



Mayors for Peace

Secretariat

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February 26, 2008

Madame Bernadette Schmitt
Maire de Saintes
Mmes et MM. les Adjoints et Conseillers
Mairie
Square André Maudet
17100 – Saintes
FRANCE

Dear Mayor Schmitt,

Dear Deputy Mayors and Councilors,

It has come to my attention that you will soon be considering whether to join the Mayors for Peace network. I do not normally give attention to the decisions of individual cities. Over the last five years, cities join at the rate of over one a day; so it would be quite impossible to invest time in each one.

Saintes is special for many reason: its association with the international Abolition 2000 Network, its Flame for Nuclear Disarmament lit up by survivors of the A-Bombing when the Hiroshima World Peace Mission, its Tree of Hiroshima, its Rally for International Disarmament, Nuclear, Biological and Chemical, regularly organized in your City by the Action of Citizens for the total Dismantling of Nukes. As I wrote previously, I will not be able to attend the next RID-NBC, 9-11 May, but I hope that *hibakusha* will participate in it and seize the offered opportunity of planting another Tree to remind of Nagasaki. Remembering the victims of the A-bombings must help mankind to prevent such a tragic fate to other persons in any other city.

You are already doing the kinds of things we encourage our members to do. By joining Mayors for Peace you will be able to more closely coordinate your activities with the international 2020 Vision Campaign, thereby enhancing both.

I am well aware of the special character of the nuclear debate in France, and have great admiration for those who have resisted the concept of 'dissuasion' despite it alleged role in national grandeur.

On the contrary, it is the tradition of global solidarity upheld by cities such as Saintes which makes France a great country in the eyes of others.

Respectfully yours,

Tadatoshi Akiba
Mayor of Hiroshima
President
Mayors for Peace