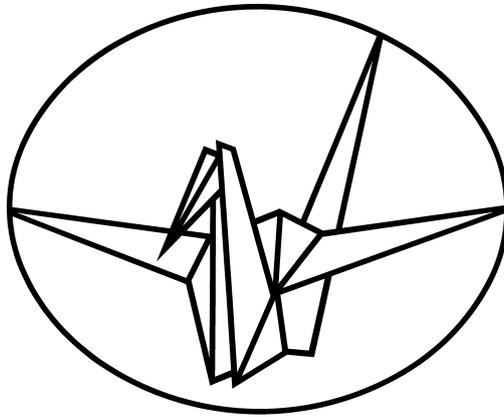


No More Hibakusha -Message to the World-



NIHON HIDANKYO
(Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations)
No More Hibakusha Project - Inheriting Memories of the A-and H-Bomb Sufferers

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Introduction

Do you know about the world's first nuclear bombs dropped by the United States on Hiroshima and Nagasaki 75 years ago in August 1945? The bombs brought about such a disaster that cannot be expressed with words. They destroyed two cities, indiscriminately killing non-combatants, and conjured a hell-like situation in which human beings were unable to live with dignity.

Even to this day, wounds by the catastrophe have not completely healed, leaving an emotional and mental scar that affects the children and grandchildren of the victims.

What we want you to know is that the use of the atomic bombs is not just an event in the past, it has not ended as a page of history. The disaster could happen again. Moreover, nuclear weapons are still being developed and the power they possess today is incomparable to 75 years ago.

In hopes to prevent history from repeating itself, the A-bomb sufferers who survived stood up and formed the "Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations." They investigated the aftermath of the atomic bomb and shared their experiences with domestic and foreign supporters. They patiently worked in order to abolish nuclear weapons. Today, the A-bomb survivors, whose average age is now 83, continue to act with the same determination they had when the organization was formed: "to save humanity from its crisis through the lessons learned from our experiences, while at the same time saving ourselves."

Is our greed worth the destruction of all living beings? Peace cannot be achieved with nuclear weapons. Nuclear weapons are absolute evil that cannot coexist with humans. There is no choice but to abolish them. This is the unwavering conviction of the A-bomb survivors who have experienced the aftermath of the atomic bombs with their bodies.

This booklet is a list of English materials that can be read on the website, including the basic documents of the "Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations" and the testimonies and notes submitted to the Atomic Bomb Sufferers' Survey.

No More Hibakusha! We hope that you will see and use these materials so that everyone in the world will never be a perpetrator or a victim of nuclear weapons again.

May 2020

Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations (Hidankyo)
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1. About Hidankyo

<http://www.ne.jp/asahi/hidankyo/nihon/english/about/about1-01.html>

Victims who survived the devastation of the atomic bomb in Hiroshima (August 6, 1945) and in Nagasaki (August 9, 1945) formed the "Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations" (Hidankyo) in August 1956. They were encouraged by the progress of the movement to ban the atomic bomb triggered by the Daigo Fukuryu Maru disaster in the hydrogen bomb testing at Bikini Atoll. They have continued their activities to prevent others from becoming victims of atomic bombs.

This document consists of an introduction to the organization, purpose, and main activities.

2. Message to the World August 10, 1956 (Declaration for formation of Hidankyo)

<http://www.ne.jp/asahi/hidankyo/nihon/english/about/about1-02.html>

At the formation meeting of the "Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations," the statement was declared as the "Message to the World." The message stated, "We have reassured our will to save humanity from its crisis through the lessons learned from our experiences, while at the same time saving ourselves." The spirit of the declaration in which their own sufferings are linked to the task of human history that it does not let anyone in the world experience the hardship of themselves has been carried out by the movement afterwards, up to now.

3. A Call from Hibakusha of Hiroshima and Nagasaki: proceedings International Symposium on the Damage and After-Effects of the Atomic Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, July 21-August 9, 1977, Tokyo, Hiroshima and Nagasaki

Published for Japan National Preparatory Committee by Asahi Evening News, 1978.

<http://www.ne.jp/asahi/hidankyo/nihon/english/img/a-call-from-hibakusha-of-hiroshima-and-nagasaki-01.pdf>

In the late 1970s, a national delegation calling on the United Nations to ban nuclear weapons requested the United Nations to investigate the damage caused by the atomic bomb and the situation of the A-bomb survivors. In the summer of 1977, an NGO hosted the first international symposium on the situation of the atomic bomb and the situation of the A-bomb survivors. This document is the report of the symposium. (The first 17 pages of the 288 page document are posted on the website.)

The symposium was based on three nationwide surveys of A-bomb survivors and documented work by experts from various fields. A-bomb survivors who had been

struggling with the atomic bomb disaster had gathered together to abolish nuclear weapons. The image of such A-bomb survivors was revealed through this symposium, and HIBAKUSHA became an international word. Also, the symposium "gave a human face to nuclear disarmament."

4. Statement by Senji Yamaguchi, Co-Chairperson of Hidankyo, at the SSDII, June 24, 1982

http://www.ne.jp/asahi/hidankyo/nihon/english/img/820624senji-yamaguchi_speech.pdf

In 1982 when US and Russia tried to deploy the tactical nuclear weapons to Europe and the anti-nuclear and peace movement was gaining steam in the world, the Hidankyo sent a delegation of 43 people to the United Nations Second Special Session on Disarmament (SSDII). On June 24, Mr. Senji Yamaguchi (Co-Chairperson of Hidankyo) stood on a platform of the General Assembly as representing the liaison conference of promoting the people's movement in Japan. This is the copy of his entire speech.

A picture of him showing his own keloid scar while rallying for "No More Hiroshima, No More Nagasaki, No More War and No More Hibakusha" was spread to the world.

5. Document "No More Hibakusha-Atomic Bomb Victims Demand" November 18, 1984

<http://www.ne.jp/asahi/hidankyo/nihon/english/about/about3-01.html>

Although it is the "only country to be the victim of atomic bombing," the Japanese Government has not recognized its compensation responsibility to atomic bombing damages which was brought about by the war the state waged and have continued to take the policy that people should "endure the burden." In order to criticize and overcome this, the Hidankyo made this document of demands compiled by conducting surveys and implementing nation-wide discussions.

This document showed that based on the experiences of the hibakusha, the atomic bombs are anti-human and "absolutely evil" weapons which "never allow to die or live as a human". It also stated that the hibakusha wish that no others become victims of atomic bombs. This document, called the "Constitution of the Hibakusha Movement," upholds two demands of nuclear abolition to be indispensable to its realization and state compensation to the atomic bomb damages while asking the Japanese and US Government to take responsibility.

6. Witness of Those Two Days

Vol 1

http://www.ne.jp/asahi/hidankyo/nihon/english/weapons/pdf/the_witness_of_those_two_days_Vol1_all.pdf

Vol 2

http://www.ne.jp/asahi/hidankyo/nihon/english/weapons/pdf/the_witness_of_those_two_days_Vol2_all.pdf

The whole picture of the unprecedented atomic bomb damage was determined by sufferers themselves. The Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations, also known as Hidankyo, which carried out a variety of large and small surveys, conducted "Atomic Bomb Sufferers' Survey," which targeted more than 13,000 people on a nationwide scale. The surveys were completed in 1985, on the 40th anniversary of the atomic bombing.

From the responses described freely about one of the questions "About that day or immediately after it, what you cannot forget even now, what you consider to be dreadful, what you should have done but you couldn't do, etc." 1,000 cases were excerpted and this is a collection of testimonies in which 500 cases were edited into Volume 1 and Volume 2. Please read out the extreme state which can only be described as "hell" the atomic bombing brought about and the mental trauma not to be erased it had brought about to humans.

(* The testimony which was excerpted from this collection of testimonies is included after page 7.)

7. Deaths of Hibakusha

Vol 1

http://www.ne.jp/asahi/hidankyo/nihon/english/weapons/pdf/the_deaths_of_hibakusha_Vol1_all.pdf

Vol 2

http://www.ne.jp/asahi/hidankyo/nihon/english/weapons/pdf/the_deaths_of_hibakusha_Vol2_all.pdf

The survey in 1985 includes the questions concerning the families of those who died in the atomic bombing. Hibakusha described their families and showed vividly how the atomic bombing killed people. Volume 1 contains the deaths from that day to the end of 1945 (300 cases) and Volume 2 has deaths from 1946 to the time of survey (400 cases).

8. Messages from Hibakusha for the 2010 and 2015 NPT Review Conference

For the 2010 NPT Review Conference, October 2009

<http://www.ne.jp/asahi/hidankyo/nihon/english/img/150421.pdf>

For the 2015 NPT Review Conference, April 2015

<http://www.ne.jp/asahi/hidankyo/nihon/english/img/091030e.pdf>

These are excerpt messages from hibakusha to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference written with the hope to make them understand the suffering inflicted on hibakusha caused by atomic bombing in order to make a reliable road map to a nuclear ban and nuclear abolishment.

The 2010 edition included: (1) atomic bomb suffering as hibakusha to convey to people in the world, (2) what we want to say to the Japanese and US Government toward NPT Review Conference, and (3) what we want the United Nations to do.

The 2015 edition which was an oral transcription created jointly of hibakusha and young people consisted of: (1) when exposed to atomic bombing, (2) life after the bombing, (3) what to appeal to the world and next generation, and (4) feedback from younger generation.

9. The Atomic Bombing Exposed Part1 (film on YouTube January 12, 2015) (Atomic bombing's anti-humanity testified by hibakusha: Series 1)

Hibakusha put inhumanity of atomic bombing in their own words (series one). Nuclear weapons cannot co-exist with human beings: introducing what atomic bomb survivors spoke, wrote, and painted.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cay0HWK5ziU&list=PL4UhoRnxMOGqKCilxeOWFSrG8BK02LMpZ>

Nuclear weapons cannot co-exist with human beings. This is a video product introducing the anti-humanity of atomic bombs and nuclear weapons based on the words (notes or testimonies) from hibakusha themselves or drawings they painted. (Total: 37 minutes 18 seconds)

- **Part 1: Testimony of Mr. Mikiso Iwasa** (A-bombed 1.2 km from the epicenter in Hiroshima) (18 minutes 04 seconds)
He had to run away while his mother burned to death alive.
- **Part 2: Testimony of Ms. Haruko Ochi** (A-bombed 1.7 km from the epicenter in Hiroshima) (5 minutes 58 seconds)
I have burdened a heavy cross in mind and body from that day to today.
- **Part 3: Extreme conditions to humanity** (5 minutes 06 seconds)
- **Part 4: Never to repeat to anyone again** (8 minutes 10 seconds)

10. Memoir of Flames

https://honoo-no-memoir.themedia.jp/pages/3129802/page_201908151214

A memoir written by Ms. Nobuko Yamamoto (second generation Japanese American), the mother of Ms. Eiko Ono (who lived through the atomic bombing of Hiroshima). Ms. Nobuko Yamamoto wrote this memoir in English two years after the atomic bomb was dropped. Nobuko, who lost her husband and elder daughter at the time of atomic bombing in Hiroshima on August 6, 1945 wrote this memoir in such a condition as if her heart was spewing blood because she had a strong desire to convey the cruelties of the atomic bomb to the people across the world. The memoir was sent to the TIME magazine in US, but it was confiscated under GHQ's censorship, dashing her hopes of having her story reach the rest of the world.

After Nobuko passed away at the age of 70, Eiko found the note among her belongings and had endeavored to fulfill her wishes by publishing a leaflet. Eiko passed away in the autumn of 2018. This is the official website in both Japanese and English which has been opened by their bereaved family.

Excerpt from the testimonies in the "Witness of Those Two Days"

Hiroshima, 1.5 Km from ground zero
Female Age 19
13-11-012

On the day of the atomic bomb, 11 members of my family slept together in the air raid shelter, three small children died during the night while saying, "Water, water..." The next morning, we carried their bodies out of the shelter, but their faces were so swollen and black that we couldn't tell them apart, so we laid them out on the ground according to height and decided their identities according to their size, "This is the biggest, so it must be Shige-chan," "This next one must be Yotchan..." I felt that I was in a living hell.

My older sister's family died one by one until only my niece who was in the first grade was left, but one day she found some spots on her body. "If I die there will be no one to visit the graves of my family. I don't want to die. I don't want to die..." then she died.

People with lost children and grandchildren were searching here and there and were burning the bodies they did find.

*

Hiroshima, 1,5 Km from ground zero
Female 25 years old
27-0257

The Red Cross hospital was full of dead bodies. The death of a human is a solemn and sad thing, but I didn't have the time to think about it because I had to collect their bones and dispose of their bodies.

A naked little girl joined us. Her parents had been killed, but she didn't cry. Later, I found her on the front lawn. I had come to call her for lunch. She was white, like a doll. She was dead.

There was a Junior High School boy who was a student-soldier. He lay on the flagstone walk at the front gate. He asked me to tell his mother where he was and then he asked for some water. I told him to wait while I went to get some. When I got back with the water, he had already died. I can still remember the name tag on his chest.

When I was walking out of the city, a soldier who I knew stopped and offered to let me ride in his truck. I accepted, but in the truck people were dying one by one. No one prayed or bowed their heads for the dead. I didn't either. When I think about it now, it seems quite strange, but at that time we had simply lost the ability to feel.

While I walked along the river bank, I saw a little girl crying as she pressed against her dead mother's breast. Later, I returned to get her because it had gotten really hot. When I got there, she was already dead.

I wonder what they thought about when they died. I can never forget carrying all those dead bodies, collecting the bones of the dead, the smell of the burning...

*

Hiroshima, Entered the city afterward
Male Of unknown age
40-0996

I do hate the A-bomb. That dreadful scene--I cannot forget even after many decades.

I wanted to give that person a glass of water.

*

Hiroshima 2.0 km from epicenter
Female
34 years old
34-4519

On an overcrowded train on the Hakushima Line I fainted for a while, holding in my arms my eldest daughter of 1 year and 6 months. I regained my senses at her cries and found no one else was on the train.

When I got off, such a lot of people surged toward me from the center of the city that I could not move. I fled to Nigitsu Shrine and there I saw many injured people under the Red Cross flag. One of them cried out to a soldier for some water again and again before he lost consciousness. Some crawled to the leak of a broken water pipe and died there with a mouthful of water.

A woman standing behind me, looking at the baby in my arms, said that her child under the fallen posts of the house had been almost burnt to death, crying out for help, "Mother, Mother". She said "I was helpless and could not do anything to rescue and had to leave him there."

This was truly a living hell, I thought, and the cruel sights still stay in my mind.

*

Hiroshima, 2.0 km from hypocenter

Female

24 years old

13-52-002

Without thinking of saving my mother, I fled alone to my relatives in Hesaka. People, with the skin dangling down, were stumbling along. They fell down with a thud and died one after another.

Staying indoors at home, I had no burns. I could not think of my mother, who must have been buried under the collapsed house. Later I went back to look for her, but in vain. I could not find even her body. In punishment for this behavior, I thought, I had to marry my cousin against my will, and have been resigned to it for 15 years.

Surrounded by terribly injured people, I felt ashamed because I had no burns. What I did for them, I cannot remember. Doing nothing, I am afraid, I made my way stepping over their bodies.

Still now I often have nightmares about this, and people say, "It's neurosis."

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