

Protest against the Start of Tactical Nuclear Weapons Drills by Russia

May 24, 2024

Russia's Ministry of Defense announced on May 21st that it has started drills simulating the launch of tactical nuclear weapons, which are taking place in the Southern Military District, a border zone that includes parts of Ukraine under Russian control.

We, the Hibakusha of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings, vehemently protest these actions.

Last year, Russia deployed tactical nuclear weapons to its ally, Belarus. With no end in sight to the war in Ukraine, Russia's actions—along with the United States' deployment of nuclear weapons to NATO countries—heighten the possibility of nuclear use. This misguided strategy pushes the world to the brink of nuclear war and threatens humanity with annihilation.

The atomic bombings in Japan claimed many lives and continue to affect our bodies, lives, and minds in various ways. The tragedy of the use of nuclear weapons, which resulted in inhumane consequences, must never be repeated.

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons prohibits the development, testing, production, stockpiling, transfer, use, and threat of use of nuclear weapons. These actions are illegal under international law, regardless of a country's status as a party to the treaty.

We, the Hibakusha, strongly urge both parties in the conflict and their supporting nations to promptly initiate dialogue to bring an end to this prolonged war.

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

Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations