

Statement of Protest against DPRK Nuclear Testing

Hibakusha (surviving victims of the atomic bombings in Japan) strongly protest the nuclear testing carried out by the DPRK. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, adopted on July 7, prohibits the testing, use, or even threat of use of nuclear weapons. Prohibition of nuclear weapons is now mainstream in the world. This testing opposes the global trend toward prohibition and is a retrogressive act of violence. This action is unacceptable.

Do the US President Donald Trump and the DPRK Chairman Kim Jong-un, as they argue over the use of their nuclear weapons, even know what nuclear weapons are? The atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki completely destroyed both cities in an instant and claimed many lives. It was an unbelievable living hell. Hibakusha who narrowly survived this hell suffered from heat rays, blasts and radiation, and the damage to their bodies, lives and hearts has continued for the 72 years since the bombings.

Hibakusha can never forgive the atomic bombings by the US. However, we have never called for retaliation for the bombings. No one on earth should ever have to experience suffering as Hibakusha did. Hibakusha sincerely desire that we avoid nuclear war and that we never again create victims of nuclear weapons. We can never allow any nations to test, use, or threaten the use of nuclear weapons.

Hibakusha request the following of the Japanese Government:

To sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

To make efforts, as the only nation to have undergone atomic bombing and as a nation with a constitution that states that it shall not use force to solve international conflicts, to persuade its ally, the US, and encourage its neighbor, the DPRK, to resolve this current conflict through dialogue.

September 6, 2017

Nihon Hidankyo

(Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations)