-binding comprehensive convention to totally abolish those weapons, as we see in the treaty banning the entire anti-personal mines and now the cluster munitions. So I think that's a very interesting development.

Now, distinguished participants, as to the purpose of this forum to have a dialogue between governments and NGOs, I think that's very pertinent, as we need to work hand in hand, to develop synergy especially with governments in favor of the abolition of nuclear weapons and also to expand the platform how we can work together to strengthen our respective positions.

I have several points I want to share with you with regards to how we can work together to strengthen our common efforts to that end.

First, I think we need to expand and strengthen the anti-nuclear movement network world-wide. That's important, which should engage not only governments but also relevant stakeholders, which are instrumental in campaigning against nuclear weapons. I see that the Japanese civil society at grass-roots level against nuclear weapons is very strong, and this is an asset to all of us, but what we see here it does not exist and if it exist, very much lower in intensity in other countries. Even like in Indonesia where civil society are very active and have an ample space for their activism, but

mostly, what I witness in European countries and in the United States are that only few focus on the agenda promoting peace in general and in particular the abolition of nuclear weapons. But we see so many dealing with human rights, environmental protection and consumer protection. I think we need to promote what Japan has to everywhere else. You, Japanese civil society need to reach out your counterpart in countries which have key influence in the global debate on this issue. Not only in countries possessing nuclear weapons but also in countries which are very active in promoting or campaigning against nuclear weapons. I think like in Indonesia, we need to enhance and spread the spirit of activism against nuclear weapons, which is part of your collective mind-set, which is part of your culture. I think it is an issue of global concern which should be shared by people world-wide. I think being visible is necessary, which should not be seen nonexistent, but to have a networking certainly will enhance visibility of the issue.

And secondly, we need to promote interconnectedness among stakeholders. You have in Japan and also we have as panelists representing as parliamentarians for nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament that has manifested the role of other stakeholders outside the government/parliament, which play very important role. I think we will hear from the panelist how the parliamentarians contribute. The role is very instrumental, not only in influencing the government's policy but in creating legislation which is friendly to the movement against nuclear weapons. For example, what happened in Indonesia in 2010, we were in the process of preparing the ratification of the CTBT. That's one example of a parliamentarians' role in promoting the entire nuclear weapons abolition in cooperation with civil society and government and also among the parliaments that need to be strengthened everywhere.

And then as I mentioned, the visibility of the issue is very important. Here in Japan, it is always visible because of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and you have annual conferences. But somewhere else, unfortunately, it is not the case. Even in New York where the headquarters of the United Nations reside, the level of activism and visibility only happen where relevant events such as the NPT Review Conference, but otherwise, it's very low. I think it is very important and it is the issue of importance to humanity and should be shared globally, then the visibility of the issue need to be enhanced in many ways -- to the credit of school curriculums everywhere, and to carry out public discussions everywhere, so I think we need the Japanese NGOs to reach out to your counterpart everywhere like in Indonesia, to enhance the dialogue, debate and enhance the visibility of the issue.

Other point I need to raise is actually something which I promoted along the way for a long time is to connect this campaign with other framework, like human rights framework. I think there is a great chance for that, as you know, as I just mentioned, now we have a connection between the issue of nuclear disarmament and the issue of compliance with military and law. But we haven't seen the connection which is very obvious between the nuclear disarmament and human rights.

I think I said in the opening plenary yesterday the remark that the continued existence of nuclear weapons that poses existential threat to humanity, but also threatens the freedom to live from fear. I think that's one of the pillars of the human rights and freedom.

And of course other conceptual framework which already exists in human rights discourses, and also in human rights treaty like prevention of genocide and ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. I think that framework can be used as well to promote the cause of the world free from nuclear weapons. Because the threat posed by nuclear weapons is more immense, worse and act of genocide. It's ethnic cleansing. The impact is even larger in scale and magnitude.

Other existing human rights conceptual framework that can be used, I don't mention it in exhaustive way, but just mention as an example, is the right to development. Certainly, the right to development necessitates the State to ensure the basic rights, economic, social and cultural right of everybody who reside in the territory under the state jurisdiction. So we know very well how money that governments spend to develop nuclear weapons. Amid the condition that extreme poverty that is still rampant in many countries, even in countries where nuclear weapons have been developed, I think developing nuclear weapons is a violation of the right to development. I think we can explore it further and I believe that that can be used as means to further promote from different front.

And other point which I want to raise here is to connect the movement with movements in other fronts like in environmental protection, because I believe that the potential threat of the use of nuclear weapons to environmental security is clear, obvious, and manifest. So it will be an ultimate destruction to our environment if a nuclear weapon is used. So the connection between the two is very obvious. So we can make use of existing fora - existing front, and relate with our campaign for a world without nuclear weapons. And then of course it is always very important to campaign against nuclear weapons as a factor in domestic politics. Well, of course what we witness in Japan is an example for other countries to replicate, especially in countries

possessing nuclear weapons especially, to make those running for the highest political position to state, to express, to pronounce themselves views with regard to nuclear weapons is very important. And that's what we expect, and we hope is that feedback from the public whether those people running for the highest political positions are eligible to be their leaders. I think that promoting this kind of sense is very important to strengthen the campaigns against nuclear weapons.

And the next is to underline, to magnify the illegality of nuclear weapons. I think you know very well that the ICJ has issued the advisory opinion in 1996 which pronounced the illegality of nuclear weapons. I think we can have most part of the discussion at the universities, especially relating to the national law.

And then the last thing that I want to raise is to cooperate with religious leaders. As has happened in the past, and also in my country as well, that people carrying moral credentials whatever they say has influence on public at large. We can have them issue fatwa, judgement to make nuclear weapons forbidden is very important. What we see in Iran in the process of negotiations with P5+1, the supreme leader pronounced the judgement that nuclear weapon is illegal according to their religious teaching. I think that put weight on the side to advocate the elimination of nuclear weapons.

I think that's some of the points I want to raise with you. Certainly I look forward to listening your views as well, as I mentioned in my earlier remark that I want to learn from you, and I also look forward to have a fruitful discussion. That's what I want to say at this juncture. Thank you.

Shane Reti
**Member of Parliament of New Zealand/
Parliamentarians for Nuclear
Nonproliferation and Disarmament -
New Zealand**

Lessons from Hiroshima and Nagasaki

Hiroshima and Nagasaki remain stark reminders of the catastrophic humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons.

When the bombs were dropped on these cities in 1945, there was little understanding of the long-term health and environmental effects of what was then an entirely new and untested category of weapon.

Seventy years later, there is a wealth of evidence - from Japanese hibakusha, survivors and witnesses of nuclear testing and decades of scientific analysis - to show that the initial explosion of a nuclear weapon, terrible as it is, is only the start of the harm.

Current nuclear weapons situation

Many thousands of nuclear warheads remain in existence, many on high alert. They pose an unacceptable threat to human survival.

As President Kennedy recognised fifty years ago, a war fought with nuclear weapons cannot be won – “Even the fruits of victory would be ashes in our mouths.”

The international community must recognise the risk that a nuclear bomb might malfunction, or be fired accidentally, or be used on purpose.

The only way to eliminate the risk is to eliminate nuclear weapons altogether.

Need for legal measures towards nuclear disarmament

Governments cannot eliminate all the risks that threaten our citizens. I wish we could.

If we could eliminate the threat of natural disasters, for instance, then the terrible earthquakes experienced by Japan and New Zealand in 2011 would never have happened.

But there are some risks we can do something about: man-made risks. And nuclear weapons are a man-made threat to the survival of humankind.

So we must work together and make a real push to eliminate nuclear weapons. Our next opportunity to do so will probably be at the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly when it meets in October.

We must make a stronger effort than we have seen in recent years, and we must succeed.

Twenty years ago, NZ’s then Prime Minister, Right Hon Jim Bolger, observed that, “just as we have international treaties which debar the use of chemical or biological weapons, we will eventually move to a similar sort of treaty ... regarding nuclear weapons”. Successive NZ Prime Ministers have recognised the need for the development of legal frameworks to abolish these weapons.

Last September, Secretary-General Ban declared that “The time has come for those negotiations to begin... toward the internationally agreed goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons”.

Standing here, where nuclear weapons were used against civilian populations, we cannot help but recall the horrific nature of nuclear weapons.

And we must commit ourselves to a real effort to rid the world of them.

Humanitarian initiative

The most significant development in nuclear disarmament over the past five years sprang from an acknowledgement at the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in 2010 of the catastrophic humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons.

A core principle of the Humanitarian Initiative is that “it is in the interest of the very survival of

humanity that nuclear weapons are never used again, under any circumstances.”

Three conferences examined the health and environmental effects of nuclear weapons. They recognised that, even seventy years after the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the international community could still not provide an adequate response in the event of a nuclear bomb detonation.

The Humanitarian Initiative reframed the debate so that governments weren’t just talking about the security of states.

They remembered that these weapons have victims – we, the people.

For the people of Hiroshima/Nagasaki, it may seem inconceivable that the well-being of ordinary citizens has not always been the focus of nuclear disarmament debates. But somehow that was the case.

In Māori we have a proverb: *He aha te mea nui o te ao? He tangata, he tangata, he tangata*. What is the most important thing in the world? It is people, it is people, it is people.

The New Zealand government welcomed the way that the Humanitarian Initiative focused on the consequences for the victims of nuclear weapons.

Their voices need to be heard.

And they would all agree that the elimination of nuclear weapons is long overdue.

New Zealand has been part of the core group in the Humanitarian Initiative since it began in 2012. In those three years, supporters of the Humanitarian Initiative have grown from 16 to 159, including Japan.

This is an overwhelming majority in the United Nations.

We need to use this momentum to push for genuine action on nuclear disarmament.

New Zealand and nuclear disarmament

New Zealand and New Zealanders care deeply about nuclear disarmament, which has been a strong element of our foreign policy for decades.

It goes with our general support for multilateralism and the rule of law – and for our values-driven quest for global outcomes that can add meaningfully to the well-being of humankind.

The long-standing, consistent, bipartisan commitment to nuclear disarmament reflects the strong role it plays in New Zealand’s national identity, a long, proud partnership with New Zealand civil society.

Fernando Gonzalez Llorit
Vice President, Cuban Institute of
Friendship with the Peoples, Cuba

I thank the organizers for inviting Cuba to speak in this forum. Thank you colleagues and audience for your presence. I think it's a very important issue. I would say this is the issue of the utmost importance.

First of all, I would like to say that our country calls for the prohibition and total elimination of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction as a matter of priority. We believe that the mere existence of nuclear weapons is a threat against humanity. The use of only a fraction of the modern 15,000 existing nuclear weapons or about close to 4300 of them are on the operational status would have catastrophic consequences for a planet. We believe that the use of nuclear weapons constitutes a fragrant violation of international standards relating to the prevention of genocide and environmental protection. And we hold that the use of nuclear weapons is illegal, immoral and cannot be justified under any circumstances or security doctrine.

The concept of nuclear deterrence is far from contributing to nuclear disarmament. We believe that it stimulates the potential possession of such weapons. We reaffirm that the urgent need to accomplish a total elimination of nuclear weapons in a transparent, irreversible and verifiable manner, with the timetable multilaterally agreed. We reiterate our full commitment to general and complete disarmament and non-proliferation in all its aspects -- horizontally and vertically -- of nuclear weapons. Our country will continue working to achieve in shortest possible time, a prohibition and total elimination of nuclear weapons as part of its long-standing commitment to global nuclear disarmament.

In 2002, Cuba ratified the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, known as the Treaty of Tlatelolco. The first densely-populated area of the world that became a nuclear weapon-free zone has been a political, legal and institutional benchmark for a creation of a nuclear weapon-free zones in different regions.

In what became a historic landmark, on January 29, 2014, during the second Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States held in Havana, Latin America and Caribbean region was formally proclaimed as a "peace zone." The proclamation includes the firm commitment of the States of the region to the promotion of nuclear disarmament as a priority.

The international conferences held in Oslo,

Nayarit and Vienna have contributed to greater international understanding of the serious risks and catastrophic humanitarian consequences associated with the existence of nuclear weapons. But we reiterate that it is not enough and cannot be the ultimate goal, which starts without any further delay, with negotiations of a legally-binding instrument banning nuclear weapons and requiring the complete elimination of such weapons. The non-aligned movement has submitted a proposal to set a specific timetable for the gradual reduction of nuclear weapons to achieve their total elimination and prohibition at the latest by 2025, which should be seriously considered by the international community.

We advocate a comprehensive convention on the prohibition of nuclear weapons, which will ban the possession, development, production, acquisition, testing, storing, transfer, use or threat of use of nuclear weapons should be included. And that provides a destruction under strict international control.

We urge governments, parliaments and civil society to take a necessary measures every year to commemorate September 26 as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.

After 5 years of waiting, in the 9th Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons held in New York in May 2015, we had an opportunity to mark a historical turning point, a real progress toward a world free of nuclear weapons. This opportunity was wasted. States parties had a responsibility of thoroughly evaluating in an honest and peaceful way for the implication for the future credibility and significance of the treaty raised by the events of the conference, which ended without result. It is neither fair nor acceptable that the majority of States parties strictly fulfil all the obligations of the non-proliferation treaty whereas others are not acting in the same way. We cannot change history. We can change the future though. Reason is on our side. We have no right to be discouraged and we will continue fighting tirelessly for a world free of nuclear weapons. The future generations need that and deserve it.

And I want to go back to the issue of Latin America, because it is the first densely-populated area that has been declared by the heads of states and governments as a peace zone, with the willingness to solve any conflicts peacefully and that includes the efforts towards nuclear disarmament throughout the world. I think it's an effort to be applauded. It is an effort to be talked about and thought about and studied and the effort to be emulated by other areas in the world, as an important step towards nuclear disarmament all over the world.

Special Event:

For a Nuclear Weapon-Free World -- Forum of Hibakusha and Citizens to Mark the 70th Anniversary of the A-bombing (August 5)

Colin Archer
Secretary General
International Peace Bureau

**Why IPB recommends the Hibakusha for the Nobel Peace Prize:
Freeing the world from the threat of nuclear annihilation**

Dear friends, dear fellow-peace workers,
I bring you warm greetings from the International Peace Bureau, its officers, staff and members.

Allow me to convey my deepest respect for, and appreciation of, the Hibakusha; and especially the members of Nihon Hidankyo, an organisation that – I am delighted to say – has recently joined the worldwide family of the IPB.

First let me read you an extract from the letter we sent in January of this year to the Norwegian Nobel Committee, recommending the Hibakusha for the Nobel Peace Prize.

“A total ban and the elimination of nuclear weapons was the task set out by the very first resolution of the first General Assembly of the United Nations (January 1946), a task that remains unfulfilled. Yet, as seen in the success of the international conferences on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, held in Oslo in 2013 and in Nayarit and Vienna in 2014, momentum is building up once more, and promises to turn this 70th anniversary of the tragedies of Hiroshima and Nagasaki into a milestone on the path to a world free of nuclear weapons.

*For this reason IPB once again nominates for the Nobel Peace Prize the **Hibakusha**, those who personally suffered from the atomic bombings of the two cities. They are quite simply extraordinary human beings. Not giving in to despair, they became convinced, through their struggle to survive the attacks and the subsequent long years of suffering, that their agonies must never be repeated anywhere. Over these 70 years they have made the choice of*

activism, unceasingly recounting their experiences and struggles, and working constantly for a total ban and the elimination of nuclear weapons, appealing to governments and peoples all over the world.

IPB believes that the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to these courageous persons, and indeed to a courageous movement, would be a contribution of unique value and extraordinary importance to the worldwide community of nuclear disarmament advocates, itself 70 years old this year.

The continued existence of nuclear weapons threatens the very survival of life on earth. The Norwegian Nobel Committee has recognised this supreme threat in several of its previous awards. We urge the Committee, at this historic moment, to return to this theme and to itself make a courageous choice: to recognise and reward the Hibakusha. “

I should add that this year we chose to put forward, not only **Nihon Hidankyo** itself, but also Mr. **Sumiteru TANIGUCHI** and Ms. **Setsuko THURLOW**, outstanding representatives of the Hibakusha movement, who have been at the forefront of the efforts of the Hibakusha throughout their lives, calling for a ban and for the abolition of nuclear weapons, based on their own painful experiences. I should add that in IPB's perspective, an award of the Nobel to the Japanese Hibakusha should also be understood as also offering recognition of the suffering and struggles of those in other countries who have been affected by the nuclear menace, be it at testing sites, or near power plants. Let us hope and pray for a positive outcome when the Nobel Committee announces its decision on October 10.

For those who are unaware of the work that IPB has done on this issue I would simply say that the cause of nuclear abolition has been at the heart of our programme since at least the last 40 years. Our members have marched, campaigned, petitioned, and so much more. IPB itself has organised innumerable side-meetings at the NPT conferences and other gatherings. We were among those who

came together in 1995 to found the Abolition 2000 network. Perhaps the most outstanding individual in our ranks was Sean MacBride, who as President of the organization urged the development of a campaign to make nuclear weapons illegal. This effort eventually led to the World Court Project and the 1996 Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice.

Among IPB's particular emphases is the link between conventional weapons and nuclear war. In the Cold War period, the West feared a massive Russian conventional attack. Nowadays it is the reverse: US conventional superiority has been the reason for Russian reliance on its nuclear strength. It is clear that political tensions and military mobilizations in all of the possible nuclear theaters need to be reduced if we are to render disarmament feasible.

This was one of the reasons why IPB launched its programme of work on military spending around 10 years ago. Since 2011 we have coordinated the **Global Day of Action on Military Spending**, which has now become a year-round **Campaign**. Nuclear weapons costs are obviously an important part of this effort, since they represent the most objectionable element in the military budget. Next Sept-Oct we will organize a major congress in Berlin to highlight the whole issue.

Another dimension that IPB has paid attention to is nuclear energy and the two most serious

accidents associated with it: Chernobyl and Fukushima. Besides urging full recognition of, and support for, the victims, IPB endorses the view that climate change cannot be tackled via an expansion of nuclear power plants. Not only are they enormously dangerous, but their very construction gives rise to major CO2 emissions. In our view what is required is not only a rapid end to the fossil fuels era, but also a transition from an economy of war to a culture of peace. This is incompatible with nuclear energy. We urge everyone, young and old, to develop the visions and the strategies necessary to bring about a wholesale Green Transformation in our societies, before the military-industrial age devours its own children.

This is essentially an educational and political task. That is why we insist on the importance of passing on the message of Hiroshima and Nagasaki to other populations around the world; and to younger generations. There are always people who have never heard of these two cities, which embody the tragic destiny of humanity; but which also, through their extraordinary renaissance, deliver a unique message of universal hope. So let us continue the work! And I am sure we find new ways to work together and spread our message across the continents.

Domo arigato gozaimas.

Hiroshima-Nagasaki Declaration Commemorating the 70th Year
Since the Atomic Bombing

Nuclear Weapon-Free World Now!

August 5, 2015

Japan Confederation of A-and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations
(Nihon Hidankyo)

On August 6 and 9, 1945, the United States dropped two atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, turning them into cities of death within a second.

The atomic bombs deprived so many people of their lives. A total of 210,000 people were killed by the end of that year. It was an act of indiscriminate massacre regardless of age, sex, and occupation. Some were killed instantly, without knowing what had happened. Some were burned alive. Many victims still remain unidentified. We cannot forget the heaps of dead bodies, those who died vomiting blood, and others who died in agony. Still today, the atomic bombs continue to take lives away from many survivors and to torment them physically and mentally.

Through our own experiences, we Hibakusha have told people what the atomic bombs have done to us. We have declared that atomic weapons are weapons of the devil whose only purpose is destruction, and that they can never coexist with human beings. Our wish is to make sure no more Hibakusha like us will be created. We say, "Do not start nuclear war; abolish nuclear weapons; achieve State compensation for the loss and damage caused by the atomic bombing."

Abolition of nuclear weapons and achievement of the State compensation for the Hibakusha are yet to be achieved even 70 years after. There still exist 16,000 nuclear weapons in the world, and the danger of nuclear explosion still remains very real.

Now Japan is facing a critical situation. Paying no heed to the voices of the people, Prime Minister Abe rammed through legislation in the Lower House, which would turn Japan into a war-waging nation. He is throwing away the pacifist idea of the Constitution, taking us into another pre-war era. The wish of the Hibakusha is shared by the majority of the people who say that war is the last thing they want. Let us work together to stop this outrage committed by the Abe government.

The world is changing. Official policies and citizens' opinions in favour of the abolition of nuclear weapons have become a growing trend. Since 2012, the joint declaration on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons was issued 6 times by various groups of governments calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons, and the International Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons was held 3 times. The joint declarations and the Conferences analyzed the inhumanity of nuclear weapons use from various angles and made clear that "whether by accident, miscalculation or design, the catastrophic effects of a nuclear weapon detonation would spread beyond national borders and no State or international body could address the immediate humanitarian emergency", "It is in the interest of the very survival of humanity that nuclear weapons are never used again, under any circumstances", and "The only way to guarantee that nuclear weapons will never be used again is through their total elimination". The role of the civil society is critical in revealing to the world the catastrophic effects of even one single nuclear weapon explosion could cause, and raising public support for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

The Fukushima nuclear power plant disaster has posed another significant challenge in the nuclear field. Even after 4 years, no concrete measures have been taken to bring the critical situation under control. Abolition is the only solution to the uncontrollable nuclear power plants.

The human race already knows the way to remove from this planet all nuclear weapons and power plants that are threatening the survival of the human race. All we need now is to summon up our courage to take the decision and carry it out.

On the 70th year of the atomic bombing, we Hibakusha declare that as long as we live, we are determined to continue to raise our voices and make efforts together with other members of the civil society to achieve a peaceful and safe planet where the human race can survive.

70th Anniversary Hiroshima Day Rally 2015 World Conference against A and H Bombs (August 6)

Speeches by Representatives of the U.N. and National Governments:

Kim Won-soo Acting High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, United Nations

Excellencies, Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to thank Hiroshi Taka, Co-chair of the Steering Committee, for inviting me to mark with you this solemn occasion – the 70th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima, the first use of a nuclear weapon.

I bring to you all the greetings of the Secretary General.

In the words of the Secretary General on his visit in 2010: I came to Hiroshima for world peace.

I come here today to pay my respects to the victims of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The hibakusha are living reminders of the human consequences of the use of nuclear weapons.

Yet over the course of seven decades, the hibakusha have become so much more. They have become ambassadors for peace and emissaries for a world free of nuclear weapons.

Ladies and gentlemen,

When the Secretary General came to Hiroshima he said we were all on a journey, a journey from ground zero to global zero — a world free of weapons of mass destruction.

Let me tell you, that commitment has not waned. Nuclear disarmament is a priority for the Secretary General and the United Nations.

Nuclear weapons are the most powerful and destructive weapons ever created. It is our duty as an international community to energetically work towards a world free of nuclear weapons.

The world is at a crossroads when it comes to nuclear disarmament. The Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, or NPT, was unable to reach a consensus outcome in May this year. The United Nations' disarmament machinery remains gridlocked.

None of this can be an excuse for not moving forward. The international community must demonstrate compromise and dextrous diplomacy to find innovative solutions.

Entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban Treaty and the commencement of negotiations on Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty are two obvious first steps. I urge all States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the CTBT.

Likewise, I call upon on all members of the Conference on Disarmament to commence negotiations on an FMCT without delay.

I congratulate the E3+3 and Iran on reaching a historic agreement over Iran's nuclear programme. This is proof that we can achieve diplomatic breakthroughs. We must build on this momentum to address other pressing nuclear non-proliferation issues.

Ladies and gentlemen,

When it comes to nuclear disarmament, nuclear-armed States must lead the way. But all nations have a role to play.

For decades, Japan – with the hibakusha and the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki – has played a leading role in educating the world about the benefits of disarmament. I believe that every country can emulate Japan in this mission. We all have a part to play in teaching succeeding generations to remember the dangers of nuclear weapons.

As the Secretary-General said five years ago, the enduring lesson of Hiroshima is that a world free of nuclear weapons is our common responsibility.

70 years after the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, let us embrace this responsibility.

No more Hiroshimas. No more Nagasakis.

Fernando Gonzalez Llort
Vice President, Cuban Institute of
Friendship with the Peoples
Cuba

On behalf of the Cuban delegation, we thank the Organizing Committee for the excellent organization of this conference and the welcome we have been given.

We have listened with great interest the presentations made before, which showed that there is a concern about the serious threat to life on our planet and for the survival of mankind that the existence of nuclear weapons represent.

The potential of nuclear energy should have been used from the same time of its discovery only for the economic development of all countries. The military use of nuclear energy can only bring horror and death as a result.

Today we remember with indignation and sadness the use of nuclear weapons in 1945 and the devastating effects a single nuclear weapon between 10 and 20 kilotons can cause, like those that destroyed the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. However, those bombs are small compared with the current ones, which can be up to 30 times bigger and more destructive, precise and sophisticated.

It is a fact that the use of a fraction of more than

15000 existing nuclear weapons would have catastrophic consequences for our planet, killing millions of people and endangering both the environment and the life of the present and future generations. We confirm that the use of nuclear weapons cannot be justified under any security doctrine.

Some people believe that the existence of nuclear weapons make the world safer. It is quite the opposite. If we want a safer world, we need a world free of nuclear weapons. Their total prohibition and total elimination is the only way to ensure that mankind will not suffer anymore the terrible impact of these weapons. Therefore, the concept of "nuclear deterrence" should be abandoned as the basis of military doctrines, which stimulate the perpetual possession of these weapons.

Cuba defends the exclusive right of all States to engage in research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and to receive, without discrimination of any kind, transfers of materials, equipment and scientific and technological information for such purposes.

The only purpose of nuclear energy should be its peaceful use for the welfare of the people. Over the years, my country has shown an optimal use of the resources allocated to priority programs, achieving high impacts as a result of its implementation. The applications cover the fields of public health, agriculture, hydrology, food, as well as protection and radiological safety. All Cuban nuclear programs where nuclear energy is used are strictly peaceful. Cuba fully complies with all its obligations as a State party to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The huge military expenses that are nowadays devoted to the maintenance and modernization of nuclear arsenals, should be used for the benefit of humanity, promoting the development of countries and definitely eradicating poverty.

Nuclear disarmament cannot continue to be a constantly postponed goal. It is of highest priority, achieving a comprehensive, transparent, verifiable and irreversible nuclear disarmament. Cuba is committed to accomplish the total elimination of nuclear weapons and will never give up in its efforts to achieve it.



Video Message:

Alexander Kmentt Ambassador/ Director for Disarmament, Arms Control and Nonproliferation Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs of Austria

I would like to thank Gensuikyo very much for the opportunity to send this message to the World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs taking place on the 70th anniversary of the use of nuclear weapons in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Last year, I had the honor to visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki and to speak at this conference. I also had the honor to meet several Hibakusha and to hear their terrible experiences. Some took me to the places they have been 70 years ago when the atomic bombs exploded. These were very moving experiences for me.

I was also very impressed by civil society in Japan. I remember that during the conference many ordinary men, women and children came to the stage with signs that showed the numbers of how many signatures they had collected for a world without nuclear weapons.

This was also very moving for me. It reminded me what the work of diplomats and politicians should be: to listen to the voices of the peoples in their countries. A world without nuclear weapons is an aspiration that is so widely shared among peoples all around the globe.

Unfortunately, the world of diplomacy has not yet been able to live up to this global aspiration and the expectation of a world without nuclear weapons.

Last May, the Review Conference of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty failed to make any progress. This is a collective failure and a loss for all humankind. Increased geopolitical crisis and greater tensions between nuclear powers have resulted in a lack of willingness to commit to concrete and credible nuclear disarmament steps. At the same time, we see great sums of money being spent on the modernization of nuclear weapons. This seems to indicate a desire to retain nuclear weapons for a long time rather than giving credible signs of real willingness to move away from nuclear weapons. This fundamentally undermines trust in the disarmament pillar of the NPT and weakens the overall nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation regime.

The NPT Review Conference was particularly disappointing because the overwhelming number of non-nuclear weapon States and civil society had invested so much effort in the past years to create momentum for credible progress on nuclear

disarmament.

The increased focus on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons – developed at 3 international conferences in Norway, Mexico and Austria – has developed a very strong set of arguments that should lead to a profound reassessment of nuclear weapons.

The humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons are even graver and more complex than previously understood – the risks of something going wrong – accident – human or technical errors, are also considerably greater and cannot be eliminated.

There is no capacity – nationally or internationally to deal with the humanitarian emergency or the long term consequences should NWs ever be used again.

These views are gaining ground in the international debate.

159 States have signed up to a statement on the humanitarian consequences that was delivered by Austria's Foreign Minister Sebastian Kurz.

In addition, the "Pledge" that Austria initiated at the Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of NWs last December has by now been formally supported by more than 110 States. This is a remarkable achievement and shows that more and more States are coming to the conclusion that more determined action is necessary.

The pledge – which is now called the Humanitarian Pledge – is a commitment to the urgent and full implementation of existing disarmament obligations under the NPT; a commitment to identify and pursue effective measures to fill the legal gap for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons.

It is a commitment to cooperate with all relevant stakeholders, States, International Organizations, the International Red Cross Movement, parliamentarians and civil society, in efforts to stigmatize, prohibit and eliminate nuclear weapons in light of their unacceptable humanitarian consequences and associated risks.

The NPT Review Conference may have failed but the humanitarian focus and initiative has clearly gained a lot of support and momentum. This perspective will from now on be at the center of all international efforts for nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation.

This makes me optimistic that we will be able to achieve progress.

Austria will continue to work with this growing number of States to implement the Humanitarian Pledge.

However, it is clear that we need support and cooperation of civil society. We need to raise this issue at all opportunities.

Austria supported the call from the Foreign Minister of Japan that world leaders and experts should visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki. I hope that many will follow this invitation.

Civil society in Japan has a very special role to play. I would like to close in congratulating you on your important work and to encourage you to continue your efforts for a world without nuclear weapons. Austria and an ever increasing number of states fully share this goal.

Message of Solidarity:

Onaga Takeshi Governor of Okinawa Prefecture

It is an honor for me to send my message to all of you who are attending the World Conference against Atomic & Hydrogen Bombs being held in the summer of the 70th year anniversary of the war's end. Also I would like to express my deep respect to your commitment to the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Thinking of the cruel and inhuman nature of the atomic bomb, I realize how meaningless war is and I earnestly wish for the realization of world peace through the elimination of nuclear weapons. Like the people of the A-bombed cities, we Okinawans lost more than 200,000 precious lives in the Battle of Okinawa, a fierce ground battle fought on our islands involving civilians in the final stages of the Pacific War. We cannot ever forget the grief we felt over the loss of our family members, friends and loved ones.

To hand over to the next generations the tragedy of war as we clearly remember it, exactly what it was; what we saw with our own eyes, what we heard with our own ears and what we know from our firsthand experiences, is the way for us to express our strong desire for lasting peace.

I conclude my message wishing that this World Conference will provide an opportunity for the participants and people throughout the world to join hands so that the effort to achieve a world without nuclear weapons will bear fruit.



Special Program Commemorating the 70th Anniversary of A-Bombing -- From Hiroshima to the World:

Setsuko Thurlow Hibakusha of Hiroshima Toronto, Canada

Dear friends, I am delighted to be here again joining you in this conference. Shortly before I left Toronto, Canada, where I live, I received a booklet of the record of the activities of the Gensuikyo delegation to the NPT Review Conference in New York. Aboard the plane to Japan, I lost no time in reading through it. By your passionate words for peace and against nuclear weapons and your dedicated efforts, in particular, to collect as many as 6 million, 330 thousand signatures and bring them with you in your suitcases to New York, I was so overwhelmed with admiration that I was brought to tears.

Recently I attended two conferences. There I was so deeply moved that I was unable to stop tears from welling up out of my eyes. At the closing session of the "Conference on the Humanitarian Consequences of nuclear weapons" held in Nayarit, Mexico about one year and a half ago, a Mexican deputy foreign minister said in his chair's summary that our movement for the abolition of nuclear weapons had reached a "point of no return". He further said that the next step to take was to outlaw nuclear weapons by a legally binding framework, thus prohibiting and eliminating them, and that "the 70th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki attacks is the appropriate milestone to achieve our goal." All participants responded to this powerful proposal with a standing ovation. Listening to what the Hibakusha wanted to say, or to hear, I could not stop the tears.

The other occasion was the third Conference on the Humanitarian Consequences held in December last year in Vienna, where a deputy foreign minister, following the chair's summary, made a "Pledge of Austria", which to me was an unexpected bonus. Hearing it, I and Haruko Moritaki, who was seated close to me, threw ourselves into each other's arms and wept, feeling that we were approaching a day when the desire of the Hibakusha was finally shared by the whole people of the world.

70 years ago today, I was caught by the explosion of the atom bomb in Hiroshima. After graduating from the university, I have been engaged in giving my testimony of my experience from the atomic-bombing and the sense of mission of the Hibakusha in north, central and south Americas and Europe. In north America, where many people still justify the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and

Nagasaki, it has been a challenge for me to keep conveying my message, in spite of actions against me such as: a bomb scare which was set at the National Art Gallery in Ottawa; my passport was confiscated and I was confined at Toronto Airport; a man spat at me in Cleveland, Ohio, saying, "If you want to talk about peace, do it in Moscow with godless communists"; and unsigned hate letters were sent to me at my college in Virginia.

On the morning of that day, Hiroshima was suddenly exposed to a flash of light, crashed by storm-like blast, burned down by the heat of more than 4,000 degrees Celsius and contaminated by radioactivity. I was then a thirteen year-old schoolgirl. Miraculously, I was rescued from under the crushed building at 1.8km from the epicenter. Most of my classmates who were with me were burned alive. Their voices of calling mothers or asking for god's help still remain in my ears.

Always alive in my memory is an image of Eiji, my four year-old nephew. With his body burnt to charcoal and swollen, he cried, "Boo-boo, give me boo-boo (water)". If he were alive, he would be 74 years old now. In spite of so many years having passed, in my mind he still appears just as he was as a 4-year-old boy. In my mind he represents all of the innocent children of the world. His image is the driving force which compels me to continue my struggle against the ultimate evil of nuclear weapons.

Forty years ago, I had the opportunity to meet many senior activists in this World Conference. The wisdom and encouragement I gained from them were of immeasurable value in supporting my activism around the world. I am deeply thankful for them. The global objective of the abolition of nuclear weapons we pursue cannot be attained without global solidarity.

Although forty years have passed since the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty came into force, there has hardly been any progress towards the abolition of nuclear weapons. Nuclear weapons states, by ignoring their own legal obligation under Article 6 of the NPT to work toward nuclear disarmament, and giving one excuse or another in refusing to meet the demand of non-nuclear weapon states, are revealing that they have no political intention to abolish nuclear arsenals. Yet many non-nuclear weapon states pushing for nuclear disarmament, together with NGOs, having run out of patience, and have launched a "Humanitarian initiative". This Humanitarian initiative is giving a breath of fresh air, a ray of hope cast in the dark and seemingly dead-end street. These nations and NGOs are planning to work out a nuclear weapons ban treaty whether the nuclear weapon states participate or not, aimed to ultimately lead to a total

ban on nuclear weapons (at present 113 states are supporting this plan). In my life in the anti-nuclear weapons movement I have never ever felt so hopeful as I do now. We Hibakusha, dreaming of nuclear weapons abolition in our lifetime, feel that this development is a significant movement to our final goal.

The Japanese government is not supporting this campaign. The Hibakusha feel betrayed and hurt by the Japanese government's inconsistent, haphazard nuclear policy. The reckless challenge that the Japanese government is now proceeding with is causing a political crisis. We cannot accept the subservience in the Japan-US alliance, being pursued in disregard to the public opinion. What on earth did Prime Minister Abe pledge before the cenotaph at the Hiroshima peace memorial ceremony this morning? We must not let pass the desecration of hundreds of thousands of those who died and the Hibakusha who have lived through the hardship.

Our responsibility to build a nuclear-free, peaceful and just world and to defend the democracy of Japan is now much heavier than before. Yet it is our responsibility to do it. You and I together, let us intensify our efforts greater than ever before.

Kang Hojung
Korean Atomic Bomb Casualty
Association, ROK

(Please see page 14 for the text)

Yoshii Toshihiko
**Kagawa A-Bomb Survivors Association/
Jazz Pianist**

It is my third time this year to play this A-bombed piano. I think I have played this over 100 times so far. In fact, I was so surprised when I saw this piano for the first time. I had always wondered why on earth I became a pianist, but until then, I had found no reason why. My parents were both farmers, and we did not have a piano at home. And my hands are so small and fingers are as short as those of elementary school children. But on March 1, 2008, I played this piano for the first time, when I got the revelation: I became a pianist so that I would eventually encounter and play this piano! I was 62 years old. Since then, I have presented myself as a cicada, who stayed underground for 62 years. After all those long years, I finally came out on the ground and since then I have been singing every day as a cicada in summer. I will continue singing to this piano as long as I live. It will be

nice to have your encouragement and support.

Sakuma Kunihiko
Hiroshima Federation of A-Bomb
Survivors Associations

This morning we met with Prime Minister Abe Shinzo from 9:30 to 11:15 a.m. after attending the Peace Memorial Ceremony hosted by Hiroshima City. Here I have brought a petition with me. This is what 6 Hibakusha organizations in Hiroshima Prefecture jointly submitted to the prime minister.

I asked two questions to the prime minister. One is about the government intention to expand the area designated as being affected by the radioactive "black rain," which was touched upon by Hiroshima Mayor Matsui Kazumi in his Peace Declaration. The prime minister's answer sounded that it was not the matter for the government to deal with; it was someone else's problem. I doubted if he really understood the situation of the Hibakusha.

The other question I asked was about an international convention to ban and eliminate nuclear weapons. I asked him to explain the Japanese government's stance on the nuclear weapons convention which was taken up at the 2015 NPT Review Conference for the first time. Again, he did not touch on this question in his remarks.

At the end of the meeting, Mr. Yoshioka demanded withdrawal of the security bills on behalf of the Liaison Council of Hibakusha Organizations of Hiroshima. The prime minister said that peace diplomacy was Japan's basic policy, but he needed to batten down the hatches. I could not agree with what he was talking about. I realized that we must join hands to change the government's policy, which is the only way to scrap the bills.

We need to urge the government to work for the conclusion of a treaty for banning and eliminating nuclear weapons. When the court struggle over the "black rain" issue will start soon, I would like to ask for your kind support to us so that we can win in this struggle. Thank you.

Miyake Noriko
No Nukes! Hiroshima Youth Organizing
Committee

At a youth workshop in the World Conference, members of the No Nukes! Hiroshima Youth Organizing Committee played a role of showing young participants the way to Hibakusha's residential areas. This year, about 250 young people listened to the testimonies of 52 Hibakusha

in 18 different venues and Green Arena.

Here are some feedbacks written by participants of the workshop: "Realizing that nuclear weapons are so horrible, I felt so sad that I had goosebumps" "By listening to Hibakusha's story, I realized instinctively that nuclear weapons should never be allowed to exist. This is not based on logic but an instinctive sense of human beings, which cannot be changed so easily and should be highly respected. This is the significance of directly listening to their stories" "Now that I heard Hibakusha's aspirations, I want to share them to other people. I have to act."

In a few years we might not be able to hear Hibakusha's stories directly. Therefore I believe it is our responsibility to spread to other parts of Japan Hibakusha's words, lives, and struggles they have shared with us. We were very much encouraged by the feedbacks from the participants coming from all over Japan, realizing that they have understood Hibakusha's stories in the same way we did.

"I had never wanted to tell my painful story to anyone, but I have to do it now as less and less people can talk about their experiences," said one Hibakusha, who is over 90 years old and gave her testimony for the first time. I would like to take this opportunity to express our deep appreciation to the Hibakusha who have told their stories to us young citizens.

My grandparents are Hibakusha. Every August they told me about their hellish A-bombed experiences. They used to say, "Nuclear weapons cannot coexist with human beings, so they must be eliminated." Their wish has become my own. In May this year, I went to New York as a member of the Hiroshima delegation to the NPT Review Conference. I was very much impressed by so many people who were gathering from all over the world and calling, "Let's get rid of nuclear weapons!" in their unique ways. I am convinced that we can surely abolish nuclear weapons if more and more people hope for their abolition.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings. In this very year the Abe Cabinet is trying to forcibly turn Japan into a war-fighting nation in complete disregard of citizens' voices. We should never allow the war legislation. In order to get the bills scrapped, we raise our voice in Hiroshima. In order to create a society free from nuclear weapons together with Hibakusha, we, as young citizens living in Hiroshima, are determined to join forces and work hard with peoples all over the world. Let us work together!

Greetings of Solidarity:

Shii Kazuo

Executive Committee Chair, Japanese Communist Party/ Member of the House of Representatives of Japan

I extend my greetings of passionate solidarity to all delegates attending the 2015 World Conference against Atomic & Hydrogen Bombs from inside and outside Japan.

This conference of the year of the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II is also being held as we see a new momentum building toward a nuclear-free world in the midst of the struggle against the war bills that will enable Japan to yet again wage wars abroad.

What I want to emphasize here is that our commitment to create a world without nuclear weapons and our struggle to defend Article 9 of Japan's Constitution are closely linked.

Why has Japan been able to maintain a constitution with its Article 9 which not only renounces war but also disallows the possession of forces? Of course, it is in part a reflection of our remorse for causing the huge damages and sufferings of Japanese as well as other Asian peoples by its war of aggression and colonial rule. It also reflects our determination to never repeat such a war.

At the same time, I believe that Article 9 expresses our desire to never allow to repeat anywhere in the world the hell brought onto Hiroshima and Nagasaki, which had been beautiful cities that were destroyed in mere seconds by nuclear weapons. I believe Japanese citizens' desire for peace generated Article 9 which we are proud of before the world. In Article 9 is enshrined the desire of No More Hiroshimas and No More Nagasakis.

Let's create a peaceful Japan and a peaceful world by merging the movement for eliminating nuclear weapons with the movement against the proposed war bills! Let's have the unconstitutional bills forced to be scraped by our movement!

It is great to see each concerned citizen raising his or her voice in Japan and throughout the world and acting as key players working to create and maintain world peace.

In regard to our endeavor to achieve the elimination of nuclear weapons, it is the power of the growing movement of citizens led by Hibakusha that moves international politics in the right direction.

U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said in his statement to the NPT Review Conference this year:

"I challenge anyone who doubts the urgency of nuclear disarmament to listen to their experiences. I defy anyone to look into the eyes of these courageous and resilient individuals and say you know better what nuclear weapons bring." I emphasize here with the highest respect that it is many years of efforts of these courageous and resilient Hibakusha that brought about a joint statement endorsed by 159 nations on "the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons."

When 6.33 million signatures collected in Japan for the abolition of nuclear weapons were submitted to U.N., Ambassador Taous Feroukhi of Algeria, President of the Conference, said, "[W]hen enough people speak, their leaders will learn to listen and to act in accordance with their will." This is the power that ultimately opens the way to achieve a nuclear-free world by starting negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention.

We can change Japan if everyone can be motivated to raise his and her voice and stand up for what's right. Let's work together to create a better future for all.

Grass-Roots Actions for a World without Nuclear Weapons:

He Jun

**Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament
People's Republic of China**

I think it is significant for us to gather here in Hiroshima to review history and discuss ways to maintain the world's security and peace. Allow me, on behalf of the Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament, to express our cordial gratitude to the organizing committee for its proactive effort in preparation for the World Conference.

Seventy years ago, the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki caused tremendous human damage. I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest sympathy to all the victims of the tragedy. I'd also like to congratulate the people of Hiroshima, Nagasaki and the rest of Japan on the social development and economic growth they have achieved through efforts after WWII by pursuing the path for peaceful development.

With the world being polarized, the globalization of the economy underway, and society becoming IT-driven, the international community is becoming day by day a community sharing common destiny. Peace, development, cooperation, and the win-win approach constitute an irresistible world trend.

Coordination and cooperation have recently increased in the international community, perseveringly promoting global nuclear non-proliferation, nuclear disarmament, and the process of nuclear security. Our goal to achieve a nuclear-free world through a total ban on nuclear weapons and their elimination has been widely accepted these days. The international society has the shared awareness in regard to nuclear nonproliferation. Nevertheless, there are many pending nuclear issues that we cannot overlook. The full implementation of the NPT is thwarted in many ways. Above anything else, we must pay attention to the issue of nuclear security, which is still a sword of Damocles hanging over our heads. I don't think we can be optimistic about the present world situation regarding nuclear weapons.

As a nuclear state, China has been working hard to promote nuclear disarmament, tenaciously calling for a total ban on nuclear weapons and their complete elimination. Soon after China possessed nuclear weapons, we cordially declared to the world our determination to not preemptively use nuclear weapons at any time and under any circumstances. China promised it will neither use, nor threaten to use, nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon states or nuclear-free zones. China's nuclear strategy is structured on self-defense. It maintains its nuclear forces at a minimum level to ensure the national security. It has never deployed nuclear weapons outside the country. It has never participated and will never take part in the nuclear arms race in any ways. In April this year, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress discussed and approved the Protocol to the Treaty on a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone in Central Asia. This is intended to support the international nuclear nonproliferation regime and ensure the security of the neighboring areas. Amity, sincerity, mutual benefit, and tolerance are China's approaches to diplomacy with neighboring countries.

Here, I would like to take this opportunity to call on all nuclear powers to steadfastly implement their commitment to nuclear disarmament and not to seek to possess nuclear weapons permanently. In order to reduce threats of nuclear weapons, nuclear powers should abandon their policy of threatening with nuclear weapons based on the doctrine of the pre-emptive use of nuclear weapons, promise not to use nuclear weapon preemptively, and start negotiations on a treaty of non-first-use of nuclear weapons. Nuclear powers should also make clear that they will not threaten to use or use the weapons against non-nuclear countries or in nuclear-free zones. In addition, I hope countries should give up developing a missile defense system that changes the strategic stability of the world, promote

vigorously multilateral negotiations on the use of space for peaceful purposes to avoid a space arms race, and create a good atmosphere for global strategic environments for nuclear disarmament.

If we make a step forward in the nuclear disarmament efforts, the world will be a safer place. The Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament is the largest civil organization in China. Its main aim is to promote mutual understanding, friendship and cooperation between Chinese people and peoples around the world, work together to maintain global peace, oppose the arms race and war, call on the total ban and elimination of weapons of mass destruction including nuclear weapons, and facilitate the harmonious development of the world. Our association will work to promote mutual understanding and friendship among peoples as well as peace and security of the world.

Today, as we meet here and witness the prosperity of Hiroshima that resurrected from its total devastation, we must keep in mind the importance of realizing that we can maintain social stability and people's happiness only if we take the path of peaceful development. We will join you in defending peace and justice of the world and oppose war. Let us walk hand in hand to help people gain confidence in the prospect of a nuclear-free, peaceful and secure world.

Bruce Gagnon **Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space**

I bring you greetings from the Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space. We have just been in Kyoto for our 23rd annual space organizing conference. We were invited to hold our meeting there by local activists who are protesting the US deployment of a so-called 'missile defense' radar system aimed at China.

The US missile defense program is a key element in Pentagon first-strike attack planning. Today the US is encircling Russia and China with missile defense systems that would serve as the 'shield' after a Pentagon first-strike attack. The missile defense shield would pick off retaliatory strikes made by Russia or China giving the US a theoretical victory. The missile defense program is dangerous, expensive and highly provocative. Each year the US Space Command holds a computer war game where they simulate such a first-strike attack on Russia and China.

The US is now deploying missile defense systems on land and on-board Navy destroyers throughout the Asia-Pacific as part of Obama's

'pivot' into the region. Missile defense has been deployed in Japan, Okinawa, Taiwan, South Korea, Guam, Philippines and Australia.

The US and NATO are also deploying these systems near Russia's border in Poland, Romania and Turkey as well as onboard Navy warships in the Mediterranean, Black and Baltic Seas.

Both Russia and China have repeatedly warned the US and NATO that these aggressive deployments will halt any further negotiations for nuclear disarmament. Thus we clearly see the link between missile defense and a new arms race.

At the same time that NATO is expanding like a cancer up to the Russian border the US controlled NATO alliance has formed 'partnerships' with Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand. The goal is to turn NATO into a global military war machine under the control of corporate capitalism.

The word 'interoperability' is frequently used these days to describe the role that NATO allies will play when they become partners with the US. This means that all allies must use high-tech military equipment that can be run through the existing US military satellite system. This requires allied countries, like Japan, to either buy weapons from US aerospace corporations or build systems that will be 'interoperable' with Pentagon military programs. In the end the US will control all of this and will have successfully forced NATO partners to help pay for the construction of the massive military program called 'Full Spectrum Dominance'.

As the US 'pivots' its military into the Asia-Pacific the Pentagon will need more airfields for its warplanes, more ports-of-call for its warships, and more barracks for its troops. Thus we see the US forcing construction of new or expanded bases on Okinawa, Jeju Island in South Korea, Guam and in other nations across the Pacific.

As the US-NATO globalize their war machine, the peace movement must globalize our opposition to these endless war plans. We must work harder to support resistance movements in places like Okinawa and Jeju Island where they not only oppose bases but also fight to protect the environment. We must work harder to show the public how the military is the biggest polluter on the planet. We must demand that our nation's resources be used to deal with the coming reality of climate change – not be wasted on more war.

No missile defense!

No more Hiroshima and Nagasaki!

Save Article 9!

Bishop Heinrich Bedford-Strohm Evangelical Lutheran Church in Germany/ World Council of Churches

Something New after 70 Years: A Way Forward Together

All of us here today are united by a great hope: After 70 years of fear, it is high time to abolish nuclear weapons. And we hope that someday this goal will be achieved. I share that hope with you on behalf of the World Council of Churches which has member churches on every continent, here in Japan, and in my own country of Germany.

Thankfully, in this anniversary year, there is *something new*. It is a new way forward together towards a world free of nuclear weapons. It is a growing worldwide majority rejecting the threats that began with the bombing of this city. It is a growing number of governments, civil society organizations, and people inspired by humanitarian values, by compassion, and by the vision that this world is truly one.

Our world urgently needs such new initiative. The multilateral mechanisms that are tasked with ending nuclear dangers have not kept their promise. Nuclear nations are not joining non-nuclear nations in really filling the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Conference on Disarmament with life. Nuclear powers keep denying the evidence about the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons. They are praising disarmament as a goal while spending untold billions to modernize their nuclear arsenals for use far into the future.

But there is hope. More and more of the non-nuclear majority are working together to no longer tolerate this situation but take new initiatives to overcome it. I refer to the Humanitarian Pledge, the fruit of three years of majority action. The Pledge calls us to "close the legal gap for the prohibition and elimination" of nuclear weapons. 113 states have now endorsed it. More continue to join, urged on by civil society including religious organizations. This new majority is already visible in the 159 countries joining their votes to declare: "nuclear weapons must never be used again, under any circumstances".

What is new is the growing global majority being empowered to break the deadlock over nuclear disarmament. Surely, a 95-percent majority of states, backed by global public opinion, has the power to outlaw nuclear weapons. A ban will not make nuclear weapons vanish, but law is a necessary step toward their abolition and an essential instrument towards their elimination.

This new way forward will only succeed if

governments and civil society move together. The way forward is difficult. The crisis over Ukraine is bringing out dangerous old habits. Fear is being mobilized to increase support for nuclear weapons. Members of NATO assert that Cold War-style nuclear confrontation is necessary, and even inevitable, in the crisis over Ukraine.

The politics of fear and confrontation are sadly familiar here in Northeast Asia. Nuclear weapons thrive here under such conditions. 70 years ago, atomic bombs were used on two cities. Today, all the cities of the region stand at risk. Every country in this region either possesses nuclear weapons or depends on the nuclear arsenal of the United States.

The World Council of Churches held a worldwide Assembly near here, in South Korea, in 2013.

Member churches from Asia influenced the Assembly. Living inside the target zones of opposing nuclear forces, living among nuclear power plants, they called for eliminating nuclear weapons as a step toward peace and for replacing nuclear power as a step toward sustainable development.

My church in Germany, and churches around the world, are also influenced by the *hibakusha* of Hiroshima, Nagasaki and also Fukushima. Their brave witness that no one else must ever suffer their fate is a source of strength to all people including Christians.

The *hibakusha*'s story shows that human beings are called to a new way of living: We must live in ways that protect life instead of putting it at risk. We must not use the energy of the atom in ways that threaten and destroy life. To do so is a sinful misuse of God's creation. We must refuse to accept that the mass destruction of other peoples can be a legitimate form of protection for ourselves.

For this 70th anniversary, the World Council of Churches has sent church leaders here from seven countries that do not agree yet to close the legal gap around nuclear weapons. We are here from two countries that have nuclear weapons – the United States and Pakistan – and from five countries that profess support for nuclear disarmament but are still willing to have nuclear weapons used on their behalf. After this historic anniversary our plan is to go home to talk with our governments about what was done to Hiroshima and Nagasaki, to ask why our governments are still prepared 70 years later to destroy hundreds of cities even more terribly, and to urge our governments to join the new Humanitarian Pledge.

The 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings is a promising time for all of us. Let us move forward together. To ban nuclear weapons is something new, something necessary and

something a world majority must finally do.

Matsuo Yuki Miyazaki Federation of Democratic Medical Institutions (Miyazaki Min-Iren)

First, I would like to say thank you for giving me an opportunity to attend the World Conference against A and H Bombs in this historical year, 70 years after the tragedy.

I know my speech won't be perfect but I'll try my best to represent the Japan Federation of Democratic Medical Institutions (Min-Iren). I am in my first year of the training program for doctors at Miyazaki Co-op Hospital.

Through my four-month experience as a trainee doctor, I have realized the importance of life on many occasions. The smile of patients leaving the hospital after their recovery gives me and other medical experts great joy. Some patients cannot avoid death despite the treatment they receive. In any case, patients showed a cheerful look on their face when their family came to the hospital. As a trainee doctor, I have seen more life and death, and this has made me realize life's brightness and greatness more deeply.

War and nuclear weapons take these precious lives in the blink of an eye.

This hospital accepted me as an apprentice when I was a student, and at the time I also learned about activities for peace and started to participate in them.

During that time, a doctor asked me a question: If war begins and a wounded soldier is taken to you, doctors will naturally try to save him. The saved soldier, however, goes to the battlefield again and he may lose his life. Can we still say we saved this soldier? Or maybe this soldier shoots and kills somebody. In this case, who do you say pulled the trigger? The soldier? The doctor? This question made me realize that in war medical treatment to save lives could in turn take somebody else's life. I strongly felt we mustn't let it happen. At the same time, I vehemently reject nuclear weapons, which take a huge number of lives in an instant.

Since World War II, Japan has maintained the policy of anti-war and anti-nuclear weapons under Article 9 of the Constitution, an article we are proud of. Today, unfortunately, step by step Japan is gradually moving toward war. Min-Iren in its program states that we oppose all wars in any form which destroy human life and health, work to abolish nuclear weapons, and protect peace and the environment.

To avoid the worst-case scenario, we, as a

member of Min-Iren, will continue the anti-war and anti-nuclear weapons movement in Miyazaki, together with other members around the country.

I had my mind made up to do this after meeting various people and directly listening to Hibakusha in this conference.

I invite all of you from across the country and around the world, to continue to work hand in hand to achieve a world of peace without war and nuclear weapons.

Members of Kanagawa Chapter New Japan Women's Association

Oishi Mai

Konnichiwa! I'm Oishi Mai. I participated in the New York actions where I learned many people are suffering from nuclear damage all over the world, and I felt firsthand many people's desire and the power of the movement. Above all, I learned the importance of the Japanese grassroots movement and of the effort to have more people join the movement. I was especially impressed by the words of the Hibakusha quoted in one of the presentations during the International Meeting: "I used to hate the United States. But after I joined Shinfujin, I have changed. Hatred invites hatred and there is no end to it. I have learned that the only way to truly respond to the desire of the Hibakusha is to be a part of the movement to abolish war and eliminate nuclear weapons." I realized that each step many people had taken for peace with joy and sorrow in the course of history have led us to where we were. This is why I decided to be one of those who follow the path and join Shinfujin in New York.

With conviction that my first step, however small it is, will lead to a peaceful future, I will continue working with my colleagues.

Nagashima Minami

My name is Nagashima Minami. Right after I came back from New York, I went to see Ms. Harada, a Hibakusha who lives in my neighborhood. She said that after the A-bomb was dropped, she fled, leaving behind a lady who was buried under the fallen house and asking for help. All she could do was to say "I'm sorry." She told me she had never stopped regretting that she acted inhumanly. Then she said, "There is no excuse. I have to face what I have done. That is why we need to learn so that what I experienced will never happen again. Learning will give you the power to live strong."

Since I was 20 years old, I have been suffering

from an intractable neurological disease and I have pain in my hands all day. I have been denying the way I am. But now I am different. Ms. Harada gave me the courage to accept myself, and to live and act.

In this 70th year of the Atomic-bombing, I am participating in the World Conference with three colleagues of Shinfujin's stretching exercise circle in my community. We are the ones to carry the story of Hiroshima over to next generations and to take action!

Sakata Ayako

I am Sakata Ayako. Just imagining that my children might go to war would make me feel difficulty in breathing. Sending these children to the battlefield is absolutely unacceptable. Our shared desire is: "Don't let anyone's child be killed." What is needed now is not to "propose alternatives" to the war bills, but to "scrap them".

More and more women are organizing red actions all across Japan. Unable to sit still, mothers and their children rallied in Shibuya, Tokyo, protesting the war bills! No one can stop us anymore!

Let us join hands together to force Prime Minister Abe to raise the white flag in surrender! Let us block the war bills no matter what.

Let us now chant our messages loud with Shinfujin sisters from all over Japan. Please join us. "No to war. Protect our children. Moms decided never to make war. Everyone decided never to make war. For these 70 years we have committed to this decision. We will not let anyone's child be killed. Don't let anyone's child be killed."

We will carry on and hand over the wishes and messages of Hibakusha to next generations. Let us be united!



**Resolution of the 70th Anniversary Hiroshima Day Rally
2015 World Conference against A & H Bombs
August 6, 2015**

Hiroshima Appeal

“For as long as there are human beings; a world of human beings
give back peace; a peace that will not crumble”

*(From the Prelude of “Poems of the Atomic Bomb” written by Toge Sankichi,
translated by Karen Thornber)*

In the 70th summer since the tragedy of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and since the end of the Asia-Pacific war, we are holding this year's World Conference against A & H Bombs at a time when the voices of people from different generations are mounting on a larger scale than ever calling for a “peace that will not crumble” to be maintained.

The proposed “war bills” are intended to enable Japan’s Self-Defense Forces to use force abroad and to exercise the “right of collective self-defense”. They will overturn the Constitution of Japan which pledges to never wage war again. The atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were brought about by the war, and that tragedy tells us that war could end up in destruction of civilization and annihilation of humankind.

We have been raising our voices that Hiroshima and Nagasaki should never be repeated. From the A-bombed city of Hiroshima, we send our messages together with the Hibakusha: “Don’t wage war.” “Abolish nuclear weapons.”

The 2015 NPT Review Conference has made clear that the world current toward the abolition of nuclear weapons has become strong enough to allow no roll-back. The joint statement condemning the use of nuclear weapons as a crime against humanity has been supported by 80 percent of NPT States parties. The majority of NPT parties called for legal measures such as a treaty to ban nuclear weapons. The power of public voices and movements, as shown by the more than 6.3 million signatures that we submitted to the NPT Review Conference, supports this solid development. If national governments, international organizations, and grassroots people join forces to create an overwhelming public voice, it is possible to overcome the “nuclear deterrence” theory and open a path toward a “world without nuclear weapons”.

The role Japan’s movement should play has become more critical. The average age of the Hibakusha is over 80. It is an urgent task to pass Hibakusha’s experiences, struggles, aspirations, and their life stories on to younger generations and to disseminate information about the damage and aftereffects of the atomic bombing. Let us hold A-bomb exhibitions and gatherings to listen to Hibakusha testimonies in every city, town and village. Let us further develop the signature campaign calling for a world without nuclear weapons. Let us strengthen our activities to extend relief and solidarity with the Hibakusha, achieve State compensation for their suffering, and support Hibakusha’s concerted lawsuits on the A-bomb disease recognition system.

The Abe Cabinet’s argument that the “war bills” will enhance “deterrence” runs counter to the world trend seeking peaceful resolution of conflicts. Continued reliance on the U.S. “nuclear umbrella” under the Japan-U.S. military alliance goes against people’s wish for the abolition of nuclear weapons. We should not allow the Abe Cabinet to obscure Japan’s remorse and apology over its wartime colonial rule and aggression by issuing a statement on the 70th anniversary of the war’s end. Let us scrap the “war bills”. Let us protect and make full use of Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution.

The “all-Okinawan” struggle against the construction of a new U.S. base in Henoko has now cornered the government and entered a new stage. Let us unite with their struggle in every part of Japan. We oppose the reactivation of nuclear power plants, including the Sendai plant, and join forces with the movements calling for zero nuclear power plants. Let us strengthen support for victims of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant accident. Let us oppose moves to destroy employment and living conditions and to expand poverty and disparity. Let us bring together people’s wishes for peace, life, and safe living and defeat the Abe Government.

A big change is now emerging from actions of individual citizens who have stood up and raised their voices based on their own will. Now is the time for us to join together with all people wishing for peace and to speak up.

No more Hiroshimas! No more Nagasakis! No more Hibakusha! No more war!

Gathering in Nagasaki

2015 World Conference against A and H Bombs

(August 7)

Keynote Address on Behalf of the Organizer:

Tomida Koji
Drafting Committee Chair
(Please see page 89 for the text)

Greetings by Nagasaki Mayor:

Taue Tomihisa
Mayor of Nagasaki City

On the occasion of the 2015 World Conference against A and H Bombs-Nagasaki, I would like to speak on behalf of the citizens of Nagasaki City.

I express my deep respect for all of you, who every year, are firmly committed to activities for peace to eliminate nuclear weapons and realize permanent peace around the world.

At 11:02 AM on August 9, 1945, an atomic bomb destroyed Nagasaki City. In an instant, the bomb turned the city into ruins, taking the precious lives of 74,000 people including children and the elderly. Furthermore, 75,000 people who survived suffered incurable wounds over their body and in their minds. Even to this day, 70 years after the bombing, many of those people are still suffering from the damage caused by the radiation.

Hibakusha and other citizens of Nagasaki City have been calling for a world without nuclear weapons to ensure nobody around the world again will experience the same hardship they endured. With these efforts as a backdrop, the international community is increasingly focusing on the inhumane nature of nuclear weapons and moving to

ban them through international law. I am convinced that the Hibakusha and others who raised their voices to abolish nuclear weapons have promoted this change and that civil society needs to work harder to accelerate the move toward a world without nuclear weapons.

Unfortunately, the Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty held this year, 70 years after the bombing, failed to adopt a final document. However, a record number 159 countries, including Japan supported the Joint Statement on the Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons led by the Austrian government. I believe this shows that people around the world today share the hope of Hibakusha and Nagasaki citizens to eliminate all nuclear weapons from the world.

To achieve a world without nuclear weapons needs persistent and a united effort of civil society. I hope that everybody here today will share the desire for peace and spread the voice for a nuclear weapon-free world throughout the country and the world.

In conclusion, I wish you success in the “2015 World Conference against A and H Bombs” and I pray for your good health and a bright future.

Statements by Government Representatives:

Muhammad Anshor
Ambassador/ Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Indonesia to the U.N.

(Please see page 96 for the full text)

Seiko Ishikawa
Ambassador to Japan
Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

On behalf of the Government and People of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, it is an honor to convey to all participants a message of solidarity at this World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs, especially this year, commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the heinous atomic bombing to the cities of Nagasaki and Hiroshima, in which thousands of people died causing dire catastrophic humanitarian consequences.

It's been seven decades since the end of World War II and images of those attacks still haunt the conscience of humanity. Hiroshima and Nagasaki represent for the world, the permanent sublimation of the value of the human spirit.

Venezuela is a country with a very high humanitarian and social sensitivity in the construction of a new global equilibrium, identified with the principles of equality, solidarity and international cooperation, positioned to strengthen multilateralism and advocating the peaceful coexistence of States, in accordance to the Charter of the United Nations.

International action of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela regarding disarmament and security are defined by its foreign policy, and its national Constitution, which requires it to promote nuclear disarmament and prohibits the production or use of nuclear weapons.

Venezuela, as a member of the Treaty of Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, reaffirms the necessity of its universalization to ensure a true world of peace. In particular, we must strengthen the three pillars of the NPT in a balanced and non-discriminatory fashion, and ensure that commitments made at the NPT Review Conference are fulfilled, especially by Nuclear Weapon States. Their security doctrines and military strategy based on the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons against Non-Nuclear Weapon States must come to an end.

Venezuela welcomes the outcome of the Iran and P5+1 agreement. We just hope that the same political thrust and media attention that has been given to the agreement can also be applied to the Middle East region, in particular to the establishment of the Nuclear Weapons Free Zone which is an important contribution towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons. As part of the first densely populated zone free of nuclear weapons, we urge all members for full implementation of the 1995 Resolution for Nuclear Weapons Free Zone in the Middle East and the successful convening of its

international conference.

We are honored by the four visits to Venezuela in recent years made by Hibakushas, who have been onboard, the Peace Boat, spreading a message of peace around the world, demanding the prohibition and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. During their recent visit to Venezuela, in June, our People and government had the opportunity to hear the invaluable testimony of the Hibakushas.

Also, this occasion is to reaffirm our support to the principles and objectives of the global network initiative of Mayors for Peace, founded by the authorities of the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, of which Venezuela currently participates with 25 member cities.

As we commemorate the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombs dropped in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, my wife Erika and I would like to express our appreciation to the organizers and attendees at this World Conference and to reiterate our commitment to jointly achieve a world of peace, free from the threat of nuclear weapons.

Address of the Hibakusha:

Taniguchi Sumiteru
Hibakusha of Nagasaki
Co-Chairperson, Nihon Hidankyo

A Pledge in the 70th Year

Dear friends from around the country as well as from abroad, thank you very much for joining this gathering in Nagasaki. I would like to extend my heartfelt welcome to you all.

We are now at a historic moment: Tomorrow, we will commemorate the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki.

On August 9 seventy years ago, a U.S. atomic bomb dropped from the sky of Nagasaki City killed more than 70,000 people in an instant.

I was 16 years old and a postman at that time. I was delivering mails by bicycle in Sumiyoshi-machi about 1.8 kilometers from the hypocenter. All of a sudden from behind me there came a rainbow of light, and I was blown off my feet by a powerful blast and landed against the road.

Some time later, I got up to find the skin falling in tatters off my left arm, peeling from my shoulder to my fingers. I also touched my back and realized that my shirt was burned and something slimy stuck to my skin.

After spending two nights in the mountain, I was rescued on the morning of the third day after the bombing. I was taken to several different aid stations. In November I was admitted to Omura

Navy Hospital. I was confined in the hospital for 43 months. Since I had burns on my back, I laid down on my stomach for the first 21 months. My life was hanging in the balance. For this reason, my chest eroded to the bones due to bedsores. Even today, my chest looks as if it is hollowed out. You can see my heart beating between my ribs. My lung capacity is said to be about half of the average person.

Those who narrowly survived had health problems and had their living conditions jeopardized. Without government assistance, they were virtually left unattended for 12 years. We were encouraged by the movement against A and H bombs, which emerged and grew in the wake of the U.S. hydrogen bomb test explosion at Bikini Atoll in the South Pacific in 1954. We founded the Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations (Nihon Hidankyo).

We have made efforts to make the damage and aftereffects of the atomic bombings known to the world.

An overwhelming majority of world opinion denounces nuclear weapons as weapons against humanity and is demanding they are banned and eliminated.

The other day, I met Dr. Matsumoto Sunao, who was my doctor 69 years ago at the Omura Navy Hospital. As I had been on my stomach for a long time in the hospital, I had never seen his face. He said he remembered my reddened back and said, "Thank you for surviving till today."

I will continue to tell the world as long as I live about the damage and aftereffects of the atomic bombings to promote the movement to achieve a world without nuclear weapons.

Friends, after World War II, Japan established the Constitution pledging to the world that it will not wage war or possess war potential. But there are moves to allow the country to exercise the right to collective self-defense, promote constitutional revision, and to take us back to prewar days. I categorically oppose the bills that pave the way for war.

Don't give up. Let us do all we can.

Next Step for a Nuclear Weapon-Free World:

Prakash Meghe Coalition for Nuclear Disarmament and Peace, India

Dear Friends, I am here with greetings from my organisation Coalition for Nuclear Disarmament and Peace and also from my home town Nagpur.

Since my college days, I am not only

participating but actively involved in organizing the programmes of Hiroshima Day. So my relation with movement against Nuclear Weapons is not recent one. Those days we used to explain only about inhuman effects of Atom Bomb on the basis of lesson which we have learned in school days. Thus I must accept that my inspiration to join this movement for nuclear disarmament and peace is the lesson in my history book about Hiroshima and Nagasaki. When for the first time I read about it, I thought that how can one human being be so cruel against another human being? Whenever I think about nuclear weapons the first thing which comes to my mind is about the pains and sufferings of victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the pathetic condition of "Hibakushas". I equally feel angered against U.S. Imperialism who did this inhuman and barbaric act and it has to be condemned by every person on this earth.

Being Indian I have to admit that after preaching before the International Court of Justice that the nuclear weapons are weapons of mass destruction and it should be abolished. However in 1998, Indian ruling class took complete "U" turn and went for Nuclear test and declared the possession of nuclear weapons and in retaliation Pakistan reciprocated with similar announcement. Both the governments gave same excuse of "Deterrence". But within few years, hollowness of said excuse was exposed before everybody when Kargil war took place and there were threatening of launching nuclear attacks.

After the acquisition of Nuclear weapons by India and Pakistan, my resolve to fight against nuclear weapons became stronger. After Nuclear test of 1998, we took out peace March from 'Pokhran to Sarnath' and I still remember the wholehearted support provided by Gensuikyo to said march and they also brought for us the poster exhibition of Atomic Bomb victims and I still remember that for more than 10 years I went with that in hundreds of schools which immensely helped us for campaigning against nuclear weapons. I still remember that on one occasion we also arranged the programme of Hibakusha who all the way came from Hiroshima to Nagpur and other places in India. The birth of our organisation is only after the nuclear test to oppose the nuclear weapons and with umbrella of 300 organisations we are involved in this anti-nuclear movement for the past 15 years. We also tried to mobilise Pakistani people on this issue and I was part of Peace Conference held at Karachi in 2003 for the same goal.

India and Pakistan are not part of NPT, but people fighting against nuclear weapons had lots of hope from NPT Review conference 2015 but its outcome

was no doubt disappointed. At the same time it is not completely discouraging because we have to also appreciate that 113 states signed 'Humanitarian Pledge' and it gives me more strength and hope for our struggle and it could be possible because of large participation of Japanese people in May 2015 in New York and efforts by other peace loving people. I also express solidarity on behalf of my organisation for the struggle started by Japanese people against U.S. bases, against 'Security Laws' and to save their constitution. I am very much impressed by the movement which is taking place at Okinawa. I wish if we are able to build such movement at every nook and corner of the world then our dream to save earth from nuclear weapons is not far.

I must tell you that like atomic bomb victims, the sufferings of other victims of radiation at nuclear power stations and uranium mines are equally painful and that is why at number of places in India where Government is planning to have such power stations, the people are vehemently opposing by taking strength from struggle of Hibakushas. I consider the said struggle is part of our struggle against nuclear weapons and my organisation is also committed to it and to achieve the goal of abolition of nuclear weapons. Let us take pledge to spread this message in every street, every nook and corner - every home on this earth. No more Hiroshima, No more Nagasaki, No more wars.

Pierre Laurent
French Communist Party, France

**For a world of justice and peace, free of
nuclear weapons**

First of all, I would like to thank Gensuikyo for organising this World Conference for Peace and for inviting me to take the floor in the name of the French Communist Party.

The French Communist Party is present for the commemoration ceremonies marking the anniversary of the catastrophes of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, to express our enduring commitment to the struggle for peace.

Seventy years after the end of the nightmare of the Second World War, a war that brutally ripped through Asia, we are still trying to protect the world from another potential tragedy.

1945 opened a new period for the world: in Europe it was the end of Nazism and the horror of the death camps was revealed to all humankind. In Asia, Americans dropped atomic bombs for the first time in history creating a new threat for the future of humanity.

The immediate destructive power of the bomb,

in addition to its long-term effects on human health and the environment, wreaked devastation on a previously unimaginable scale.

That same year, the world saw the creation of a new tool with the potential to work for world peace: the United Nations.

Today, the French Communist Party is concerned to see that violence and war are spreading throughout the world, especially where people already live in extreme poverty and humiliation. And we are appalled to hear the leaders of the world's most powerful nations using the same disastrous methods.

Indeed, military interventions failed to produce any positive results, and have made the situation worse.

The arms trade enables the great powers to hold on to their wealth. The maintenance of nuclear arsenals is erroneously called the "politics of dissuasion". This only serves to maintain inequality among nations and fuel the flames of war, threatening the very survival of humankind. We need to invent new political solutions.

The world is dangerous because it is profoundly unequal. And fanatics take advantage of the vacuum left by failed and corrupt states, the sufferings of societies that are spilt and divided.

The conviction of French Communists and millions of progressive women and men in France, in Europe and around the world, is that we must redouble our efforts to unite our forces and raise our voices together to stop the insane machinery of war.

The world is dangerous because it is not democratic, because international relations are not based on terms of equality.

"Dialogue of the deaf" was prevalent at the last NPT conference: whereas the great majority of non-NATO countries are forceful in their demands for a treaty to abolish nuclear weapons, based on the three conferences in Oslo, Nayarit and Vienna, which reported on the disastrous, uncontrolled impact of any use of the atomic bomb. The five most powerful nations have remain locked into their outdated concept of the world.

The political and military organisation, NATO, has no legitimacy with regard to international law and agreements, or to the United Nations Charter. And its existence lends legitimacy to the possession of nuclear weapons by other countries.

The UN proposal to advance zone by zone, and to work on the denuclearization of the Middle East, and I would add: the denuclearization of Europe itself, is a phase that is not to be neglected, but its success is also dependent on the real power of the institution.

The UN must be deeply restructured, so that international relations are better balanced and

democracy ameliorated. The United Nations Assembly is an essential component of any peaceful solution of conflict. It must be granted new legitimacy by the peoples of the world and build new relations among nations. At stake is the recognition of multilateralism and the construction of peaceful relations based on cooperation among nations that are free and equal and under law.

This struggle cannot be separated from the struggle for a treaty abolishing nuclear weapons, and more generally for seeking solutions that will bring progress to all nations.

In the struggle for peace, key elements are development, universal resources and the common good, as well as education, health, food sovereignty, the right to energy and, of course, disarmament.

As Jean Jaurès said, before he was assassinated because of his objection to the First World War: "The struggle for world peace is the greatest battle of all."

This is unfortunately truer than ever and this struggle is ours; all of the bridges that we can build between the peoples of the world will contribute to winning universal peace.

Grass-roots Actions for Abolition of Nuclear Weapons: against War Bills, for Defense of the Constitution of Japan:

Furuya Takahiro Fukuoka Gensuikyo

Hello everyone. I am from Fukuoka Prefecture. For the first time I joined the Peace March in Fukuoka. During the 8-hour March, I walked with Mr. A. G. Saño, international youth marcher from the Philippines. I was so happy when students of junior and senior high schools waved to us cheerfully, seeing our flags and placards saying, "Towards a nuclear-weapon free world" and "No war".

Saño-san said that every step we take would lead us to peace. I really believe he is right. We had a strong handshake, with the pledge to bring down Abe regime and continue our struggle until Abe quits.

Saño-san is going to come back for the Peace March next year. He said that he would walk from Hokkaido to Hiroshima and Nagasaki. By the time he comes next year, I hope that Abe regime will have been defeated, so that we can be proud of Japan with our peace constitution alive and fully

respected. This is my commitment to the peace movement.

Mouri Yasuyuki Miyazaki Gensuikyo

I am Mouri from Miyazaki Prefecture. I'd like to speak about two things. Firstly, when the peace march went through Miyazaki, it rained and rained all days. Nevertheless, over 550 people participated in the march this year, compared to some 400 in normal years. It proved the significance of the 70th year of the atomic bombing. Second point is the outcome of the NPT New York actions. We sent 4 delegates from Miyazaki Prefecture. We published an 8-page color printed report on our activities in New York and presented this when we had meetings with mayors or local assembly chairpersons. They were impressed to learn that such activities were organized by Gensuikyo, and Gensuikyo organizations in Miyazaki. As a result of our activities here, all local governments of Miyazaki prefecture have declared themselves nuclear-free municipalities, and this spring, I was informed that all of them joined the Mayors for Peace. We will continue our campaigns in Miyazaki.

Ikeda Katsuhisa Kagoshima Gensuikyo

I am Ikeda, General Secretary of the Organizing Committee of the Peace March in Kagoshima. We marched throughout Kagoshima for 16 days, starting on June 21 from Amami Oshima Island until July 9, when we handed the march over to the next prefecture. One of the highlights was that Mr. Oyama, the president of the association of the second generation of the Hibakusha has joined the march since last year. He contributed an essay expressing his feeling as the second generation Hibakusha in Gensuikyo Tsushin (Gensuikyo's monthly newsletter), the copy of which have been distributed to you.

In Kagoshima, our Peace March was held with the imminent restart of the Sendai Nuclear Power Plant. Today, 100 people gathered in front of the power plant's gate, holding relay talks for more than two hours. We will hold meetings again tomorrow afternoon, and also on the 9th. The rallies will continue on 10th and 11th as well. We won't stop. Even if the control rod is removed on the 11th, we will never give up and continue to struggle in Kagoshima.

2015 World Conference against A and H Bombs – Nagasaki
***International Forum: “Achieving a Nuclear Weapon-Free
World - Dialogue between Governments and NGOs”***
(August 8)

Panelists Presentations:

Shane Reti

**Member of Parliament of New Zealand/
PNND - New Zealand**

(Please see page 107 for the text)

Fernando Gonzalez Llort

**Vice President, Cuban Institute of
Friendship with the Peoples, Cuba**

(Please see page 109 for the text)

Joseph Gerson

**American Friends Service Committee
U.S.A**

Friends, I is a pleasure to return to this forum and an honor to be serving on the panel with Mr. Gonzalez Llort, Dr. Shane Reti Whagarei and my friend and long-time colleague Tsuchida Yayoi.

Allow me a moment to celebrate the restoration of diplomatic relations between the US and Cuba. For more than a century the US tormented Cuba with conquest, colonial and neo-colonial rule, CIA provocations and a failed invasion, the Cuban

Missile Crisis which brought humanity within a hair's breadth of extinction, and fifty years of embargo. Now we can celebrate that that common security diplomacy have prevailed, and we are at the dawn of new, and I hope mutually beneficial U.S.-Cuban relations. May it be so.

Friends, when those of us from the U.S. movement hear searing Hibakusha testimonies, the reports of the devastating impacts of U.S. bases in Okinawa, across Japan, we experience an additional layer of emotional pain. This because it is the government and military-industrial complex that speaks in our names, members of our society, and our tax dollars which are responsible for these crimes. And, the challenges we US Americans face have become greater in recent years. As former President Carter observed, the US is no longer a democracy. He called it an oligarchy, but we are really ruled by a plutocracy in collaboration with deep, so-called national security state that Eisenhower warned us of in 1960. But, every tyranny passes, and we are doing our best to hasten restoration of democracy, an end to Empire, and a Common Security approach to the world.

As in Hiroshima, I want to celebrate the Hibakusha. As Wilfred Burchett, the first western journalist to see and report from Hiroshima, later reported, Hibakusha who found and exercise courageous inner strength to warn that humans and

nuclear weapons cannot coexist, have been the most powerful force for nuclear weapons abolition. We all witnessed Taniguchi Sumiteru's courage yesterday, and Thurlow Setsuko joined us after being hospitalized for her heart the night before.

But we need to do more than celebrate them. They provide us with inspiration and a model, and our challenge is to make their courage our own. Yes, we have won an important victory with the Humanitarian Pledge but much is demanded of us if we are to overcome the military-industrial complexes and ideological foundations of the nine nuclear weapons states.

This anniversary is full of contradictions. For seven decades, we have prevented nuclear annihilation. We have laid important the foundations with the ICJ's Advisory Opinion on the Use and Threatened Use of Nuclear Weapons and with the Humanitarian Pledge in which 113 governments have committed "to stigmatize, prohibit and eliminate nuclear weapons in light of their unacceptable humanitarian consequences and associated risks." And with the Pledge we have widened the gap between the majority of the world's nations and the nuclear powers, opening new opportunities to achieve a nuclear-weapons free world.

BUT, even as we support the Pledge and diplomacy that prevailed in the nuclear deal with Iran and between the US and Cuba, the "good faith" negotiations for nuclear weapons abolition required by the NPT have yet to begin. The Nuclear Nine's resistance is deep, and the double standard remains. Washington and Moscow still having more than 90% of the world's nuclear weapons. The US and Russia are again exchanging nuclear threats, increasing the dangers of accidents and miscalculations. Today's dynamics are reminiscent of those that triggered World War I a century ago. We face a new era of U.S./NATO-Russian Cold War, increasingly militarized U.S.—Chinese and Japanese-Chinese competitive interdependence, Abe's reckless militarism, and the modernization of the world's nuclear arsenals.

With the relative decline of US power, combined with China's challenges to the post WW II dis-order imposed and enforced by the US, we face uncertainties and potential dangers. This helps to explain why the U.S. collaborated with conservative forces here in Japan to oust the Hatoyama government which sought better relations with China and challenged U.S. military colonization of Okinawa, and thus of Japan as a whole.

Friends, US grand strategy is in "disarray." The Obama Administration and most Democrats name China as the primary threat to U.S. hegemony. The Pentagon and most Republicans cry that Moscow is the greatest threat to the US. They are, of course,

blind to the ways NATO and EU aggressive expansion sparked the Ukraine War and confrontation with Russia. And the U.S. is at war with Jihadist forces generated by decades of U.S. suppression of Arab nationalism and the Afghanistan and Iraq Wars and the overthrow of Gadhafi's rule.

But, US political leaders do agree on doubling down on militarism, including spending \$1 trillion for new nuclear weapons and their delivery systems.

With its war laws pending in the Diet, the Abe government is also doubling down on militarism, despite the opposition of most Japanese. Abe is following in the footsteps of his war criminal and CIA backed grandfather, Kishi, who brutally and undemocratically rammed through AMPO extension in 1960. We need to ask is a government legitimate when it mangles its constitution, democratic process and values and peace? And this is compounded by the government's denial of the history of the Japanese aggressions and sexual slavery, its disregard of popular will in Okinawa, and the campaign to trash Article 9.

Gensuikyo's resolute protests and Shinfujin's red cards, red shirts and other opposition to the war laws are essential and in the tradition of those who resisted Japanese militarism in the 1930s and 40s. They require all of the support that those committed to democracy and peace can provide.

There are also dangerous denials and continuities of history in my country, where widespread belief continues that the Hiroshima and Nagasaki A-bombings were needed to end the war. This, despite the consensus among US historians is that they were unnecessary. U.S. Secretary of War Stimson advised that Japan's surrender could be negotiated on terms acceptable to the US, and senior military leaders, including General Eisenhower and Admiral Leahy, thought, "It wasn't necessary to hit [Japanese] with that awful thing."

The historical record is clear. The **determinative** reasons for the A-bombings were to bring the war to an immediate end, to avoid having to share influence with the USSR in Northern China, Manchuria and Korea and to intimidate Soviet leaders as the Cold War began.

Since then, during wars and international crises, the US has prepared and/or threatened to initiate nuclear war on at least thirty occasions during the Korean and Vietnam Wars, crises with China, to reinforce US Middle East hegemony and in Europe and Latin America. Each of the other nuclear powers have also made such threats at least once.

Turning to our struggle, recall that going into this year's NPT Review Conference expectations were not high, and you know the outcome. The P-5 resisted all efforts to draft a document requiring

meaningful progress toward nuclear weapons abolition convention. And the Review Conference collapsed when the U.S., Britain and Canada refused to fulfill the twenty year-old promise for a conference for a Middle East Nuclear Weapons and WMD- Free Zone. The Conference's major achievement was widening the gap between the non-nuclear weapons states and the nuclear powers, codified in the Humanitarian Pledge, which will serve future nuclear disarmament initiatives, including UN General Assembly action this fall for a new Open Ended Working Group.

I don't want to overstate our contributions, but we should appreciate the decades of organizing and action by our movements to this growing international pressure for nuclear weapons abolition. Building our history and Ban Ki-moon's appeal that without popular pressure from below governments will not eliminate nuclear weapons, we created the Peace & Planet mobilization to demonstrate popular demands for a nuclear-free world.

We had two goals: Press the Review Conference to take action to fulfill Article VI, and support, revitalize, and expand the bases of abolition movements for the longer-term. Gensuikyo's leading roles were critical to our successes. Your presence and spirit in New York inspired the thousands of people we gathered. Angela Kane and Ambassador Feroukhi were deeply moved by their experiences with us, so much so that they instructed the Review Conference that our events and abolition petition signatures represented the expectations and demands of worldwide civil society.

Some here joined activists from 20 nations for the Peace & Planet International Conference, the International Interfaith Convocation and up to 10,000 people who participated in our International Rally, March and the Festival, where Angela Kane and Ambassador Feroukhi received Gensuikyo's petition signatures. The launch of the Global Peace Wave by a second-generation Kazakh Hibakusha was deeply moving, and we will be doing a similar wave between the International Day of Peace and the International Day for the Complete Elimination of Nuclear Weapons in September, and in Hiroshima a number of leaders associated with Peace & Planet met to discuss how we can take our initiatives forward, including ways to join forces with movements focused on eliminating nuclear power generation and moving the money from nuclear and military spending to meet essential human needs.

Tsuchida Yayoi
Assistant General Secretary
Japan Council against A and H Bombs
(Gensuikyo)

Let me thank you for your hard work devoted to the petition drive for a total ban on nuclear weapons and your positive participation in the actions staged in New York to press ahead with nuclear disarmament at the 2015 NPT Review Conference in April. As you know, the NPT Review Conference could not produce any final document. But we should not be discouraged by this result. Instead, we should be convinced that we successfully completed our mission and our endeavor greatly contributed to progress in the NPT Review Conference.

We witnessed that at the NPT Review Conference, the overwhelming majority of governments called for the commencement of negotiations for a nuclear weapons convention and "effective measures" for a legally binding instrument which would lead to a "world without nuclear weapons". Their voice has grown so strong that it has driven the nuclear-weapon states into a corner. Comparing to this fact that demonstrated the presence of growing current for nuclear abolition, the failure of agreeing to a final document does not really matter.

Since the first Preparatory Committee Meeting held in 2011 for the 2015 NPT Review Conference, a remarkable change has happened. It is widespread support for the "Joint Statement on the Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons" that calls for the elimination of nuclear weapons from the viewpoint of catastrophic humanitarian damage caused by a nuclear explosion. In fact, the support had increased from 16 countries in 2011 to as many as 159 countries in April 2015 when the Review Conference was held. This humanitarian approach has become a powerful driver for abolition of nuclear weapons. Nuclear-weapon states, how powerful they might be, cannot resist the moral cause set forth by the Statement.

What is particularly significant is that this development was brought about by the joint effort of movements of NGOs like ours and likeminded national governments. Gensuikyo delegation of 1058 people took part in the New York Action and presented over 6.33 million petitions for a total ban on nuclear weapons to the NPT. These massive petitions we brought had a huge impact on the NPT Review Conference. In his message to the opening of the Review Conference, U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon expressed his high appreciation to the petitions and the role of the Hibakusha and requested the Conference to meet

their desire for the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Underlying the failure of the final document being agreed was that the nuclear-weapon-states, sticking to nuclear deterrence, did not listen to the voice of a majority of governments and civil society, and refused to go forward to a convention to prohibit and eliminate nuclear weapons. In addition, those relying on the “nuclear umbrella”, such as Japan and NATO countries, supported them.

At the Review Conference, the Japanese government did not make any positive effort towards a convention to ban and eliminate nuclear weapons. Rather, it played a role of blocking the way to make progress towards a total ban on nuclear weapons, neglecting the desire of the Hibakusha and a majority of Japanese people. In addition, I am sure you are outraged by the Abe government trying to forcibly enact the war laws, trampling on Article 9 of the Constitution. This will drag Japan into the perilous path of war in which Japanese people kill and are killed.

Once an international conflict or a war occurs, the risk of nuclear weapons being used will increase. This is evident by the fact that Russia was preparing for the use of nuclear weapons in relation to the Ukraine issue and the NATO was conducting massive military exercises to get ready to use its nuclear weapons.

In addition, on August 5, we had terrible news. Defense Minister Gen Nakatani stated that the war laws would not exclude the transportation of nuclear weapons by the Japanese Self-Defense Forces as a part of logistic support. Prime Minister Abe hurried to deny Nakatani’s statement by saying, “It is 120 percent sure that it will not happen”, but we should know that as the natural consequence of legislating the war laws, Japan will eventually result in collaborating in the use of nuclear weapons, the worst action for our nation to take. This must never be allowed to happen.

However, we can prevent this outrage from happening by mobilizing people and public opinion as we have done so far. A wide range of Japanese people have stood up to say No to the war bills. Several tens of thousands of people are gathering in front of the Diet building including five thousand high school students. The support rate of the Abe government is quickly dropping and has gone under its non-support rate. During this year’s World Conference, we have received different news, this time a good one. You know that the Japanese government and all-Okinawa front are confronting each other over the construction of a new base in Henoko. The steadfast struggle of Okinawans and Japanese people has succeeded in driving the government into a corner. The government has finally announced that it would halt the land

reclaiming work at Henoko and have talks with Okinawa government.

We also need to mention the progress achieved through negotiations over the longstanding problem of Iranian nuclear program. In an era when the world is calling for peaceful solution to every conflict, it is anachronistic for Japan to have made aggression in its neighbors in WWII, have suffered atomic bombing and have eventually made the pledge to never resort to war, to forge ahead on the path to war again. It is also contrary to the world’s mainstream current. As Mr. Tomita, chairperson of the Drafting Committee, reported yesterday that the Declaration of the International Meeting called for “No to war and No more Hiroshimas and Nagasakis”. We should connect antiwar public opinion to the task of nuclear weapons abolition under that slogan, which will help defeat the outrage of Abe government.

I am sure you already know what we should do next. It is to build up public opinion and actions based on the achievement of the 2015 NPT Review Conference. Especially in nuclear weapon states and countries under nuclear umbrella like Japan, we need to double our effort so as to make them change their policies.

How to do it? One thing we could do is to widely inform the citizens of humanitarian consequences of a nuclear explosion and why nuclear weapons must be eliminated. And we should spread that information among the population.

We prepared the program of this year’s World Conference, including that of the closing plenary tomorrow, with the idea that we should go back where we started, the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, so that we can send a renewed and powerful message to Japan and the rest of the world that such tragedies must not be repeated. In this anniversary year, let us start afresh with renewed resolve the activities we have always carried on: To listen to the testimonies of the Hibakusha and to record their stories of sufferings and struggles to pass them on to next generations. We have organized A-bomb exhibitions in many places, but there are still a large number of people we have not been able to reach so far. Let us organize another round of A-bomb exhibitions across Japan at communities, schools and workplaces and carry on the petition drive to build up public support for a total ban on nuclear weapons.

Nagasaki Day Rally/ Closing Plenary 2015 World Conference against A and H Bombs (August 9)

Greetings of Solidarity:

Kakinuma Tomiko President, National Federation of Regional Women's Organizations

Hot summer is back again. The world Conference in Hiroshima started with the Opening Plenary on August 4, followed by workshops and a forum on the 5th, and the Hiroshima Day Rally on August 6. Then here in Nagasaki, we had Gathering of Nagasaki on the 7th, theme-based meetings and a forum on the 8th before we conclude the World Conference with today's Nagasaki Day Rally.

Meeting venues in Hiroshima and Nagasaki were filled with the passion of people gathered from around the world, under the conference theme: "For a nuclear weapon-free, peaceful and just world -- Let us make the 70th year of the A-bombing a decisive turn to a world without nuclear weapons." I would like to join you in our strong desire to "achieve a nuclear weapon-free world," and send my greetings of solidarity to you.

It is already 70 years since precious lives of 210,000 people were taken by the A-bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. National Federation of Regional Women's Organizations, at its 2nd National Conference held in June 1954, resolved to "call worldwide for a ban on the production, tests and use of nuclear weapons and for international control and peaceful use of nuclear energy."

Our members and the then president Ms. Otomo participated in the 1st Special Session of the UN

General Assembly devoted to Disarmament, which was held in New York in May 1978 to deliver as many as 5.32 million signatures. Since then, we have promoted signature collecting campaigns with the slogan: "Let us hand over a nuclear weapon-free future to our children." We have adopted resolutions up to this year's 63rd Study Conference of National Federation of Regional Women's Organizations, and have continued our activities to achieve a nuclear weapon-free, peaceful and just society.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombing. We have to consolidate the public opinion by sending out our message to the world for the abolition of nuclear weapons. Peace is essential for women who give birth and raise life. Without peace, human's true happiness cannot be attained.

What I am aware of again is the fact that Japan is the only A-bombed nation in the world. However, a recent public opinion survey showed that only 30% of the people know the exact days of the A-bombings. In school education and at any other occasions, we must teach our children this fact, the resulting consequences to human community and the preciousness of peace.

The role of Japan is to lead the efforts for a total ban and abolition of nuclear weapons. We cannot achieve peace by the use of military force.

Let each one of us speak out in the world on the inhumanity of nuclear weapons, and expand the idea of this World Conference to even broader communities and generations, from children to seniors, for the sake of world peace.

Statements by Government Representatives:

Fernando Gonzalez Llort Vice President, Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples

(Please see page 114 for the text)

70th Anniversary Special Program:

Okumura Ayako Hibakusha of Nagasaki

Thank you for coming from around the country and abroad to the World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs in Nagasaki in the 70th year since the bombing.

I am grateful that I can share with all of you about what happened here today, 70 years ago.

It is said that no one could survive the bombing if you were within 1km from the epicenter. I was caught by the A-bomb when I was 8 years old and a third grader in Shiroyama-machi, 500m away from the epicenter. Shiroyama was a quiet town with hills and lots of rice paddies. There, I was living a happy life with my parents and 6 brothers and sisters.

The bomb was detonated at 2 minutes past eleven, on August 9, 1945. Streets, houses and people were burnt like charcoal in an instant, leaving not even a moment for the dying people to take a sip of water. My family also disappeared from my world without a trace and without leaving a last word.

The morning of August 9th 70 years ago was no different from any other. We finished our cheerful breakfast with all of our family members, and my dad and brothers went out to work. As we heard the air-raid alarm, I took refuge in the shelter with my mom. Then after the alarm was cleared, my younger siblings went home with our mom. I went to my friend's house and we were playing under a big persimmon tree. Then we saw a very bright light through the wooden fence, and I thought I lied flat on the ground. I got burns on my arms, but I did not realize them for a while. I walked down stone steps towards my home, crying, but then I could not see houses or paddies. I was totally at a loss but walked down to the bottom of the steps. Then I found horses owned by Mr. Moriyama that was dead, and found that many people were also dead. But I needed to pass through there to reach my house, so I just barely walked through to the street to where I should have been able to see my house. But our newly-built home was reduced to ruins.

There, I could not find my mother or sister. When I was about to climb a hill to go to a neighborhood shelter, I found my 4-year old brother, who was burnt and crying. I talked to him, but he just kept on crying. So I said to him, "I'll get our mom, you should stay here," and went out to look for our mom. Then a lady in our neighborhood told me where my younger sister was. She looked completely different, with a swollen face, just telling me, "Water, water," and she could not move even a bit. I never thought that she would die, so I did not give her water but told her "I'll take care of you later," and went to look for our mom. I also ran into my friend Yamaguchi Yoshitsugu. He could not move, with his eyes popping out. I could not do anything for him, again I said that I would go looking for my mom.

Later, I went to the neighborhood shelter with my younger brother to wait for other members of our family, but no one came back. In fact, deep in my heart, I am still waiting for them.

I actually have a clear recollection of the day until we arrived at the shelter with my brother. From then, I don't remember what happened for some time after that.

After my aunt passed away, I was taken to a house of an unknown relative in a remote village along with my younger brother. There I had to take my severely wounded brother to the hospital. We always walked slowly to the hospital, holding each other's hands. He was such a patient boy who never cried at home, and he cried only while his bandages were being removed. He eventually passed away on October 23. Had we our mother with us, his heart and body would have been consoled. I can never forget how badly he had been enduring his pain.

Then, I was left all alone. My hair had fallen out, and I was sick all over my body, but I was not allowed to go to the hospital. I cried every day, wishing that I had my mother and elder brother with me. The only place I could go was to their grave. Every month on the 9th day, I walked alone for over 3 hours to visit our family's grave in Shiroyama-machi. I was hoping to see my brother there, but he never showed up. The chance to see my favorite brother there was my only hope. My days were full of sadness, agony and difficulty until I got married.

Forty-six years after the bombing, I met Otsuka Michiko, one of my elder sister's friends, who told me about our family and elder sister. My dad, whom I had been waiting for, had been found dead on the mountain side.

Though I was looking for mom amongst everybody, all the while she had been trapped under

our collapsed house holding my 2-year old brother in her arms and lived for a few days before she died.

My elder sister was badly burnt and died in front of the shelter, calling out her name and asking for water from Otsuka-san.

I still don't know where my 6th grader brother died.

My eldest brother did not come back from his work at the Mitsubishi weapons factory. I heard that burnt bodies in our neighborhood were piled up outside, to be cremated altogether, and bones and ashes were buried in front of the shelter. Being a third grader, I was too young to pick out bones for our grave. Thus there are no bones in my family's grave.

Around 1958, soon after the Nagasaki Atomic-bomb Survivors Council opened a store operated by the Hibakusha, I was able to land a job there through a referral. Since all of us were Hibakusha with shared grief, we worked together while supporting each other. I was finally able to face the reality of the bombing, thanks to this store.

Dear friends, we must never allow the security bills that would lead us to war. You may say, "We have to protect our own country against foreign threats, and we need deterrent force," but that discussion will eventually result in "possessing nuclear weapons."

I always tell people that peace starts where people have compassion for other people's pains. If everyone in the world understands each other's pain, we will be able to eliminate nuclear weapons from this planet.

My life was changed by the atomic bomb. I am still committed to telling the real stories of Nagasaki after the bombing to as many people as possible, hoping that Nagasaki will be the last place to experience the tragedy.

Abacca Anjain Maddison Iju in Ean (Rongelap Women's Club) Rongelap Atoll, Marshall Islands

Mina san Konichua and Iakwe,

I am honored to be here at this very important occasion in this beautiful city of Nagasaki in solidarity with people of peace and fighters of human rights in this 70th Anniversary. On behalf of the women and people of Rongelap I wish to extend heartfelt condolences to those who died and pay honor to the Hibakusha for having endured sufferings from devastations of nuclear bombs.

Three hundred some miles away from Bikini, sixty-one years ago, people of Rongelap were directly exposed to hydrogen bomb, the destructive power was 1,000 times greater than Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombs. The monstrous bomb destroyed

the land, damaged their health, contaminated the herbal medicines, indigenous food and forever changed their lives. Bravo shot was the code name for it was successful and it made United States a super power nation in the world. The same bomb also exposed Daigo Fukuryu Maru (Lucky Dragon) and crew when it was operating near Bikini and Rongelap on March 1, 1954.

On the account of my uncle John Anjain who was the Mayor in 1954, he said he had never seen such horrific and cruel event done to him, his families, everyone including children. Rongelapese were used as guinea pigs under the secret project called 4.1 to study radiation effects on human beings. Women gave birth to deformed and monster-like babies. Men and women were suffering from various types of cancers including breast, liver and lung cancers. Today the Nuclear Claims Tribunal is closed and all claimants from other atolls including the Hibakusha have yet to collect even half of their award for personal injuries and billion dollars more for land damages.

The people of Rongelap continue to live on a temporary home island called Mejatto where life is hard. Some have moved to other islands and United States as well seeking better health care and a better life. Like Fukushima, Rongelap atoll is a ghost town where brand new houses await for people to return, but great fear still remain in a large number of community people. They don't trust the United States even after it declared Rongelap to be safe from radiation and regardless of ultimatum of withholding financial resources and other benefits.

Although it is a great disappointment to hear the end result of the NPT this year, we all gave our best try but we expected it the way it did. For Marshall Islands, it gives us all the more reasons to hold steady and remain strong with the lawsuit initiated at the International Court of Justice. However, there is a need for more and more support from individuals to sign on, especially from countries to sign on. Please help us lobby. This case is to save all of us, human kind.

In closing, I'd like to include a message from Minister Tony deBrum. He says "My heart and soul are a part of Gensuikyo and I believe with all my being in what they are doing and fighting for. I just wish I could be in three places at one time. Japan is also making rather confusing moves in Climate Change, Nuclear Peace and Sanity, as well as in its Defense and Military Ambitions in the world. So this would have been a good time to visit but please tell them my not being there cannot be in any way interpreted to mean I am less committed...I am just too old and cannot stretch as long as I used to be able to. Please give them my love and respect as always and you can speak with confidence for all of

us.”

Thank you people of Japan for your leadership towards peace and nuclear free. No more Hiroshima, No More Nagasaki, No more Marshall Islands. Never give up!

10,000 High School Students Signature Campaign, Nagasaki

Okubo Haruka

We are the members of the Action Committee of the “The 10,000 High School Students Signature Campaign”. My name is Okubo Haruka, a senior student in Kwassui Senior High School, Nagasaki.

Our campaign has its origin in the “High School Student Peace Ambassadors”. The number of students who are chosen to serve as the ambassadors is limited, so those who missed the chance but wanted to do something for peace started this signature campaign. Every Sunday, we collect signatures for nuclear abolition on crowded streets. Along with it, as another act of planting seeds for peace, we also create occasions to meet other high school students outside of Nagasaki because we receive many students from other prefectures coming to Nagasaki on school trips.

Our activities also includes holding study meetings to deepen our knowledge about peace issues, sending letters to embassies and launching other projects. One activity we put our high priority on is to send our representatives to South Korea and the Philippines. Visiting South Korea gives us an opportunity to learn the victimizer’s side of the war, so our representatives go there, interact with people, collect signatures and listen to testimonies of the South Korean A-bomb survivors. With the slogan, “Education not arms; Pencils not missiles”, we collect pencils in Nagasaki and bring them to the Philippines by sending our representatives there. We hold signature campaign there and make appeals for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

As you see, our signature campaign has its long history and many achievements. Commemorating the 70th year after the atomic bombing, the land we stand here today is where many lives were lost. Remembering that we stand on great sacrifices they made, we the young generation are determined to continue our activities and listen to the voices of the Hibakusha and all the people wishing for peace.

Yokoyama Kana

My name is Yokoyama Kana and I am one of the 17th High School Student Peace Ambassadors. Out of 500 students across Japan, 20 were chosen as the Ambassadors in June last year. Also, in last June, 22 students of the 18th Peace Ambassadors

were chosen from a record-high of 16 prefectures.

We, the 17th High School Student Peace Ambassadors visited the United Nations Office at Geneva in Switzerland last August as one of our main activities. There, each of the 20 Peace Ambassadors strongly expressed our wish for peace and nuclear abolition by making speeches in English. We also submitted 131,743 signatures for elimination of nuclear weapons which we collected over the past year to the United Nations Office.

This is what we have done as the 17th High School Student Peace Ambassadors. Our term is officially over today on August 9, but we are still committed to continuing our activity of planting seeds for peace as the 17th Peace Ambassadors. Believing in our theme: “Our activities may seem small but we are not powerless,” we will continue our activities for peace.

In closing, we would like to present the theme song of our High School Students Action Committee. It is called “This voice, our heart”. The song was written for us by Mr. Terai, who is a conductor of Nagasaki Hibakusha singing group “Himawari”. Please listen to our song.

Harsh cold winter
Days in green of midsummer
Blown by wind
Drenched in rain
Cried out as hard as we could
Called out as tears streamed down
Having only one wish in our heart

Planet without nukes
World without war
So children’s lives should not be taken
Even with a little power
We kept standing on streets with friends
In this town of Nagasaki where we now live

To all the people who live in the same generation
Wanting to deliver our voice and reach their heart
Day after day we hold this pencil carrying our wish
for peace
The voice for peace and the heart of Nagasaki
The voice for peace and the heart of Nagasaki

Let Us Open a New Horizon to Achieve Abolition of Nuclear Weapons:

Madelyn Hoffman New Jersey Peace Action, U.S.A.

Over the past few days, I have been very impressed at how residents of Hiroshima and other members of the Japanese peace movement are able

to fuse together sadness over the terrible tragedy that occurred 70 years ago when atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki with a burning desire to work for a peaceful world without nuclear weapons or war. Particularly impressive is the level of involvement by mothers, fathers and their children, inspired by the unflinching will of the Hibakusha, many of whom apologize for not doing enough to bring about an end to nuclear weapons and promise to continue to speak out for as long as they are able – for a peaceful and nuclear-free world.

The voices of the young children today ring out so clear and so strong. Even if there had been no English translation of the 5th and 6th graders who spoke at the Hiroshima City Memorial Ceremony on August 6th, their voices would still echo in my ears calling out for a peaceful world. Added to the voices of the Hibakusha, I've witnessed an unbreakable force between generations and regions of Japan that carries with it a desire for Japan to retain its commitment to pacifism and peace and uphold Article 9 of the Japanese constitution, despite pressure from the U.S. and Prime Minister Abe to do the opposite.

The stories I've heard this week cause me to apologize for not doing more to influence the policies the U.S. adopts. U.S. dependence on militarism to resolve international conflict has propelled the U.S. into war for 213 years of our 239 year history. Of course, militarism brings with it a need for military bases and a need to bend a country's will so that it will support and assist the U.S. in carrying out whatever aggressive agenda the U.S. might have.

As a leader in the U.S. peace movement and as a concerned human being, I am deeply moved by the efforts of those who are dealing with the negative consequences of U.S. foreign policy, whether they live in Hiroshima, Nagasaki or Okinawa, or whether they were exposed to the defoliant Agent Orange in Vietnam or depleted uranium in Iraq or nuclear fallout from dozens of nuclear tests, either in the Marshall Islands or Nevada in the U.S.

It is way past time for the U.S. to move away from militarism and reliance on nuclear weapons, drones and war to resolve conflicts between nations.

As Dr. Martin Luther King said in his powerful and prophetic speech, "Beyond Vietnam: Why I Oppose the Vietnam War," on April 4, 1967, exactly one year before he was assassinated "the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today – [is] my own government. ...for the sake of this government, for the sake of the hundreds of thousands trembling under our violence, I cannot be silent.... I speak as a citizen of the world, for the world as it stands aghast at the path we have taken...."

We need to change the world's spending priorities and "Move the Money" taking at least 25% of what the world spends annually on the military and redirecting that money to programs addressing human needs. Genuine security should not be a matter of who has the biggest weapon or the largest number of weapons or the most powerful weapon, but instead on whether or not people have a place to live, food to eat, a clean environment, a job, access to health care and more.

I pledge to continue to do whatever I can to let people know about the negative impacts of U.S. militarization, both at home and around the world, where the U.S. wants to build military bases against the will of the people, like Okinawa or the Marianas, or places like the Marshall Islands, Hiroshima and Nagasaki where Hibakusha are still not adequately compensated. I will share information about the dangers of nuclear power, starting with the plight of the people of Fukushima. And I will work as hard as I can in support of the Japanese people to maintain Article 9 of the Constitution – a key to creating a world at peace - even if the U.S. or Prime Minister Abe doesn't appear to understand or respect that.

Thanks to everyone here this past week for inspiring me never to give up.

No more Hiroshimas! No more Nagasakis! No more Hibakusha! No more war!

**Florine M. Hofschneider
Tinian Women's Association
Northern Mariana Islands**

Good morning and thank you for the opportunity to be part of this conference but most important is what all these means to us when we get home. The desire for peace, the drive to stop the atrocities that we as man inflicted upon our own and, the ultimate goal of living in harmony with our environment is the commonality we all share.

The Tinian Women's Association is no different, our women want to be equal partners in policy development affecting our families, our economy, protecting our environment and education for everyone but especially for the children so they can do a better job in protecting our earth. History as evidenced by the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings is the most cruel example requiring us to be on constant guard to ensure that we protect this only planet that has sustained us since the beginning of man.

The U.S. military has released three environmental impact studies planning significant militarization of the Northern Mariana Islands particularly Pagan, a pristine island offering a place to be "one with nature"; to connect and to appreciate

the gift of this earth. These plans leave the islands wide open for interpretation by the Dept. of Defense to fit their insatiable appetite to control community by fear. "Full spectrum weaponry" to us means the opportunity for the U.S. military to use our island as it sees fit whether it be nuclear, biological or any technologically advanced weapons today as well as for the future.

Our experience here at the 70th anniversary of A & H bombs has taught us that there must be solidarity, smaller states and nations must align themselves to countries that already have the attention of the global community so that in cooperation with these states, the message of world peace is heard and becomes a daily action in all corners of the world. There are many, many moving and inspirational stories shared by the Hibakusha, Tinian Women's Association will strive to take the energy from Japan's gifts of ideas, experiences and grass-root activities to replicate them in many formats that our people will find meaning and a sense of belonging to the movement of "No More Hiroshima, No More Nagasaki".

We must never again let the super powers use our own island to bring massive destruction and unspeakable cruelty to human kind as in the cases of the bombing of Hiroshima & Nagasaki. Thank you and I wish everyone good luck as we go home and translate these ideas into our community. I hope that the conference next year will hear significant progress toward our goal of peace and a nuclear free world.

Vidar Birkeland No to Nuclear Weapons, Norway

70 years after Hiroshima and Nagasaki we need to redouble our efforts, rethink our strategies and broaden our base and ways of working shall we prevail as a movement

My key message to you today from Norway is that the peace movement now needs to recharge their efforts and take the issue of nuclear disarmament out of the systems and the boxes that seems to have prevented real nuclear disarmament since 1945. History has taught us over and over again that change can be achieved if only the pressure and resolve of the party on the vanguard is strong enough and the strategy and base of the movement wide enough.

Our task is monumental, but we cannot allow ourselves to despair, we must prevail. Like the brave Hibakushas we need to find our way of prevailing against overwhelming obstacles, as the eight decade post the atomic atrocities in Hiroshima and Nagasaki is beginning without nuclear

disarmament. We have to face the reality, that we have not succeeded, and time is not on our side.

We need to reach out to broaden our base, geographically; politically and socially shall we succeed. We are up against some of the most powerful forces in society, the military industrial complex, the world's most powerful leaders, leaders who would lose their ultimate toys should we win.

Therefore we must learn from other movements that have been able to succeed. How did they work, what are their common denominators, key strategies and lessons learned on their often very long road to victory. I call them culprits of change, some radical, many mainstream, some dedicated, some less inclined to provide all their energies for the cause. The sum however must achieve change.

Internationally the struggle to ban land mines and chemical weapons should have some important parallels. These two struggles were fought facing some of the same forces we are facing in our fight, and these process lead to limitations of possibilities that always is difficult to accept for the powerful. I also want to mention the success of the effort to safeguard smoke-free environment and in America the momentous fight that lead to the abolition of slavery.

We must remember our fortitudes. We know we have the support of the overwhelming majority of the public. We have the possibility to connect globally through internet and social media. The incredible achievement of Gensuikyo during the last week, thanks again for the efforts and resolve of our hosts, has proven to us all the immense opportunities that are available to us in our globalized world. We can make the world come together, we can use the world-renowned imagery of the horrific act of indiscriminate killing and maiming that Hiroshima and Nagasaki symbolizes for us all. We thus have been able to convene at the core of the events those truly horrific August days in 1945 here in Nagasaki and in Hiroshima.

Even though the NPT again proved unfruitful, in the year of the anniversary, a powerful countermovement is gaining momentum after the conferences in Oslo, Mexico, South Africa and Vienna. This shows how we often gain ground when we set the agenda, not letting our adversaries decide the framework of our work.

The brave and forceful work of the hibakushas inspires us all and makes the abhorrent realities of nuclear weapons come to life for new generations. The ever-growing ranks of mayors for peace is another movement that has realized important support for our cause.

We need all approaches, but we can always do it better and certainly multiply effects through global cooperation and better strategies and by broadening

our base.

We cannot allow ourselves to be negative to our own opportunities to prevail: When faced with the might of our adversaries our resolve must increase.

Let it be our common pledge in the 70 anniversary year to focus on strategy and new ways of conveying our message, find partners in other social battles that has been victorious so we may through their experiences prevail in our ultimate decisive struggle to rid the world of all nuclear weapons.

Thanks to the organizers and let us all reconnect next year, ready for the last leg of our journey to a world free of nuclear weapons.

Dave Webb Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament U.K.

Towards a Nuclear Weapon-free, Peaceful and Just World

It is a great honour for me to be here representing the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and I bring greetings and solidarity from the UK. This year we are separated from the first use of nuclear weapons by 70 years - a lifetime - and we remember all of those lives that were horribly cut short or severely affected by those criminal acts. The resilience and passion of the Japanese peace movement and the commitment of the Hibakusha to rid the world of nuclear weapons continues to be an inspiration to us all.

As we continue our struggle to rid Britain and the world of nuclear weapons we are aware of the increasing challenges you face here in Japan. The US has pushed hard on Shinzo Abe to ram a law through parliament to allow Japanese armed forces to fight alongside its allies. This forced reversal of your country's renunciation of war and the preparations for war through Article 9 of your constitution is unforgivable and against your wishes. The 'peace clause' is respected internationally and you have passionately defended it. We support and stand with you as you continue to resist the growing tide of militarism and aggression.

The outcome of the 2015 NPT Review Conference made it clear that, despite the pressure exerted by non-nuclear weapon states, the courageous legal challenge of the Marshall Islands and the fervent wishes of the majority of people, the nuclear weapon states are not going to honour the Treaty and pursue negotiations on disarmament. However, 159 countries did sign the Joint Statement on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons that was delivered by Austria and 113 countries have signed the humanitarian pledge to ban nuclear weapons. Although support for a ban is growing it

may not mean much until a nuclear state signs up and so far none have. The UK maybe a likely candidate but is too closely tied to US policy and we will need to work very hard to make any progress. In 2016 the UK government is set to vote on a \$150 billion replacement for the current Trident submarine based nuclear weapons system. The result of the general election a few months ago means that it might not be a favourable outcome for us but you can be sure that we will be working hard to make a breakthrough!

We are living in dangerous times - we are told that the global economy is in crisis and we will have to endure ruthless cuts in public spending on welfare with severe implications for the poor, the elderly and the infirm. But the crisis does not affect everyone in the same way and the gulf between rich and poor widens. Existing policies are flawed and unsustainable. The failure to address climate change is beginning to show in crop failures and increased tensions over the scramble for diminishing resources. Conflicts arising from poverty and marginalisation have resulted in severe challenges and refugee problems. Yet instead of addressing the root causes of these problems governments are trying to divert our attention by scare tactics and an emphasis on military action which is only leading to more problems.

The aggressive expansion of NATO in Europe and the US push in the Pacific to contain Russia and China are fueling a new Cold War and associated arms race. Despite all the additional humanitarian help that is needed, NATO is telling its members to increase military spending and the nuclear weapon states seem unprepared to relinquish the status that they think the possession of nuclear weapons gives them.

The next few years will be difficult but like you we are committed to work for the total elimination of nuclear weapons. At a time of increasing world tension and military escalation around Ukraine, we will need to build a powerful and united global movement to rid the world of the nuclear menace hanging over us all. We must strengthen alliances with other related campaigns and build stronger links with international groups. So, let us once more commit whole heartedly to our goal – and work together until the last nuclear weapon is gone from the Earth.

No more Hiroshimas! No more Nagasakis!
No more Fukushimas! No more Hibakusha!

Corazon Valdez Fabros Nuclear-Free Philippines Coalition

Peace from the Nuclear Free Philippines!

My heart is full of gratitude for this privilege of

speaking during this Closing Plenary of the World Conference here in Nagasaki.

On this 70th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, I wish to renew my commitment to be in solidarity with you for our continuing struggle for nuclear abolition; for the closure of military bases and for our work for justice to the Hibakusha and all victims of militarism and war.

I wish to pay my respect to all Hibakushas who have gone on ahead of us, and to them my continuing gratitude for touching our lives with their wisdom and passion – loving memories that we shall always keep in our hearts. Who will ever forget Senji Yamaguchi's courageous call for nuclear abolition; Chieko Watanabe's wheelchair that reminds us the Hibakushas loving presence as we do this every year?

I am deeply moved by the increasing number of young people from all over Japan and from other parts of the world – indicative that we are moving on ahead as the youth takes on more responsibilities in continuing our work. On behalf of my daughter, Malaya, I wish to convey her greetings and her commitment to continue supporting youth participation in the Peace March as she sees that this is a concrete way for young people to learn from each other, to share their art; their music, and their experiences.

We are faced with bigger challenges in many fronts (peace, justice, environment, human rights, etc.) but we are learning to look at and deal with them comprehensively – a big step in the right direction. It is our hope that Peace and Planet (a work that many of you supported with your physical presence in New York and scores more in many parts of the world through the Global Wave). Let us continue to be creative, to be united, to be passionately courageous of our continuing work for justice, peace and nuclear abolition.

For us in the Philippines, we share common struggles with the peoples of Okinawa in Henoko, Takae, and other parts of Japan as well as with the our friends in the islands of Jeju, Guahan, Tinian and other parts of the Pacific who continue to resist the never ending U.S. hegemony. Let us continue to support local struggles with our presence and our solidarity.

The struggles in these islands are struggles for survival, for life with dignity, for justice, for peace in the world. Never ever have we seen such courage and determination that we see in Okinawa and Jeju today. This gives us so much hope and inspiration. Beigun kitchi wa iranai! (No to U.S. bases!)

At the Opening Plenary of this conference last Friday, I am deeply moved by Taniguchi-san and other Hibakusha's continuing presence with their

precious words, music and poetry. Let us bring these precious memories back to our communities where lies the heart and core of our struggle. That no matter how small or insignificant our efforts may be, they are precious in our collective effort in responding to every Hibakusha's call "Never Again Hiroshima! Never Again Nagasaki! No more War!"

Friends and comrades, let us continue to work hard with commitment and love in our hearts. Thank you and may our solidarity continue to bear fruit today and all the days of our lives.

Morikawa Aya Kumamoto Chapter, New Japan Women's Association

I participated in the NPT New York Action. It was the Hibakusha that led this Action in front. I was moved by their testimonies and appeals for peace at the U.N. and local schools. There was one Hibakusha who turned 86 this year, who made it a rule to walk 10,000 steps every day so that he would be able to walk through in the peace parade of the New York Action.

My experience in New York convinced me that universal wish for "No Nukes!" and grass-roots campaigns and signatures that we collected had an impact on the U.N. and state governments, putting pressure on the nuclear powers and Japanese government helped the world to move forward.

While we were in New York, Prime Minister Abe promised the U.S. Congress to achieve the legislation of security-related bills by this summer. Facing this outrage, a hot storm of struggle to defend peace is now raging in Kumamoto, the place known as a conservative kingdom. Our placard with the sign saying, "No to war bills" is a red card against Abe's reckless politics.

Big placards are now popular in branches of New Japan Women's Association. When we make appeals on busy streets holding these placards, many drivers and people wave back to us as a sign of support.

Furthermore, we launched "Kumamoto Women's Association to Stop the War Bills" to inform many more people from a wide variety of fields about Abe's attempt. As 5 women members of municipal assemblies from all parties took the role as promoters and held a joint press conference, we received a flood of inquiries from people who were inspired and driven to do something. Every day our circle gets bigger and the number of supporters has exceeded 1000 as of today.

On every Wednesday, we appeal to people in downtown areas. After the bill was railroaded through the House of Representatives, we clearly

get more and more reactions and responses from students and young people.

On July 20, 600 young people held a gathering to support the Constitution in the middle of Kumamoto city, and will do it again on August 16. On the same day, Kumamoto Women's Association to stop the War Bills is also planning to hold a women's parade against war. We will make our Kumamoto voice of "No to war bills" big enough so that it would reach the Diet in Tokyo.

Finally, I would like to say few words of my future commitment.

My homeroom teacher from elementary school taught us about war. When we expressed our fear about possible outbreak of another war, he said, "Don't worry. Japan now has Article 9 in its Constitution that pledged to never engage in a war." But today, Article 9 of the Constitution is at risk.

If my child asks me in the future, "What did you do then, Mom?" I don't want my answer to be "I did nothing". I want to say, "I did whatever I could" and "I worked hard together with many people and protected peace."

Friends, let us work together so that we can leave our children a peaceful future!

Sato Koichi **Nihonmatsu Gensuikyo, Fukushima**

Hello everyone. I'd like to speak on behalf of Fukushima Prefecture. I'm Koichi Sato from Nihonmatsu City, Fukushima Prefecture. I joined this Conference with my wife and child this year.

Fukushima Prefecture is large in area (approximately 14000 km², while the area of Nagasaki Prefecture is 4100 km²) and is divided into 3 regions. The eastern part is called Hamadori, the middle part is Naka-dori and the western part is Aizu region. Though they are all in the same prefecture, climate is quite different and each region has its own distinctive culture. Nihonmatsu City where we now live is in Naka-dori region. The wrecked Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant is in Hama-dori area.

Though 4 years have passed since the nuclear accident, the accident has not at all been concluded, given the situation where still many people live in evacuation away from home.

In the immediately aftermath of the nuclear accident 4 years ago, Nihonmatsu City accepted refugees from affected areas such as Namie Town and Minami Soma City. At the same time, seeing many families among my friends and co-workers voluntarily leaving their homes in Nihonmatsu to elsewhere, I was having conflicted feelings. However, considering the possible stress from living separately, our family decided to stay

together in Fukushima.

It is not clear how low-dose radiation exposure would affect our health. We monitored the radiation level for 4 years with a glass badge and checked our internal radiation exposure level by the whole body counter. We also took the thyroid examination. After seeing these results, we judged that we would be able to live there. In order to keep staying there, we believe it is important to measure by ourselves and confirm the real situation. At the same time, during the last 4 years, people of Fukushima were divided: people who continue to live there, evacuees from "difficult-to-return zone", people who voluntarily left Fukushima because of the fear of radiation, evacuees who registered as new residents of other prefectures, and cleanup workers from around the country. The difference of their positions have resulted in conflicts among the people.

Under the multilayer subcontracting structure with the major general construction companies reigning in the top, the working conditions of nuclear plant workers and decontamination workers have not been improved and there are many illegal cases such as work without contract, unpaid salaries or danger allowances, sloppy radiation management and the involvement of gang groups.

Abe administration in haste has decided on a number of important measures affecting our future, including the "Long-term Energy Supply Demand Outlook" and "For Acceleration of the Reconstruction of Fukushima from the Nuclear Disaster". These measures serve to restart nuclear power plants' operation. They turn the back to the hope of the majority of Fukushima people for the "total decommissioning of reactors in Fukushima" and "complete compensation for the damage". In other words, this is a policy to abandon Fukushima.

Finding nuclear waste disposal sites is one of the serious problems in Fukushima. A large number of flexible container bags filled with radiation-contaminated soil produced from cleanup work are piled up in heaps everywhere, waiting for a final disposal. Our technology cannot control either nuclear energy or nuclear weapons and they cannot coexist with human beings.

Fukushima nuclear power plant is about 50km far from my Nihonmatsu City. Though I have lived in Fukushima many years, I was not particularly interested in the issue of nuclear power plants and have made no attempt to know about it. As Nagasaki is more than 1,000km farther away from my place, and already 70 years have passed since the atomic bomb was dropped there, it has become a problem of someone else for me. Realizing that the time and distance would sweep this issue away into oblivion, I decided to come to

Nagasaki with my family for the first time in this commemorative year.

We are willing to learn what happened in Nagasaki. I also want you to learn what is happening in Fukushima. Knowing and learning the fact and connecting each other will be the way for us to fill the time and distance. Let's work together in order to pass a peaceful world to our children who will bear our future.

Determination and Proposal for Actions:

Yasui Masakazu
Secretary General
Japan Council against A and H Bombs
(Gensuikyo)

Thank you very much for your active participation in the discussions of the World Conference in Hiroshima and Nagasaki during the last 6 days.

And I extend my deep gratitude to the representatives of the U.N., national governments, international agencies, nuclear victims groups and anti-nuclear peace organizations from around the world for coming all the way to Japan to join the 2015 World Conference.

Also, on behalf all of us, I thank Mayor Taue Tomihisa of Nagasaki City for sparing his time to speak in our program, Mayor Matsui Kazumi of Hiroshima for sending a message and the many Hibakusha representatives who have joined with us in this commemorative World Conference. Thank you so much indeed.

This year's World Conference made it clear that in order to make this 70th year a decisive turning point for a "nuclear weapon-free world", it is critical for the human community to share the lessons of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and to join our efforts in making known the damage and aftereffects of the atomic bombing both at the grass-roots level globally and in the international political arena, in order to make sure such a tragedy should not be repeated again.

Here I want to share with you an account of one of the conference delegates who heard the testimony of the Hibakusha at the conference. "The Hibakusha described the hellish situation immediately after the atomic bombing, where people were not allowed to die as humans. Even those who barely survived the bombing had to go through a living hell, afflicted with poverty, discrimination, health problems and other hardships. But they found the meaning and joy to live by

joining the movement to abolish nuclear weapons. This testimony moved me to tears. Now I want to join the efforts especially to spread the experiences and voices of the Hibakusha among people. I renewed my determination to achieve the abolition of nuclear weapons in the lifetime of the Hibakusha."

Friends, from this World Conference on, let us work to make known to all citizens the experiences, struggles, aspirations of the Hibakusha, and how they have lived over the years. Let alone listening to the accounts of the Hibakusha, we must make use of a variety of forms of culture, including films, theaters, audio recordings, books, etc. Now we can use social media and other new communication tools popular among younger generations to disseminate what happened then and also what will happen as the result of the use of nuclear weapons.

Ambassador Anshor of Indonesia said in his speech, "The growing support for the humanitarian initiative thus places a substantial amount of pressure on nuclear weapon States to review their pro-nuclear possessing policies. Such pressure magnifies exponentially when civil society also decide to make their voices heard." Let us magnify the effect of the signature campaign, which was proven in the NPT Review Conference, and involve local communities and local governments in this effort.

Another critical effort we need to make is to change Japan, the only country in the world to have experienced the atomic bombing, into a country that will play its due role to achieve nuclear weapons abolition and peace. All around the country, high school students and young people are taking the lead in the struggle against the war bills. One of their slogans is "We need peace, not war." "A nuclear weapon-free, peaceful and just world" that our conference aims to achieve is the hope for a bright future. Let us bring all the energy we have built in this conference to join the struggle to scrap the war bills and deal a big blow to the Abe Government.

Finally, I call on you to hold numerous local meetings to report on the outcome of this World Conference in your communities, workplaces or school campuses, which will also give us opportunities to further promote our activities. Let us deliver the "Declaration of the International Meeting" adopted in this World Conference to all the mayors of the local municipalities who have given support to our peace marches and the World Conference, and invite them to join our activities to achieve a total ban on nuclear weapons and to scrap the war bills. Friends, let us continue our work with more power after this conference.

Call from Nagasaki

"We do not want any more victims of atom bombs other than us. Friends from around the world, working together, please put an end to atomic and hydrogen bombs. I appeal to you, so that a day will come without further delay when we can heartily say, 'We are glad we have survived.'"

-- From the appeal of Watanabe Chieko at the 2nd World Conference against A and H Bombs

We are having the 70th year memorial of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki in the midst of an unprecedented surge of public opinion and movement demanding the war bills, which would undermine the Constitution of Japan, to be scrapped.

The Hibakusha, who know the atrocities of nuclear war through their own experiences, have kept calling that Nagasaki should be the last city to be a victim of an A-bomb. It is also their urgent desire to ensure that there should be no more war and for Japan to remain in peace for the next generation. Our deep remorse and apology over Japan's colonial rule and war of aggression should never be rendered oblivious as well.

With the Hibakusha, we say from this A-bombed city of Nagasaki, "No War", "Abolish Nuclear Weapons".

The effort to make clear the inhumanity of nuclear weapons and to achieve a "world without nuclear weapons" by means of legally binding measures, such as a treaty for a prohibition of nuclear weapons, represents a major stream which no one can hold back. The last Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty threw this into sharp relief. The force that keeps this development going is movements of the peoples around the world and the support of public opinion, including the more than 6 million and 3 hundred thousand signatures we collected.

Continuing to make known the damage and suffering of Hiroshima and Nagasaki by A-bombings to an even wider range of people and building campaigns and public opinion demanding the commencement of negotiations for a treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons without delay, we can open a road to a "world without nuclear weapons", in defeating the "nuclear deterrence" doctrine.

Promoting the current of democracy, where every citizen stands up to take action and come together to change Japan and the world, we will achieve the abolition of nuclear weapons without fail.

Let us make our signature campaign for a world without nuclear weapons into such one that involves entire regional communities or municipalities, and thus build a groundswell demanding the start of negotiations for a treaty prohibiting all nuclear weapons. Taking the opportunity of the United Nation's International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons on September 26, or the U.N. Disarmament Week on October 24 through 30, let us unfold grassroots actions as part of international joint campaigns.

Let us hold an "A-bomb exhibition" or an event to listen to Hibakusha in every city, town and village to make known the damage and sufferings from the A-bombings. Using images, music, theater, and many other cultural means, as well as SNS and social media, we will carry forward the experiences, desires, struggles and attitudes of life of the Hibakusha to the next generations. We must increase our activities for the relief and solidarity with the Hibakusha, in their demand for a drastic improvement of the A-bomb disease recognition system and for the recognition of the principle for State compensation.

Let us press the government to strictly abide by the three non-nuclear principles and institutionalize them into law, to move out of the "nuclear umbrella" and stand in the van of the effort for the conclusion of a treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons.

By the force of cooperation from a broad range of people, let us drive the "war bills" into the wastebasket. In strong solidarity with the people of "All-Okinawa" in firm opposition to the building of a new base at Henoko, we will strengthen our movement for the reduction and withdrawal of the US bases. Opposing the consolidation of the Japan-US military alliance, let us make a nuclear-free and peaceful Japan that will make the best of Article 9 of the Constitution.

We oppose the restart of the Sendai or any other nuclear power plant. On the basis of our common desire for "no more nuclear victims to be created", we will reinforce our solidarity with the movements for a break with nuclear power plants and the switch to sustainable energy sources.

Let us oppose the disruption of employment and livelihood, poverty and the further widening social disparity. We will strengthen our campaign to cut military expenditures to protect life, livelihood and employment.

Many people of the young generations, including senior high school and university students, are leading the movement. This gives us great hope for the future. More and more women are joining in the action, too. Combining our desires to defend and protect peace, life and livelihood into one struggle, let us drive the Abe Government against the wall.

No More Nagasakis! No More Hiroshimas! No More Hibakusha! No More War!

Let Nagasaki be the last victim city of nuclear calamity.

Appendices:

Overseas Delegates and Guests in the 2015 World Conference against A and H Bombs

Representatives of National Governments/ Inter-Governmental Organizations

Mr. Kim Won-soo, Acting High Representative for
Disarmament Affairs, United Nations

Mr. Fernando Gonzalez Llorca, Vice President,
Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples,
Republic of Cuba

Mr. Marcos Rodriguez, Ambassador of the
Republic of Cuba to Japan

Ms. Elizabeth Valdés-Miranda Fernández,
Counselor, Embassy of Cuba in Japan

Mr. Muhammad Anshor, Deputy Permanent
Representative of the Republic of Indonesia to
the U.N.

Mr. Seiko Kobayashi, Ambassador to Japan,
Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

Mr. Shane Reti, Member of Parliament of New
Zealand/ Deputy Chair, Parliamentarians for
Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament
(PNND) - New Zealand

Peace Movement Representatives & Individuals

Asia-Pacific

New Zealand

Mr. Douglas Plimer

Australia

Ms. Kisten McCandless, Committee Member,
Campaign for International Co-operation and
Disarmament (CICD)

Ms. Fiona MacCandless, Ditto

Northern Mariana Islands

Ms. Florine M. Hofschneider, Tinian Women's
Association

Ms. Deborah Fleming, Ditto

Ms. Zania Fleming, Ditto

Ms. Juanita Mendiola, Ditto

Marshall Islands

Ms. Abacca Anjain Maddison, Ex-Senator/
Iju in Ean of Rongelap

Guam

Ms. Moñeka De Oro, Guahan Coalition for Peace
and Justice

The Philippines

Ms. Corazon Valdez Fabros, Secretary General,
Nuclear-Free Philippines Coalition

Mr. Magiting Fabros, Volunteer Information
Technology Trainer, Ditto

Mr. Guerrero M. Saño (AG Saño), Teach Peace,
Build Peace Movement

Ms. Abeline Socorro Salacata, Secretariat
Coordinator, STOP the War Coalition
Philippines

Ms. Irene De Vera, Pangasinan State University,
Head of International Relations

Ms. Madge Kho

Republic of Korea

Mr. Sung Sungju, Adviser (Former President),
Korean Atomic Bomb Casualty Association

Mr. Kang Hojung, Steering Committee Member,
Kyongbuk Branch, Ditto

Mr. Gong Kee Yun, Ditto

Mr. Lee Taeho, Secretary General, People's
Solidarity for Participatory Democracy

Mr. Park Seong pyo, Co-Chair, Dentists for
Healthy Society/ Dentist

Ms. An Eun sun, Journalist for Dentists for
Healthy Society

Ms. Yoon Mi hyun, Assistant Secretary General,
Pharmacists for Healthy Society

Mr. Suk Dong hyun, Ditto

Mr. Jeong Hyung jun, Head of Policy Department,
Associations of Physicians for Humanism

People's Republic of China

Mr. He Jun, Vice President, Chinese People's
Association for Peace and Disarmament

Ms. Lin Li, Council Member, Ditto

Ms. Li Li, Council Member, Deputy Director of
the Institute for South Asian and Southeast
Asian Studies, China Institutes of
Contemporary International Relations (CICIR)

Mr. Zhao Qiang, Research Fellow, Ditto

Ms. Song Yiming, Deputy Director of the
Asia-Pacific Division, Ditto

Mr. Shen Fang, Assistant Research Fellow of
Asia-Pacific Division, Ditto

Mr. Li Bo, Japanese Interpreter, Ditto

Vietnam

Ms. Nguyen Thi Hoang Van, Vice President cum
General Secretary, Vietnam Peace Committee

Ms. Nguyen Thi My Tien, Ditto

Mr. Le Van Hau, Ditto

Nepal

Mr. Bimal Khada, Central Committee Member,
Afro-Asian People's Solidarity, Organization
(AAPSO) - Nepal

Mr. Ramesh Kumar Acharya, Ditto

Ms. Unnati KC, Ditto

Mr. Rabindra Adhikari, Coordinator (chief), Nepal
Peace & Solidarity Council (NPSD)

Mr. Ram Chandra Aryal, Executive Committee
Member, Ditto

Mr. Ghanendra Bahadur Shrestha, Secretary, Ditto

Ms. Sita Dhakal Adhikari, National Council
Member, Ditto

Mr. Netra Lal Gyawali, National Council Member,
Ditto

Mr. Baburam Pandey, National Council Member,
Ditto

Mr. Hari Prasad Pyakurel, National Council
Member, Ditto

Mr. Madhav Prasad Pyakurel, National Council
Member, Ditto

Mr. Dipendra Raj Shahi, National Council
Member, Ditto

Mr. Satya Narayan Shah, Executive Director,
Social Development Path (SODEP)

India

Ms. Jammu Saraswati, Secretary, Progressive
Railway Women's Organization

Mr. Kalyanadurgam R Nagaraj, Executive
Member, Institute of Human Rights, Nagpur

Dr. Rao Ramesh Ramachandra, Life Member,
Indian Society of International Law

Mr. Jalluri Venkata Prabhakar, President, Society
for Socio Economic Awareness and Rural
Community Harmony

Ms. Arundhoti Roy Choudhury, President,
Thakurpukur Centre for Peace and
Development Initiative

Ms. Sadhana Das, Freelancer

Mr. Jnan Sankar Majumdar, National Vice
President, Centre of Indian Trade Unions
(CITU)

Mr. Niranjana Chatterjee, Secretary, West Bengal
State Committee, CITU

Mr. Prakash Meghe, National Committee Member,
Coalition For Nuclear Disarmament and Peace
(CNNDP)

Europe

Russia

Mr. Anatoly Koshkin, Doctor of Historical
Science, International Association of Peace

Foundations

Mr. Alexander Prokhanov, Ditto

Mr. Alexander Nagorny, Ditto

Mr. Vladimir Griniuk, Ditto

Mr. Yury Tavrovskiy, Ditto

Mr. Pavel Svyatenkov, Ditto

Mr. Larion Lebedev, Ditto

Mr. Sergey Belkin, Ditto

Ms. Elena Larina, Ditto

Mr. Anatolii Anisimov, Ditto

Ms. Iryna Koval-Lieskova, Ditto

Finland

Ms. Eeva-Helena Inomaa, President, Artists for Peace

Ms. Merikukka Kiviharju, Vice President, ditto

Mr. Antti Seppänen, Ditto

Mr. Jukka-Pekka Vuorikoski, Ditto

Norway

Ms. Anne Thelle, No to Nuclear Weapons

Ms. Sophia Adampour, Ditto

Ms. Solveig Haland Hansen, Ditto

Mr. Reidar Johannessen, Ditto

Mr. Vidar Birkeland, Leader of Local Group, Ditto

Ms. Hedda Bryn Langemyr, Manager, Norwegian Peace Council

Mr. Lars Raaum, Ditto

Sweden

Ms. Agneta Norberg, Swedish Peace Council/
Board of Directors, Global Network Against
Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space

Ms. Gun-Britt Makitalo, Board Member, Women
for Peace

Germany

Mr. Guido Grünewald, International Speaker,
German Peace Society – United War Resisters
(DFG-VK)

Mr. Wolfgang Schupp-Hauck, Chairman,
Friedenswerkstatt Mutlangen e. V.

Mr. Tobias Orthen, Federation of German
Scientists

France

Mr. Claude Ruelland, French Peace Movement (Le
Mouvement de la Paix)

Ms. Annick Azema, Ditto

Mr. Patrick Godon, Ditto

Ms. Colette Letournel, Ditto

Ms. Hélène Petitjean, Ditto

Ms. Laureline Clairet, Ditto

Mr. Pierre Emmanuel Clairet, Ditto

Mr. Matéo Clairet, Ditto

Ms. Paloma Sophie Labbé, Ditto

Mr. Pierre Laurent, National Secretary, French
Communist Party (PCF)/ Member of the
Senate House

Ms. Claudie Herbau-Laurent, PCF

Ms. Lydia Samarbakhsh, Member of the National
Secretariat, Head of International Department,
Ditto

Ms. Mélanie Tsagouris, Member of the National
Council, Member of the International
Relations, Commission in charge of Peace and
Disarmament, Ditto

Mr. Raphael Debu, Departmental Secretary of
Rhône, Ditto

Mr. Anne Richard, Member of Department
Moselle, Ditto

Ms. Nathalie Simonnet, Departmental Secretary of
Seine Saint-Denis, Ditto

Mr. Ludovic Tomas, Member of department
Bouches de Rhône, Ditto

Mr. Thibaut Bize, Departmental Secretary of Doubs, Ditto

Ms. Lina Sankari, Journalist at l'Humanite

Ms. Miho Cibot, Institut Hiroshima-Nagasaki

Mr. Michel Cibot, French Mayors for Peace (AFCDRP)

Ms. Mariannick Le Bris, International Department in charge of Asia-Pacific, General Confederation of Labor (CGT)

Mr. Emmanuel Wietzel, International Department, General Union of Engineers, Technicians, Professionals and Manager (UGICT- CGT)

Ms. Jessica Montiel-Ramirez

United Kingdom

Mr. Dave Webb, Chair, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND)

North & South America

Canada

Ms. Setsuko Thurlow, Hibakusha of Hiroshima, Toronto

Mr. Cesar Jaramillo, Executive Director, Project Ploughshares

Ms. Paula Jaramillo, Ditto

U.S.A.

Mr. Joseph Gerson, Director of Programs, American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) -New England

Ms. Mary Popeo, Global Zero/ American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)

Mr. Subrata Ghoshroy, International Network of Engineers and Scientists for Global Responsibility (INES) / Massachusetts Peace Action / American Friends Service Committee

Ms. Meher Hans, Hiroshima/Nagasaki Peace Committee of the National Capital Area

Ms. Madelyn Hoffman, Executive Director, New Jersey Peace Action

Mr. Darrell Miho, Project Director, American Society of Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-Bomb Survivors

Ms. Crystal Uchino

International & Regional Organizations

Mr. Colin Archer, Secretary General, International Peace Bureau (IPB)

Mr. Alyn Ware, UNfold Zero/ Global Wave 2015

Mr. Iraklis Tsavdaridis, Executive Secretary, World Peace Council (WPC)

Mr. Bruce Gagnon, Coordinator, Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space

Ms. Mary Beth Sullivan, Ditto

Mr. Leann Moran, Ditto

Mr. Alexander Walker, Ditto

Ms. Cathleen Deppe, Ditto

Mr. Jammu Narayana Rao, Director, Ditto

Mr. Jonathan Frerichs, Program Executive, World Council of Churches (WCC)

Bishop Mary-Ann Swenson (Ms.), Bishop, United Methodist Church/ Vice-Moderator, WCC Head of Church Leaders Delegation

Dr. Sang Chang (Ms.), University President, Presbyterian Church in ROK, WCC Asia President

Bishop Heinrich Bedford-Strohm (Mr.), Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Germany, WCC

Bishop Tor B. Jorgensen (Mr.), Bishop, Lutheran Church of Norway /WCC

Bishop Samuel Azariah (Mr.), Bishop, Church of Pakistan/WCC

Rev. Karen van den Broeke (Ms.), President, Reverend, Protestant Church in the Netherlands, WCC

Rev. Johannes Minks (Mr.), Reverend, Spokesperson, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria, Germany

Rev. Dr. Steven Sidorak (Mr.), Ecumenical Staff Officer, Conference of Bishops, United Methodist Church/ Commissioner,

Commission of the Churches on International
Affairs, WCC

Mr. Paul Jeffrey, Communicator, United Methodist
Church /WCC
Rev. Paul Tolhurst (Mr.), Reverend, Partners-in-
Mission, Anglican Church in Japan/ WCC

Mr. Peter Prove, Director, Commission of the
Churches on International Affairs, WCC

Ms. Shibata Masako, Executive Committee
member, Women's International Democratic
Federation (WIDF)/ President, Japan
Federation of Women's Organizations

Messages of Solidarity from Overseas to the 2015 World Conference against A and H Bombs

International Institutions/National Governments:

(Please see page 7 for the full texts)

Austria

Dr. Heinz Fischer, Federal President

Ambassador Alexander Kmentt, Director for
Disarmament, Arms Control and Non-
Proliferation, Federal Ministry for Europe,
Integration and Foreign Affairs (*page 115*)

Brazil

Ms. Dilma Rousseff, President

Ireland

Mr. Michael D. Higgins, President

Lao PDR

Mr. Choummaly Sayasone, President

Marshall Islands

Mr. Tony deBrum, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Mexico

Mr. Enrique Peña Nieto, President

Switzerland

Mr. Didier Burkhalter, Head of the Federal
Department of Foreign Affairs

Viet Nam

Mr. Truong Tan Sang, President

International Committee of the Red Cross

Mr. Peter Maurer, President

Anti-nuclear and Peace Movements

Paul Ahpoy, President, Fiji Nuclear Tests Veterans Association, Fiji

Dear Friends, On the 70th Anniversary of the
atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, we the
surviving members, families and friends of the Fiji
Nuclear Tests Veterans Association convey our
greetings and support for our campaign for the total
elimination of all nuclear weapons from our planet
today, for our children's future.

Nihal Dias, Sri Lanka

I herewith enclose the original copy of
signatures for appeal for a total ban of nuclear
weapons. I wish you this year 2015 conference;
completion of 70 years anti-nuclear weapons
conference will be successful. Please accept our
warm regards. We all pray for success for coming
conference in Hiroshima, and Nagasaki.

Now I am living in Australia as a permanent job
and due to this year's busy agenda, I could not join
this year's conference. Hope next year I may join.
Thanking for all of you organizing anti-nuclear
movement timely needed in world people.

We wish your conference will play a vital role
and will bring peace stability in Asia as well as in
the world. I herewith condemn US led policy of
Imperial hegemony wishing to dominate again our
world after 70 years.

Due to the Hiroshima and Nagasaki victims of
nuclear bombs, this human crime must be addressed
sooner or later one day in this world.

Nuclear free world is urgent and essential for
human kind in the world. Continuously last 70 years
your organization undoubtedly hold this high
banner the vested interest of seven million people of
this world. I am convinced you have undertaken
huge task, which I appreciated.

Accept my greeting for successful of conference.
Thanking you.

John Itty, Christians Peace Conference, India

Many thanks for the communication urging us to plan for the 70th anniversary of Bombing in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We shall make some plans of action here and let you know it.

In fact I wish very much to attend the 70th anniversary. But, as my wife is sick, this time, I am unable to attend. I hope to attend the near future.

Hope, yourself and all the colleagues are doing fine. Wishing you all the best.

Zoya Simbirtzeva, Coordinator, International Antinuclear Movement “Nevada-Semipalatinsk, Kazakhstan

Dear friends in the leadership of Gensuikyo and participants and delegates in the International Meeting of the World Conference against A and H Bombs, I send you my greetings and wish you all the successes in our fight for a nuclear weapon-free world. We express our condolences to the victims in the nuclear tragedy of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Nuclear weapons sacrificed innocent people and surrounding environment, not enemies supposedly targeted. We in Semipalatinsk experienced similar sufferings as the result of the 40-year nuclear tests conducted at Semipalatinsk Nuclear Test Site. People’s life in the environment of high-level radiation is intolerable. Many people are tired of living with muscle and nerve pain, headache, nausea or digestive organ disorder. Young population outflow continues, while many people become handicapped.

We have worked for the closure of all nuclear test sites in the world, but many leaders with iron fists enjoy immunity from responsibility for these tragedies, believing that they can hide themselves from prosecution. But they themselves cannot escape from radiation, which should be prevented from proliferating in the world.

We sincerely hope you will successfully achieve the goal of abolishing all nuclear weapons on this planet. Please accept our deep respect to you and our friends across the world.

Milia N. Kabirova, Chelyabinsk, Russia

Dear friends! This year I was not able to take part in the conference, but I have these days with all my heart with you, with all the guests of the conference. I wish you successful work and important peace in the world. Tomorrow, August 6, the Russian television will broadcast a new film about the tragedy of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. I am with you always.

Gediminas Rimdeika, Vice President of the Lithuanian Chernobyl fund “Our Shore”, Lithuania
(Please see page 27 for the text)

Tomas Magnusson, “Fredsam” Gothenburg (Cooperating Peace Organizations in Gothenburg) Sweden

On the memorial days of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, please receive all best greetings on the memory days of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki 70 years ago. While our thoughts are with you in Hiroshima and Nagasaki on those days we are conducting our traditional ceremony in the “Peace grove” in central part of Gothenburg, where we have commemorated those days for 30 years, with speeches and music. This is an arrangement of the gather peace movement in Gothenburg, among which are organizations like the Physicians against nuclear weapons, Swedish Peace and Arbitration Society, the Women’s League for Peace and Freedoms, and many other organizations.

We are also planning for receiving a group of Hibakushas from Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Fukushima in October, and which the World Conference against A and H bombs to know how important it is for us in Sweden to know and be inspired by the Japanese Peace movement and the lead you have taken in the common work to get rid of Nuclear Weapons once and for all.

Tony Simpson, Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation

The Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation will publish a special issue of The Spokesman journal to mark the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It is called SUBSTANDARD: EYEWITNESS REPORTS TRIDENT, and focuses on the grave danger of accidents and mistakes onboard the UK's four ageing nuclear powered and nuclear armed Trident submarines.

Next year, the UK government is scheduled to make a final decision to replace these four Trident submarines with new ones, at a lifetime cost of some £100 billion over 40 years. Of course, we oppose this proposed extension of the UK's nuclear armoury until 2055 and beyond. Recent reports indicate that the Royal Navy is already 'out of its depth' in trying to deploy such complex systems for extended periods at sea, as it struggles with insufficient trained personnel and a chronic shortage of spare parts. This increases the risk of a dreadful accident.

With best wishes for a successful conference on this landmark anniversary.

In solidarity! Warm greetings to all comrades at the World Conference.

Mayada Abbassi, Vice President, WIDF/ Palestine

On this Day 70 Years ago we never forget , the entire world do not never forget and all the thousands of generations will all remember the

nuclear bomb that the USA dropped against the tens of thousands of the Japanese civilian inhabitants of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. This attack was erasing the Humanity.

Dear friends we stay in Solidarity with you; we struggle beside you for Peace and Justice and Cooperation.

National Union of Sahrawi Women, Western Sahara

August 6 is and will be remembered for the massacre caused by the nuclear attack against Hiroshima and Nagasaki 70 years ago. Every year, tens of thousands of people gather in Nagasaki City to honor more than 70,000 victims who were killed in that city.

The Peace Memorial Museum in Hiroshima, where 140,000 people died, is the symbol of humanity's rejection of the first nuclear bomb dropped on Japan by the US military.

Aging bomb survivors, public officials, social sector leaders and overseas delegates observe a moment of silence at 8:15, the local time of the explosion that devastated the city.

The National Union of Sahrawi Women (UNMS) fights against violence, for human rights and for a just and peaceful world. We strongly condemn the use of the atomic bomb and weapons of war, especially against civilian population.

We condemn the military occupation of our country, the Western Sahara, by Morocco and we denounce the use of violence against the Sahrawi civilian population in the occupied territories. We reaffirm our commitment to the struggle for liberty and peace.

Phyllis Creighton, Science for Peace, Canada

Dear Taka-san,

I send you a message of good wishes for the Gensuikyo conference that will soon take place in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. I wish I were going to be participating in it, but I am with you in spirit. In this conference 70 years after the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, I wish the participants every success in addressing the urgent issue of outlawing nuclear weapons, the most barbaric, immoral weapon of mass destruction. Knowing the horror and pain inflicted on the Hibakusha, we must demand this threat to all of our lives be ended. Nuclear weapons must be prohibited and eliminated. Speak out loud and clear: the time for a ban is NOW.

Theresa Wolfwood, Co-ordinator, Victoria Women in Black/ Director, Barnard-Boecker Centre Foundation, Victoria, Canada

Dear Ms. Tsuchida and friends of peace in Gensuikyo,

I send you greetings from Women in Black, Victoria, BC, Canada; we remember the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki every August.

British pilot Leonard Cheshire, on board the plane with that bomb dropped on Nagasaki, described the bombing as, "*Obscene in its greedy clawing at the earth, swelling as if with its regurgitation of all the life that it had consumed.*"

From a deposit in northern Canada, uranium was mined and shipped to the USA: the local 1st nations Dene people worked at the uranium mine. Many died and their descendants continue to die from radiation-caused cancers to this date. Canada provided most of the uranium for the bombs that were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. The Dene gave the white southerners caribou, moose and fish. "*They were strangers living among us on our land so we took care of them.*" In return, the locals helped extract and transport the deadly ore with no knowledge of its dangers. The southern miners left the people with toxic waste dumps in their community and radiation ticking in their bodies. New mines in Saskatchewan now export uranium to our friends around the world. Canada is the 2nd largest producer & exporter of uranium in the world.

USA, Russia, China, Britain, Israel, France, India, Pakistan (& maybe others) have more than 19,000 nuclear bombs, many made with Canadian technology & materials. They are moving around the globe everyday on land, in the seas & the air, including in BC. Canada continues to be complicit in nuclear development by selling uranium and technology for nuclear energy (which also contaminates the world with harmful radiation) producing bomb fuel s as well as electricity and for bombs themselves.. Canada provides so-called & highly radioactive 'depleted uranium', to 22 nations for weapons – bomb casings, guns, tanks and other steel-hardening military uses. Depleted Uranium weapons were tested in Panama & used in Iraq, Afghanistan and former Yugoslavia.

The Canada Pension Plan, mandatory for all working Canadians, invests our contributions in the five largest arm makers in the world which make nuclear as well as non-nuclear weapons that are sold to and used in many countries again civilian populations.

Nuclear weapons and radioactivity continue to threaten the health of all life systems and undermine the security of human society. Wealth and resources wasted on war-making are needed to create a peaceful and sustainable life for all humanity. It is time to call for nuclear disarmament and a moratorium on uranium mining; to call for cuts in our military spending and an increase in social, health and education budgets. Our precious

resources and energy should be directed to the creation of a peaceful, just and healthy world. Nuclear nations & a handful of men can destroy all life on earth & that unspoken threat is behind wars waged by nuclear powers today in Iraq, Syria, Ukraine and Palestine.

September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows, U.S.A.

We remember you today in our hearts, our thoughts and our prayers. Seventy years ago, our country committed horrible, unthinkable acts by dropping nuclear bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It still brings suffering to many generations later. Your goal and our goal are the same - to end nuclear proliferation, and for there to be peace and love throughout the world.

We are thankful for your courage and bravery as you continue to bring this message around the globe, inspiring others to carry it as well. Your loss is also our loss, your pain is our pain.

In friendship and peace.

Edith Ballantyne, member of WILPF (Women's International League for Peace and Freedom)

Dear Friends,

You will be gathering once again, this 6th and 9th of August, in Hiroshima and Nagasaki respectively, to remember the victims of the criminal US atomic bombing of the two cities on these dates in 1945. Most of the world's people will, with you, recommit to continue the struggle for achieving a nuclear weapons free world. It is more urgent than ever that this nuclear and all military madness is stopped.

Working together we will succeed. All power to the peace builders. In solidarity,

Márcia Campos, President, Women's International Democratic Federation

WIDF - nuclear attack on Hiroshima and Nagasaki 70 years ago

Worldwide, that date of August 6, crowds remind slaughter caused by nuclear attack on Hiroshima and Nagasaki 70 years ago. Every year, tens of thousands of people participate in the city of Nagasaki, the tribute to the more than 70 000 fatalities in that city, the nuclear attack carried out by the US for 70 years - the last days of World War II. The plutonium bomb called "Fat Man" by American pilots, destroyed Nagasaki on August 9, 1945.

The Peace Memorial in Hiroshima, in which 140,000 people died, is symbol of the repudiation of humanity the first nuclear bomb dropped on Japan by the US military.

Elderly survivors of the bombing, government officials, social leaders from all segments and foreign representatives systematically do a minute of silence at 8:15 am local time of the explosion that swept the city.

WIDF defends a united world with justice for all people, with just Paz. Energetically reject this atrocity committed against the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

On August 6, 1945, the US dropped on Hiroshima a barbarian nuclear attack. Three days later they repeated the crime on Nagasaki, making it the only country to use the atomic bomb. And not against targets of war, but on civilian populations.

The US had no military justification. Germany had already surrendered on May 7 and the Japanese army was defeated, the navy and the air force of the country had practically ceased to exist as military operational forces.

The attacks were ordered at the end of the 2nd War by President Harry Truman. On July 1, 1945, in the midst of the Potsdam Conference, the United States began nuclear threats with the completion of the first test.

The atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima destroyed about 60% of the total area of the city, and within seconds killed 140 000 people, civilians in total, men, children, women and the elderly. It is estimated that the death toll doubled during the following months, with the survivors succumbing to injuries, burns, mutilations and diseases caused by radiation. Homes, hospitals, schools and vegetation disappeared the instant the bomb exploded.

Even today, the consequences of radioactive contamination are thousands of victims. Memorial in Hiroshima, enroll new names of deceased each year and the total number is already approaching one million. The attack on the city of Nagasaki killed over 70,000 people at first.

At this barbarism against humanity, was followed within the US a fascist twist: the infamous McCarthyism, institutionalized persecution of activists, thinkers, artists and progressive youth. First, the main collaborators of President Roosevelt were being away from the positions they held in the government, then it began a process of persecution against the trade union movement and the democratic intelligentsia.

The US is the country with more nuclear weapons in the world operating conditions, with thousands of warheads in their own territory and thousands more scattered its overseas bases in their aircraft carriers and nuclear submarines. In addition, they continue with the ongoing construction of more sophisticated and dangerous weapons, in

order to make the other countries, independent people, to submit by terror.

It is the country that nuclear tests conducted throughout the world. This country is also the only one to have nuclear weapons deployed in other countries such as Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Turkey.

According to the Federation of American Scientists, in December 2012 it was estimated that the United States had about 2,150 operational warheads, i.e. weapons that are deployed or may be deployed on short notice.

Companions of Fudanren, WIDF will always be by your side, united in solidarity, fighting for a world of peace and cooperation.

Rene Wadlow, President, Association of World Citizens

Dear Friend, Thank you for your message. We were active around the NPT Review as you were. I will send a message of good wishes for the August meetings.

Socorro Gomes, President, World Peace Council

A dreadful anniversary and the call for strengthening our struggle against nuclear weapons

Dear friends of Gensuikyō:

At this 70th anniversary of the criminal US bombings against the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, we write to you reinforcing our solidarity to the Japanese people, victim of this appalling inauguration of the use of nuclear weapons in our world. We pay our respects to thousands of victims of this war crime and crime against humanity perpetrated by the US imperialism, still to be held accountable.

The victims are not numbers: they are people whose lives were ripped-off by the greatest expression of warmongering and brutality, but who should be remembered by us in our struggle against weapons of mass destruction and for peace.

At the time we stress our solidarity to the Japanese people, offering our support, we also join the call for strengthening the peoples' common struggle for the complete abolition of nuclear weapons. We regret that, 45 years after it was adopted, the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), a superficial and insufficient document, has not granted humanity freedom from the threat of a nuclear war.

We pay homage to 300 thousand of Japanese victims and the victims of the US nuclear tests in places such as Marshall Islands – who still face the

consequences of tests conducted by the US between 1946 and 1958 – reiterating our call to the world for the complete abolition of arsenals putting humankind in danger.

In 1950, the World Peace Council launched the Stockholm Appeal, signed by over 350 million people, demanding “the outlawing of atomic weapons as instruments of intimidation and mass murder of peoples”. The document, which we reinforce 65 years later, calls on “all men and women of good will throughout the world to sign this appeal”. Although millions of people have demanded the abolition of nuclear weapons, the world leadership is still debating a much less ambitious goal: the mere reduction of the existing arsenal.

The failure of the NPT Review Conferences, last held in April 2015, is the responsibility of the most hostile regimes, with their imperialist policies of massacre, threats and oppression: Israel and the United States. The goal of turning the Middle East, one of the most unstable regions due to the imperialist actions, into a zone free of nuclear weapons, was enough to prompt Israel's response, derailing the process through the US.

The US, on its turn, is playing a theatrical act with the reduction of its arsenal, hiding the “modernization” trend: keeping their nuclear power, they raise the lethality and broaden their arsenal's reach, even though it is reduced in number. Their policies – allied and promoted through the greatest war machine known to humanity, NATO – are based on threats and on aggressions against the peoples in the whole planet.

Therefore, in this dreadful anniversary, we declare vehemently, once more, our condemnation of the Japanese people's massacre and the threat of repetition of such a horrid event.

We strengthen our determined struggle for the abolition of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. In our anti-imperialist endeavor, we are certain that unity among us will defeat warmongering and militarist policies, since the peoples' will is a just peace.

Dear Friends,

We remember you today in our hearts, our thoughts and our prayers. Seventy years ago, our country committed horrible, unthinkable acts by dropping nuclear bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It still brings suffering to many generations later. Your goal and our goal are the same - to end nuclear proliferation, and for there to be peace and love throughout the world.

70th Anniversary Hiroshima/Nagasaki Day Actions Planned/Carried out around the World

New Zealand

Barney Richards, Peace Council of Aotearoa-New Zealand

At the Botanic Garden Peace Flame Garden there will be a Hiroshima and Nagasaki 70th Anniversary Commemoration with invited speakers from the City Council, embassies, colleges and political parties.

It's from 10:30am to 11:30am on Sunday 2 August 2015 to enable a strong interest in the following week's 6th and 9th August special days. Messages from the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, for the event, will be read by college students and peace cranes given to the attenders. There will be a full size representation of the currently deployed, illegal W87 nuclear weapon, on display to alert to the smallness of the secondary stage H bomb that's smaller than a football yet is twenty times more powerful than the 6 August 1945 Hiroshima atomic bomb. The website is www.hdwn.webs.com

In the Wellington City Library, at 12 pm on Sunday 2 August, 2015 Mayor Celia Wade-Brown will open a "Hiroshima 70" children's Peace Art Display. The website is: <https://sites.google.com/site/hiroshimahope70/>

Kate Dewes and Robert Green, Christchurch

We will have a commemoration ceremony on Nagasaki Day at 5pm at the World Peace Bell in our Botanic Garden, near the camphor tree gifted to our city from Mayor Itoh about 10 years ago. Our Mayor will speak, and a Japanese choir will sing.

This is the 40th consecutive year that we have done the lantern ceremony, even though the many devastating earthquakes in our city.

Australia



Romina Beitseen, Campaign for International Cooperation and Disarmament (CICD)

The Campaign for International Cooperation and Disarmament (CICD) organised an exhibition for the 70th anniversary of

Hiroshima and Nagasaki at Trades Hall, from the 5th-7th August. Atomic photographer, Jessie Boylan (Australia), had her essay 'Atomic Amnesia: photographs and nuclear memory'

published in the *Journal of Global Change, Peace and Security*. On the 5th of August we held the launch of the exhibition. Speakers included Jessie Boylan, Dr Margaret Beavis (Medical Association for Prevention of War), Michael Hamel-Green (Emeritus Professor, College of Arts) and Jacob Grech (Veteran peace activist and Renegade Action).

We hope your conference was successful and that the participants when they return to their country they will campaign against the spread and use of nuclear weapons and for their elimination.

CICD has a radio program on a community radio station (3CR), on Sunday mornings from 9.00 to 9.15 am. The last two weeks we have covered news on the 70th Anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Here are the links to the Radio Station for our Alternative News.

<http://www.3cr.org.au/alternativenews>

India

Dr. Balkrishna Kurvey, Indian Institute for Peace, Disarmament & Environmental Protection/ No More Hiroshima: No More Nagasaki: Peace Museum

On the eve of Hiroshima & Nagasaki Atomic bombing, Hiroshima Day was observed in Raman Science Center, Nagpur on 6th August 2015. This is renowned Science Center of Government of India, Ministry of Culture. Theme was "Environmental Impact of Atomic Bomb Explosion".

Selected High school Students from Nagpur were invited. To catch them young, we are targeting youngsters who will be future citizens of the country to inculcate the idea of Nuclear Weapon Free World. Photographic exhibition of Hiroshima & Nagasaki bombing was also displaced for public from 6th to 9th August 2015 in Raman Science Center.

Hiroshima Day was also arranged in Department of Environmental Science, Sardar Patel Mahavidyalaya (College), Chandrapur, India. This prestigious teaching Institute of Central India having more than 7200 students. Students of graduate, post-graduate, Ph.D. and some medical students attended the seminar. The theme was "Nuclear Weapons Disarmament and Environmental Protection and Peace"

I based my address on the study carried out by International Physicians for Prevention of Nuclear war & Physicians of Social responsibility "Two

Billion People at Risk", December 2013.

In a limited regional nuclear war between India and Pakistan, if 150 Hiroshima type Bombs were used, what will be environmental consequences in Asia, in particular and world in General was the theme of the talk.... Public education and awareness is only key as there is no medicine and prevention is the only way to safeguard the human race. Participants and teachers asked many question, which were aptly answered.



Pakistan

Rana Ehtisham Rabbani, President, Peace and Humanity Foundation, Lahore

My organization Peace and Humanity Organization is holding two-day exhibition of Hiroshima-Nagasaki Atom Bomb blast effects posters on 5 and 6 August at Alhamra Arts Council, Lahore. A seminar will also be organized on 6 August in Hall No. 3. Prominent writers, thinkers, educationists, journalists will speak on the occasion. Open invitation. Welcome all.

Finland

Ari Sardar, Peace Union of Finland

In Helsinki in Finland main event for Hiroshima Day will be in city centre and we are expecting around two or three hundred people to come. Around Finland will be at least in ten different cities Hiroshima Day events: LOVIISA, KOTKA, NÄRPES, PORI, RAUMA, TURKU, VANTAA, VÄÄKSY, KEMI and HELSINKI (could be even more places events.)

Program for Helsinki is entitled "70 years since bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki - Do not forget!" It will be held at 9 pm, August 6 at Amphitheatre behind the Opera House in memory of the victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and all victims of war and conflict, and to remind the world of importance of Nuclear Disarmament. It will include speeches by Erkki Tuomioja,

Member of Parliament and Jaana Hallamaa Professor of Social Ethics, and also music by Koiton Laulu.

We end the event with lighting floating lanterns on the Töölönlahti Bay 10 pm, due to old Japanese Tradition. People can bring their own candles or buy candles for 2 €. The event will be co-organized with Svenska Fredsvänner i Helsingfors, Ev.Luth. Congregations in Helsinki.

Sweden

Tomas Magnusson, "Fredsam" Gothenburg (Cooperating Peace Organizations in Gothenburg)

While our thoughts are with you in Hiroshima and Nagasaki on those days we are conducting our traditional ceremony in the "Peace grove" in central part of Gothenburg, where we have commemorated those days for 30 years, with speeches and music. This is an arrangement of the gather peace movement in Gothenburg, among which are organizations like the Physicians against nuclear weapons, Swedish Peace and Arbitration Society, the Women's League for Peace and Freedoms, and many other organizations.

Sylvia Rönn, Women for Peace, Stockholm

Women for peace in Stockholm will have a manifestation in a park in central Stockholm with speeches and music. After that we will set paper lanterns in the water. Swedish Women for peace in several other cities will have a similar action.

Austria

Andreas Pecha, Sonja Jamkojian-Huber, Alois Reisenbichler and Manfred Sauer, Hiroshima Group Vienna

As it has become tradition, the peace movement commemorates the victims of the nuclear attacks at Stephansplatz in Vienna. This year the Hiroshima Commemoration starts on Thursday, August 6th 2015 at 6 PM and ends at app. 20:30 PM with a lantern parade to the pond in front of Karlskirche, where, in accordance with Japanese custom, the lanterns will float on the water.

Each year we collect messages of support from people with diverse backgrounds – hundreds of voices supporting the struggle against nuclear weapons. Please support this action with your own statement which will be exhibited at Stephansplatz and published on www.hiroshima.at

Please send the statements of support to

Wiener Friedensbüro, Reinprechtsdorfer Straße
6/2, 1050 Wien, Austria E-Mail:
pax.vienna@chello.at

We, the Hiroshima Group Vienna, the Viennese Peace Movement and a number of other groups organizing this year's event, e.g. ICAN Austria, IFOR Austria, the Austrian Red Cross, OMEGA/IPPNW Austria and Pax Christi Vienna, want to thank you for supporting our common pursuit of a world free of nuclear weapons, nuclear power plants and war. We wish you all the best for your activities. In peace and solidarity.



Germany

Guido Grünewald, International speaker, German Peace Society-United War Resisters (DFG-VK)

In many towns and cities there will be a wide range of activities remembering the dropping of nuclear bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the subsequent catastrophic humanitarian consequences as well as demanding nuclear abolition. Nationwide three specific forms of activism will be in the center stage:

1) Large-scale placards with a clear message

In about 20 cities large-scale placards will be displayed for 10 days. The message is: "70 years Hiroshima and Nagasaki: remembrance is not sufficient – nuclear abolition now!"

2) Night of 70.000 candles

Remembering the many people seeking relief and shelter in Ota-gawa candles will be lit in the evening of 5 August during 10:00 p.m. and 0:15 a.m. (moment of the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima in national German time). The activities will take place at different locations like municipal squares, military installations, city halls, churches, rivers or lakes.

3) Public fasting for nuclear abolition from 31 July to 9 August: The fasting will end in front of the air force base Büchel where 20 nuclear bombs are stored which are scheduled to be modernized.

In the days before the activists will demand nuclear abolition at public squares, in embassies and from governments. The fasting for nuclear abolition will be supported by activities in about 70 cities and towns.

Other activities include exhibitions on the nuclear chain (from uranium mining to nuclear weapons and nuclear waste) demanding „No more Hibakusha anywhere“ in Stuttgart and Frankfurt and the two bicycle tours „Peacemakers Tour to Berlin“ from 2-4 July (covering 630 km) and the 10th „Peacemakers Marathon“ (covering 340 km) on 1 August. The central slogan for both events is: „Outlaw and Abolish all nuclear weapons all over the world!“

Peacemakers Tour to Berlin – a stop at Würzburg

My own organisation – German Peace Society-United War Resisters (DFG-VK) is involved in the nationwide activities and organizes in addition two regional bicycle tours: a) 1-9 August from Münster (Northrhine-Westfalia) to the air base Büchel b) 1-9 August from Grafenwöhr (Bavaria) to the air base Büchel.

Gage Ledbetter, Student, Peace Cooperative Network

List of Hiroshima Day Events 2015, Germany Saturday, August 1st, 2015 through Sunday, August 9th – Amberg/Büchel:

DFG-VK (German Peace Society-United Opponents of Military Service) Peace Bike Rally 2015, "On the move for peace and disarmament," Start: 2:30pm, from the Truppenübungsplatz near Vilseck to the nuclear weapons stockpile in Büchel (Eifel). Stages: August 4th, Rally and performance in Würzburg; August 8th, Action in Koblenz, together with the Peace Bike Tour from North Rhineland Westphalia (NRW); August 9th, Nuclear weapons stockpile in Büchel, circumnavigation of the site, among other actions; Organizer: DFG-VK Bayern.



Contact: DFG-VK-Group München,
Schwanstalerstrasse 133, 80339 München
Email: muenchen@dfg-vk.de
Website: http://www.dfg-vk-bayern.de/FFT-allg_info_mehr-01.html

Saturday, August 1st, 2015 – Bretten/Bretten
11th Peacemakers Bike Marathon – Peacemakers for a peaceful and just world without atomic weapons – Rout: (around 335km) Bretten, Heilbronn, Mannheim, Kaiserlautern, Neustadt nach Bretten, Organizers: DFG/VK BaWü, Pax An, GAAA, Fl Westpalz
Contact: Peacemakers, Roland Blach, Haußmanstrasse 6, 70188 Stuttgart, Tel: 0711/2155112; Fax: 0711/2155214
Email: info@pace-makers.de
Website: www.pace-makers.de

Saturday, August 1st, 2015 through Sunday, August 9th – Münster/Büchel:
Peace Bike Tour NRW “On the move for peace and disarmament” with the motto “70 Years since Hiroshima and Nagasaki: For peace, atomic disarmament, and a civilian Europe,” Start: Münster (the site of the new NATO response force) to Büchel (atomic weapons facility), Stages: August 1st, Start in Münster, NATO Response Force Base; August 3rd, Oberhausen – Kalkar , NATO Command Center; August 5th, Krefeld – Köln – Memorial Action; August 6th, Bonn – Hiroshima Commemoration – Remagen; August 8th, Action in Koblenz, together with the Peace Bike Tour from Bayer, Organizer: DFG-VK NRW
Kontakt: Landesverband NRW der DFG-VK, Braunschweigerstrasse 22, 44145 Dortmund, Tel: 0231/818032; Fax: 0231/818032
Email: dfg-vk.nrw@t-online.de
Website: nrw.dfg-vk.de/themen/Fahrradtour.html

Saturday, August 1st, 2015 – Wetzlar:
Vigil against armaments and war, 10-11am, at the Alten Lahnbrücke, Organizer: Wetzlarer Friedenstreff
Contact: DFG-VK Lahn-Dill Martin Otto, Frenkenstrasse 77, 35578 Wetzlar, Tel: 06441/25462
Email: mo-wz@gaaa.org

Sunday, August 2nd, 2015 – Büchel
Church service on the theme of Hiroshima/Nagasaki mit Pastor Matthias Engelke, 10am, St. Martinskirche.
Contact: Initiativkreis gegen Atomwaffen, Pfarrer Dr. Matthias Engelke, Steegerstrasse 34, 41334 Nettetal-Lobberich, Tel.: 02153/121989

Email: mwengelke@t-online.de

Tuesday, August 4th to Friday, August 14th, 2015 – Belzig:
Exhibit “Hiroshima- / Nagasaki-Memorial”, Linke-Kreisgeschäftstelle, Straße der Einheit 53, Organizers: Die Linke Bad Belzig, Piratenpartei Bad Belzig
Contact: Die Linke Belzig, Straße der Einheit 53, 14806 Bad Belzig
Email: utahohlfeld@t-online.de
Website: www.dielinke-belzig.de

Tuesday, August 4th, to Saturday, August 15th – Hannover:
Exhibition “70 Jahre Hiroshima – 6.8.1945,” Hours: 10am-7pm, at the Neues Rathaus, Bürgersaal, Tramplatz, Organizers: Deutsch Japanischer Freundschaftskreis Hannover-Hiroshima-Yukokai e.V. in cooperation with the Hannover City Council - Office of International Affairs - Cultural Office [as part of the Hiroshima commemorations in Hannover]
Contact: Landeshauptstadt Hannover (Mayor for Peace Deutschland), Büro OB Evelyn Kamissek, Trammplatz 2, 30159 hannover, Tel: 0511/168-41446, Fax: 0511/168-44025
Email: mayorsforpeace@hannover-stadt.de
Website: mayorsforpeace.de

Tuesday, August 4th, 2015 – Suhl:
Light ceremony on Dianabrunnen for the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
Contact: Suhler Friedensinitiative, Holger Auerswald, Tel: 03681/308158, Fax: 03681/308158
Email: fozzy-suhl@gmx.de

Wednesday, August 5th, 2015 – Aalen:
Event “Night of 70,000 Lights” at 9pm at Markbrunnen, Organizer: Ev. Kirchengemeinde Aalen
Contact: Ev. Kirchengemeinde Aalen, Pfarrer Rainer Schmid, Ziegelstr. 25, 73431 Aalen, Tel.: 07361/6339797
Email: rainer.schmid@elkw.de

Wednesday, August 5th, 2015 – Altenburg:
Event “Night of 70,000 Candles” 9pm, at the Großen pond, the bridge to Inselzoo will be equipped with lights. afterwards: brief commemorative address and prayer for peace, Organizer: Friedenskreis Altenburg
Contact: Friedenskreis Altenburg, Barbara Ebert, Tel.: 034343/52356
Email: ebertbabs@freenet.de

Wednesday, August 5th, 2015 – Bad Tölz:

Event “Night of 70,000 Candles,” from late afternoon vigil in the Bad Tölzer pedestrian zone, at 10pm, setting the candles on the Isar, Organizer: Friedensinitiative Bad Tölz-Wolfratshausen

Contact: Friedensinitiative Bad Tölz-Wolfratshausen, Helmut Groß, Tel.: 08041/72477
Email: gross1955@gmx.de

Wednesday, August 5th, 2015 – Bensheim

Memorial service “Night of 70,000 Candles,” 10pm, in front of city hall, Kirchbergstrasse 28, Organizers: Nord-Süd-Forum Bensheim, Pax-Christi-Gruppe Bergstraße, Amnesty International Bergstraße, Forum gegen Rüstungsexporte

Contact: Forum gegen Rüstungsexporte Bensheim, Karls Kerschegns, 64625 Bensheim, Tel.: 06251/103856

Email: karl.kerschgens@gmx.de

Website:

forumgegenruestungsexporte.wordpress.com

Wednesday, August 5th, 2015 – Berlin

Action “Night of Candles” – Vigil for Life, 6pm, Planting of the “Tree of Life” (Ginko Biloba); 7pm, Lamp and lantern procession; 9pm-12am, Candles – set an example for life; Peace Bell Berlin, Big Pond, Volkspark Friedrichshain, Flyer [here](#), Organizer: Friedensglockengesellschaft Berlin

Contact: Friedensglockengesellschaft Berlin, Anja Mewes, Franz-Mehring-Platz 1, 10243 Berlin, Tel.: 01522/9996370

Email: anja.mewes@email.de

Website: www.berlin-friedensglocke.de

Wednesday, August 5th, 2015 – Dannenberg:

Event: “Night of 70,000 Candles,” 10pm, on the Merketplatz, Organizer: Mahnwache gegen Gorleben

Contact: Mahnwache gegen Gorleben, Gertie Brammer, Tel.: 05861/985742

Email: g.bram@freenet.de

Wednesday, August 5th, 2015 – Duisburg:

Night of 70,000 Candles, 7-7:30pm, Karmel-Kirche at Innhafen, Kermelplatz 9, Organizer: Karmel-Kirche am Innenhafen [as part of “Midweek – Prayer for Peace”]

Contact: Karmel-Kirche am Innenhafen, Marga Salfeld, Tel. 0203/667175

Website: karmel-duisburg.eu

Wednesday, August 5th, 2015 – Düsseldorf:

Event “Night of 70,000 Candles” 10pm, at Burgplatz in front of the Maritime Museum, Organizer: IPPNW-Gruppe Düsseldorf

Contact: IPPNW Gruppe Düsseldorf, Wenia Tel.: 0157/58339988

Email: duesseldorf@ipnw.de

Website: www.ipnw.de

Wednesday, August 5th, 2015 – Esslingen:

Service, Rally and Action “Night of 70,000 Candles,” Speakers: Wilfried Wallbrecht (1st mayor of the city of Esslingen), Dr. Markus Schwer (Deacon from the local Catholic Church), Poem recitation: Sigrid Altherr-König, Music: Fabian Grosch, Moderation: Tom Bittner; Candal service on the Neckar canal (there will also be folded paper cranes, the Japanese symbol for the outlawing of nuclear weapons, hung on trees in the Maille), See the flyer [here](#), Organizer: Friedensbündnis Esslingen

Contact: Friedensbündnis Esslingen, Sigrid Altherr-König

Email: Sigrid.Aldherr@t-online.de

Website: www.friedensbueundnis-esslingen.de

Wednesday, August 5th, 2015 – Frankfurt/Oder:

Event/Memorial “Night of 70,000 Candles” – 70th Year after Hiroshima and Nagasaki – for a world without atomic weapons, Start: 8pm, Marienkirche, Reading by Carmen winter, musically accompanied by Thomas Bush; 9pm, Candle even on the Order - Peace Bell, with musical accompaniment by the choir “Lebensfreude”, Haus der Begegnung, Organizer: Friedensnetz Frankfurt (Oder)

Contact: Friedensnetz Frankfurt (Oder), Reinhard Schülzke, Kirchring 1, 15236 Frankfurt-Güldendorf, Tel.: 0335/526971

Email: r.c.schuelzke@t-online.de

Wednesday, August 5th, 2015 – Fürstenfeldbruck:

Commemoration, “Seventy Years is Enough!” - For an atomic weapon-free Germany - for the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Start: 7:30pm at the old Rathaus, followed by a march to Kneipp island, Organizers: Sozialforum Amper, OB Klaus Peil (Mayors for Peace)

Contact: Monika Glemnitz-Markus, Lüarchenweg 2, 82216 Maiasch, Tel.: 0176/55440938

Email: sozialforumamper@gmx.de

Website: www.sozialforumamper.de

Wednesday, August 5th, 2015 - Gera

Action "Night of 70,000 Candles," 10pm, peace prayer, St. Trinitatis, afterward: memorial march to the Heinrichs Bridge to put floating candles on the Elster river. Organizer: Aktionsbündnis "Gera gegen Rechts"

Contact Aktionsbündnis Gera gegen Rechts, Dr. Reinhard Hausigk

Email: rchausigk@web.de

Wednesday, August 5th, 2015 - Hamburg:

Night of 70,000 Candles in Hamburg, 10 pm, at Jungferstieg (at Alster terrace between the Alster pavilion and the tourist information center).

Contact: ICAN Hamburg, Erik Buhmann, mobile number: 0162/6860708

Email: rchausigk@web.de

Website:

www.facebook.com/events/1627552734197023/

Wednesday, August 5th, 2015 - Hannover:

Hiroshima - Memorial Grove in Bult, 8pm, "Never another Hiroshima - Conversations by Candlelight," Organizer: Hiroshimabündnis Hannover

Contact: Hiroshima-Bündnis c/o Günter Mundil, Erichstr. 2, 30449 Hannover, Tel.: 0511/455608

Email: guemu.sawi@t-online.de

Wednesday, August 5th, 2015 - Heidenheim:

"Night of 70,000 Candles," 9:30pm, Prayer in Michaelskirche, at 10pm meet at the Wedelbühle - Brunnen, Lighting of candles, short speech from Mayor Domberg (in stead of OB Ilg, a member of Mayors for Peace), Musical accompaniment by deacon and songwriter Karlheinz Oesterle Steinheim, End: around 12:15am, Organizer: Heidenheimer Friedensgruppe

Contact: Friedensgruppe Heidenheim c/o Gisela Paschen, Ostplatz 6, 89522 Heidenheim, Tel.: 07321/23909, Fax: 07321-946384

Email: gisela.paschen@t-online.de

Website: www.jestrabek.homepage.t-online.de/frieden.htm

Wednesday, August 5th, 2015 – Heppenheim:

Memorial event "Night of 70,000 Candles," 10pm, at the Martin-Buber Memorial (Corner of Graben/Kellereigasse), See flyer [here](#), Organizers: VA: Weltladen Heppenheim, Pax Christi Bergstr., Kirchengemeinden und DGB-Ortsverband Heppenheim

Contact: Weltladen Heppenheim, Lothar Bräunig, 64646 Heppenheim, Tel.: 06252/76642 od. 0176/54881385

Email: braeunigx4@t-online.de

Wednesday, August 5th, 2015 - Kastellaun:

Vigil "Night of 70,000 Candles" in memory of the victims in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, 10pm - 12:15am, Marktplatz, Organizers: FI Rhein-Hunsrück

Contact: FI Rhein-Hunsrück, Heidrun Kisters, Schulstr. 20, 55481 Kirchberg, Tel.: 06763/4614

Email: heidrun.kisters@t-online.de

Website: www.fi-hunsrueck.de

Wednesday, August 5th, 2015 - Kiel

Lecture "The Atomic Bomb and the Future of War" with Professor Dr. Götz Neuneck (IFSH Hamburg), 7pm, Town hall Kiel, Ratsaal, Organizer: Arbeitskreis Städtsolidarität

Contact: Friedensforum Kiel, Benno Stahn, An den Birken 18, 24111 Kiel

Email:

Website: www.kieler-friedensforum.de

Wednesday, August 5th, 2015 - Cologne:

Rally and memorial for the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings "Our Future: Free of Atomic Weapons!" with Blue Flower and Barbara Conrady-Takenaka, 8pm, Memorial in Hiroshima-Nagasaki-Park on the Hügel, Organizer: Hiroshima-Nagasaki AK im Kölner Friedensforum

Contact: Friedensforum Kiel, Benno Stahn, An den Birken 18, 24111 Kiel

Email: b.stahn@kieler-friedensforum.de

Website: koelnerfriedensforum.org

Wednesday, August 5th, 2015 - Cologne

Light demonstration "Night of 70,000 Candles" in memorial for the 70th anniversary the Atomic bombings, 10pm, Aachener Weiher, see flyer [here](#), Organizer: Hiroshima-Nagasaki AK im Kölner Friedensforum

Contact: muellerkoeln@oline.de

Website: koelnerfriedensforum.org

Wednesday, August 5th, 2015 – Lahnstein:

Event "Night of 70,000 Candles," at 8pm at the Johanniskirche (Niederlahnstein), afterwards: at the Lahn-mündung, Candles on the Lahn. Organizers: Pax-Christi-Gruppe Lahnstein, Kosovo-Partnerschaftsgruppe der kath. Kirchengemeinde St. Martin

Contact: Pax Christi Lahnstein, Pater Wolfgang Jungheim, Jesuitenplatz 4, 56068 Koblenz

Email: wolfgang.jungheim@sscc.de

Wednesday, August 5th, 2015 - Leipzig

Event for Hiroshima Remembrance Day, 10pm, Elsterflutbecken near the Sachsenbrücke in Clara-Zetkin-Park to float lights on the river ("Night of

70,000 Candles"), Organizer: Friedenszentrum Leipzig

Contact: Friedenszentrum Leipzig e.V., Tosten Schleip, Karl-Liebnecht-Str. 30/32, 04107 Leipzig, Tel.: 01520/6699079

Email: webmaster@leipzig-gegen-krieg.de

Website: www.leipzig-gegen-krieg.de

Wednesday, August 5th, 2015 - Mainz

Event "Night of 70,000" Candles at Reinufer in Mainz, 8:30pm, Fischertorplatz together with the Peace Bike Tour from Gräfenwöhr to Büchel

Contact: DFG-VK Mainz, Bürogemeinschaft, Waldpodenstr. 10, 55116 Mainz

Email: dfgvkmz@web.de

Website: www.dfg-vk-mainz.de

Wednesday, August 5th, 2015 – Marburg:

"Night of 70,000 Candles" in memorial for the victims from Hiroshima and Nagasaki, with a candle event, readings, and music, 10pm-12:15am, an the Lutherischen Kirchhof, Organizer: Lutherische Pfarrkirche St.Marien

Contact: Lutherische Pfarrkirche St. Marien, Pfarrer Ulrich Biskamp, Lutherischer Kirchhof 1, 35037 Marburg, Tel.: 06421/34 00 695, Fax: 06421/16 51 888

Email: u.biskamp@ekmr.de

Website: arrkirche.ekmr.de

Wednesday, August 5th, 2015 - Nürnberg:

Night of 70,000 Lights, 9pm-12:30am, Museumsbrücke Nürnberg, Action with Text and 70/700 or more tealights in glasses, memorial and warning, Organizers: FINO (Friedensinitiative Nordost), NEFF (Nürnberger evangelisches Forum für den Frieden), Friedensmuseum Nürnberg e.V., Pazifikgruppe Nürnberg, Mission EineWelt

Contact: Friedensmuseum Nürnberg e.V. Kaulbachstr. 2, 90408 Nürnberg, Tel.:0911/3609577 Tel.:0911/3609577

Email: friedensmuseum@fen-net.de

Internet: www.friedensmuseum.odn.de

Wednesday, August 5th, 2015 – Rostock:

Memorial event "For Hiroshima and Nagasaki," Candles on the Schwannenteich, 8-10pm, Zen Garden on the bank of the Schwannenteich, Organizers: IPPNW Rostock, Rostocker Friedensbündnis, Regionalgruppe Mittleres Mecklenburg DFG-VK

Contact: IPPNW Ernst-Ludwig Iskenius, Kämmerestr. 5, 18057 Rostock, Tel.: 0160/1176819

Email: iskenius@ipnw.de

Website: www.rostocker-friedensbueundnis.de/node/463

Wednesday, August 5th, 2015 – Roßdorf:

Event "Night of 70,000 Candles," Beginning at 10pm, Peace devotions in the Protestant Church. Meeting: Town Hall Square, music (end about 11:15pm) Organizers: Friedensgebetsgruppe der ev. Kirchengemeinde und katholische Gemeinde

Contact: Ev. Kirchengemeinde Rossdorf, Axel Erdmann, Tel.: 06154/8587

Email: info@rossdorf-evangelisch.de

Website: www.rossdorf-evangelisch.de

Wednesday, August 5th, 2015 - Stuttgart/Esslingen:

Peace Bike Tour "70 Years since Hiroshima and Nagasaki: Memorials are not enough - atomic weapon abolition now!" from Stuttgart to Esslingen, beginning 5:30-6:15pm, vigil Patch Barracks/EUCOM, Katzenbachstr./Hauptstr. (Stuttgart-Vaihingen), Bike Tour part 1: 6:15pm to 7pm, EUCOM - Stuttgart Town Hall, Candle event: 7-7:30pm, Marktplatz/Stuttgart Town Hall; Bike Tour part 2: 7:30pm-8:45pm Stuttgart Town Hall - Esslingen, Ending: from 9pm, Esslingen, Maille in the Nikolauskappelle (inner bridge), Organizers DFG-VK BaWü, ORL

Contact: DFG/VK BaWü, Roland Blach, Werastr. 10, 70182 Stuttgart, Tel.: 0711/51885601

Email: ba-wue@dfg-vk.de

Website:

www.facebook.com/events/920629677998239/

Wednesday, August 5th, 2015 - Widen:

(planned) Action "Night of 70,000 Candles," vigil with candles, texts, poems, 10pm, Oberer Markt am Brunnen, Organizers: IPPNW Regionalgruppe, BI gegen atomare Anlagen

Contact: IPPNW Weiden, Dr. Heidi Nickl, Tel.: 0961/62455, Dr. Maria Macht, Tel.: 0961/33650

Email: nicklweiden@gmx.de

Wednesday, August 5th, 2015 - Wetzlar:

"Night of 70,000 Candles," 8-11pm, on and by the Old Lahn Bridge, see flyer [here](#), Organizer: Wetzlarer Friedenstreff

Contact: DFG-VK Lahn-Dill Martin Orro, Frankenstr. 77, 35578 Wetzlar, Tel.: 06441/25462

Email: mo-wz@gaaa.org

Wednesday, August 5th, 2015 – Wiehl:

Event "Night of 70,000 Candles" in memory of the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, 10pm, south bank of the Wehl river in Wiehl park between the pedestrian bridge (Brucher Str.) and the Spielplatz on the

Grillhütte, Organizer: BürgerInnen-Initiative Oberberg Süd für den Atomausstieg und die Energiewende

Contact: BürgerInnen-Initiative Oberberg Süd für den Atomausstieg und die Energiewende Wiehl, Claudia v. Wachtendonck
Email: wachtendonck@posteo.de
Website: www.bi-oberberg.de

Wednesday, August 5th, 2015 – Weisbaden:

Discussion evening "Hiroshima – 70 years after" lighting 70 candles at the end, 9pm, Reformatorenhalle, Kaiser-Friedrich-Ring 7, Organizer: Ev. Ringkirchengemeinde Wiesbaden
Contact: Ev. Ringkirchengemeinde Wiesbaden, Kaiser-Friedrich-Ring 7, 65185 Wiesbaden, Tel.: 0611/440281

Email: ringkirche@ringkirche.de
Website: www.ringkirche.de

Thursday, August 6th, 2015 - Bad Hersfeld:

Memorial event for the victims from Hiroshima and Nagasaki, 7:30pm, in front of the new newspaper building at Schildepark, Speaker: Rainer Braun (IALANA), Organizer: FI Hersfeld-Rosenburg

Contact: Friedensinitiative Hersfeld-Rotenburg c/o Michael Held, Simon-Haune-Str. 15, 36251 Bad Hersfeld, Tel.: 06621/620186
Email: A-P-S@gmx.de

Thursday, August 6th, 2015 - Berlin:

"Day of Remembrance and Warning," 8:15am, Bell ringing; 2pm Reading and Music for Peace; Place: Big Pond, Volkspark Friedrichshain/Gaststätte "Schoenbrunn"; 5:30pm, opening of the Hiroshima-Nagasaki-Exhibit, as above; 6pm, Memorial Service for the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki; Berlin Peace Bell Big Pond, Volkspark Friedrichshain, Speakers: Greetings: Bezirksbürgermeisterin Monika Herrmann (B90/Die Grünen), Memorial Address: Alex Rosen (IPPNW), Appeal for Peace: Anja Mewes (Friedensglockengesellschaft), Music: IG Peng, See flyer [here](#), Organizers: Friedensglockengesellschaft Berlin e.V., IPPNW, Bezirksamt Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg

Contact: Friedensglockengesellschaft Berlin, Anja Mewes, Franz-Mehring-Platz 1, 10243 Berlin, Tel.: 01522/9996370
Email: anja.mewes@email.de
Website: www.berlin-friedensglocke.de

Thursday, August 6th, 2015 - Berlin:

Evensong in memorial for the atomic bombings of Hiroshima on August 6th, 1945 with Pastor

Martin Germer, 5:70-6pm, Gedächtniskirche, Breitscheidplatz, Organizer: Ev. Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gedächtnis-Kirche

Contact: Gemeindebüro Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gedächtnis, Antje Leuthold, Stefan Klaschik, Lietzenburger Straße 39 (1. OG), 10789 Berlin
Email: info@gedaechtniskirche-berlin.de
Website: www.gedaechtniskirche-berlin.de

Thursday, August 6th, 2015 – Bochum:

Event "Scrap Atomic Weapons" on the 70th Anniversary of the atomic destruction of Hiroshima, with banners and leaflets 6pm, in the Citypoint/Drehscheibe area, Organizer: Bochumer Friedensplenum

Contact: Bochumer Friedensplenum c/o Ludwig Quidde Forum, Brückstr. 46, 44787 Bochum oder Elke Koling, Tel.: 02302/888254
Email: friedensplenum@bo-alternativ.net
Website: www.bo-alternativ.de/friedensplenum

Thursday, August 6th, 2015 - Bonn:

Service in memorial and appeal "Flowers for the Victims from Hiroshima and Nagasaki," meeting point: 5pm, Marktplatz in front of the old Town Hall; afterwards, memorial walk to different points in Bonn-Beuel, there: 6pm, rally at Beuel Rheinufer, near the Brückeforum, Greetings: Oberbürgermeister Bonn (Mayors for Peace), Speakers: N.N. (Internationale Ärzte für die Verhütung des Atomkrieges) Robert Nicoll (FI Bonn Beuel), See flyer [here](#), Organizers: FI Bonn-Beuel in cooperation with Internationale Ärzte zur Verhütung des Atomkriegs (IPPNW), Gruppe Bonn-Rhein-Sieg; Deutsche Friedensgesellschaft Vereinigte KriegsdienstgegnerInnen (DFG/VK), Gruppe Rhein-Sieg

Contact: Friedensinitiative Bonn-Beuel, Robert Nicoll, Rudolf-Hahn-Str. 152, 53227 Bonn, Tel.: 0228/483209
Email: robert.nicoll@gmx.net
Website: friedensinitiative.blogspot.de

Thursday, August 6th, 2015 - Bremen

Vigil for the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Speaker: Rainer Braun (IALANA, Berlin), Fritzt Storim (Maus), Dirk Rademacher (texts and poems), 12-1pm, Marktplatz, see flyer [here](#), Organizers: Bremer Friedensforum, ... (Die Teilnehmerinnen und Teilnehmer der Mahnwache werden gebeten, Blumen mitzubringen, um das Friedenszeichen auszulegen.)

Contact: Bremer Friedensforum c/o Villa Ichon, Goetheplatz 4, 28203 Bremen, Tel.: 0421/3961892

Email: info@bremerfriedensforum.de

Website: www.bremerfriedensforum.de

Thursday, August 6th, 2015 - Dortmund:

Memorial event 70th Anniversary the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki; 5pm, traditional memorial walk through the inner city; 7pm, Friedensplatz, in attendance, Ullrich Sierau (Oberbürgermeister Dortmund), see flyer [here](#), Organizers: The City of Dortmund (Mayors for Peace), Frauen-Friedensinitiative, IPPNW - Regional Group, Dortmund, German-Japanese Society, attac-Dortmund, Pax Christi

Contact: Frauen-Friedensinitiative, Margret Ullrich, Am Knappenberg 42, 44139 Dortmund, Tel.: 0231/551401, Fax: 0231/551401

Email: ute.guckes@gmx.de

Thursday, August 6th, 2015 to Sunday, August 9th, 2015 – Dresden:

Vigil and fast in memorz of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki 70 years ago, 10am-9pm, at the Kreuzkirche Dresden, near the Memorial "Swords to Plowshares," Organizer: AG Frieden Dresden

Contact: Ökum. Informationszentrum (ÖIZ), Kreuzstr. 7, 01067 Dresden, Tel.: 0351/4923369, Fax: 0351/4923360

Email: frieden.oeiz@infozentrum-dresden.de

Website: www.infozentrum-dresden.de

Thursday, August 6th, 2015 – Flensburg:

Memorial "Lotus flowers for Hiroshima – and against atomic weapons!" for the victims of the US atomic bombings of Japan – 7pm, Nordertorplatz, Organizer: Die Linke KV Flensburg (please bring memorial candles with you)

Contact: Die Linke KV Flensburg, Postfach 0131, 24925 Flensburg, Tel.: 0461/5749542

Email: kontakt@die-linke-flensburg.de

Website: www.die-linke-flensburg.de

Thursday, August 6th, 2015 - Frankfurt:

Lecture and Discussion "On the Way to an Atomic Weapon-Free world or into the Abyss" with Professor Götz Neuneck (Uni Hamburg), 6:30pm, Haus am Dom, Giebelsaal, Domplatz 3, see flyer [here](#), VA: IPPNW Regional Group Frankfurt, the City of Frankfurt [the program of the exhibition "Hibakusha Worldwide" - The nuclear chain]

Contact: IPPNW, Körtestr. 10, 10967 Berlin, Tel.: 030/698074-0, Fax: 030/6938166

Email: kontakt@ippnw.de

Website: www.ippnw.de

Thursday, August 6th, 2015 – Frankfurt:

Vigil/informational for Hiroshima Day 2015, Speaker: Prof. Dr. Ulrich Gottstein (IPPNW), 5pm, Römerberg, (afterwards, participation in the lecture at the Haus am Dom), See flyer [here](#), Organizers: Friedens- und Zukunftswerkstatt, Frankfurter Friedensinitiativen

Contact: Frankfurter Friedenstreff c/o DGB-Haus, Wilhelm-Leuschner-Str. 69-77, 60329 Frankfurt, Tel.: 069/24249950, Fax: 069/24249951

Email: Frieden-und-Zukunft@t-online.de

Website: www.frieden-und-zukunft.de

Thursday, August 6th, 2015 – Frankfurt:

Memorial walk for Hiroshima Day 2015 through (Ffm-)Rödelheim. At nightfall Lights will be set on the Nidda river. Meeting point: 7pm, Baruch-Baschwitz-Platz (Train station Rödelheim), before: at 6pm, there is the opportunity to visit the exhibition of Japanese artists in the Cyriakuskirche, Organizer: Friedensinitiative Frankfurt-Rödelheim

Contact: Friedensinitiative Frankfurt-Rödelheim, Peter Gärtner, Fuchstanzstr. 97, 60489 Frankfurt, Tel.: 069/7893661

Email: gaertner.peter.ffmpeg@t-online.de

Website: www.friedensini-roedelheim.de

Thursday, August 6th, 2015 – Fürth:

Memorial service for atomic bombing of Hiroshima (70 years since World War II and the 30th year of the alliance of the town of Fürth with Hiroshima and Nagasaki), Opening: Mayor Dr. Thomas Jung; Minute of silence; Greeting: N.N. (Japanese Consul General in Munich - requested-), Jörg Sichelstiel (Evang. deanery.), 6pm, at the memorial in the city park next to the Church of the Resurrection (Entrance at Nuremberg Str.), See flyer [here](#), Organizer: Stadt Fürth

Contact: Stadt Fürth, OB Dr. Thomas Jung, Direktorium, 90744 Fürth, Tel.: 0911/974-1000, Fax: 0911/974-1005

Email: bmpa@fuerth.de

Website: www.fuerth.de

Thursday, August 6th, 2015 - Gilching:

Hiroshima Commemoration at Gilchinger Friedenspfahl, 9pm, Friedenspfahl at the Argelsreider Train Station, Organizers: Pax Christi Gilching

Contact: Bistumsstelle München Pax Christi, Marsstr. 5/IV, 80335 München, Tel.: 089/5438515, Fax: 089/5438515

Email: bs-muenchen@paxchristi.de

Website: www.erzbistum-muenchen.de/paxchristi

Thursday, August 6th, 2015 - Gundremmingen:

Vigil with "Die in" at 8:16 am, in front of the main gate of the Gundremmingen nuclear power plant, Organizer: Mahnwache Gundremmingen

Contact: Mahnwache Gundremmingen, Thomas Wolf, Hauptstr. 204, 89343

Email: info@mahnwache-gundremmingen.de

Website: www.mahnwache-gundremmingen.de

Thursday, August 6th, 2015 - Hamburg:

(planned) Rally for Hiroshima day, 5-7pm, Kriegsklotz am Dammtor (U/S-Bahn Dammtor/Stephansplatz), Organizer: Hamburger Forum

Contact: Hamburger Forum, Markus Gunkel, Tel. 04151/8374893

Email: Hamburger-forum@hamburg.de

Website: www.hamburgerforum.org

Thursday, August 6th, 2015 - Hannover:

Hiroshima Remembrance Day 2015, Hiroshima Film "A Mother's Prayer," 8pm, Hodlersaal, New Town Hall, 9pm: In memory of the victims of the atomic bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, paper lanterns will be set on the Masch pond. (paper lanterns can be acquired there starting at 8:30pm), Maschpark, Organizers The City of Hannover, Freundschaftskreis Hannover-Hiroshima e.V., Hiroshima-Bündnis, ...

Contact: Landeshauptstadt Hannover, Trammplatz 2, 30159 Hannover, Tel.: 0511/168-45589, Fax: 0511/168-45073

Email: mayorsforpeace@hannover-stadt.de

Website: www.hannover.de

Thursday, August 6th, 2015 - Hannover:

Peace Meditation in memory of Hiroshima, 9am-5:30pm, (silence, prayer and meditation with the hourly striking of the peace bell), and Action "Herzklang" (= stonemasons will tool a stone pillar of a Japanese sculptor in heartbeat rhythm to the meditations), afterwards (6pm), multi-religion peace devotions with Pastor Lutz Krügener (peace Pastor of the Church of Hanover), Ägidienkirche, Breite Str, Organizers: AG für den Hiroshima-Tag

(Marktkirchengemeinde, Loccumer AK für Meditation, Vertreter versch. Religionen

Contact: Ev.-Luth. Marktkirchengemeinde, Hanns-Lilje-Platz 2, 30159 Hannover, Tel.: 0511/36437-0, Fax: 0511/36437-37

Email: marktkirche.hannover@evlka.de

Website: www2.kirche-hannover.de

Thursday, August 6th, 2015 - Herrenberg:

"Night of 70,000 Lights," 9-10pm, Marktplatz, Organizers: Gruppe "Ohne Rüstung leben" Herrenberg (please bring candles / lights in a glass)

Contact: "Ohne Rüstung leben" Gruppe Herrenberg, Erika Schwab, Tel.: 07032/32364

Email: Erika-Schwab@web.de

Thursday, August 6th, 2015 – Kaiserslautern

Lecture and discussion, "70 Years since Hiroshima – Where are we today?" for Hiroshima Day 2015 with Regina Hagen (TU-Darmstadt), 6:30pm, TU Kaiserslautern, Building 57, Rotunde, See flyer [here](#), Organizers: AStA Uni Kaiserslautern, Referat Politische Arbeit

Contact: Uni Kaiserslautern AStA, Erwin-Schrödinger-Str., 67663 Kaiserslautern, Tel.: 0631/205-3918, Fax: 0631/205-3523

Email: rahmani@asta.uni-kl.de

Website: www.asta.uni-kl.de/index.php

Thursday, August 6th, 2015 – Karlsdorf-Neuthard:

(planned) Memorial service for the 70th anniversary of Hiroshima, Organizer: Pax Christ-Gruppe Neuthard

Contact: Pax-Christi-Gruppe K.-N. Christel Henseler, Kreuzstr. 25, 76689 Karlsdorf-Neuthard, Tel.: 07251/42450

Email: allendorf.henseler@gmx.de

Internet: www.paxchristi.de

Thursday, August 6th, 2015 – Karlsruhe:

Vigil for Hiroshima Day 2015, 5-7pm, Kaiser Strasse / the corner of Waldstraße with collection of signatures for the "Open Letter to the Federal Government" calling for the prohibition and destruction of all nuclear weapons - worldwide!

(This letter was signed first by Oberbürgermeister Dr. Frank Mentrup at the hoisting of the flag "Mayors for Peace" at the Karlsruhe on the 8th of July. The signature campaign will run until Anti-War Day.), See flyer [here](#), Organizer: Peace Alliance Karlsruhe; afterwards: 7pm, movies "Wargame" by Peter Watkins GB, 1965 (47 minutes) and "The Lost Generation" by Yuten Tachibana, Japan 1982 (20 minutes), 3 studio, Kaiserpassage 6 - Cost: EUR 6, Organizer: Kinemathek in Zusammenarbeit mit der Gruppe Karlsruhe der DFG/VK

Contact: Friedensbündnis Karlsruhe, Sonnhild Thiel, Alberichstr. 9, 76185 Karlsruhe, Tel.: 0721/552270

Email: suthiel@t-online.de

Thursday, August 6th, 2015 – Kassel:

Event: "Floating Light Chain," Motto: "70 Years after the first atomic bombing – Hiroshima and Nagasaki urge" – floating lanterns on the Fulda, starting at 6:30pm, Fuldaufer (new name: Hiroshima Ufer), between the Drahtbrücke and "Spitzhacke," (at 7pm, construction of boats for the lights, around 9pm, around dusk, the launching of the boats) Organizers: Kasseler Friedensforum, Pax Christi Kassel
Contact: Kasseler Friedensforum, Germaniastr. 14, 34121 Kassel, (Infos: Barbara Römer, Tel.: 0561/2886454)

Email: peter.strutynski@gmx.de

Website: www.ag-friedensforschung.de/inis/Kassel/termine.html

Thursday, August 6th, 2015 – Kiel:

Memorial and remembrance event "Lotus flowers for Hiroshima and Nagasaki" Speakers: Hans-Werner Tovar (Mayor of Kiel), Dr. Barabar Saul-Krause (IPPNW Kiel), Music: Marko Gebbert "Songs and Texts against War and Violence," Hiroshima Park, at 7:30pm, at Kleinen Kiel, at 9pm, lotus flowers and candles on the kleinen Kiel. Organizers: Stadt Kiel (Mayors for Peace)

Contact: Friedensforum Kiel, Benno Stahn, An den Birken 18, 24111 Kiel

Email: b.stahn@kieler-friedensforum.de

Website: www.kieler-friedensforum.de

Thursday, August 6th, 2015 – Krefeld:

Hiroshima Memorial "70 Years since Hiroshima – Remembering is not enough!", 7:30pm, Alte Kirche Krefeld (with good weather, in front of the church), with "the Night of 70,000 Candles," Singing: Naomi Wddle, Flute: Max Zelzner and em Krefeld Peace Choir, See flyer [here](#), Organizer: Krefelder Friedensbündnis

Contact: Krefelder Friedensbündnis, Ingrid Vogel, Tel.: 02151/753967

Email: info@krefelder-friedensbuendnis.de

Website: www.krefelder-friedensbuendnis.de

Thursday, August 6th, 2015 – Cologne:

"Our future: nuclear weapons free" rally commemorating the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombing, Speakers: With Heinz Vogt (IPPNW - International Physicians against Nuclear War), Christian Neumann (Darmstädter Signal): "Bundeswehr and nuclear weapons," Ariane Detloff (DFG VK Cologne): "Nuclear Weapons Block - Experiences from Büchel"; Music: Blue Flower: "peace songs", 5pm, at the Dome square, See flyer [here](#), Organizer: Hiroshima-Nagasaki AK im Kölner Friedensforum

Contact: Hiroshima-Nagasaki Arbeitskreis Köln im Kölner Friedensforum, Klaus Müller, Tel.: 01520/1719977

Email: muellerkoeln@online.de

Website: koelnerfriedensforum.org

Thursday, August 6th, 2015 to Friday, August 7th, 2015 – Magdeburg:

(planned) "Night of 70,000 Candles"

Contact: Harald Rohr, Tel.: 039204/82764

Email: h.rohr@gmx.de

Thursday, August 6th, 2015 – Magdeburg:

Peace Prayer "70 Years Since the Atomic Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki," 6pm, Dom, Barlach-Mahnmal

Contact: Domprediger Giselher Quast, Am Dom 1, 39104 Magdeburg, Tel.: 0391/5433131

Email: quast@magdeburgerdom.de

Website: www.magdeburgerdom.de

Thursday, August 6th, 2015 – Mannheim:

(planned) Vigil – "Hiroshima urges: abolish nuclear weapons," Greetings: Gregory Rabus (Friedensplenum), 5pm, Mannheim Town Hall, E 5, Organizer: Mannheim Friedensplenum

Contact: Friedensbüro Mannheim, Speyerer Str. 14, 68163 Mannheim

Email: friedensplenum.mannheim@gmx.de

Website: www.frieden-mannheim.de

Thursday, August 6th, 2015 – Müllheim:

Memorial service for the victims from Hiroshima, 5pm, in front of the Protestant Stadtkirche, Werdstr., See flyer [here](#), Organizer: Friedensrat Markgräflerland

Contact: Friedensrat Markgräflerland

Email: Friedensrat-Muellheim@gmx.de

Website:

www.friedensrat.org/pages/aktionen/2015/hiroshima-gedenken-2015.php

Thursday, August 6th, 2015 – Munich:

Memorial service for the anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima; Greetings from Mayor Reiter (or a representative) to begin. After speeches and music, a peace sign with candles will shine on Stachus square. In case of rain the event will take place in a pavilion. Organizers: Münchner Friedensbündnis, Occupeace, Bündnis gegen Krieg und Rassismus.

Contact: Friedensbüro Münchner Friedensbündnis, Isabellastr. 6, 80798 München, Tel.: 089/2715917, Fax: 089/2715917

Email: friedensbuero@muenchner-friedensbuendnis.de

Website: www.muenchner-friedensbuendnis.de

Thursday, August 6th, 2015 – Neustadt on the Aisch:

Hiroshima Memorial “The Night of 70,000 Lights - Hiroshima commemoration is not enough - destroy nuclear weapons worldwide! Starting here in Germany (Büchel)!” for the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings, 9pm, Neptunbrunnen, Marktplatz, Organizers: Friedensgebetsgruppe Neustadt and the two local churches

Contact: Friedensgebetsgruppe Neustadt, Hans-Jörg Schmid, Unter dem Lehenhof 28, 91413 Neustadt a.d.Aisch, Tel.: 09161/307451

Email: b-hj.schmid@web.de

Thursday, August 6th, 2015 – Nottuln:

Memorial for the 70th Hiroshima Day, (short) Contribution: FI Nottuln, Bürgermeister Peter Amadeus Schneider, musical contribution: Suitbert Heidebüchel (Guitar), 9:30pm, at the fountain in Nottuln town center, Organizers: FI Nottuln, Bürgermeister Peter Amadeus Schneider

Contact: FI Nottuln, Robert Hülsbusch, Rudolf-Harbig-Str.49, D-48301 Nottuln, Tel.: 02502/9754, Fax: 02502/8589

Email: info@fi-nottuln.de

Website: www.fi-nottuln.de

Thursday, August 6th, 2015 – Oberhausen:

Hiroshima Day 2015 – Memorial service for Hiroshima and Nagasaki, along with the event “Night of 70,000 Candles,” Speaker: Pfarrer Andreas Loos, Musical contribution: Holger Schie, 9pm, Friedensplatz, on Brunnen, Organizers: FI Oberhausen, in Kooperation mit dem Oberhausener Friedensdorf.

Contact: FI Oberhausen, Heidi Scholz

Email: heidischolz@gmx.de

Thursday, August 6th, 2015 – Offenbach:

Evening lecture "Hiroshima, on August 6, 1945" with Prof. Dr. Lisette Gebhardt, "Narrations of Nuclear – A small literary history of extinction" and Dr. Stefan Soltek, Uwe Loesch, "Little Boy. A poster for the atomic bomb," 7:30-9pm, Herrnstr. 80, Klingspor Museum, Organizer: Klingspor Museum

Contact: Klingspor Museum Offenbach, Herrnstr. 80, 63065 Offenbach, Tel.: 069/8065-2164, Fax: 069/8065-2669

Email: KlingsporMuseum@Offenbach.de

Website:

www.offenbach.de/microsite/klingspor_museum/rubrik-3/artikel9.php

Thursday, August 6th, 2015 – Prien:

Ecumenical. Worship on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, 6pm, Marktplatz, Organizer: Local Catholic Church Prien

Contact: Kath. Pfarrverband Prien, Alte Rathausstr. 1a, 83209 Prien, Tel.: 08051/1010, Fax: 08051/3844

Email: Mariae-Himmelfahrt.Prien@erzbistum-muenchen.de

Website:

www.prien.de/de/familie_bildung/kirchen.5810.htm

Thursday, August 6th, 2015 – Regensburg:

Event "Night of 70,000 Candles," Meeting point: 8pm, Kiesbank in the Donau (a little downstream of the Iron Web)

Contact: Dr. Franz Xaver Schmid

Email: fx.schmid@web.de

Friday, August 7th, 2015 – Braunschweig:

Hiroshima-Nagasaki Demonstration, 9pm, Western Okerufer north of Jasper Avenue Bridge, from 21.30 clock, 100 candles on the Oker and reading of eyewitness reports from Hiroshima, See flyer [here](#), Organizer: Friedenszentrum Braunschweig

Contact: Friedenszentrum Braunschweig, Goslarsche Str. 93, 38118 Braunschweig, Tel.: 0531/893033, Fax: 0531/8019989

Email: friedenszentrum@arcor.de

Internet: www.friedenszentrum.info

Friday, August 7th, 2015 – Tettngang:

ThirdTettngang Light Hour, at 8pm, Montfortplatz, prayer in St. Georg Church, 9pm: Light Hour with Mayor Bruno Walter, Manne Lucha (MdL), Music: JamDoo, Proceeds benefit asylum network Tettngang

Contact: Stadtrat Hans Schöpf, Schillerstr. 14, 88069 Tettngang, Tel.: 07542/952504

Email: stadtrat@hansschoepf.de

Website: www.tettngang.de

Friday, August 7th, 2015 – Wedel:

Event “Night of 100,000 Candles” at 8pm at Wühlen pond with music and crafting lotus flowers, at 8:30pm, poems and informational texts, Speakers: Marianne Kolter (Anti-Atomkraft-Bewegung), Prof. Dr. Jürgen Scheffran (peace researcher, University of Hamburg), Peace devotional: Pastor i.R. Dr. Dietrich Stein (Dithmarschen), Music: Bläser der Kirchengemeinde Schulau, Dirk Wilke (singing and guitar), at 9:30pm, light procession down Mühlenstr. to Mühlen pond, See flyer [here](#), Organizer: Friedensnetzwerk Pinneberg

Contact: Friedenswerkstatt Wedel, Irmgard Jasker, Hasenkamp 8, 22880 Wedel, Tel.: 04103/3386, Fax: 04103/1888341
Email: irmgard@jaskers.de

Friday, August 7th, 2015 – Würselen:

Memorial service “Night of 70,000 Candles” at 9pm, Würselener Market in front of St. Sebastian, Organizer: FI Würselen

Contact: Würselener Initiative für den Frieden, Ansgar Klein, Tel.: 02405/72112

Email: haklein1963@t-online.de

Website: www.friedensinitiative-wuerselen.de

Saturday, August 8th, 2015 to Sunday, August 9th, 2015 – Duisburg:

Memorial and remembrance event “70 Years since Hiroshima and Nagasaki” with and exhibition from Saturday the 8th 10am to Sunday the 9th, 12:15am, with hourly short speech and music contributions and the lighting of candles, Livesaver-Brunnen (DU-Innenstadt), Organizers: Friedensforum Duisburg mit Unterstützung von BUND Kreisgruppe Duisburg, AntiAtom-Bündnis-Niederrhein, SJD-Die Falken KV Duisburg

Contact: Duisburger Friedensforum, Inge Holzinger, Gellertstr. 7, 47057 Duisburg, Tel.: 0203/376566, Fax: 0203/422567

Email: xx

Internet: friedensforum-duisburg.de

Saturday, August 8th, 2015 - Düsseldorf:

Vigil "No second Hiroshima! Away with nuclear missiles! No to atomic weapons!", 2pm, in front of the Carsch house, (U-Bahn station Heinrich Heine Allee, D-Innenstadt), Organizers: Düsseldorfer Friedensforum, DFG-VK Düsseldorf, Menschen für den Frieden, NaturFreunde Düsseldorf

Contact: Düsseldorfer Friedensforum, Himmelgeister Str. 107, 40225 Düsseldorf

Email: FrieFoDdf@gmx.de **Website:** friedenstreiberagentur.de/friefo/index.html

Saturday, August 8th, 2015 – Essen:

Hiroshima commemoration, 11 clock: opening of the exhibition of Mayors for Peace, City Hall; about 12pm, short demonstration / memorial walk to Marktkirche / Porschekanzel, there rally "For a world without nuclear weapons" (In case of rain it will take place in the City-Centre) with IPPNW campaign distribution of "disarmed" Flowers for our goal of an action of students / inside folded cranes, speaker: OB Reinhard Pass (OB city of Essen, Mayors for Peace), Dr. W. beam (IPPNW), Bernghard Trautvetter (EFF), See flyer [here](#),

Organizers: Stadt Essen (Mayors for Peace), IPPNW Essen, Essner Friedensforum

Contact: Essener Friedensforum, Monika Jennis, Hegerkamp 111, 45329 Essen

Email: monika.jennis@freenet.de

Website: www.essener-friedensforum.de

Saturday, August 8th, 2015 – Mülheim/Ruhr:

Ecumenical. Prayer for Peace, Start at 11am, Synagogenplatz, afterwards, silent march over Schloss- and Leinenweberstraße to Kirchenhügel, to the church of St. Mary's Birth: 11:45am, devotion with project information on the work of the "Peace Village International", Oberhausen, liturgy: Superintendent Helmut Hitzbleck, City Dean Michael Janssen; See flyer [here](#), Organizers: Kath. Stadtdekanat Mülheim, Ev. Kirchenkreis An der Ruhr

Contact: Ev. Kirchenkreises An der Ruhr, Althofstr. 9, 45468 Mülheim an der Ruhr, Tel.: 0208/3003-0, Fax: 0208/3003-151

Email: info@kirche-muelheim.de

Website: www.kirche-muelheim.de

Saturday, August 8th, 2015 – Münster:

Vigil for peace and solidarity, Münster, on the anniversary of Hiroshima, 10am-6pm, in front of the Lamberti Church, Prinzipalmarkt (Hiroshima flower cross in front of the church), silent memorial while laying flowers and looking at the posters about the consequences of the atomic bombings 70 years ago.

Contact: Mahnwache für Frieden und Solidarität Münster, Bernhard Korn

Email: kornb@muenster.de

Website: mahnwache-muenster.npage.de

Saturday, August 8th, 2015 – Viersen:

Hiroshima memorial “Hiroshima Urges – Abolish Atomic Weapons Now”, Speakers: Susanne Grabenhorst (Vors. IPPNW Germany), name not confirmed (candidates for the coming mayoral election in September and the incumbent mayor) 11am-1pm, Viersen pedestrian zone, Krefelder Street at the junction of Viktoria street, Organizer: Pax-Christi Viersen

Contact: Pax-Christi Viersen, Heinz Liedgens, Adalbert-Stifter-Str. 9, 41747 Viersen, Tel.: 02162/22950

Email: Heinz.Liedgens@t-online.de

Sunday, August 9th, 2015 – Gilching:

Worship with the ecclesiastical adviser of Pax Christi Munich & Freising, Charles Borg Manche, on the topic "70 years Hiroshima", 10 clock, parish of St. Sebastian in Gilching, Organizer: Pax Christi Gilching.

Contact: Bistumsstelle München Pax Christi, Marsstr. 5/IV, 80335 München, Tel.: 089/5438515, Fax: 089/5438515

Email: bs-muenchen@paxchristi.de

Website: www.erzbistum-muenchen.de/paxchristi

Sunday, August 9th, 2015 – Gorleben:

Sunday walk around the Gorleben mine with commemoration of the victims of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, start: 13 clock, on Salinasgelände, afterwards: (2pm) Gorleben prayer, Organizer: BI Lüchow-Dannenberg

Contact: Bürgerinitiative Umweltschutz Lüchow-Dannenberg eV, Rosenstr. 20, 29439 Lüchow, Tel.: 05841/4684, Fax: 05841/3197

Email: buero@bi-luechow-dannenberg.de

Website: www.bi-luechow-dannenberg.de

Sunday, August 9th, 2015 – Gundremmingen:

Vigil at 10:30am, in front of the Main Gate of Gundremmingen Atomic Plant, Die in: 11:02am, the time of the atomic bombing, Organizer: Mahnwache Gundremmingen

Contact: Mahnwache Gundremmingen, Thomas Wolf, Hauptstr. 204, 89343 Jettingen-Scheppach

Email: info@mahnwache-gundremmingen.de

Website: www.mahnwache-gundremmingen.de

Sunday, August 9th, 2015 –Magdeburg:

Peace prayer, 6pm, at Nagasaki Memorial Stone on the Lukas hill, Organizer: Ev. Domgemeinde Magdeburg, the city of Magdeburg (Mayors for Peace)

Contact: Domprediger Giselher Quast, Am Dom 1, 39104 Magdeburg, Tel.: 0391/5433131

Email: quast@magdeburgerdom.de

Website: www.magdeburgerdom.de

Sunday, August 9th, 2015 – Schwerte:

Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Prayer in Schwerte, with church musician Wakako Yamanaga, Members of the Ev. Womans Aid and Paster Fritz-Gunter Held, 12:15pm, Marktkirche St. Viktor, Organizers: FI Schwerte, Stadtverband der Ev. Frauenhilfen in Schwerte

Contact: FI Schwerter, Pfarrer Fritz-Günter Held

Email: fgheld@gmx.de

Thursday, August 13th, 2015 – Erfurt:

Demonstration "Memorial and Warning on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki," Greetings by Mayor Tamara Thierbach, Speakers: Sandro Witt (Vors. DGB Thüringen), Rüdiger Bender (University of Erfurt / Förderverein Topf & Sons),

musical accompaniment: Gospel Choir Phoenix Singers, Mod.: Ute Hinkeldei, 5pm at the Erfurt Anger, See flyer [here](#), Organizer: AfK Erfurt

Contact: Aktionskreis für Frieden, Ute Hinkeldei, Rigaer Str. 6/06, 99091 Erfurt, Tel.: 0361/732481

Email: aktionskreis-frieden-erfurt@gmx.de

Sunday, August 16th, 2015 –Bochum:

Reading from "Songbirds and Ravens Were No Longer There" - 70 years since the atomic bombing of Hiroshima - by Shigemi Ideguchi (1919-2001, Japan) with Rima Ideguchi and Fabian Liedtke (Bochum), 4pm, Ev. Stadtakademie Bochum, Westring 26c, costs 9 Euro.

Contact: Ev. Haus der Kirche, Westring 26c, 44787 Bochum, Tel.: 0234/962904-661, Fax 0234/962904-666

Email: office@stadtakademie.de

Website: www.stadtakademie.de/seminar-info.html?id=VkZkd1VrNVZNVzVRVkrBOQ

Sunday, August 16th, 2015 – Darmstadt:

Worship with commemoration of the atomic bombings 70 years ago, preaching: Dean Ulrike Schmidt Hesse, Participating: Darmstadt Peace Forum, Organizer: Ev. Dekanat Darmstadt

Contact: Ev. Dekanat Darmstadt- Stadt, Rheinstr. 31, 64283 Darmstadt, Tel.: 06151 1362424

Email: dekanat@evangelisches-darmstadt.de

Website: www.evangelisches-darmstadt.de

Wednesday, September 2nd, 2015 –Hannover

Lecture and discussion "The Non-Proliferation Treaty in its most severe crisis" with Xanthe Hall (IPPNW, Berlin, Straight back from negotiations on the Non-Proliferation Treaty in New York back, the IPPNW-activist reports on the meaning and the failing of the conference), 7pm, Kulturzentrum Pavillon, Lister Meile 4; See flyer [here](#), Organizer: Hiroshima Bündnis

Contact: Hiroshima Bündnis Hannover

Email: hiroshima-buendnis@t-online.de

Thursday, September 10th, 2015 – Stuttgart:

Movie " Unser Mut wird langen - nicht nur in Mutlangen " (The documentary spans from the period of nonviolent resistance in the Swabian Mutlangen up to the actions against the last stationed nuclear weapons in Germany, in the Eifel at Büchel), afterwards, an eyewitnesses conversation with Inge Jens (Tübingen). 12pm, Stuttgart town hall, Marktplatz 1, See flyer [here](#), Organizers: IPPNW Regionalgruppe Stuttgart, Pressehütte Mutlangen [to the closing of the exhibit „ Hibakusha Worldwide“]

Contact: Friedenswerkstatt Mutlangen, Forststr. 3, 73577 Mutlangen, Tel.: 07171/75661, Fax: 07171/75661

Email: post@pressehuette.de

Website: www.nuclear-risks.org/de/hibakusha-weltweit.html

Saturday, September 19th, 2015 – Hannover:

Film “Nuclear Lies” (Director Krishnapilla, India, 60 min. The film shows abuses, lies, police brutality and the plight of the population around Indian nuclear facilities), Kommunales Kino im Künstlerhaus (KoKi) Sophienstr. 2; see flyer [here](#), Organizers: Hiroshima Bündnis in cooperation with the Kulturbüro of the city of Hannover [as part of the film series „70 Years since Hiroshima – Memorials and Responsibility today”]

Contact: Hiroshima Bündnis Hannover

Email: hiroshima-buendnis@t-online.de

Sunday, September 27th, 2015 – Cologne:

Concert " Die Mauern stehen spurlos und kalt." with German poetry texts, set to music by Wolfgang Rihm and the records of survivors, Juliane Busse, piano; Hiroko Hague, soprano; Barbara Conrady-Takenaka, spokesperson, 18 clock, Carthusian, Kartäusergasse 7; See flyer here, Organizer: Hiroshima-Nagasaki AK im Kölner Friedensforum [in memory of the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings "Our Future: Free of atomic weapons!"]

Contact: Hiroshima-Nagasaki Arbeitskreis Köln im Kölner Friedensforum, Klaus Müller, Tel.: 01520/1719977

Email: muellerkoeln@online.de

Website: koelnerfriedensforum.org

Thursday, October 1st, 2015 to Sunday, November 15th – Gießen

(planned) Exhibition “Hibakusha Worldwide” – The nuclear chain – doctors and mayors against atomic weapons - Atrium, Giessen Town Hall

Contact: IPPNW, Körtestr. 10, 10967 Berlin, Tel.: 030/698074-0, Fax: 030/6938166

Email: kontakt@ipnw.de

Website: www.ipnw.de

Sunday, October 11th – Hannover:

Performance “Because Little Boy Fell from the Sky” - a literary-musical performance on the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombing, 3:30pm, Künstlerhaus, Sphienstr. 2, Organizers: Autorengruppe „Gruppe Poesie in cooperation with the Kulturbüro of the city of Hannover and the German-Japanese society Hannover Chado-Kai e.V. [as part of the Hiroshima commemorations in Hanover]

Contact: Deutsch-Japanische Gesellschaft Chado Kai, Ihmeplatz 8 / 309, 30449 Hannover, Tel.: 0511/4581328

Email: chadokai@gmx.de

Website: www.chadokai.de

Monday, October 12th to Friday, October 23rd – Hamburg:

Exhibition “Hibakusha Worldwide” – The nuclear chain – doctors and mayors against atomic weapons, University of Hamburg, Carl Friedrich von Weizsäcker-Zentrum, Beim Schlump 83, Organizers: IPPNW, ZNF

Contact: IPPNW, Körtestr. 10, 10967 Berlin, Tel.: 030/698074-0, Fax: 030/6938166

Email: kontakt@ipnw.de

Website: www.ipnw.de

For events in Austria see: www.hiroshima.at

g.ledbetter@friedenskooperative.de

<http://www.friedenskooperative.de>

France

Dominique Lalanne, Abolition 2000

Thank you for the important information you just sent to Abolition 2000. I just notice that you don't mention our international fast we organize all over the world. A recent new information is about such a fast in Japan. I am in touch with some Japanese people to make it but the organisation is not currently absolutely over.

Call of the international groups of fasters:

70 years after Hiroshima, we demand nuclear disarmament! We are groups of fasters who have decided to deny ourselves nourishment for 4 days, from August 6th, the anniversary of Hiroshima, till August 9th, the anniversary of Nagasaki, to express our total opposition to nuclear weapons, and to call for their abolition. The fast is planned at the following places: Paris, France; Dijon-Valduc, France, centre for the modernisation of French Nuclear weapons; Bordeaux-Mégajoule, France, laser research center for perfecting new nuclear weapons; Büchel, Germany, Nato base where 20 nuclear weapons are stationed; London, UK; Livermore Lab, California, NIF laser for perfecting new nuclear weapons; Los Alamos, New Mexico, laboratory for the modernisation of US nuclear weapons; Kansas City, Missouri, USA.

Jean-Marie Matagne, Action des Citoyens pour le Désarmement Nucléaire (ACDN)

Dear Friends,

We congratulate you for your 2015 World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs held from August 2 to 9 in Hiroshima and

Nagasaki. Unfortunately, we could not attend your Conference, but we organised two remembrance ceremonies in Saintes, France, for the 6 and 9 August.

Please find below some excerpts of the articles reporting these events in French and in English, and in attachment an English file of this report. Feel free to use our report and our photographs. We will appreciate to hear from any use of them by you or anybody in Japan.

We would also be happy to keep in touch with you for any further event, including our [Gathering for a Livable Nuclear-free World \(RMVD\)](#) which will take place in Saintes on 23-25 October 2015.

Portugal

Filipe Ferreira, Portuguese Council for Peace and Cooperation (CPPC)

Dear friends, Thank you very much for the information you sent and for your actions for the abolition of nuclear weapons. We would like to inform you that commemorating the anniversary of the Stockholm Appeal we are campaigning in our country for the abolition of nuclear weapons and have in that framework also contacted the 2015 NPT Review Conference.

We are also preparing actions on the anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Please see in attachment the poster we produced. Greetings of Peace.



U.K.

Tony Simpson, Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation

In addition to publishing a special issue of The Spokesman journal to mark the 70th anniversary, focusing on the grave danger of accidents and mistakes onboard the UK's 4 ageing nuclear powered and nuclear armed Trident submarines, we shall have a public demonstration in Nottingham City Centre at midday on 6 August, organised by the local branch of CND, and a book launch at FIVE LEAVES BOOKSHOP in the evening.

Carol Naughton, Coordinator, WMD Awareness

Here in the UK, WMD Awareness are holding events and a two week exhibition of nuclear weapons and popular culture throughout the last 70 years. We will launch on August 6th in Edinburgh and will have events throughout the two weeks to commemorate Nagasaki day also. This will take place in Edinburgh in Scotland then the exhibition will move round the UK.

I hope others can use their imagination to find creative ways to bring public attention to the 70th Anniversaries and inspire action for a world free of nuclear weapons. With very best wishes and a thank you for all your work.

Canada

Theresa Wolfwood, Co-ordinator, Victoria Women in Black/ Director, Barnard-Boecker Centre Foundation, Victoria

In Victoria, on August 6, from noon until 1 pm, Victoria Women in Black will gather in silent vigil on Government St. below the Tourist Office, across from the Empress Hotel. With banners and leaflets the group will call on Canadians and foreign visitors to work for complete nuclear disarmament.

U.S.A.

United for Peace and Justice

August 2015 is featured as the "Nuclear-Free Future Month" for awareness and action. Here is an exhaustive list of events organized in various places throughout the U.S.A.

<http://www.nuclearfreefuture.org/events/2015-08-06/?limit>

The NYC Chapter of Veterans for Peace, Pax Christi Metro NY, NYC War Resisters League, Ribbon International, Granny Peace Brigade,

NYC Metro Raging Grannies, CODEPINK NY, NGO Committee on Disarmament, Peace and Security, CODEPINK Long Island: Women for Peace, Peace Boat US, Peace Action NYS, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, NJ Peace Action and Manhattan Project (New York)

Peace Gathering to Commemorate 70th Anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, August 5, 2015, Noon, In front of the Consulate General of Japan in New York, 299 Park Avenue, New York, NY

70 years have passed since the U.S. dropped atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It is estimated that the bombs have killed 210,000 citizens by the end of 1945 and, over the years, have ruined the health of many of the survivors. The average age of the Hibakusha, or atomic bomb survivors, is now 79 to 80 years old, and many of them are still suffering from terrible health issues. To honor the memory of those who lost their lives to the atomic bombings, a coalition of citizens and peace activists will gather in front of the Japan Consulate General.

The coalition supports the commitment of the Japanese people to protect their peace constitution by retaining Article 9. It encourages them in their continued opposition to Japan's reliance on the U.S.-Japan military alliance and the U.S. nuclear umbrella. It endorses their efforts to enroll the Japanese government as a signatory to the Humanitarian Pledge, now joined by 113 non-nuclear weapon states. This initiative is designed "to fill the legal gap for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons" just as the world had done for chemical and biological weapons.

The coalition's conviction is that nuclear weapons must never be used again against any nation under any circumstances. The message of peace from Hibakusha to the people of the world is an appeal for all to realize a world free of nuclear weapons.

Rosemarie Pace, Director, Pax Christi Metro New York

Pax Christi Metro New York has plans for our annual Hiroshima/Nagasaki Memorial on August 9th. We will pass out the leaflet at our public vigil after the indoor presentation with Archbishop Auza. Thank you for all you do to make ours a nuclear weapons-free world.

Hiroshima/Nagasaki Memorial: This year we'll be focusing on "Catholic Morality and Nuclear Abolition," and Archbishop Bernardito Auza, Nuncio of the Holy See to the United Nations, will be our esteemed speaker. It will take place on Sunday, August 9th, starting at 2:30 PM in Casserly Hall, St. Joseph's Greenwich Village

Church. A silent procession and public vigil will follow, ending at 4:30 PM.

Mark D. Stansbery, Community Organizing Center, Columbus, Ohio

August 6, 2015, 7:30 p.m.: Peace Vigil @ Goodale Park Gazebo

August 8, 2015, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00p.m.: Peace Activist Conference @ First Unitarian Universalist Church, 93 Weisheimer Rd., Columbus, Ohio, discussions about how to organize for peace and people in the planet dominated by profit.

August 9, 2015, 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. World Premier of Taubes VII (Hiroshima Set) by Rocco di Pietro @ Columbus Mennonite Church

Rick Wayman, Director of Programs & Operations, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, Santa Barbara, California

At the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, on August 6, we will hold our 21st Annual Sadako Peace Day ceremony in Santa Barbara, California. The event remembers the innocent victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, as well as all innocent victims of war. There will be music, poetry, reflection, and a keynote address by Paul K. Chappell, a veteran of the Iraq War who is now the Peace Leadership Director at the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation. The event's name, Sadako Peace Day, is for Sadako Sasaki.

Leonard Elger, Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, Seattle

***Join an event/action near you.** If you are in the Puget Sound Region **join Ground Zero Center from August 7th through the 10th** for our annual Hiroshima/Nagasaki weekend of remembrance and action. [Click here](#) for the full schedule and more. If you are not from these parts find an event going on near you by [clicking here](#). You can still join the **Pacific Northwest Interfaith Peace Walk**, even for a day. [Click here to find the latest detailed schedule](#) and contact information for the walk. More actions by other organizations further on in this email.

***Pass out leaflets with some very interesting facts on the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.** The leaflet was prepared by Ground Zero Leafleteers, and also invites people to join us for our annual event. [Click here to download the leaflet.](#)

***Write a Letter to the Editor.** [Click here](#) for some ideas from Physicians for Social Responsibility. [Click here](#) for submission guidelines for a host of newspapers around the country.

[*Send a message to President Obama to keep his promise!](#) It was President Obama who created the expectation that our country would lead a global effort to rid the world of nuclear weapons. In his Prague speech in April, 2009 he committed the U.S. to this goal: "I state clearly and with conviction America's commitment to seek the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons."

[*Join the International Fast commemorating the atomic bombings.](#) [Click here for all the details](#) and contacts for more information.

[*Join in the 70th anniversary "Thunderclap!"](#) PSR has partnered with Nuclear Threat Initiative and other sister organizations in a massive social media campaign to raise awareness about nuclear weapons. [Check it out](#) if you're a TWITTER user.

OTHER EVENTS AROUND THE SOUND

"Little Boy (folded)" at Seattle Asian Art Museum. On Wednesday, August 5th In honor of the 70th anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility is facilitating the exhibition of a powerful sculpture on the front steps of the Seattle Asian Art Museum. It will be on display all day on Wednesday, August 5th, 9:00AM to 6:00PM, and the artist (whose grandfather was a Nagasaki survivor) will be on hand to speak with visitors. Please [read the press release](#) to fully understand this exhibit. There is a

Facebook page for the event. <https://www.facebook.com/events/813325002119564/>

Hiroshima to Hope lantern ceremony at Seattle's Green Lake, August 6, starting at 6:00PM. Many from Ground Zero and the Peace Walk will participate. [Click here](#) to learn more at their website.

Bike Around the Bomb on Sunday, August 9th at 2:00 PM at the International Fountain, Seattle Center, Seattle. Join Global Zero on the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Japan as we cycle what would be the edge of a "small" nuclear blast in Seattle and call on President Obama to keep his promise to "seek the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons." The event will be one of many corresponding events around the world, serving as a powerful reminder that nuclear weapons were designed to wipe cities like ours off the map. [Click here to RSVP](#) for the event.

The [Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action Facebook page](#) is the place to be to keep up with everything we're up to and lots more. We also have a Facebook page dedicated to the [NO To NEW TRIDENT campaign](#), and the campaign has its own website as well at [NOTNT.ORG](#). And for now, until the Ground Zero website is rebuilt you can get all the details on events at the Puget Sound Nuclear Free Zone blog's "[Local Events Calendar](#)."

Program of Events of the 2015 World Conference against A and H Bombs (August 1 to 10, 2015)

August 1 (Sat.)

Arrival in Hiroshima; Dedication of flowers to Hiroshima A-Bomb Memorial Cenotaph (Peace Park);
Visit to Peace Memorial Museum; Registration (Hotel Sunroute Hiroshima)
Information meeting for overseas delegates (Hotel Sunroute Hiroshima)

August 2 (Sun.)

Visit to A-bomb survivors (Hiroshima Red Cross A-Bomb Hospital and Funairi-Mutsumien Nursing Home)
Opening and Plenary Sessions I & II, International Meeting (Hiroshima Bunka Koryu Kaikan Hall)

August 3 (Mon.)

Plenary Session III, International Meeting (Hiroshima Bunka Koryu Kaikan Hall)
Workshops, International Meeting (Hiroshima Bunka Koryu Kaikan Hall and Tsuru Gakuen School)
Drafting Committee Meeting (Hotel Sunroute Hiroshima)

August 4 (Tue.)

Closing Session, International Meeting (Hiroshima Bunka Koryu Kaikan Hall)
Opening Plenary, 2015 World Conference against A and H Bombs - Hiroshima
(Green Arena, Hiroshima Prefectural Gymnasium)
Ring! Link! Zero 2015 (Youth program) (Small Arena, Prefectural Gymnasium)

August 5 (Wed.)

Workshops (different venues throughout Hiroshima City)
International Forum: "Achieving a Nuclear Weapon-Free World - Dialogue between Governments
and NGOs" (Tsuru Gakuen School)
*Special Event: For a Nuclear Weapon-Free World -- Forum of Hibakusha and Citizens to Mark the
70th Anniversary of the A-bombing (organized by the Japan Confederation of A-and H-Bomb Sufferers
Organizations, Hiroshima Bunka Koryu Kaikan Hall)*
No Nukes! Women's Forum 2015 (Small Arena, Prefectural Gymnasium)

August 6 (Thurs.)

Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony (Peace Park)
70th Anniversary Hiroshima Day Rally, 2015 World Conference against A and H Bombs (Hiroshima
Prefectural Gymnasium)
Lantern floating ceremony (Motomachi River Park, North of Aioi Bridge)

August 7 (Fri.)

Move to Nagasaki by chartered bus
Gathering of Nagasaki: Rally & Cultural Program (Nagasaki Shimin Kaikan Gymnasium)

August 8 (Sat.)

Theme-Based Meetings/Forum (Various places in Nagasaki City)
International Forum: "Achieving a Nuclear Weapon-Free World - Dialogue between Governments
And NGOs" (School of Economics, Nagasaki University)

August 9 (Sun.)

Closing Plenary/ Nagasaki Day Rally, 2015 World Conference against A and H Bombs (Nagasaki Shimin
Kaikan Gymnasium)
Nagasaki Day Street Signature Campaign (Guroganebashi Bridge at Hamanomachi Arcade)
Farewell Party (Washington Hotel)

August 10 (Mon.)

Departure; Visit to local groups

List of Organizing Committee Members of the World Conference against A and H Bombs (As of August 2015)

Member Organizations (INPO):

National Confederation of Trade Unions (ZENROREN)
All Japan Teachers and Staff Union (ZENKYO)
Japan Federation of Private University Teachers' and Employees' Unions
All Judicial Workers' Union
Labor Union of MLIT (Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport, Tourism), JMA (Japan Meteorological Agency) and Affiliates
All Japan Non-Life Insurance Labor Union
Japan Social Welfare and Child-Nursing Workers Union
National Confederation of Automobile Transportation Workers Unions
Japanese Democratic Writers Association
National Council of Singing Voice of Japan Organizations
Japan Federation of Women's Organizations (FUDANREN)
All Japan Federation of Student Unions (ZENGAKUREN)
League of Public Order Maintenance Law Victims for State Compensation
Japan Peace Committee
Japan-Eurasia Society
Japan-China Friendship Association
Japan Asia Africa Latin America Solidarity Committee
Japan Family Farmers Movement (NOUMINREN)
All Health and Welfare Ministry Workers Union
National General Workers Union - National Confederation of Trade Unions
Congress of Poets
National Federation of Tenants' Associations
Japan Federation of Democratic Medical Institutions (MIN-IREN)
National Council of Visual Disabled in Japan
New Japan Women's Association (SHINFUJIN)
Japan Customs Personnel Labour Union
Japan Federation of National Public Service Employees' Unions
Japan Federation of Publishing Workers' Unions
National Federation of Financial Industry Workers' Unions
Japanese Red Cross Society Workers' Union
Film and Allied Workers' Union
Japan Realist Photographers Association
Japan Scientists' Association
Association for Workers Education of Japan
Women's Democratic Club
Japan Council of Religionists for Peace
Japan Christians' Association for Peace
Japan Council against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs (GENSUIKYO)
Workers' Union of Health Insurance Hospitals
National Government Employees' Mutual Aid Association Hospital Workers' Union
Postal Industry Workers' Union
All Japan Construction, Transport and General Workers' Union
Japan Federation of Medical Workers' Unions
Japan National Hospital Workers' Union
Japan-Korea Friendship Association
Japan Center, Asian Buddhists Conference for Peace
Democratic Youth League of Japan
National Federation of Traders and Producers Organizations (ZENSHOREN)

All Japan Federation of Medical Students Self-governing Associations
 Central Liaison Conference of Youth and Students for a Bright Progressive Japan
 Japan-Cambodia Friendship Association
 National Confederation of Human Rights Movements in the Community
 National Campaign Committee for Abrogation of the Japan-US Security Treaty
 National Workers Union of Social Insurance Fee Fund
 Japan-Vietnam Friendship Association
 National Federation of Environmental Pollution Patients' Organizations
 National Federation of Associations for Safeguarding Living and Health
 New Japan Medical Association (Shin-I-Kyo)
 All Justice Ministry Employees' Union
 Liberty Lawyers Guild
 National Forum for Peace, Democracy and Progressive Unity
 New Japan Tanka Poets Association
 All Japan Congress of Realist Theaters
 National Council of Graduate Students
 All Labor Ministry Workers' Union
 All Japan Confederation of Warehouse and Transport Workers' Unions
 National Council of Securities Industry Workers Unions
 Water Resources Development Corporation Workers' Union
 National Federation of JA Hospital Workers Unions
 National Workers' Union of Labor Accident Hospitals
 Liaison Conference of Cultural Organizations
 Japan Clerks Union
 Warabi-za Theater Group
 Joint Struggle Conference of Welfare Ministry Workers Unions
 Faculty and Staff Union of Japanese Universities
 Japan Congress of Recreation Leaders
 Workers Union of Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry
 Tele-Communication Workers' Union
 All Japan Metal and Information Machinery Workers' Union (JMIU)
 Japan Federation of Prefectural and Municipal Workers' Unions (Jichiroren)
 National Federation of Agricultural Co-op Workers Unions
 Tokyo Metropolitan and Ward Governments Workers' Union
 Legal Assistance and Human Rights Association of Japan
 Japanese Federation of Commercial Broadcasting Workers' Unions
 National Tax Office Workers' Union
 Japan-Cuba Friendship Association
 Japanese Medical and Dental Practitioners for the Improvement of Medical Care
 Association for a Non-Nuclear Government
 Japan Federation of Co-op Labor Unions
 Japan Pensioners' Union

Observer

Federation of National Diet Workers' Unions

Committee of Chairpersons:

AKAMATSU Koichi	Representative Director, Japan Council against A and H Bombs
ANZAI Ikuro	Director, Anzai Science & Peace Office (ASAP)
ANIYA Masaaki	Professor emeritus, Okinawa International University
ARAKAWA Yosei	Buddhist monk/ Director General, Japan Council of Religionists for Peace
EJIRI Mihoko	Former President, Japan YWCA/ Professor emeritus, Tsuda College
OMORI Masanobu	Professor emeritus, Hiroshima University
OGATA Yasuo	Executive Committee Vice-Chairperson, Japanese Communist Party

OGAWA Seiryō	Professor emeritus, Japan College of Social Work
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KAWASAKI Yohei	President, All Japan Federation of Student Unions
KOKUBUN Minoru	President, National Federation of Traders and Producers Organizations
SATO Mitsuo	Representative Director, Japan Peace Committee
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TSUBOI Shunji	Japan-Eurasia Society/ Former Executive member of Japan Consumers' Cooperative Union
HATADA Shigeo	Researcher of International Politics
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HAYASHI Tatsuya	Advisor, Hiroshima YMCA
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MIKAMI Mitsuru	Co-Chairperson, National Center for Children's Rights, Education and Culture
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Co-Chairpersons of the Steering Committee:

TAKAKUSAKI Hiroshi	Japan Council against A and H Bombs
NOGUCHI Kunikazu	Japan Scientists Association



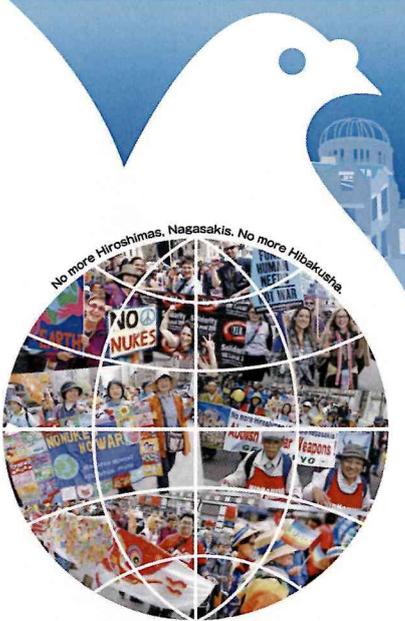
Soprano singer Erika Colon-Ishikawa singing “A Song in Praise of the Bombed Maria”



Organizing Committee
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核兵器のない平和で公正な世界を

被爆70年を転換点に



No more Hiroshimas, Nagasakis. No more Hibakushas.

NO NUKES

NO MORE NUCLEAR WAR

NO MORE NUCLEAR WEAPONS

2015 World Conference against A&H Bombs

❖ 原水爆禁止 2015年世界大会