

Statement by Abacca Anjain-Maddison
Former Senator of Rongelap, Marshall Islands
at the 2025 World Conference Against A & H Bombs
Nagasaki, Japan August 9, 2025

Disseminating Information and Situations of Hibakushas,
Working in Solidarity with Them

Mina san Konichua,

It's an Honor and privilege to be back in Nagasaki to join you at this Annual International World Conference and the 80th Anniversary of the atomic bomb dropped in 1945. To commemorate and honor the lives of the Hibakushas those who have passed on and those still with us today. A time to come together to renew our strengths as we continue to carry out our commitments and taking bold steps to make this world a safe and peaceful place to live in for all humankind and for our children and generations to come.

With that said, I wish to report that the people and the Government of the Marshall Islands have made remarkable achievements since it became a member of the Human Rights Councils.

To name a few, last year, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons visited the Marshall Islands. In her report, she strongly recommended for the United States to acknowledge the sufferings and injustice inflicted on the displaced populations caused by the US Nuclear testings and provide necessary compensation. Also to provide full payment to settle all unpaid claims under the Nuclear Claims Tribunal and environmental remediation of the nuclear affected atolls.

Early this month, the RMI submitted its Universal Periodic Report (UPR) progress report for the last five years. The report includes: 1) Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) - As a nuclear-affected state, RMI has been a strong voice for the advancement of nuclear disarmament and demonstrated sustained leadership in integrating humanitarian principles into international dialogue. On the occasion of the 37th Memorial Anniversary of Nuclear Victims Remembrance Day on 01 March 2025, RMI signed the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty, marking a historic step in strengthening RMI commitment to a nuclear-free Pacific; and 2) the Treaty on the Prohibition of the Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) - The RMI was an active participant in the UN negotiating process on the Treaty of the Prohibition of the Nuclear Weapons and joined other nations in voting its adoption.

As a country that has experienced firsthand the devastation of nuclear weapons, RMI supports the underlying premise of the Treaty and continues to call for the abolition of all nuclear weapons from Earth. This requires partnerships and commitment, especially from Nuclear Weapons- States. RMI is carefully studying the implications of the Treaty and is still considering the victim assistance and environmental remediation provisions to assess their compatibility with the national position that the Government of the United States of America

retains primary responsibility for victim assistance and environmental remediation for the nuclear weapons tests conducted on RMI territory. RMI would welcome technical assistance from all relevant stakeholders to confirm this interpretation of Article 6 and advance its assessment of the Treaty.

Climate Change is equally an important issue to the Marshall Islands considering that its one of the most vulnerable countries in the world. Climate Change poses great threat to the environment, health and livelihood of the Marshallese people. Last month, the frontliner countries in the Pacific including the Marshall Islands won their case at the International Court of Justice on Climate Change. The historic win by the Pacific Island countries could trigger global climate lawsuits, compensation claims, and force major polluters to act.

April this year marked the 40th anniversary of people of Rongelap living in exile. The Greenpeace sailed to visit the community on Mejatto islet via their boat called 'Rainbow Warrior' for the first time since they they evacuated the people from Rongelap 40 years ago. It was a time of sadness but more importantly a time to celebrate life. In our humble way, we came together as, a community, a family, teaching the young generations about our nuclear legacy, shared stories about our beloved Rongelap and our way of life; honor the memory of our great leaders and elders, Jeton Anjain, John Anjain and Nelson Anjain and others who took a stance to fight for justice and the survival of the Marshallese people. We will be forever indebted to Greenpeace. We didn't forget Gensuikyo either, without your donations and visits when we didn't have any thing. We were just starting a new life in a new and barren island.

This was the last time Mrs Kathy Joel was interviewed as one of the last survivors. Kathy died 3 days after she returned from Mejatto, she was also one of the people who 40 years ago was on Greenpeace boat with her husband and children and grandchildren leaving Rongelap to start a new life on Mejatto. Today, there are 9 survivors left 5 males and 4 females they are precious to us.

In conclusion, the Nuclear Victim's Remembrance Day will be held on Ebeye for the very first time on March 1st next year. The paramount Chief of Ebeye has given his blessing. Friends, you are more than welcome to join us.

Domo Arigato and Kommool tata, No more Nuclear Bomb, No More Nagasaki and No more Hiroshima.