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**Spreading voices of the Hibakusha to the world**

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Today, 80 years after the atomic bombing, people around the world, including A-bomb survivors, are calling on the international community to "never repeat the use of nuclear weapons again" and "stop genocide" to achieve a "world without nuclear weapons and without war."

Though 80 years has passed from the time of the atomic bombings until today, a world without nuclear weapons still remains out of sight. The "Hiroshima Vision" of the 2023 G7 Hiroshima Summit declared that as long as nuclear weapons exist, they are necessary for national security. Nuclear weapon states are still justifying nuclear deterrence theory.

Last year the Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations (Nihon Hidankyo) was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. That was very moving to us, but when it comes to the current situation, the "nuclear taboo" is on the brink of being broken, and the danger of nuclear weapons being used has never been greater.

Russia has repeated threats to use nuclear weapons against Ukraine and a Israeli cabinet member hinted the use of nuclear weapons against people of Gaza. In addition, last month the U.S. and Israel conducted a major attack on Iran's nuclear facilities. These attacks are the violation of international law and the UN Charter. It is also unacceptable that U.S. President Trump has justified its attack on Iran's nuclear facilities by comparing it to the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. In cooperation with the Gensuikyo and democratic organizations in Hiroshima, we held an emergency protest rally in front of the A-bomb Dome, holding placards that read "Trump's remarks are unacceptable" and "Don't justify the A-bombings". Six A-bomb survivors and second-generation survivors spoke at the rally. I spoke angrily, saying, "Trump's remarks are unforgivable because they trample on the wishes of the Hibakusha. Vice president Yamada of the Hiroshima Prefectural Hidankyo said, "I became an A-bomb orphan at age 2, and the suffering that followed was terrible. I was shaken with anger to hear his remarks".

Because of the current situation, now is time to appeal to international public opinion, transmitting our cries “No more Hibakusha”; “Never again anywhere on earth”; “Never allow the use of nuclear weapons. Stop depriving all people of their right to life”.

## **Hibakusha’s movement in Hiroshima**

### **(1) Efforts to abolish nuclear weapons**

The Prefectural Gensuikyo and Hidankyo are engaged in a monthly signature collection drive calling on the Japanese government to sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), which is the first step for us to achieve the abolition of nuclear weapons.

We are collecting signatures for the TPNW almost daily right next to the A-bomb Dome. Seven Hiroshima hibakusha organizations(\*) are collecting signatures in odd-numbered months. We are discussing how we can drastically develop the campaign.

(\*)Seven Hiroshima Hibakusha organizations:

Korean Atomic Bomb Victims Special Committee, Hiroshima Prefectural Council of Korean Hibakusha, Hiroshima City Council of Hibakusha, Hiroshima Prefectural Trade Union Congress, Hiroshima Council of Hibakusha Organizations, and 2 Hiroshima Federations of Atomic Bomb Survivors.

### **(2) Looking back on Hibakusha movement in Hiroshima**

Even during the US occupation, there were moves against atomic weapons in the peace, labor, and cultural movements. Among them, the campaign to compile memoirs of the victims, which was the start of the A-bomb survivors' movement, led to the formation of the “Association of A-bomb Survivors” in Hiroshima in August 1952.

From the outset, the Hibakusha's movement against nuclear weapons was originated from their activities to record their A-bomb experiences and make the real damage of the atomic bombings known to people widely. (Iwanami booklet No. 1048)

### **(3) Actual situation of the Hibakusha**

As of the end of March 2025, the number of A-bomb survivors was 99,130 in Japan, and of them, 48,310 in Hiroshima Prefecture.

For your reference, the highest number of atomic bomb survivors in Japan was 372,264 in 1980, and in Hiroshima Prefecture, it was 179,761 in 1976.

In 1995, the Hibakusha Aid Law was enacted. This year marks the 24th year of the struggle seeking for the state recognition of the A-Bomb diseases. It started in 2001. This struggle was also a part of the movement for the abolition of nuclear weapons. Currently, the No More Hibakusha lawsuit is pending against one plaintiff in Japan and none in Hiroshima. This struggle will continue as long as A-bomb survivors are alive.

We are now supporting the victims of the A-bomb induced "black rain" for winning a victory in the second "black rain" lawsuit. After the victorious ruling by the appeal court in the "black rain" lawsuit in 2021, it was found that there were 13,000 victims.

As of the end of May 2025, there were 7,685 people who applied for the "black rain" certificate and 7,071 of them were admitted. This was a total number of victims in Hiroshima Prefecture and Hiroshima City. There are currently 84 people who are continuing the lawsuit. Because their applications were turned down on the ground that they were exposed to "black rain" outside the government-designated area. We will continue to assist them. We will also continue to support the new applicants of the suit.

The appeal trial of the Fukushima nuclear power plant lawsuit in Hiroshima started on July 16. We will continue to support them as we did in the past, based on the common understanding that we are aiming for a society without nuclear power plants and nuclear weapons.

#### **(4) Guided tour of Peace Park**

This is an initiative of the Hibakusha in the A-bombed city, we have the peace study section in Hiroshima Hidankyo. It has provided guided tours of the A-bombed ruins, monuments, and memorials in Peace Memorial Park mainly to elementary and junior high school students visiting on school trips, study tours, and field trips, as well as to the general public in local communities and work areas. Now that the Hibakusha have aged, we aim to be a "Pilot for Peace" to hand down the wishes of the Hibakusha, the Hibakusha movement, and their efforts for nuclear abolition, opposition to war, and peace, to the current and next generations. These continuous efforts play an important role in the A-bombed cities.

#### **(5) Second and third generations of Hibakusha**

Second- and third-generations of A-bomb survivors are the children and grandchildren of the

Hibakusha. They are also the victims of the atomic bombings. A-bomb survivors were exposed to the effects of radiation from the A-bomb. The Hibakusha Aid Law is applied to those who have obtained the Hibakusha Certificate.

However, the law is not applied to second- and third-generations of the survivors. We are, therefore, carrying on a signature drive to "urge the Minister of Health and Welfare to take similar relief measures for them, looking at the reality and sufferings in their health and livelihood.

Hibakusha is not only legally admitted "Hibakusha" (Hibakusha Certificate holders) but the A-bomb dead, bereaved families, children, and grandchildren.

In his speech at the Nobel Peace Prize award ceremony last year, Mr. Terumi Tanaka stated that, when it comes to war responsibility and state compensation, a state that "started a war on its own authority and responsibility, which led to the death, disability, and insecurity of many of its citizens" "naturally faces the problem of state compensation based on responsibility for the consequences. I felt that the Hibakusha movement must be a movement to support the victims of the atomic bombings as well as war as state compensation.

## **Conclusion**

Eighty years after the atomic bombing, the campaign for nuclear weapons abolition in Hiroshima is built on the class action lawsuit for the state recognition of A-bomb sicknesses and the court struggle for the "black rain" victims.

We must continue to support A-bomb survivors, A-bomb victims, and war victims.

Let us call for a broader campaign and signature drive to have the Japanese government, the only country to have suffered the atomic bombings, sign and ratify the TPNW, which is the first step toward the abolition of nuclear weapons.

We also call on countries around the world to ratify the Treaty.

No more Hiroshimas, No more Nagasakis, No more Hibakusha, No more war.