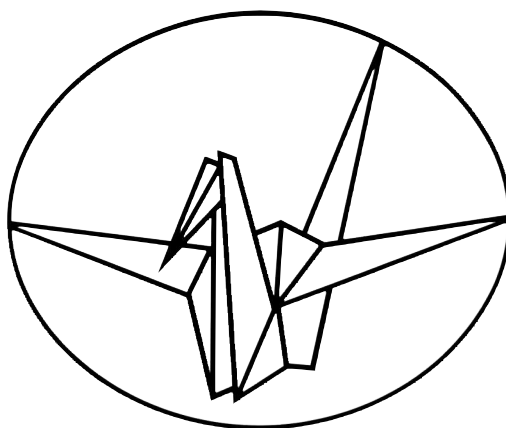


For the 2010 NPT Review Conference
Messages from Hibakusha

< Digest Version >



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About “Messages from Hibakusha”

We collected “ Messages from Hibakusha(A-bomb survivor/s) ” from all over Japan with the expectation that the 64 years of Hibakusha’s suffering will be reflected in the deliberations of the 2010 NPT Review Conference and that the Conference will pave the way for prohibition and abolition of nuclear weapons.

We asked Hibakusha to answer the following three questions, including open-ended questions and multiple-choice questions:

- Q 1:** Having lived for more than sixty years as a Hibakusha, what would you like to say to the world about the suffering that the atomic bombs brought to humanity?
- Q 2:** What are your expectations of (A) the Japanese Government and (B) the U.S. Government as the 2010 NPT Review Conference approaches?
- Q 3:** What are your expectations of the United Nations?

1, 030 Hibakusha from 46 Prefectures responded to the survey conducted during a brief two-month time span. Respondents ranged in age from a 63-year old, who was exposed to radiation in-utero, to a 97-year old. 39% of the respondents were age 15 to 19 at the time of the exposure and 40% were under 14 years of age. Many filled out the form from top to bottom with small letters. Some were almost illegible as they were written with shaky hands and some

were written by those in the hospital. Some Hibakusha simply put their names and put a circle over one of the choices-- “ abolition of nuclear weapons.”

70-80% of the Hibakusha used their own words to answer these questions from which the quotations in this digest version were selected. We hope these Hibakusha’s words, however short they may be, will convey the depths of their physical and psychological wounds and their strong wish for nuclear abolition and war renunciation based on their belief that no other person in this world should go through the kind of hardship that they endured. We also hope that these messages will communicate the urgency of Hibakusha’s expectation for the leadership role that the U.S., which has the “moral responsibility to act” as “the only nuclear power to have used a nuclear weapon,” and Japan, which has “the responsibility for humankind as the only country that suffered nuclear weapon attacks,” can play together to propel the United Nations and the world to abolish nuclear weapons.

Here is the result of the multiple-choice part of the Q2 as reference material to help readers understand Hibakusha’s messages better. (These questions allowed respondents to give more than one answer.)

Q2. As the NPT Review Conference approaches, what is your strongest request for the Japanese and the U.S. Governments?

A.To the Japanese Government:

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 1) Educate the world on the realities of the A-bombing exposure experience | 818 (79.4%) |
| 2) Provide national compensation for the A-bomb victims | 716 (69.5%) |
| 3) Legislate the Three Non-Nuclear Principals | 630 (61.2%) |
| 4) As a country that experienced A-bombing, urgenuclear weapon states to abolish their nuclear weapons | 839 (81.5%) |
| 5) Keep Article 9 of the Constitution | 628 (61.0%) |

B.To the U.S. Government:

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| 1) Apologize to Hibakusha | 644 (62.5%) |
| 2) Declare non-use of nuclear weapons | 781 (75.8%) |
| 3) Stop diplomacy based on nuclear threat | 467 (45.3%) |
| 4) Be a leader of nuclear abolition | 830 (80.6%) |

Note: the first line of each message indicates the identification number used in the survey, gender, and the age at the time of bombing.

1. After living more than 60 years as an A-bomb-survivor (Hibakusha), what are you most mindful of, what do you want to tell the people of the world about the life and death which the A-bomb (nuclear weapons) brings on human beings?

#13088 (Hiroshima, M, 29)

“Mummy, my legs ache so bad! Just cut them off!,” “I can’t bear the pain in my arms. Soldiers, help me!” Heart-wrenching cries were everywhere. One seriously injured person, gripping the trousers of a soldier, begged him to ‘Give me water!’ After opening a water bottle, he grabbed it and drank from it, gulping it down loudly, then dropped it, and died on the spot. It was really a hell on earth, a pandemonium, full of the cries for help, screeches and screams of pain.

The atomic bomb is a lethal weapon that annihilates human kind.

#11008 (Hiroshima, M, 16)

I was in my fourth year at Hiroshima Kouryou Secondary School, and, being mobilized in a student work corps at a national railway factory, I went there that day and entered the workroom with the oil-supplying machines when I was blinded by a flash of light. After a few seconds my head and legs were hit by tiles blasted by the nuclear explosion. I walked one mile directly back to Shiroshima-Kyuuken-Machi where I had moved during the war, to find my house burnt down. My parents survived, though my father had his legs injured and could not walk, and my mother had her face wounded by broken glass and it was bleeding. We spent the night outside. Among the dead bodies, burnt people cried for water. We carried water to them, but could not save them. Some people had worms in their rotting wounds and we could not even identify their gender.

The scene full of injured people running away from ground-zero, with their arms thrusting forward, reminds me, even to this day, of Hell on earth.

I used to be an athlete, usually the top or second in Hiroshima Prefecture. But after the explosion of the bomb, my health declined, and I have been in and out of hospital since then. Starting when I was 45, I was hospitalized three times for anemia, once for liver trouble, and once for stomach disease over a period of three years. Countless times I’ve wished that I had died then. Now I live walking only with the help of a cane.

As we Japanese are the first nation that suffered the effects of nuclear explosions on earth, we hope to convey to all the people of the world how truly dreadful nuclear bombs really are.

#11026 (Hiroshima, M, 4)

Inferno, filled with dead bodies with their faces like those of devils. They looked this way to me, who was four years old then. They still linger in my mind, and I cannot run away from them.

#27001 (Nagasaki, M, 7)

Lots of people died on the sixth and the ninth of August, 1945, on those hot days, burnt, crying, “It’s hot!” and “Give me water!.” I also am really sorry for those tens of thousands of people who died on the spot, being scorched alive.

#13185 (Nagasaki, M, 19)

We should speak, in as many ways as possible, about the over 100,000

Hibakusha, when they died crying for water right after the explosion of the atomic bomb, more than about those who are alive now.

#13130 (Hiroshima, M, 13)

On that day, in the hell brought on by an atomic explosion, I really thought that I was witnessing the last day of the earth and the extinction of human kind. Hibakusha themselves were no longer human beings in the hell. I, a Hibakusha, ran away from other Hibakusha who were crying for help.

I had been brought up in Nakajimaku, right at the centre of ground zero. Because of illness, I failed the entrance examination to be admitted into secondary school, and was forced to leave our home and move to the Dambara District. Among my family, my father, who worked at the Chunichi Newspaper (his office was 900 metres from our home), and my younger brother were killed by the bomb. Those who had brought me up in Nakajima were, all of them, killed. My friends who had entered boys' secondary schools and girls' schools were mobilized to evacuate houses for the war. Fifty-nine hundred of them were killed, without seeing their parents who came to save them. Since then I have worked to convey their hopes and dreams to all human beings.

"Those who made atomic bombs were human beings; those who used them were human; and those who will abolish them are also human." But nuclear bombs are atrocious weapons that cannot co-exist with human beings.

#13041 (Nagasaki, F, 6)

I am still not free from the sense of guilt whenever I remember that I refused to give water to those who asked me for it, fighting thirst and the painful throat

pangs, because I had been told water would kill them.

Those Hibakusha alive now are ashamed or feel guilt for being alive. Still, wars are being fought in many places on earth.

I believe that wars and nuclear bombs are unnecessary for human beings and will surely bring unhappiness to them.

#11041 (Hiroshima, M, 3)

We, the sufferers of a nuclear explosion, lost our humanity at that moment. Fully occupied with saving our own lives, we did nothing to save others. Nuclear weapons killed human beings, humanity, and so many living creatures.

Nuclear weapons are satanic. They destroy humankind. We human beings must never forget this.

#01027 (Hiroshima, M, 16)

I was very lucky to survive the explosion, though I was very close to the centre. But I could do nothing, just looking at those who had lost human shapes and died around me, neither saving them nor even helping them; the repentance and the guilt still torture me.

Given the rumour that an A-bomb sufferer must not leave descendants, I married late, and when I did have children, I strongly wished them never to see that disastrous scene, and never to hear those cries for water.

I do not speak of my family only.

I would like to convey to all the people on earth that nuclear weapons destroy the earth through the hands of human beings, and that people must appreciate the happiness they enjoy living on a peaceful earth.

#35013 (Hiroshima, F, 9)

I was nine years old when I was hit by the nuclear explosion and was buried

under the crushed school building. My father (41 years old), mother (35 years old), brother (12 years old) and sister (two years old) were all killed on the spot. Their bodies being lost, I cannot tell how they died, nor where! In a moment, everything around me changed to a heap of rubble, where lay innumerable people groaning; it was truly a hell on earth.

Sixty-four years have passed since then, but I am still dragging the sorrows and pain I experienced then. No medicine can heal wounds in the mind. It might have been better had I died then and there with my parents.

#42037 (Nagasaki, F, 8)

I have lived 72 years, while losing my family, my property and everything I had, being left alone. But I never forget that moment when the atomic bomb was dropped. My family of nine members, who had lived happily in a newly built house, disappeared right after that last breakfast without saying a word, leaving me alone.

Nobody should have this kind of experience. Nagasaki must be the last place where an atomic bomb was, and will ever be dropped. Weeping with tears, I have talked of the nuclear disaster to the students who come to Nagasaki on school excursions.

#43022 (Nagasaki, F, 16)

My mother was 44 years old and my youngest sister was one year and six months old when they were killed by the nuclear explosion. My father, though he used to be healthy, died ten years later at the age of 54, having worked everyday in collecting and burying the dead bodies after the bombing.

I suffered from severe fever and lost mobility in my left hip. At first even my surgeon was unable to tell why it became

so. Although two years later I had an operation, it failed to move again as if the hip bone and leg bone had become fused.

So I have been forced to limp on my bad leg for over 60 years.

War is detestable. Nuclear weapons are the most atrocious thing on earth. Even if you survive the explosion, you have a lifetime of suffering to face afterward. We must never allow our children and grandchildren to have such miserable experiences as this. I strongly appeal to the nuclear powers to abolish nuclear bombs.

#13193 (Nagasaki, F, 10)

What the atomic bomb brings upon us is not simply to kill, to wound and torture Hibakusha and to destroy everything on the spot, but to burden us with heavier torment, lasting throughout our lives until we die. We would like to convey to the world not only the fears we carry on ourselves, but also the anxiety of radiation effects that might affect Hibakusha descendents. Recently, my child was diagnosed with cancer, which may have been a genetic effect resulting from the radioactivity. I want humanity to understand the anxiety which has forever been torturing me.

#34049 (Hiroshima, M, 19)

Though I had been rather proud of my health and strength before I was hit by that explosion, my health has declined since then, and I lost my confidence and contracted illnesses. Medicines have been an indispensable means to sustain my life, and I have not spent a single day without taking them from when I turned 26 until now (I'm 84). Every day now I visit the hospital. This is the reality: Hibakusha live with anxiety until they die.

#40060 (Nagasaki, M, 17)

Sixty-four years after the end of the War, I am still assaulted daily by the fear and anxiety about the after-effects of radioactivity, still uneasy and terrified by thinking of the effects on my children and grandchildren. Even medical specialists say that they cannot tell, which makes us more nervous. I live day by day scared as I cannot be sure when I will be attacked by what kind of disease.

Nuclear bombs do not permit us to have a peaceful life. Never again can one be dropped on earth.

#34006 (Hiroshima, M, 2)

Many of my relatives were killed by the explosion, and even those who survived the initial blast died one after another. Four who were certified atomic bomb survivors died during the past three years. Two children of my relatives died of acute leukemia. I am scared that this might happen to my own children.

#27013 (Hiroshima, F, 1)

When I was one year and four months old, though I do not remember it myself, I entered Hiroshima carried on the back of my mother, looking for my father who had been directly hit by the explosion. While I was still a child, I wondered why my parents (especially my father) were not healthy. I understood the reason when I became a junior-high-school student. Both of them died at the age of 65.

Now arriving at the age of their death, I can understand how they felt, how mortifying it was to have lost their household together with their health. I want say that very ordinary families were also victims of the atomic bombs.

#34013 (Hiroshima, F, 33)

I was deeply impressed when I heard President Obama's speech. Any country

hit by nuclear bombs cannot be free from that Hell on the earth. Nuclear weapons threaten peace and the peaceful lives of humans.

After sixty years and more since I was subjected to the nuclear explosion, I still carry war in my mind and body. My children have sustained my life and paid the medical expense for the illnesses I have suffered from the nuclear explosion. I have sacrificed their lives as well as my own.

#13011 (Nagasaki, M, 13)

As long as even a single nuclear bomb remains on this earth, Hibakusha will continue to suffer. The atomic bomb that exploded in Nagasaki was "the last nuclear bomb." Since then quite a few nuclear bombs have been made, with which we are forced to live. This is the unbearable anguish of Hibakusha now.

#13030 (Hiroshima, F, 11)

I would like to have all the people of the world know the real danger of nuclear bombs. Please listen to the cries of the hearts of those who, though having survived the first shock of the explosion, died one after another of unknown, unidentified causes. (Fortunately I am still alive.) Only then shall the people of the world work in earnest in the campaign of abolishing nuclear weapons.

#42012 (Nagasaki, M, 8)

I hope everyone on earth will realize what will happen to human beings and to their surroundings once a nuclear bomb is used. Then they will understand why Hibakusha have been crying, 'No more nuclear bombs.'

#13060 (Hiroshima, M, 29)

I am scared not only of my own health, but for the health of my children and

grandchildren. Even if nuclear bombs are undesirable, as long as even only one remains on earth, nobody is free from the possibility of becoming a Hibakusha.

#42021 (Nagasaki, M, 7)

I have lived for more than 60 years. I cannot tell how much longer I will survive, but to tell the truth, I have hated both Japan and America for starting the war. That is what happened in the past. I want to tell all the people in the world that we must abolish and destroy nuclear weapons. I still suffer from various kinds of sickness. People should be able to do whatever they like, except create war.

#13188 (Nagasaki, F, 2)

As Hibakusha are getting old, we are afraid of the near future when no one will be left to talk first-hand of the fears and suffering of Hibakusha, and we fear that history may repeat the tragedy. We should appeal to the people of the world not to forget what happened in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, to visit those places and witness the tragedy, and to realize that the responsibility and power of not repeating this madness rests upon each of us.

#13004 (Hiroshima, F, 14)

The disastrous experience I had that day is beyond my power of expression. For the 60 years and more since then, I have never spent a day blessed with good health. We, who suffer like this from the explosion, have appealed to the world "No more Hiroshima, no more Nagasaki." We do not want retaliation. Peace does not come out of hatred and vengeance.

The atomic explosion erased our city in an instant, as it snuffed out human lives along with it. Those few people who survived still suffer from radioactivity. The effects of it will not cease to harm

until far in the future.

As the number of nuclear powers is increasing now, with international disputes and terrorism being prevalent, all the people on the earth are under the threat of nuclear bombs. Hiroshima and Nagasaki are not historical events far in the past. Please do think seriously of this threat as your own.

#11023 (Nagasaki, M, 15)

As a member of the only nation that suffered through nuclear explosions, I have nothing to say out aloud other than these three words: "No Nuclear Weapons."

Whenever I recall those monstrous disasters, my heart is choked with anger, hatred and enmity that shake my whole body.

I truly hope to see a joint declaration of no war and no use of nuclear weapons by the United Nations, the United States and all other nuclear powers.

2. Being a Hibakusha, what would you want to say to the U.S. Government and/or to the Japanese Government? What would you ask them to do for the NPT Reconsideration Conference?

A. To the Japanese Government:

#08006 (Nagasaki, F, 4)

Because you have not taken your responsibility of being a nation that was the only victim of atomic bombing, such a nuclear proliferation has happened as now seen all over the world. Since the U. S. Government now touches on the issue of nuclear disarmament, Japan should exercise leadership in the movement. If the world goes on competing for such proliferation of nuclear armament, it deprives us of our own future. Let the world bear this fact in mind. We should word toward a nuclear-free world.

#34037 (Hiroshima, Man 15)

I would like the Japanese government to invite and request prime ministers and presidents of the nuclear powers to Hiroshima, having them visit the Atomic Bomb Museum as well as listening for the voices of Hibakusha directly.

#40059 (Nagasaki, F, 18)

As the only nation having ever suffered nuclear devastation, and still not being free from Hibakusha's sufferings, I want our government to firmly ask nuclear powers to abandon nuclear weapons as soon as possible.

Especially, I want our government to invite the leaders of the nuclear powers to Hiroshima and Nagasaki because I believe it should be the shortest way to the accomplishment of this aim.

#42031 (Nagasaki, M, 2)

1. As the only nation to have ever

suffered nuclear devastation, it is our government's responsibility to announce the danger, the fear, and the cruelty of nuclear weaponry correctly to the rest of the world.

2. Without depending on the U. S. nuclear umbrella, without fearing the fact that our neighbour, China, now has nuclear weapons, our government should give warning to the world that it is nuclear weaponry that can extinguish the human race from the earth.

3. Both the Japanese government and the U.S. government should disclose the sealed A-bomb documents to create, and contribute to world peace.

#13227 (Hiroshima, M, 12)

1. The Japanese government is the only government that can act to eliminate nuclear weapons by making the world aware of the reality of A-bomb sufferings.

To do this is also the government's responsibility.

2. The only way for Japan to survive is to get out from under the U.S. nuclear umbrella and to promote the quintessence of Article 9 of our Constitution.

#13004 (Hiroshima, F, 14)

For the past ten years and more, I have been travelling abroad by myself to advocate the importance of a non-nuclear world.

The year our Self-Defense Force was sent to Iraq, I was asked by some European people, "Is Japan truly an independent Asian nation? Our

understanding is that Japan is just one of the stars on the American flag.” I was so ashamed of my own country. Do you really believe that our country is secure as long as we are under the U.S. nuclear umbrella?

I want you to show us the future vision of our country. There is no need to be one of the super-powers, and there is no need for military forces. The only way for us to receive respect from the rest of the world is to contribute to world peace on the basis of our pacifist constitution. This came out of my personal experiences of having travelled around countless cities on foot and having met citizens over there.

#13156 (Hiroshima, F, 3)

I am furious because you think it is right to be under the U. S. nuclear umbrella. Have you forgotten that Japan is the only nation that was the victim of nuclear bombings? I ask you to take a positive stand toward nuclear disarmament in a resolute manner.

#10006 (Nagasaki, M, 16)

I feel empty whenever I hear some Japanese senior officials saying Japan is the only state that has experienced a nuclear bombing. It is a degrading attitude that we have settled for under the U.S. nuclear umbrella.

#13031 (Hiroshima, M, 8)

Our history tells us that we should play the leading role in the world by showing how it is like to be nuclear-free. However, the reality is that we beg the U. S. Government to protect us by staying under their nuclear umbrella, and to retaliate with their nuclear weapons if we are attacked. I feel so ashamed of this attitude. I want you to stop this behaviour immediately.

#13011 (Nagasaki, M, 13)

The Japanese Government likes to say the hackneyed expression, “Japan is the only country that has ever suffered nuclear devastation.” How can the same government refuse to pay compensation to their own A-bomb victims and settling under the U. S. nuclear umbrella? It is political fraud! The nuclear umbrella is the same umbrella of the atomic-bombs that were dropped those two days. The Japanese government should bear firmly in mind that nobody can live under such an “inhumane umbrella.”

#13055 (Nagasaki, F, 12)

I want to say to my government to keep both Article 9 of our Constitution and the three antinuclear principles. The ballistic-missiles plan only makes tensions higher in our neighbouring countries. You should be more humble and listen carefully to your citizens’ voices.

#26002 (Nagasaki, F, 13)

In the Constitution of Japan, Article 9, which declares abolishing war, was born out of the heinous war when many Japanese as well as innumerable people in our neighbouring countries lost their lives, killed like insects. Confessing and repenting for what we did during the war, our constitution forever renounces war. I ask our government to abide by our Constitution, to act to stop waging war or having nuclear weapons, and to send out a message of peace.

I would dare to ask our government to get out from under the ‘nuclear umbrella,’ and proclaim nuclear disarmament loudly.

#42072 (Nagasaki, M, 4)

I do not think that the statute of limitations applies to war crimes. The Japanese government should regret their

past invasion, apologize to war victims, compensate for cart-off and forced labour. We should come away from the U. S. nuclear umbrella, taking a leading role toward the realization of disarmament in North-East Asia. I want our government to abrogate the Japan- US Security Treaty and replace it with a true friendship treaty.

#40039 (Hiroshima, M, 2)

By revising the present policy of leaving the Hibakusha helpless, the Japanese government should take new measures that will be more constructive, including state indemnification toward us.

#43003 (Nagasaki, F, 8)

Seven members of my family died. Beside the still-living survivors of the A-bomb, no compensation has ever given to those who are dead. They were just killed for nothing. The Japanese government should do something for them.

#45003 (Nagasaki, M, 13)

Because the decision to take part in the war was made by our government, it is its responsibility to provide national redress to the Hibakusha.

#11034 (Hiroshima, F, 9)

It stands reasonable that you are responsible for compensating for Hibakusha's sufferings in order not to create Hibakusha and our torture again in the future.

Article 9 of our Constitution was created to take a new step to keep us from repeating such a tragedy as this again. No matter what happens, we should preserve Article 9 as it is now.

#41002 (Hiroshima, F, 27)

Because we were actively involved in the war, we were the targets of the A-

bombs. I strongly believe that the best way to prevent us from engaging in war again is to follow Article 9 of our Constitution. In this sense, I really want to have this article preserved forever. Furthermore, I would like our government to take a leading role in spreading the essence of it all over the world.

#42047 (Nagasaki, M, 16)

My concern is that although President Obama now takes his assertive stance to be a leader of creating world peace, the Japanese government seems to be reluctant in taking the main role in the movement as the only nation that experienced nuclear devastation. Please do not forget that we are the nation that should take the leading role.

I am now over 80. I may not live long. My hope is to see with my own eyes the world taking the reverse direction toward nuclear disarmament. Right now, the trend seems to be the contrary. I want to know how our government views the present situation.

#35021 (Hiroshima, M, 13)

I am so worried as the younger representatives of our nation seem to allow the involvement in war.

I do hope that the Japanese government seriously step forth and asks the nuclear powers to abandon their nuclear weapons.

#20003 (Hiroshima, M, 24)

The Japanese government, along with the U.S. government, has always objected to or refrained from supporting proposals by other nations for nuclear disarmament, such as abolishing nuclear bases, and nuclear testing.

The Japanese government has been using the cliché, "we are the only nation

that has ever suffered from nuclear devastation” when this seems to give us advantages. Then why did you not take a leading role toward it? Why not act as a nation of A-bomb victims toward the path to nuclear disarmament?

The NPT Reconsideration Conference in 2010 should be a milestone in the movement, and I would like our government to contribute to its success by standing on our unique experience, hence to get recognition by people within and outside of Japan.

#17010 (Nagasaki, M, 9)

Being the only country that was a victim of A- bombs, I would like our government to take a leading role in the movement of nuclear disarmament in cooperation with the U.S., which is the only country that has actually used such weapons.

If our government is sincerely aware of its responsibility and regrets what it did during the war, many nations will be willing to support our government’s decision to achieve world nuclear disarmament.

As a government of the country that maintains Article 9 in the Constitution, we should expect it to steer its diplomatic activities toward this aim.

#11006 (Hiroshima, F, 0)

Dropping a single A-bomb burned and killed over 100,000 citizens on the spot, and even those who survived the first shock are still suffering from the after-effects of radiation, such as cancers. Even within Japan, many people do not understand how horrible the A- bomb truly is. I want you to tell them what it really is like.

If the two countries, the U.S. which dropped the A-bombs, and Japan, which was the target of them, go hand-in-hand

together, I strongly believe that we can lead the rest of the world to achieve the abolishment of nuclear weapons and war.

2. Being a Hibakusha, what would you want to say to the U.S. Government and the Japanese Government? What would you ask them to do for the NPT Reconsideration Conference?

B. To the U.S. Government

#08006 (Nagasaki, F, 4)

The U.S. is now exposed to the hazard of devastation threatened by nuclear weapons (it is within the realm of possibility that some terrorist group may actually use one). Whatever the reason might be, we cannot allow anyone to destroy the beautiful earth and make it a place where nobody can live any longer.

I want you to apologize for the A-bombings to the people of the world, and to take the leading role toward nuclear disarmament.

#40007 (Nagasaki, F, 23)

I have never received an apology in my whole life from you. I really want to hear from you, "We are so sorry." Even now, in the summer time, I am terrified and cannot go outside. I still hear the huge sound of bombardment and a lot of children crying.

#30007 (Hiroshima, M, 18)

Have you ever apologized for what you have done to us? How would you react if you had been the victims of the A-bombings? I want the American citizens to fully realise the cruelty of the A-bombings.

#43035 (Hiroshima, M, 21)

Since you are the only nuclear nation that has used nuclear weapons, you can take leadership toward nuclear disuse and disarmament. I would like to hear your apology to us, the Hibakusha, and to those who have already passed away.

#43013 (Nagasaki, M, 8)

Give me back my parents. Give me back my family.

#13041 (Nagasaki, F, 6)

Your country never hesitates to call itself a power of justice, and you sent soldiers to many overseas countries. I wonder whether you really are a knight in shining armor as you say. I remember many Hibakusha tortured right after the A-bombing. I wonder who could use such an atrocious weapon to kill people, who could not even die immediately as humans. I wonder how this could possibly be done by other human beings.

#13006 (Nagasaki, F, 15)

President Obama finally admitted that "(we are) the only nuclear power that used a nuclear weapon," at last, after all those 64 years of disregarding of it.

I really want President Obama to come to Hiroshima and Nagasaki to apologize. I want him to let the Japanese government take its part in realising nuclear disarmament by making it part of your agenda. I would like to see this measure taken.

#13227 (Hiroshima, M, 12)

1. I want you to apologize to Hibakusha by admitting the fact that dropping A- bombs was against international law.

2. The first user of the A-bomb must be the first abolisher.

3. You also have the responsibility of disclosing the data of the A-bombing, and

of what it brought upon humans and the environment.

#14002 (Hiroshima, F, 16)

I would like you, the U.S. government and especially the citizens of the U.S., to understand the tortures suffered by Hibakusha.

#11041 (Hiroshima, M, 3)

I went to the U.S. in August last year, where I heard that in your country, school education takes the stand of insisting the righteousness of the A- bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. I am afraid this is because you do not know how horrible it is to be a Hibakusha. I want you to face the facts of A-bombing and to realise that it is incompatible with human beings. It could be called the devil's weapon.

To establish a "nuclear free world," the first step you can take is to meet a Hibakusha to feel the reality of being one.

#13028 (Hiroshima, F, 20)

I would like to ask you, the U. S. government, to eliminate nuclear weapons and create real world peace. I want to protect Japanese children with love, aiming for peace in Japan, telling them that there should never be an A-bombing again in the world for children's happiness on earth.

Being bed-ridden, I can only pray for nuclear disarmament and world peace.

#13122 (Hiroshima, M, 18)

We, the Hibakusha, do not seek vengeance on the U. S. for the atomic bombings on Japan. The retribution that we do seek, however, is its assistance in ridding the world of nuclear weapons, and we have been working long and hard to realize this goal. I found President Obama's speech to be very moving.

#40060 (Nagasaki, M, 17)

I recognize that President Obama turned his direction towards nuclear disarmament. We all know that it is, in any sense, not an easy way to accomplish the aim. I hope that President Obama's decision will not change in the future. That is what I want the most from the people of the U.S..

#17010 (Nagasaki, M, 9)

As a nation that created and used A-bombs, the U. S. government in cooperation with the Japanese government, the only nation to have ever suffered a nuclear devastation, should take leadership towards nuclear disarmament, which seems to be the only way to compensate for the moral responsibility to your past deeds.

Now is the time for us humans to take a different direction in nuclear measures.

I am so grateful to know that President Obama made a historical speech on April 5th, in Prague, Czech Republic, by showing some concrete directions toward nuclear arm reduction.

As a Hibakusha, I have received great energy and hope from his speech.

But I am worried by his words, "This goal will not be reached quickly, perhaps not in my lifetime," because he is much younger than us, the Hibakusha.

Still, I would like to send my gratitude to him as he, in any case, has shown us his decision toward the realization of nuclear disarmament.

This is the issue of burning concern. And as words alone are not enough, they must be followed by steady action.

#43024 (Nagasaki, M, 15)

I want you to realise President Obama's wish, and to take the leading role toward a nuclear-free world. The first step for it is for you yourself to abolish your nuclear

weapons. As long as you have your own, no nuclear powers will listen to your words seriously.

#40056 (Nagasaki, M, 14)

I want you to admit the fact that you are most responsible for the present nuclear proliferation, and so, please take the leading role to realise a world of peace, free from nuclear weapons.

#41002 (Hiroshima, F, 27)

Your sin in dropping A-bombs to kill hundreds of thousands of citizens will never be forgotten. Your job, therefore, is now to take the leading role and to declare nuclear disarmament to the world. I trust President Obama's words. I really want him to make this happen.

#13012 (Hiroshima, M, 16)

I appreciate that President Obama declared in his speech, "as a nuclear power, as the only nuclear power that has used a nuclear weapon, the U. S. has a moral responsibility to act." I would be more grateful if he moves forward to start world-wide nuclear disarmament immediately. Admitting that nuclear weapons are absolute evil, the U.S. government should eliminate the nuclear weapons deployed in Japan and its adjacent waters.

#13156 (Hiroshima, F, 3)

Your country possesses many nuclear weapons, atomic & hydrogen bombs, more than any other country in the world.

It should be impossible to accomplish nuclear disarmament unless you take a stand of abolishing them. You have also sent your army to and have bases in quite a few foreign countries, which suggest that you are always on the front lines. My opinion is that the first step toward world peace is to pull those forces back to the US.

#12007 (Hiroshima, M, 12)

We should bear in mind the logic of your justifying the A-bombing on us, that it was to end the war more quickly, invites others to use this excuse in using the same weapon again in future.

#42012 (Nagasaki, M, 8)

We risk our life in war. We risk our life even more to protect the call of peace. Why not help your president who delivered the Prague Speech to start the action? The immediate ratification of CTBT is what is most needed now. (Japan should take the leading role to attain this).

#42059 (Nagasaki, M, 6)

I would like you to take the lead toward nuclear disarmament. This is the way you can show your remorse and apology to us, the Hibakusha. Also, this will create a strong persuasive power of letting go of nuclear weapons by the nuclear nations.

#45022 (Nagasaki, M, 17)

You are under heavy responsibility because you are the only nation that has actually used nuclear bombs. With Japan, whose citizens were the targets of your A-bombs, you should take the leading role by disclosing the reality of the suffering caused by the A-bombings, in order to accomplish nuclear disarmament.

3. As Hibakusha, what are your expectations of the United Nations?

#11031 (Hiroshima, F, 24)

It has been 64 years since then. How long must Hibakusha go on telling about the anti-humanity of nuclear weapons? We have no time left. The best task that the U.N. can perform now is to abolish nuclear weapons all over the world.

#04002 (Hiroshima, M, 13)

Using nuclear weapons cannot make world peace. It is undoubtedly against international law. All human beings desire the abolition of nuclear weapons.

#13059 (Nagasaki, F, 24)

I would like to see every country set its own interests aside and be able to abolish nuclear weapons. A-bombs cruelly destroy human beings and everything else. If not abolished, they will bring the world into a horrible state of hell.

It is enough that those who suffered from the A-bombs are only our generation. At all costs, the U.N. should do everything in its power to abolish nuclear weapons and to allow us all to live in a world of peace and prosperity through dialogue.

#04001 (Hiroshima, M, 21)

As long as there are nuclear weapon states, there is the spread of nuclear weapons. The U.N. should keep appealing to nuclear weapon states to abolish nuclear weapons. There is no security where nuclear weapons are. If an accident happens some day, it would mean the destruction of all human beings on earth.

#41004 (Nagasaki, F, 0)

As a real leader of the world, the U.N.

should work toward world peace by insisting to nuclear weapon states, North Korea, Iran and so on, that nuclear weapon development is foolish and only brings misery to the world.

The U. N. should consider how to make it possible for all states to sit at the same negotiation table.

#13004 (Hiroshima, F, 14)

We, the Hibakusha, personally experienced that human beings cannot coexist with nuclear weapons. Though some 63 years have passed since then, radiation of the A-bomb still ruins our health, and we are anxious about our children's and grandchildren's health. We are suffering from trauma.

Both the governments of Japan and United States have concealed the real conditions of A-bomb damage. Now the threat of nuclear weapons is spreading across the world, I strongly request that the U.N. disclose and announce the real state of A-bomb damage.

#08006 (Nagasaki, F, 4)

For the abolition of nuclear weapons, the U. N. should take concrete action, such as sending Hibakusha as "ambassadors of peace" to every country in the world. We, the Hibakusha, from the only country which has suffered from A-bombs, know the horrors of them.

#13227 (Hiroshima, M, 12)

1. To establish a permanent exhibition of the real situation of nuclear weapon damage at the U.N. Headquarters

2. To require every ambassador to the U.N. to visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

#17012 (Hiroshima, F, 1)

The U.N. should take a leading role to inform the world about the reality of the effects of A-bombs. There are various means, such as establishing a permanent exhibition of A-bombs at U. N. Headquarters, collecting testimonies of suffering from A-bombs, founding U.N. peace schools in every country and so on.

#13012 (Hiroshima, M, 16)

I wish that the U.N. would invite as many Hibakusha as possible to speak there so that it can understand the suffering from A-bombs. The U.N. should send delegates of all countries to Hiroshima and Nagasaki, let them visit Hibakusha, and make extensive investigations through interviews. If so, a U.N. disarmament conference would be held as soon as possible to realise a treaty on the abolition of nuclear weapons.

#14021 (Nagasaki, M, 16)

The permanent members of the Security Council of the U.N. are all Allies of World War II, and all of them are nuclear weapon states. If all of the members of the Security Council were elected from among the members of all U.N. states with set terms, the voices of many non-nuclear weapon states could be heard and make these words a global slogan: "Nuclear disarmament, Abolition of nuclear weapons, Non-proliferation of nuclear weapons".

#42034 (Nagasaki, F, 17)

It is unreasonable that just the five great powers of the world are allowed to hold nuclear weapons. Nuclear weapons should be abolished from all over the world.

#42012 (Nagasaki, M, 8)

It is excessively against the

philosophy of the U. N. that all five permanent members of the Security Council of the U.N. are nuclear weapon states and also arms exporting states. All non-nuclear weapon states should unite in abolition of nuclear weapons.

The U.N. should display Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution at its Headquarters and make it the guiding words of the 21st century.

#15001 (Hiroshima, M, 26)

To sweep away nuclear weapons from the earth, we must not allow any state to possess them. It is not reasonable that no states are allowed to hold nuclear weapons except for five. If all nuclear states abolish their nuclear weapons first, then the other states will follow them. If we allow nuclear weapons to spread, the earth might be destroyed. The U. N. should have a strict monitoring role. If there is a violation, all of the world should impose sanctions on the violator.

#47001 (Nagasaki, M, 17)

It is insane that NPT admits that the five victorious states (U. S., Russia, UK, France, and China) can hold nuclear weapons. NPT is an unequal treaty. I would like to see the Review Conferences also devoid of this kind of inequality.

#13127 (Hiroshima, M, 16)

Every state should appreciate that international politics should be done for all human beings, not just for the interests of its own state; otherwise the destruction of human beings will result. I hope to see leadership from the U.N.

The 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the NPT should succeed at all costs.

#45022 (Nagasaki, M, 17)

Conferences related to NPT (Treaty

on the Non- Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons) should be held in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the U. N. must appreciate the actual conditions of damage of A- bombs, then tackle the abolition of nuclear weapons.

#01010 (Hiroshima, M, 2)

I strongly request that the General Assembly Resolution in 2000 : “ The engagement, as soon as appropriate, of all nuclear-weapon States in the process leading to the total elimination of their nuclear weapons” be practiced.

#13031 (Hiroshima, M, 8)

Chemical weapons used in World War I are prohibited by international laws and treaty. Nuclear weapons are not yet forbidden though they are incomparably dangerous with chemical weapons. The U.N. should manage to solve this problem.

#04005 (Hiroshima, M, 19)

I hope that a treaty which prohibits using nuclear weapons will be proposed by the U.N. and every state will conclude it.

#13140 (Nagasaki, F, NA)

The number of nuclear weapon states has increased. The U.N. should declare that nuclear weapons must be abolished from the world.

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