

Statement:
On Receiving the 2024 Nobel Peace Prize

October 28, 2024

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

At 18:00 (JST) on October 11, 2024, the Norwegian Nobel Committee in Oslo announced that it had decided to award the Nobel Peace Prize for 2024 to Nihon Hidankyo (Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations), a Japanese organization of A-bomb survivors.

On hearing the announcement, leaders of Nihon Hidankyo were taken by surprise: Since 1985, Hidankyo had often been reported with excitement as one of the favorites. But since 2017, when the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) was named as the laureate, our expectations for the Prize had dwindled away.

Nihon Hidankyo has continued to work together with ICAN for the universalization of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, and campaigned to achieve a world without nuclear weapons or wars.

When we learned of the reason for this year's award, we were moved by the concise and precise way in which the fundamentals of the organization and movement of Nihon Hidankyo were understood and evaluated. We would like to share this joy with our many predecessors who are no longer with us.

Nihon Hidankyo was selected in recognition of its activities and the work of each and every Hibakusha, who suffered inhuman consequences of the atomic bombing 80 years ago. Through their own painful testimonies, they have consistently called for a ban on the use of nuclear weapons and their abolition, so that no one else should go through the same suffering that they have experienced. Under the current international situation, where nuclear weapons might actually be used, the Nobel Committee emphasizes the significance of awarding the prize to Nihon Hidankyo, with the intention of sounding the alarm and warning the world that the "nuclear taboo" against the use of nuclear weapons is under stress today.

The Committee also notes that young Japanese people are now trying to carry forward

the experience and the message of the Hibakusha, aware that one day, the Hibakusha will no longer be among us. It emphasizes the significance of the existence of Nihon Hidankyo and wants it to be recognized throughout the world.

Grateful that we have been awarded the 2024 Nobel Peace Prize, we take the prize very seriously and pledge to work even harder, with the hope of passing on our work to the younger generation.