

International Meeting Session III
2025 World Conference against A and H Bombs

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Eighty years after the nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, it is high time to reflect on future action by the Peace Movement. In its endeavor to make our planet safer and a better place for the overwhelming majority of mankind.

I believe we have 3 challenges to address, each resulting from misinterpretations and abuses of three concepts which are not only threatening the quality of our existence but also undermining the prospects of our survival.

Those are the concepts of mass media, mass production and mass destruction. With your kind permission, contrary to what I did before in the World Conference, I am going to focus on the last concept that is mass destruction with special reference to the situation of the Middle East. And this is in conformity with the valuable advice of the esteemed organizers of the World Conference.

Before proceeding to speak about the Middle East, taking into account what happened in Hiroshima and Nagasaki eighty years ago, I should extend the warmest congratulations to the Hibakusha for having been awarded the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize.

The great moral of the Hibakusha is that they did not project their agony on others, but they struggled to alleviate potential sufferings of all mankind from the implementation of vicious concept of mass destruction to which they are the victim.

And indeed, it is not only the Hibakusha who should be congratulated for the Nobel Peace Prize, but it is also the Nobel Committee which is honored with the Hibakusha; especially that several Nobel prizes were awarded to more than thirty scientists who were involved in the Manhattan Project and one of them was on an aircraft taking part

in the atomic attack on Hiroshima on the 6th of August 1945.

Now, let us look at some of the misinterpretations and abuses of the notorious concept of mass destruction, bearing in mind what happened in Hiroshima and Nagasaki and what happened later in the Middle East.

Here, we have to correct a common misconception: it is not the two atomic bombs against Hiroshima and Nagasaki eighty years ago which inaugurated an era of mass destruction – it is just the other way round: it was the concept of mass destruction which led to the invention of the many atomic bombs then deployed for use against Japan.

The concept of Mass Destruction itself originated long before, and it was behind the bombardments against cities like London, Koln and Tokyo and the whole idea of the Manhattan Project, as we all know, was to design a weapon which could inflict mass destruction at an unprecedented scale and intensity.

And, things did not even stop at the invention of bombs like the ones dropped against Hiroshima and Nagasaki, but latter inventions went from mass destruction to self-destruction: the amount of existing nuclear and hydrogen bombs can virtually destroy and wipe everybody and everything from the surface of the Earth, nothing will remain.

Here, again, there are two misconceptions: one misconception is that nuclear weapons were not used since Hiroshima and Nagasaki. This is wrong. What was not used is nuclear bombs - but nuclear weapons were used. We all remember the use of weapons with depleted uranium in the invasion of Iraq from 2003. This was a use of nuclear weapon because what makes weapon nuclear is exactly the nuclear material in it, no matter whether that nuclear component is depleted or not. Just remember a devastating radiological effect of the depleted uranium.

Likewise is the talk about “dirty” bomb, as if all other bombs were clean! If you are a pacifist, you may think that it is difficult to lay distinction between a clean bomb and a dirty bomb; you may even say that all bombs are dirty.

The second misconception is even more misleading; that is the distinction between the weapons of mass destruction on the one hand, and conventional weapons on the other. The proof is what happens in Gaza:

On 2 November 2023 Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor in Geneva reported that the tons of explosives Israel then dropped on Gaza were equivalent of twice the two nuclear bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

On 16 April 2025, Professor Paul Rogers of the University of Bradford said that the Israeli bombing of Gaza was equivalent of six atomic bombs like the one dropped on Hiroshima.

One year earlier, a third source reported that Israel had, by then, destroyed eighty percent of the Gaza Strip including several cities and refugee camps.

And all this was done, according to the same source, with advanced generations of conventional weapons, not nuclear bombs. Indeed, some forty years ago studies were carried out at think tanks on how to cause mass destruction with conventional weapons and, quite regrettably, Gaza with its children, women and elderly is the field of implementation, exactly as was the case with Hiroshima and Nagasaki eighty years ago.

In effect, such inventions in conventional weapons systems have blurred the distinction between those weapons and the weapons of mass destruction. Subsequently, what we should seek is not only the elimination of this or that weapons system, but it is also the elimination of the concept of mass destruction behind that weapon system.

One more reason is that if the hardcore of any definition of terrorism is the indiscriminate violence against all, military and civilian alike, men and women alike, children and elderly alike, then the use of any weapon – conventional or not – for the purpose of mass destruction is an act of terrorism. Period.

Of course, nobody should or could overlook what happened on 7 October 2023. But Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories of Gaza and the West Bank (and also the Syrian Golan Heights) exists since over half a century. This also should neither be overlooked or neglected.

The UN General Assembly resolutions and other documents on a two-state solution, Palestine and Israel living in peace side by side, were adopted since at least 22 years ago. Had vigorous action been genuinely and sincerely carried out since then to realize this solution, those tragedies could have been avoided – but, for this to be achieved, the mentality of mass destruction – by whatever weapons, as to be changed.

The same can be said about the nuclear issues in the Middle East. Since thirty five years, serious efforts were exerted through the UN General Assembly and the IAEA to establish a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone in the Middle East. So far, nothing materialized, and everybody knows because of who and why. Had those efforts been allowed to materialize, risks of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East might have been significantly diminished, mutual destruction could have been avoided and weapons like banker-buster bombs and the like might not have been used.

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As mentioned earlier, abuses and misinterpretations of innovations within the concept of mass media are threatening to enslave our minds together and abuses and misinterpretations of the concept of mass production is threatening the very quality of our existence. Those have to be equally addressed. I believe that, in spite of this gloomy picture, Peace Movement is capable of positively meeting those challenges through a highly coordinated global action performed with efficiency, dedication and rigorous determination.