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<Statement>

We Strongly Protest the Hydrogen Bomb Testing by the DPRK

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) claimed as a "special and important" announcement on its state television that it successfully detonated its first hydrogen bomb on January 6th at 10 am local time (10:30 am in Japan) at a known nuclear test site in the northeast of the country. Prior to the announcement, seismic waves from an artificial earthquake created by the nuclear test were observed in Japan. We, Hibakusha (atomic bomb survivors), condemn this nuclear testing with strong anger.

The "special and important" announcement revealed that Mr. Kim Jong Un, First Secretary of the Korean Workers' Party, ordered the nuclear test on December 15, 2015, and signed the final mandate on January 3, this year. The announcement proudly declared that the nation has become a member of the nuclear powers with its success of the testing.

Hibakusha, who have lost family and loved ones and have experienced first-hand the hell that nuclear weapons unleash, have appealed to the world with the message that "Hibakusha are never created again," and have opposed nuclear weapons testing by any country to achieve the swift abolition of nuclear arsenals. Since 1945, humans have overcome crises that have threatened the use of nuclear weapons, greatly due to the Hibakusha's appeal and global public opinion that we should create a world without nuclear war.

Last autumn, the 70th United Nations General Assembly, with an overwhelming majority, adopted a resolution to establish an Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) for a treaty banning nuclear weapons. The first meeting of the OEWG convenes next month. After carrying out discussions, the Group is to submit an advisory opinion to

the 71st General Assembly this coming autumn. The DPRK is completely countering the efforts of the world to abolish nuclear weapons for the peaceful survival of humanity. We must not allow such a retrogressive act.

We request that the DPRK should withdraw its policy to possess nuclear arms and develop them further and instead make efforts to create a peaceful world for both its people and the rest of the world. We call on the Japanese government and other nations to strictly refrain from reacting by force to the DPRK and to respond in a rational manner.

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(Nihon Hidankyo)