Call from Hiroshima

Give back my father, give back my mother; Give back the elderly, give back children;
Give back myself, To connect to myself, give back humanity.

“Atomic Bomb Poetry Collection” by TOGE Sankichi

On this day in the 74th year of the suffering of Hiroshima from an atomic bomb, we remember the poem “Give back humanity” by an “A-bomb poet”.

The atom bomb neither allowed humans to die humane deaths, nor to live humane lives. Totally ruining human dignity, it was a weapon of ultimate inhumanity. We must never allow any use of nuclear weapons. Their elimination is the only absolute guarantee to root out the danger of nuclear weapons, and hence an urgent task for the survival of the human race.

It will soon be the 75th year of A-bomb sufferings. Bearing in mind the desire of the Hibakusha for the “elimination of nuclear weapons in our lifetime”, we have to make a leap to strengthen our movement in order to achieve “a world without nuclear weapons”. Let us stand up for the global action for 2020 set out in the “Declaration of the International Meeting”.

The danger of nuclear weapons is not something of the past. The United States is stepping up its posture on the use of nuclear weapons. The expiration of the INF treaty could lead to the nightmare of a nuclear arms race. The Nuclear Five are opposing the TPNW, turning their backs on the agreements reached by past NPT review conferences.

“Nuclear Deterrence Doctrine”, with the logic that “nuclear weapons are the guarantee of security”, is already bankrupt because of the revelation of their inhuman consequences. The entry into force of the TPNW is only a matter of time. The resistance by the forces that cling to nuclear weapons is an expression of their isolation.

To overcome the resistance and achieve further advance towards the elimination of nuclear weapons, let us build ever broader cooperation between grassroots movements, civil society and non-nuclear governments.

In cooperation with mayors and local assembly members, let us unfurl a signature campaign in support of the “International Hibakusha Appeal”, which aims to collect hundreds of millions of signatures worldwide, from our regions and local communities. Let us call on the Japanese government to break away from the US “nuclear umbrella” and join the TPNW.

The number of local governments that have adopted resolutions urging the Japanese government to sign and ratify the TPNW exceeds 400. Let us drastically increase this number. We demand the abrogation of the Japan-US secret nuclear agreements, strict implementation of the three Non-Nuclear Principles and their legislation.

Let us bring success to the world conference against A and H bombs in New York and international joint actions on the eve of the 2020 NPT Review Conference. Let us send delegations from all over the country.

Let us strengthen our campaign to make known to the public the damage from the A-bombings and reveal the inhumanity of nuclear weapons. Let us organize “A-bomb exhibitions” and meetings to listen to Hibakusha in every region and local community. Let us intensify our support for and solidarity with the Hibakusha in their demand for drastic improvement of the A-bomb disease recognition system and the establishment of the principle of state compensation. Let us win an expansion of the designated “black rain area” and thus achieve the relief of many sufferers.

Let us strengthen our campaign for the prevention of the Abe-led revision of Article 9 and the repeal of the war laws. In firm solidarity with “All Okinawan” people in their struggle for their dignity, let us
demand the cessation of the construction of the new base at Henoko Bay in Nago and the immediate return of the Futenma base to the Okinawa people. Let us oppose the military build-up, as well as the consolidation of the Japan-US military alliance.

For the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and peace building in East Asia, let us demand diplomacy from the Japanese Government based on the peace principle of the Constitution. The improvement of the now deteriorating Japan-ROK relations requires that Japan take a sensible attitude separating politics from economics and based on a critical reflection on its past aggression and colonial rule. Let us build on a huge scale solidarity between civil society movements for peace in Japan, the Republic of Korea and in the whole of East Asia.

We oppose the restart of nuclear power plants. Let us demand a break away from nuclear power and conversion to renewable energy. Let us strengthen campaigns for the protection of the global environment. We need to extend movements against the destruction of employment and people’s living, poverty and the widening economic gap, and for a cut in military expenditures and protection of social welfare and education. Let us end all forms of discrimination, achieve gender equality and expand the rights of LGBT people. Let us oppose all forms of violation of the freedom of expression.

Bringing these movements together and further building cooperation between citizens and opposition parties, let us press the government to play a role befitting of the only A-bombed country.

Carrying desires for peace and against nuclear weapons from all over the country through peace marches and other forms of action and now assembled in Hiroshima, we send out our call to the world: Let us build the broadest possible cooperation for the dignity of all people, hand in hand with all who desire to live lives befitting of human beings. Together with Hibakusha, and together with young people, let us open up our future.

No More Hiroshimas, No More Nagasakis, No More Hibakusha, No More War!

August 6, 2019
2019 World Conference against A and H Bombs - Hiroshima