

2023 World Conference against A and H Bombs  
International Meeting – Session 1

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**Let us work together for the international people's tribunal to hold US  
accountable for the atomic bombings**

Greetings to friends from Gensuikyo and all participants in the World Conference against A and H Bombs.

I am Lee Ki-yeol, an auditor of the Korean Atomic Bomb Casualty Association.

Seventy-eight years seems to be too long to keep the nightmare in our memory. But my body clearly remembers the calamity I experienced on that day. I awake in the dead of night every day. I never go to bed without feeling suffocated. I wear cotton face mask in bed to mitigate the pains I have in the nose.

The souls of countless Korean victims of the atomic bombing 78 years ago must still be haunting the heavens without being able to return to their homes. As an A-bomb survivor, I keenly wish to welcome the souls back to their liberated home.

The atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki destroyed the life of Korean Hibakusha. Nevertheless, none of the perpetrators have admitted to their wrongdoing. The South Korean government has treated those Hibakusha with no respect.

Living as Hibakusha all through life, I wish to see the United States accept responsibility and apologize for committing the crime of dropping atomic bombs. If possible, I want to sue the United States. But I know how difficult it is to file a lawsuit in the United States. Our wish to hold a people's tribunal has been taken up by the Solidarity for Peace and Reunification of Korea (SPARK) and other Korean civic groups. Work has begun toward holding the International People's Tribunal on US Atomic Bombing in 2026 in New York.

I want to devote the rest of my life to the effort to hold the United States responsible for the atomic bombings and expose the illegality of the use of the atomic bomb. The main purpose of the tribunal is to hear the United States make an apology saying, "It was wrong for the United States to drop the atomic bomb." This is why I decided to participate in the international people's tribunal as a plaintiff.

Japanese Hibakusha and Korean Hibakusha share the same sufferings, so I believe that we can encourage and join forces with each other. I sincerely wish to work together with civil society organizations and lawyers from Korea and the rest of the world toward the planned international people's tribunal at the next NPT Review Conference in 2026 in New York. There we hope that we can bring the 1945 US nuclear attack on Hiroshima and Nagasaki to justice in the public eye.

If the United States admits that its use of nuclear weapons was wrong and makes an apology for it, no country will think of using such weapons.

We want to console the souls of those who had to die after enduring aftereffects of the exposure to radiation from atomic bombing, hunger and indifference to their problems. We also want to contribute to reducing the risk of nuclear war on the Korean Peninsula and to the realization of a world free of nuclear weapons. As a Korean Hibakusha, I firmly believe that we must prevent Korean people from falling victim to the use of nuclear weapons at any cost. I believe that this is the mission I have to carry out as a person who has lived through the pains of Hibakusha.

As a Korean atomic bomb victim, I will join hands with Gensuikyo and all the participants in the World Conference to make further efforts to pass a peaceful world without war or nuclear weapons on to our children and grandchildren.

We'll fight for peace and against war and nuclear weapons, and dream of a beautiful world.

Thank you for your attention.