

## Nagasaki Peace Declaration

People of Japan and people of the world, please listen to the message of Nagasaki. Please try to hear the cries of the tens of thousands of people who died in the Nagasaki atomic bombing forty-eight years ago.

The atomic bomb formed a huge fireball of several million degrees Centigrade at the instant of explosion over Nagasaki, assailing the ground below with ferocious heat rays, blast and radiation.

People were instantly transformed to black corpses and scattered over the rubble, or died losing their hair and vomiting blood while searching for a last earthly drink of water. Plants burned, houses collapsed and a cataclysmic conflagration spread from this Urakami region.

Today is the sad anniversary of the atomic bombing. We have gathered in this hypocenter area to remember the atomic bomb victims and to renew our aspiration for peace.

### 1. Let us recall the past, look at the present and make resolutions for the future

Japan must reflect upon its aggression in Asia, clarify its war responsibilities, and faithfully discharge its postwar duties. On the basis of that reflection, the Japanese people must strive for the globalization of the spirit of peace and renunciation of war inherent in the Japanese constitution and tenaciously appeal to the international community for the establishment of lasting peace.

As the mission of an atomic bombed city, the citizens of Nagasaki will make their utmost efforts to bring about the abolition of nuclear weapons—the weapons that are capable of annihilating all humanity.

### 2. The threat of nuclear weapons continues

The leaders of the nuclear states and countries that aspire to become nuclear states adhere to the theory of nuclear deterrence, that is, the theory that possession of nuclear weapons guarantees national security. The abolition of nuclear weapons is impossible as long as this theory persists.

At the summit meeting in July this year, the leaders of the advanced countries issued a joint statement calling for the indefinite extension of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty in two years time and seeking the participation of all the countries of the world. However, this treaty is not aimed at the abolition of nuclear weapons. It is imperative that nuclear testing be immediately halted and multinational negotiations convened to achieve an international agreement for a complete ban on nuclear weapons.

In Russia, meanwhile, the dismantling and disposal of nuclear weapons is not proceeding, and there is evidence that Russia has been dumping radioactive wastes in the Japan Sea and other sites. The establishment of an international system of cooperation to prevent global nuclear contamination is obviously necessary.

### 3. The atomic bomb survivors relief law should be enacted as proof of Japan's stand against nuclear weapons

The atomic bombings were genocidal atrocities inexcusable from the standpoint of both humanity and international law. But for ten years after the bombings no relief whatever was extended. I ask you to consider the feelings of the survivors, who continue to live in fear as they advance into old age. I believe that the Japanese government, which renounced its right to demand reparations from the United States in the San Francisco Peace Treaty, is obligated to provide assistance to the atomic bomb survivors.

Approximately 70% of Japan's regional assemblies and more than two-thirds of its Diet members support the enactment of the relief law. This is surely a national consensus. I ask the Japanese government to quickly enact the atomic bomb survivors relief law in keeping with the spirit of natural compensation and as evidence of its stand against the evil and inhumanity of nuclear weapons.

4. Let us extend assistance to non-Japanese atomic bomb survivors and a helping hand to victims of nuclear tests and nuclear power plant accidents

People from Korea, China and other countries were brought to Japan by force and subjected to inhuman treatment. Many died in the atomic bombings or returned to their own countries and are now suffering from atomic bomb disease, old age and solitude.

There are also many other people suffering from the effects of nuclear tests and nuclear power plant accidents. We should extend assistance to these people.

Nagasaki City joined Nagasaki Prefecture and Nagasaki University in establishing the "Nagasaki Association for Hibakushas' Medical Care" to accept overseas physicians for training, to dispatch Japanese physicians abroad and to provide medical treatment for non-Japanese HIBAKUSHA. We are now making efforts to promote this association.

5. What must the Japanese people do, at home and abroad, as members of the international community?

The storage in this country of huge amounts of plutonium has given rise to increasing concern in the Asia/Pacific region that Japan plans to build nuclear weapons. The Japanese government must enact as low the three-fold non-nuclear principle, demonstrate its commitment never to build nuclear weapons, and lead the movement for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

The Earth is ailing. It is besieged with urgent problems such as starvation, refugees, wars due to ethnic and religious confrontation, and environmental destruction. By limiting our own lifestyles, Japanese people should assist in the conservation of the global environment and in the relief of starving people and refugees. I believe that the use of force is a mistaken means to the solution of disputes. The world's major arms exporters are also permanent members of the U.N. Security Council. Let us urge these countries to promote disarmament and to suspend arms exports.

6. To young people: Let us make the 21st century a century of peace

Forty-eight years ago, a whole young generation with dreams and ambitions just like yours lost everything in the flash of the atomic bombs, exposed in schools, homes and factories. Taking the life of other people or threatening the safety of other countries is absolutely inexcusable. I ask you to study carefully the records of the atomic bombings and the history of the war, to realize the horror of armed conflict, and to share your realization with others in order to prevent further wars. I ask you to work for peace and thereby to fulfill your dreams and ideals.

7. Nagasaki will continue to inform the world about the importance of peace

The atomic bombings caused brutal deaths and terrible destruction. Then the war ended. During the four-month period from the instant of the explosion, more than 70,000 people perished in Nagasaki. And today 64,000 survivors are living silently in the throes of old age and illness. We must never forget this miserable sacrifice. It is the duty of the citizens of Nagasaki to relentlessly inform the world about the atrocity of the atomic bombings and the importance of peace.

Nagasaki City is now striving to organize a meeting of the U.N. Disarmament Conference in this city on the 50th anniversary of the atomic bombing in 1995.

I ask the delegates of the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity to take concrete measures for the cooperation of all world cities in the cause of world peace.

In conclusion, I offer prayers for the repose of the souls of the atomic bomb victims and for the prosperity of the survivors and bereaved families, and I declare the determination of the citizens of Nagasaki to strive for the abolition of nuclear weapons and for the realization of world peace.

Hitoshi Motoshima  
Mayor of Nagasaki  
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