OMNI HIROSHIMA NEWSLETTER, AUGUST 6, 2013, 68TH ANNIVERSARY.
Compiled by Dick Bennett for a Culture of Peace and Justice.

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From FCNL
Sixty-Eight Years Since Hiroshima and Nagasaki

Today is the 68th anniversary of the first use of a nuclear weapon. Tens of thousands of people in Japan and around the world will commemorate this attack with prayers, vigils and other events. In Hiroshima, people will remember those who died and pray for peace at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony. Program assistant Rachel Kent was profoundly moved when she attended this ceremony.

We hope that you will remember on August 6 and also take action to work for peace. It’s important that your members of Congress hear—now—that you want to keep this kind of destruction from happening again. Urge them to support the administration’s proposal to reduce the number of nuclear weapons that the U.S. has ready to launch. As our lobbyist David Culp notes, August could be a critical time for nuclear disarmament. [August is Nuclear Free Future Month; see OMNI’s Newsletter, and OMNI’s Nuclear Abolition Day Newsletter, June 2. —Dick]

Other ways to support nuclear disarmament on this anniversary:

- Write a letter to the editor in response to news coverage of the Hiroshima anniversary. If you mention your senators by name in your letter, they and their staff will see it.

Do More with Your Donation! Become an FCNL Sustainer

FCNL's monthly giving program is a convenient, efficient and effective way to help sustain
OMNI’S REMEMBRANCE OF HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI, AUGUST 11, 2013, Over 40 Years of Witnessing.

This year at Walker Park, S. College, Outdoor Pavilion south of Senior Center, 6:30 PM Potluck, Program 7PM.

MC: Kelly Mulhollan
Music by Kelly and Warren Dietzel
Poetry by Gerry Sloan, Leah Gould, and Vela
Commentary by Lioneld Jordan, Fernando Garcia, Dick Bennett, and Gladys Tiffany
Contact Gladys 935-4422

The Asahi Shimbun | AJW Asia and Japan Watch

Hiroshima's Peace Declaration, August 6, 2013

August 06, 2013

We greet the morning of the 68th return of “that day.” At 8:15 a.m., August 6, 1945, a single atomic bomb erased an entire family. “The baby boy was safely born. Just as the family was celebrating, the atomic bomb exploded. Showing no mercy, it took all that joy and hope along with the new life.”

A little boy managed somehow to survive, but the atomic bomb took his entire family. This A-bomb orphan lived through hardship, isolation, and illness, but was never able to have a family of his own. Today, he is a lonely old hibakusha. “I have never once been glad I survived,” he says, looking back. After all these years of terrible suffering, the deep hurt remains.

A woman who experienced the bombing at the age of 8 months suffered discrimination and prejudice. She did manage to marry, but a month later, her mother-in-law, who had been so kind at first, learned about her A-bomb survivor’s handbook. “You’re a hibakusha,’ she said, ‘We don’t need a bombed bride. Get out now.’ And with that, I was divorced.” At times, the fear of radiation elicited ugliness and cruelty. Groundless rumors caused many survivors to suffer in marriage, employment, childbirth—at every stage of life.
Indiscriminately stealing the lives of innocent people, permanently altering the lives of survivors, and stalking their minds and bodies to the end of their days, the atomic bomb is the ultimate inhumane weapon and an absolute evil. The hibakusha, who know the hell of an atomic bombing, have continuously fought that evil.

Under harsh, painful circumstances, the hibakusha have struggled with anger, hatred, grief and other agonizing emotions. Suffering with aftereffects, over and over they cried, “I want to be healthy. Can’t I just lead a normal life?” But precisely because they had suffered such tragedy themselves, they came to believe that no one else “should ever have to experience this cruelty.” A man who was 14 at the time of the bombing pleads, “If the people of the world could just share love for the Earth and love for all people, an end to war would be more than a dream.”

Even as their average age surpasses 78, the hibakusha continue to communicate their longing for peace. They still hope the people of the world will come to share that longing and choose the right path. In response to this desire of the many hibakusha who have transcended such terrible pain and sorrow, the rest of us must become the force that drives the struggle to abolish nuclear weapons.

To that end, the city of Hiroshima and the more than 5,700 cities that comprise Mayors for Peace, in collaboration with the U.N. and like-minded NGOs, seek to abolish nuclear weapons by 2020 and throw our full weight behind the early achievement of a nuclear weapons convention.

Policymakers of the world, how long will you remain imprisoned by distrust and animosity? Do you honestly believe you can continue to maintain national security by rattling your sabers? Please come to Hiroshima. Encounter the spirit of the hibakusha. Look squarely at the future of the human family without being trapped in the past, and make the decision to shift to a system of security based on trust and dialogue. Hiroshima is a place that embodies the grand pacifism of the Japanese Constitution. At the same time, it points to the path the human family must walk. Moreover, for the peace and stability of our region, all countries involved must do more to achieve a nuclear-weapon-free North Korea in a Northeast Asia nuclear-weapon-free zone.

Today, a growing group of countries is focusing on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons and calling for abolition. President Obama has demonstrated his commitment to nuclear disarmament by inviting Russia to start negotiating further reductions. In this context, even if the nuclear power agreement the Japanese government is negotiating with India promotes their economic relationship, it is likely to hinder nuclear weapons abolition. Hiroshima calls on the Japanese government to strengthen ties with the governments pursuing abolition. At the ministerial meeting of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative next spring in Hiroshima, we hope Japan will lead the way toward a stronger NPT regime. And, as the hibakusha in Japan and overseas advance in age, we reiterate our demand for improved measures appropriate to their needs. As well, we demand measures for those exposed to the black rain and an expansion of the “black rain areas.”

This summer, eastern Japan is still suffering the aftermath of the great earthquake and the nuclear accident. The desperate struggle to recover hometowns continues. The people of Hiroshima know well the ordeal of recovery. We extend our hearts to all those affected and will continue to offer our support. We urge the national government to rapidly develop and
implement a responsible energy policy that places top priority on safety and the livelihoods of the people.

Recalling once again the trials of our predecessors through these 68 years, we offer heartfelt consolation to the souls of the atomic bomb victims by pledging to do everything in our power to eliminate the absolute evil of nuclear weapons and achieve a peaceful world.

Kazumi Matsui
Mayor
The City of Hiroshima

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1. News for HIROSHIMA DAY AUGUST 6

1. August 6, 1945: the day the world changed forever
euronews - 1 hour ago
Something changed forever on August 6, 1945 when, for the first time, the... Three days after Hiroshima was destroyed, on 9 August, another ...

2. Hiroshima's Peace Declaration, August 6, 2013
Asahi Shimbun - 12 hours ago

3. Hiroshima Day: Britain backed use of A-bomb against Japan, says report
India Today - 1 hour ago

4. Hiroshima Day - 6 August 2013 - Resources - Education Scotland
www.educationscotland.gov.uk/resources/h/hiroshimaday.asp
Hiroshima Day commemorates 6 August 1945, the day when an atomic bomb was dropped on the Japanese city of Hiroshima, followed a few days later by ...
5. **American bomber drops atomic bomb on Hiroshima - History Channel**

   Sep 1, 2010

   On this day in 1945, at 8:16 a.m. Japanese time, an American B-29 bomber, the ... Aug 06, 1945: American ...

2. **Atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki - Wikipedia, the free ...**

   en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atomic_bombings_of_Hiroshima_and_Nagasaki

   In both cities, most of the dead were civilians, although Hiroshima had a sizeable garrison. On 15 August, six days after the bombing of Nagasaki, Japan ... Little Boy - Debate over the atomic ... - Three Non-Nuclear Principles - Kokutai

3. **BBC ON THIS DAY | 6 | 1945: US drops atomic bomb on Hiroshima**

   www.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/dates/stories/august/6/newsid.../3602189.st...

   The first atomic bomb is dropped by a United States aircraft on the Japanese city of Hiroshima.

4. **HIROSHIMA Day ! - August 6 - Better World Links**


   Informations and links on HIROSHIMA Day ! - August 6.

5. **6 August - This Day in History - The History Channel**

   www.history.co.uk/this-day-in-history/August-06

   6 August 1945 : U.S. drops atomic bomb on Hiroshima. On this day in 1945, at 8:16 a.m. Japanese time, American B-29 bomber the Enola Gay drops the world's ...

6. **Do One Thing - Hiroshima Day - August 6**

   www.doonething.org/calendar/nonukesday.htm

   On August 6, 1945 the US dropped an atomic bomb on the city of Hiroshima, Japan, and three days later another one on Nagasaki. More than 100,000 people, ...

7. **On Hiroshima Day August 6th 2011 / On Nagasaki Day August 9th ... imaginepeace.com/archives/15571**


8. **Hiroshima -- August 6th, 1945 | The Atomic Bombings of Hiroshima ...**

   www.atomicarchive.com › ... › The Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

   August 6th began in a bright, clear, summer morning. About seven o’clock, there was an air raid alarm which we had heard almost every day and a few planes ...

9. **The Day Man Lost: Hiroshima, 6 August 1945: Pacific War Research ...**

   www.amazon.com › Books › History › Asia › Japan

   The Day Man Lost: Hiroshima, 6 August 1945 [Pacific War Research Society, John Toland]
on Amazon.com. *FREE* super saver shipping on qualifying offers.

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Dick Bennett
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See Newsletters
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See INMOtion
jbennet@uark.edu
(479) 442-4600
2582 Jimmie Ave.
Fayetteville, AR 72703