

March 29, 2023

Statement

We Protest the Provision of DU Weapons and the Deployment of
Tactical Nuclear Weapons

In response to Ukraine's request for arms supplies to NATO nations, the British Defense Ministry announced on March 20 that it would provide depleted uranium as a portion of the ammunition for its main battle tank, the Challenger 2.

On March 21, President Vladimir Putin rebuked, "the West has already begun to equip weapons with nuclear components" and that "Russia will have to respond." Along with President Lukashenko of Belarus, Ukraine's neighbor and Russia's ally, he announced that tactical nuclear weapons would be deployed in Belarus as an extension of conventional weapons.

The Hibakusha strongly protest these acts.

DU munitions were used in the Iraq War, and the radioactive material scattered when they hit their targets has been shown to cause a wide range of damage to the human body, birth defects, and environmental pollution. Their use in actual warfare must be stopped.

Russia's deployment of tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus, including those that the U.S. has deployed in NATO countries, is clearly a misguided tactic that increases the possibility of nuclear use, puts the world on the brink of nuclear war, and may bring about the extinction of humanity.

What do you seek beyond the loss of all that humanity has built up to now? Were the experiences of the Hibakusha of Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings merely a preview of the possible end of the world?

We Hibakusha hope that this protracted war will end as soon as possible. Efforts through dialogue between both parties in the conflict, including their supporting nations, are the only peaceful tactic that can bring an end to the war.

There are no winners in nuclear war. There are no winners in war.

Kido Sueichi

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