

2021 World Conference against A & H Bombs -- Hiroshima Day Rally

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My name is Mimaki from Hiroshima, representing Nihon Hidankyo.

Eighty years ago, with what thought did the Japanese military decide to launch a surprise attack on Pearl Harbor? A handful of politicians and military officials pushed Japan into the war, which took many people's lives and properties until it ended in August 15, 1945. The atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were the finishing blow of a war that this country started. The lives of little children and infants had to end just two or three years after their births were blessed by their families. How did A-bomb orphans survive without their parents? The stories of these children touch our hearts deeply.

Under the militarist ideology, the precious lives of these human beings had to end 76 years ago. Is there any way for us to take actions globally to eliminate nuclear weapons and bring about a peaceful world?

I hope that politicians of each country in the world learn from the tragedy that took place in Hiroshima and Nagasaki 76 years ago. Who would have imagined that 76 years after August 6, 1945, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons would enter into force in the United Nations?

What was Hiroshima like on that day? What did people in Hiroshima have to go through? What was it like in areas around 1 km, 10 km, and 50 km from the hypocenter? Events that happened 76 years ago are not an "old story" or a "fairy tale". When the A-bomb exploded, its temperature rose to 3 or 4 thousand degrees Celsius. At the moment of the explosion, a blast of several hundred thousand atmospheres was generated, blowing people away. The blast collapsed buildings, people were trapped underneath, and many of them were burnt to death in huge fires. Even if they survived that day, many of those who were badly burnt died within a few days. People who came into Hiroshima to rescue A-bomb victims were exposed to invisible radiation. By the end of that year, about 140,000

people had lost their lives.

On March 10, 1945, the Great Tokyo Air Raid killed 100,000 people in one night. At that time, I was three years old and living in Tokyo's Itabashi Ward with my parents and my newborn brother. If the Japanese military had declared defeat at that point, there would have been no suicide missions by young soldiers, no ground battle in Okinawa, and no atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. I must say that crimes committed by the Japanese military were infinite.

Right now, about 14,000 nuclear weapons exist in the world. The preamble of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which was adopted by the United Nations in July 2017, states, "Mindful of the unacceptable suffering of and harm caused to the victims of the use of nuclear weapons (hibakusha)." The Treaty prohibits the development, possession, use, and threat of use of nuclear weapons.

The Treaty entered into force thanks to the efforts of more than 50 countries. But nuclear weapons states and countries that rely on their nuclear umbrella, including Japan, have not signed or ratified it.

Please imagine what would have happened to you if you had been in Hiroshima on August 6, 76 years ago. Look at the sky over Hiroshima. Imagine the scene of the B-29 bomber Enola Gay flying in and dropping an atomic bomb. Unless we eliminate nuclear weapons, the most dangerous of weapons, from the earth, it is impossible for us human beings to survive.

If human beings could be born again, I would want every single person who had to die in the A-bombing to be reborn and come back to Hiroshima. I would want them to enjoy watching TV and riding the Shinkansen train. The love between parents and children, the love between husband and wife, opportunities for children to learn, and family bonds were cruelly taken away from them. When I think about it, it makes me feel great pain and sadness. I cannot help crying.

We must prevent nuclear weapons from destroying the world.

For the sake of humanity, with a strong will, let us continue to earnestly call for the abolition of nuclear weapons.