

WORLD CONFERENCE AGAINST A & H BOMBS. HIROSHIMA, NAGASAKI



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NUCLEAR CHALLENGE IN THE BALTIC REGION. CALL FOR SOLIDARITY

Kon'nichiwa!

Dear participants of the conference!

Today I am sending you words of greetings and support from the Russian nuclear city of Sosnovy Bor on the shores of the Baltic Sea. It is 7 thousand kilometers from Hiroshima.

I analyze the political trends of recent years and see that the tragedy of Hiroshima may repeat itself here. In my city, reactors for nuclear submarines are being tested. The world's oldest nuclear reactors of the Chernobyl type operate here. New military and civilian nuclear installations are under construction now.

At the same time the Russia – NATO military confrontation line runs only 70 km from this location, one of the largest nuclear clusters in the world. Numerous military maneuvers on land and at sea are being conducted on both sides of this confrontation line.

A German peace activist has published possible scenarios of military actions developed by NATO generals. There is a scenario of NATO use of nuclear weapons on the Russian coast of the Baltic Sea. In this scenario, one assumes that my city with more than a dozen nuclear and radiation hazardous facilities may end up in the theater of operations in the event of a conflict between Russia and NATO.

The President of Russia has publicly stated that in the event of a NATO attack using nuclear weapons from Europe, a retaliatory nuclear strike could be delivered not only on the European territory from where the missile came from, but also in the center of the decisions being made, that is, on the United States.

If this happens, it may become not only a collapse of the traditional way of life for 100 million people in 9 countries around the Baltic, including Russia. In fact, this could be the beginning of a world nuclear war.

I, my Russian colleagues, friends of the peace movement from Finland, Sweden, Germany, and other countries of the Baltic region, are concerned about the confrontation between NATO and Russia in the Baltic.

We have asked colleagues and partners in the Baltic Region to support a petition addressed to the heads of state and government of the Baltic Region. It was signed by over 130 representatives of peace and environmental non-governmental organizations. We called on the leaders of the Baltic region countries, including Russia, as well as NATO member states, to organize in 2025 an international conference on building confidence-building measures, non-confrontation, and the subject of using atomic weapons.

It is known that in 2025 there will be the 50th anniversary of the final meeting of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). The leaders of the leading world powers signed a document that ensured the inviolability of state borders after World War II and reduced the risks of using nuclear weapons.

I appeal to you, participants of the conference in Hiroshima and Nagasaki: please support our initiative to organize such an international governmental conference! It is possible in the next 4 years to prepare such an international summit if we in Japan, Russia, the United States, and other nuclear countries motivate politicians to do it! It is advisable for you and me to lobby for the signing of the "*Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons*" at this conference.

Gensuikyo and the Japanese movement against A and H bombs have a wealth of international experience of solidarity in the world. Let's unite to advance the new Helsinki Meeting on Security and Cooperation in Europe and the World in 2025.

What is happening now on the shores of the Baltic is a long-term negative trend. Since the signing of the 1975 Helsinki Declaration, the countries of Eastern Europe have become members of NATO.

The militarization of public consciousness is being cultivated in Russia. Numerous military exercises and parades take place. The citizens of Russia are being told that we are surrounded by enemies and that it is necessary to speed up military preparations.

Over the past 10 years, Russia's spending on nuclear weapons has increased 2.1 times. At the same time, the United States remains the absolute leader in spending on atomic weapons. Its costs in 2019, according to *ICAN*, were \$35.4 billion.

All the other 8 nuclear countries spend together about the same amount. This means that in the year the Covid-19 pandemic began, that the nuclear countries, according to the *International Peace Bureau*, spent about \$140,000 EVERY MINUTE to prepare for the nuclear destruction of each other! And these costs only increase every year.

Funds for the preparation of nuclear destruction occur when, according to the World Health Organization, the death toll from the coronavirus in the world is higher than official statistics and may range from 6 to 8 million people worldwide.

Instead of pooling efforts and resources to combat this global threat, the politicians of the nuclear countries continue to use the pandemic to intensify confrontation. This is contrary to the interests of our inhabitants of planet Earth from Japan, Russia, the United States, and other countries.

Dear participants of the conference, we, the inhabitants of the Baltic region, are in solidarity with you and say there must be no more Hibakushas either in Japan or in any other country on our planet.

Arigato!