



Mayors for Peace

Secretariat

C/O Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation, 1-5 Nakajima-cho Naka-ku Hiroshima 730-0811 Japan
Phone:81-82-242-7821 Fax:81-82-242-7452 E-mail:mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

It is an honor and pleasure to send this message on the occasion of the event to commemorate the atomic bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

A single atomic bomb, dropped on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945, indiscriminately claimed the lives of many innocent people and permanently altered the lives of survivors, imprinting itself on their minds and bodies to the end of their days. The atomic bomb is the ultimate inhumane weapon and an absolute evil.

Our *hibakusha* have lived through harsh, painful circumstances and have continued to reveal the utter inhumanity of nuclear weapons and communicate their longing for peace. They hope that the people of the world will come to share this longing and choose the right path.

In response to this desire of the many *hibakusha* who overcame pain and grief, the rest of us must become the force that drives the struggle to abolish nuclear weapons. To that end, Mayors for Peace whose membership is more than 6,000 cities, in collaboration with the UN and like-minded NGOs, seek to abolish nuclear weapons by 2020 and throw our full weight behind the early achievement of a nuclear weapons convention.

The average age of the *hibakusha*, whose heartfelt desire is to witness the elimination of nuclear weapons within their lifetimes, is now over 78 years. Toward the earliest possible realization of a world free from nuclear weapons, we want many people both at home and abroad to fully share the *hibakusha*'s experiences and their desire for peace, and to work with us to eradicate such weapons. In this sense, the event to commemorate the atomic bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki is truly significant and I extend my deepest respect for your commitment.

I would like to ask all of you, in response to the *hibakusha*'s desire, to continue to strive with us to eliminate the absolute evil of nuclear weapons and achieve a peaceful world.

In closing, I extend my best wishes for the good health and happiness of all in attendance.

August 6, 2014

MATSUI Kazumi
Mayor of Hiroshima
President of Mayors for Peace