

May 15, 2024

Protest Against Remarks in the U.S. Senate Justifying the Atomic Bombing of Japan

According to the press, in the U.S. Senate hearing on May 8, Republican Senator Lindsey Graham referred to Hiroshima and Nagasaki in his remarks regarding the provision of arms to Israel. He asked Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Charles Brown, "Do you think that was the right decision for America to drop two atomic bombs on the Japanese cities in question [Hiroshima and Nagasaki]?" Gen. Brown replied, "I will tell you it stopped the world war." Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said that he agreed with the Chairman.

The historical perspective that the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki ended World War II and were necessary to swiftly end the war between Japan and the United States is a minority view in the U.S. today. The majority of historians now agree that the atomic bombings were not necessary to end the war. Except among the very conservative, a similar perspective is held in the U.S. educational community. These remarks, which ignore the voices of conscience in the U.S., are a violation of international humanitarian law. Now that the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is in effect, such statements are nothing but anachronistic and malicious delusions.

Nuclear weapons are weapons that should never be used and should not even be allowed to exist. The Hibakusha of Hiroshima and Nagasaki have consistently appealed this to the world since the atomic bombings.

As an organization representing Hibakusha, we have no choice but to call these remarks verbal abuse. We firmly protest and demand that these remarks be retracted immediately.

Japan Council of A-bomb Sufferers Organizations

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