

Remembering Hiroshima and Nagasaki

August 6 & 9 1945

62 years after the first and only use of the atomic bomb

Still in the Shadow of Nuclear Weapons



"I will write peace on your wings and you will fly around the world." --Sadako Sasaki, 12-year old victim of the atom bomb

We mourn the tragic loss of life, the tremendous pain and suffering, and the continuing physical and psychological wounds of survivors.

We mourn the line we crossed that changed our world forever.

That these weapons continue to exist, and that their potential use remains acceptable today is horrifying.

The cost and danger of this destructive path grows every day.

Is this the legacy we wish to leave to our children and grandchildren?

One survivor's story and plea: "When the atomic bomb was dropped I was 13 years old... at the moment of the bombing I was sleeping at home, about 1,400m from ground zero. Therefore I did not see the flash of the heat ray nor feel the shock wave of the blast. Everything happened instantaneously. When I came to my senses, I found that I was trapped under my house. I struggled and wiggled, and at last I was able to crawl out of the piles of broken wood and plaster. When I stood upon my crushed house, the world I found was like night—the morning sunshine blocked by dark brown air that changed to yellow and then white, and finally became clear. At that moment, I was shocked to find that all the city of Hiroshima was flattened as far as I could see. I could not grasp what had happened.

Immediately, I heard my mother call my name. Her voice seemed to come from far away, though I knew there was not much distance between her and me, that her voice came from just under my feet. I called out in vain to adults for help, but those wounded could do nothing more than find a safe place for themselves. I did not notice the fires at first, but it was spreading gradually. When I told my mother of the approaching fires, she told me, "You should survive, you should become a good person by studying well." She said, "That's enough, never mind your mother. Get away from here!" I hesitated in leaving my mother. But when a large fire storm arose, my mother said, "Get away right now." It seemed faint, but it was strong, and so I could decide to leave without her. As I escaped, I said, "Forgive me, mother!" That was the last conversation I had with my mother.

There was no road, and amid the flames and smoke I could see only piles of houses, and badly burned people escaping. Their burned skins were hanging down from their chins or nails which were not burned. At last I could reach the riverside, and swam across the river, and sat on the dry riverbed watching the burning town from the other side. The smoke and flames became a cloud over my head. When I thought of my mother beneath the flames, my heart was broken, and I thought, "Was there not something I could have done to save her?" Even now, the same feeling comes over me whenever I think of my mother.

In my conception, I have double responsibility for all human being to abolish nuclear weapons and this will be response to my mother's last words. One is as a survivor who had experienced the disaster of that day. Now about 280,000 survivors of atomic bombing in Japan, Korea and in other countries are still struggling against physical, living and mental difficulties which grow harder with age. In the world, including USA, the former Soviet Union, and other nuclear weapon states, more than several millions victims of radiation caused from the whole processes from uranium mining to weapon production, such as down wind habitants of nuclear test. For survivors of the atomic bombing, it is obvious that using nuclear weapons is the most inexcusable crime in human history. It should never be used against anyone, for any purpose and any reason, and upon anywhere.

The other my responsibility is as a scientist or as a physicist. A hydrogen bomb test done at Bikini atoll in 1954, gave me a great shock, because at that time I was an undergraduate student learning physics. I thought that nuclear physics was badly used eventually to construct weapon which could destroy the whole human society as well as lives on the earth. Then I began to act to abolish nuclear weapons as a student of physics and later as a physicist. Now I am studying the after effects of Atomic bombing to the human body in relation with a collective lawsuit and found that the studies concerning to the effects of atomic radiation supported by the U.S.A. government completely ignores the effects of the residual radiation which were caused by the fallout and induced radioactive matters. These residual exposure came from internal exposure and it is found that these effects cause the major obstacles among survivors at present. ***This ignorance of the residual radiation effects is closely related to the U.S. government research and development of new 'usable nuclear weapon' such as 'earth penetrating nuclear weapon' whose use***

will emerge 'another hell in this world' than Hiroshima and Nagasaki due to a huge amount of radiation.

I appeal that it is the time to abolish nuclear weapon for the future human being". --*Shoji Sawada: a theoretical particle physicist and an emeritus professor of Nagoya University, and a representative director of Japan Council against A&H Bombs (Gensuikyo).*

Hiroshima: 70,000 estimated dead by day's end; 120-140,000 by year's end; 90% of structures demolished **Nagasaki:** 40,000 estimated dead by day's end; 70,000 by the end of 1945

Much as other survivors of historic holocausts have held the sacred duty of remembrance, the hibakusha (atomic bomb survivors) have continued to keep alive the memory of that time, saying never again! In this 62nd year since the US atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the greatest gift to the hibakusha and to the world would be to reaffirm life by immediately initiating negotiations for the elimination of nuclear weapons everywhere in the world.

Where are We Now?

Today there are nine nuclear weapon states. The original five: the U.S., U.K., Russia, France, and China, plus Israel, Pakistan, India, and North Korea. It is estimated that there are 27,000 nuclear bombs on the planet today, 26,000 of them in the U.S. and Russian arsenals, with the remaining 1,000 located in the seven other nuclear weapon states. To make progress on nuclear abolition, the U.S. and Russia will have to drastically cut their enormous stockpiles and call all the other nations to the table to negotiate a treaty for nuclear disarmament. The production of these weapons worldwide has left a lethal legacy of radioactive waste, illness, and damage to our genetic heritage, often most severely among those populations already most disadvantaged.

Current U.S. Policy: Seeking to Build New Nuclear Bombs:

The administration is proposing a \$150 billion overhaul of the U.S. nuclear weapons complex, to build the first new nuclear warheads in nearly two decades, restoring production capability to Cold War levels. *At the beginning of June, the House Appropriations Committee cut the nuclear weapons budget proposed by the Bush Administration by \$630 million and increased support for nuclear non-proliferation programs by nearly \$1 billion. It also declined to give any money for what would have been the first new nuclear weapon in two decades, the so-called Reliable Replacement Warhead (RRW). The Senate Appropriations Committee, however, decided in late June to allocate \$66 million for RRW. The differences between the House and the Senate appropriations will be resolved in conference committee soon after summer 2007 recess.*

Tearing Up Disarmament Treaties: The administration is refusing to renegotiate treaties with Russia that would limit the deployment of nuclear weapons.

"The world has achieved brilliance without wisdom, power without conscience. Ours is a world of nuclear giants and ethical infants. We know more about war than we know about peace, more about killing than we know about living." --General Omar Bradley, Veterans Day in 1948

Where CAN we be?

"Nuclear weapons today present tremendous dangers, but also an historic opportunity. U.S. leadership will be required to take the world to the next stage — to a solid consensus for reversing reliance on nuclear weapons globally as a vital contribution to preventing their proliferation into potentially dangerous hands, and ultimately ending them as a threat to the world." from January, 2007, Wall Street Journal. essay by, HENRY A. KISSINGER, SAM NUNN, GEORGE P. SHULTZ, WILLIAM J. PERRY. (a bipartisan group of former Secretaries of State, a Secretary of Defense and a U.S. Senator.) In an impassioned call for a way forward to the total elimination of nuclear weapons everywhere on earth, they lay out a plan. See: http://acdn.france.free.fr/spip/article_imprim.php?id_article=261&lang=en Former Senator Sam Nunn continues to speak out. His June 14, 2007 speech to the Council on Foreign Relations: http://www.nti.org/c_press/speech_samnunn_cfr07.pdf

As does Mikhail Gorbachev, who calls for elimination of all nuclear weapons as soon as possible in a Jan 31, 2007 essay in the Wall Street Journal. <http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/pages/143/>...as well as many other current and former world leaders...

Women in Black Frederick calls for all citizens to learn more, and to let our elected officials know where YOU stand.

The time to influence Congress' decision on the reliable replacement warhead (RRW) is now. Contact your member and tell him or her to support the House's rejection of RRW.

Congressman Bartlett: <http://www.bartlett.house.gov/> 202/225-2721 or 888-297-8006;

Senator Mikulski: <http://www.mikulski.senate.gov/mailform.html> 202/224-4654;

Senator Cardin: 202/224-4524 <http://www.cardin.senate.gov/mailform.html>

More Information:

Friends Committee on National Legislation, (providing details on current U.S. policy and some actions to take to change it): <http://www.fcnl.org/nuclear/>

Center for Arms Control and Nonproliferation: <http://www.armscontrolcenter.org>

Nuclear Threat Initiative: www.nti.org

American Friends Service Committee: (60th anniversary testimony & other info) <http://www.afsc.org/newengland/pesp/Hibakusha.htm>



All around the world, Women In Black stand in silent vigil, wearing black as a symbol of mourning, for the ravages of war and violence. WIB is an international grassroots women's peace advocacy network, present in 40 countries, and 40 US states. Our vigils are a public statement that violence and oppression, under any label are unacceptable. See: www.wibfrederick.org Email: info@wibfrederick.org or Call: 301-694-9410. **Vigil Schedule:** All are welcome; please wear black. 1st Fri. of every month, 12 - 12:30 pm, and 3rd Wed. of every month, intersection of Market & Patrick Streets, 6:30 – 7 p.m.