

Statement Calling for Nuclear Weapons Abolition

The Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), held every five years, begins at the United Nations Headquarters on April 27, 2015. Over 100 Hibakusha and citizens representing ten organizations from the atomic bombed city of Nagasaki will travel to New York to take part in various activities calling for the realization of nuclear weapons abolition and world peace.

President Obama's 2009 Prague speech calling for a "world without nuclear weapons" gave great hope to the world. Yet, the nuclear superpowers of the United States and Russia are making little progress in nuclear disarmament, and the other nuclear weapons states are showing no moves towards reductions of their nuclear arsenal. Furthermore, the United States is increasing its nuclear weapons related budget, and other nuclear weapons states are modernizing their arsenals, even going in the opposite direction to a world free of nuclear weapons. Furthermore, according to media reports, Russian President Putin has stated at the time of annexation of the Crimean Peninsula that Russia was prepared to use nuclear weapons. This has reminded us that the critical situation caused by the desire and threat of the nuclear weapons states to use nuclear weapons is repeatedly arising.

Such a frustrated nuclear situation exists, however we still have expectations for this Review Conference. The "inhumanity of the use of nuclear weapons" is finally being widely understood and shared by the international community. This is demonstrated by the fact that 155 countries have signed on to the Joint Statement at the United Nations calling for no use of nuclear weapons. Springing from such momentum, we hope for an irreversible discussion towards the creation of an international treaty to ban nuclear weapons. While nuclear weapon states may continue to claim that nuclear weapons are indispensable for their own security, we are certain that as long as they continue to exist, nuclear weapons may be used. The only path to avoid the horrors of nuclear weapons is their abolition. We call on the world to listen to the appeal of the Hibakusha, who 70 years ago were burned by the heat rays and continue to have their lives cut short by the struggle against the effects of radiation, that humanity and nuclear weapons cannot coexist.

In solidarity with peace actions in New York, we participated in the "Global Peace Wave 2015", sending a wave to say goodbye to nuclear weapons from the hill of the hypocentre where the atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki. Sincerely hoping that the 2015 NPT Review Conference will make progress forward, we declare to make all efforts possible to realize the abolition of nuclear weapons and a peaceful world.

April 25, 2015

Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Survivors Council
Nagasaki Testimony Association
Nagasaki Citizens Against Nuclear Testing
GLOBAL PEACE WAVE 2015 from NAGASAKI Participants