

## **International Meeting, 2020 World Conference against A and H Bombs**

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Dear participants of the world conference, dear colleagues, dear friends.

It is the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the nuclear attacks against Hiroshima and Nagasaki and for the first time we are not able to sit together to discuss the consequences of the criminal acts on August 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. The Corona pandemic shows as again how fragile the world is, how dependent we are and that we have to fight for every single life – day to day.

What to say after 75 years of Hiroshima and Nagasaki!

Has everything not already been said?

The human consequences of the bombings have been told to us by the Hibakushas. Thanks to the next generation, they are again and again sharing the stories of the victims and their suffering to the world and above all the youth. The geostrategic impacts were explained. It was not only an attack against the fascist Japan; it was the beginning of the cold war, a demonstration of the brutal power of the USA to the world, and especially the Soviet Union, who was suffering from 27 million victims after defending their country and liberating the world from the fascist threat at their political borders. It was an imperialistic criminal act. The political consequences were seen: the nuclear arms race continues today; the moral and ethical consequences were obvious: never again.

Since those moments on August 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, people all around the world have been doing everything in their power to fight again and again to ensure that a new nuclear war never happens; that is the historical success of the worldwide peace movement, and above all the actions of the Japanese activists which have inspired millions in their own country and across the globe to fight against the next and final nuclear catastrophe.

So has everything been said?

My answer is no, no and again no. The famous German Poet Bertolt Brecht said it in his famous poem “mankind`s memory” in 1952 (in German and

English for understanding not only the words but the “atmosphere” of the poem:

Lasst uns das tausendmal Gesagte immer wieder sagen,  
damit es nicht einmal zu wenig gesagt wurde!  
Lasst uns die Warnungen erneuern,  
und wenn sie schon wie Asche in unserem Mund sind!  
Denn der Menschheit drohen Kriege,  
gegen welche die vergangenen wie armselige Versuche sind,  
und sie werden kommen ohne jeden Zweifel,  
wenn denen, die sie in aller Öffentlichkeit vorbereiten,  
nicht die Hände zerschlagen werden.

Let us say what has been said a thousand times over again,  
so that it won't be understated!  
Let us renew the warnings,  
even if they are already like ashes in our mouth!  
For mankind is threatened with war,  
against which the past attempts are as miserable as they are poor,  
and they will come without a doubt,  
if those who prepare them in public  
do not have their hands crushed.

What does it mean to say it again and again today?

The world is spending nearly two trillion on the military and every second 10.000 children are dying of hunger. The Pentagon wants to spend One Trillion more for new nuclear weapons in the next 20 years.

Tests of nuclear weapons are no longer out of the discussion.

All nuclear weapons-possessing countries are modernizing their nuclear arsenals, to create better, more effective killing machines – above all the so-called mini nukes.

The European Union is starting an intensive program of militarization and has considered becoming a nuclear weapons power itself. Even in Germany, politicians and strategic thinkers dream about owning nuclear weapons or becoming an active part of the so-called Europe bomb.

My distinguished colleagues informed in detail about the nuclear horror happened august 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>..

The summary must be: A nuclear war that would destroy the whole planet is possible, feasible and not unrealistic! Never forget the Doomsdale clock, the warning of the most famous nuclear scientists.

But everywhere that one finds dangers they can also find resistance.

The 75 years after Hiroshima has been 75 years of resistance. The biggest success is that there has not been a new nuclear attack, no nuclear attack has happened since Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Plans and strategies have existed and continue to exist throughout these 75 years!

This is the main achievement of the worldwide peace movement. Without the worldwide peace movement's activities all these years, fighting against the bomb and suffering repression at the hands of their governments, I am in doubt that world would still exist! The actions of the peace movement help billions of people to understand what a nuclear war means, changing the consciousness of millions and creating a power and a constellation of relations which make it impossible to start a nuclear war. The peace movement was never alone; there was support from governments, politicians, parliamentarians, churches, and trade unions. But the peace movements were the driving forces, never giving up That is our historical achievement. And do not forget the Japanese activists and organizations were one, or better to say the most important figure in the international peace movement and in their fight against nuclear weapons!

We should not forget this when we continue fighting for a world without nuclear weapons. This fight will be still be long and intensive and definitely face backlash. We are not only fighting against a murderous weapon system, we are fighting against the power structure of the world; nuclear weapons are equated with international power and influence by the heads of the governments around the world. More actions and a much stronger worldwide peace movement are needed to overcome this image of international power and to create a more democratic and sustainable world without nuclear weapons and war.

We have to strengthen the international peace movement. That is our challenge for a nuclear weapon free world and as a first important step for realizing the ban treaty.

My lessons 75 Years after Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

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