

Annual Report 2008

Plans for 2009

# Progress Report 2009



Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign

[www.2020visioncampaign.org](http://www.2020visioncampaign.org)

Credit: Pierre Maréchal, MFP 2020 VC



**Y**pres, November 10, 2008 - The City of Ypres welcomed the General Meeting and the Board of Directors of Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign Association in the City Council meeting room in City Hall. The Ypres City Hall had to be reconstructed after the total devastation of the city during the First World War.

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Credit: Pol DHuyvetter, MFP 2020 VC

### Cover

Belem, Brazil, January 2009 - "Another World is Possible", here the opening march which gathered 70,000 people. Mayors for Peace participated in World Social Forum and Forum of Local Authorities

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# PREFACE

## Message from the Members of the General Meeting of Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign

Dear Members, Colleagues, and Friends,

We are pleased to present the second Annual Report for the Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign. This has been a year of amazing growth, thanks in part to a new and increasingly popular campaign tool – the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol (H-N Protocol).

Mayors Akiba and Dehaene, together with Board member Senator Vankrunkelsven introduced this protocol to the world almost a year ago in April 2008. Speaking at the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Committee (NPT PrepCom) in Geneva, they announced to the assembled diplomats and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO) representatives that Mayors for Peace would be promoting a new, overarching approach to nuclear disarmament. This simple document eliminates the discrimination between nuclear haves and have-nots, immediately gets negotiations underway, and sets a time-bound framework for results. Most importantly, it embodies a true, good-faith commitment to a nuclear-weapon-free world, the only kind of commitment that can prevent the collapse of the non-proliferation regime.

The H-N Protocol was prepared by our team of advisors and approved by our Executive Committee. Thus, the entire Mayors for Peace conference formally supports it. However, to emphasize that individual mayors and other city officials understand and support this initiative, we are collecting their signatures on a Cities Appeal. At the PrepCom in New York in May 2009, we expect to present this Cities Appeal supported by 1000 signatures.

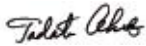
Meanwhile, our membership drive continues unabated. In 2008, we recruited a remarkable 555 new members, close to two per day for the entire year. This success is due in large measure to the leadership of the International Secretariat in Ypres working with colleagues around the world. An especially notable development in our membership campaign has been the emergence of Latin America.

This year has been disappointing in terms of fundraising. Last year, we challenged the more than 2000 members of Mayors for Peace to match the contributions of two cities: Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We are extremely grateful to the 86 cities that have made contributions. However, as you will see in the financial report on page 28, we have not come close to our goal. We cannot expand our campaign without an expansion of resources. Thus, we will be pressing this appeal and hope all members will respond quickly. With one year left to the 2010 NPT Review Conference, we need your financial as well as moral support. Now that we have 2,777 members, just a small contribution from each city will provide the resources we need for a successful campaign.

Some members may be hesitating because they don't understand exactly what we intend to do with the funds we raise. The short answer to this can be found on page 28, which presents our budget and action plan for next year. The longer answer can be found in our Strategic Plan, which was approved by the Executive Committee meeting in Ypres in November 2008. The full plan is too lengthy to be included in this report, but we will be more than happy to send it to you on request.

This will be a crucial year, not just for Mayors for Peace and the 2020 Vision Campaign, but for the future of the human family. The H-N Protocol is slowly gaining acceptance at the highest levels, with 19 nations already showing active interest. The abolition of nuclear weapons is receiving support from powerful groups and individuals that were previously indifferent or even opposed to the idea. We, human beings, have never had a better opportunity to liberate ourselves from the threat of nuclear annihilation. To take advantage of this opportunity, we need to keep growing in numbers, but we need to grow as well in commitment and capacity.

The struggle against nuclear weapons is one we can and must win. Please make it one of your top priorities between now and the NPT Review Conference of May 2010. Together we can make history and earn the gratitude of our grandchildren and their grandchildren.



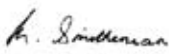
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**Vice President**  
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Mayor of Akron (OH)  
(U.S.)



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Mayor of Florence  
(Italy)



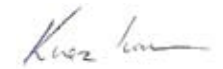
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**Mr. Patrik Vankrunkelsven**  
Former-Mayor of Laakdal  
and Senator  
(Belgium)



**Vice-President**  
**Mr. Roman Grebennikov**  
Mayor of Volgograd  
(Russia)



**Executive Official**  
**Mr. Khder Kareem**  
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(Iraq)



**Executive Official**  
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Mayor of Biograd na Moru  
(Croatia)



**Executive Official**  
**Mr. Robert Harvey**  
Mayor of Waitakere  
(New Zealand)



**Executive Official**  
**Mr. Josep Mayoral i Antigas**  
Mayor of Granollers, Spain



**Executive Official**  
**Mr. Luc Dehaene**  
Mayor of Ypres  
(Belgium)

# HISTORY

**Y**pres, November 11, 2008.  
Mayors for Peace participated in the  
90th anniversary commemoration of the end  
of World War I.



Credit: Pierre Maréchal, MFP 2020 VC

**Mayors for Peace** was formed in 1982 after the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki appeared at the 2nd UN Special Session on Disarmament and called for cities to come together in solidarity for peace and, specifically, the abolition of nuclear weapons. However, we discovered last year that the history of Mayors for Peace must actually be traced back to 1955 when Mayor Giorgio La Pira of Florence brought together the mayors of 55 Capital Cities to explore ways of working toward a nuclear-weapon-free world (NWFV). Though this meeting did not generate the hoped-for city-level momentum, it did introduce the revolutionary concept that cities should not merely sit back and accept dangerous national or international policies.

Today, Mayors for Peace is an integral, leading force in a growing city diplomacy movement seeking to correct the balance of power between municipal and national governments. National governments have thus far proven largely incapable of addressing the serious global problems now confronting the human family as a whole. Because they are in close communication with and share the fates of their citizens, cities are stepping in to do what needs to be done.

Around the world, cities have long been the primary caregivers for the poor, the sick, and the elderly. They have been educating the children. Now, they are even protecting the environment with transport and building policies designed to meet CO2 targets far more stringent than those of their national governments.

Through Sister Cities International, cities form strong, friendly and cooperative relationships across borders, often despite significant animosity at the national level. And through Mayors for Peace, cities have been raising awareness of and pressing for solutions to the most urgent problem of all: the threat of nuclear weapons at a time of increasing instability and escalating violence. Thus, cities are emerging as the most vital, civilizing force on this planet and cities –not national governments– are the most appropriate model for “international” relations.

In November 2003, when Mayors for Peace launched the Emergency Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons, we had 562 members. By the 2005 NPT Review Conference, the Emergency Campaign had become the 2020 Vision Campaign, and our membership had reached 1000. In 2006, we launched our Good Faith Challenge and Cities Are Not Targets (CANT) programs, and our membership grew to 1,553 before the end of the year. By March 2008, that figure had grown to 2,170 cities in 127 countries and regions. In April we launched the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol (H-N Protocol), which stimulated even more rapid growth. As of March 2, 2009, our membership stood at 2,777. This growth is taking place because thousands of concerned citizens and mayors around the world recognize the crisis we face and the need for cities to play a leading role.

In 2008, the 2020 Vision Campaign has two primary focal points: CANT and the H-N Protocol. CANT began as a narrowly

targeted effort to

- 1) remind cities and their citizens that they are, in fact, still targeted for annihilation
- 2) inform the nuclear-weapon states that cities (and the International Court of Justice) utterly reject the right of any nation to obliterate a city for any purpose whatsoever. However, as we sought to protect cities from nuclear bombing, we encountered a widespread, intensifying desire to protect cities from every sort of bombing.

An International Red Cross study found that the number one cause of civilian casualties is the use of explosive force in cities. Thus, our CANT project has evolved into a more generalized effort to protect cities from the scourge of war. The international community is showing genuine interest in outlawing not just landmines and cluster bombs but all bombs in populated areas. While some national governments still seem to view the deaths of women, children and elderly as acceptable collateral damage in pursuit of a dangerous terrorist, cities never allow their police to mow down innocent bystanders in pursuit of a criminal. The so-called war on terror is no excuse for killing the innocent, driving them from their homes, and making their cities, towns or villages unlivable. Mayors for Peace is working with a broad coalition of NGOs and national government representatives to stop this barbarism.

In April 2008 at the NPT PrepCom in Geneva, Mayor Akiba announced the H-N Protocol. This protocol, along with CANT, is already proving to be a valuable

# STRUCTURE

## General Conference

All members of Mayors for Peace are eligible to participate in its General Conference. General Conferences are held every four years, and the next conference will be held in Nagasaki August 8 to 10, this year. All major policies, actions and appointments must be approved by the General Conference.

## Executive Committee

The Mayors for Peace Executive Committee meets every two years. This body deliberates and approves actions deemed too urgent to await the next General Conference and other actions or policies too minor to require General Conference attention. In 2008, the Executive Committee was expanded to include four additional members, raising the total number of cities on the committee to 16. The members are:

### President City

Hiroshima, Japan

### Vice President Cities

Nagasaki, Japan  
Hannover, Germany  
Malakoff, France  
Manchester, UK  
Muntinlupa, Philippines  
Volgograd, Russia  
Akron, US  
Christchurch, New Zealand  
Florence, Italy  
Laakdal, Belgium

### Executive Officials

Ypres, Belgium  
Biograd na Moru, Croatia  
Granollers, Spain  
Halabja, Iraq  
Waitakere, New Zealand

Executive Officials (appointed by President Akiba, welcomed in November 2008 by the Executive Committee, may become vice presidents on approval of the General Conference)

### Hiroshima-Nagasaki Secretariat

The everyday administrative activities of Mayors for Peace, including General and Executive Conferences, are planned and implemented by the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Secretariat based in Hiroshima, working closely with the appropriate staff in Nagasaki and the International Secretariat in Ypres.

## 2020 Vision Campaign Association

This element of our structure was created in 2007 by the Executive Conference and must be approved by the 2009 General Conference. The Association is a non-profit organization based in Ypres and incorporated under the laws of Belgium. Its purpose is to promote the 2020 Vision Campaign around the world.

organizing tool at the grassroots level. A petition drive to support it has obtained over 400,000 signatures, and several organizations in Japan intend to gather millions of signatures on related petitions by the time of the Review Conference in 2010. In the US and Europe, the emphasis has been on getting support from mayors and NGO leaders. On March 21 over 560 mayors and local elected officials have signed the Cities Appeal in support of the H-N Protocol. Most importantly, a small but growing group of nations is showing interest in the protocol, increasing the likelihood of its submission to and acceptance by the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

The H-N Protocol is vital to the campaign against nuclear weapons. First, if it or a similar measure is approved at the Review Conference, the international community will have made a convincing commitment to a NWFN, the kind of commitment now required to prevent rapid proliferation. Moreover, the H-N Protocol is a simple document that nations will either support or fail to support. Its mere presence on the table will make crystal clear exactly which nations are seeking a NWFN and which ones are blocking that effort. If the 2010 NPT Review Conference fails to approve the H-N Protocol or an equivalent measure, the protocol will keep the issue in the news, in public consciousness, and on the table. If the NPT Review Process proves inadequate to the task, the H-N Protocol will help us select and utilize another. Whatever happens in May 2010, Mayors for Peace will keep the pressure growing until the international community is firmly committed to and proceeding toward the total elimination of all nuclear weapons by 2020.



## Campaign Staff

The current staff of the International Secretariat (hired and fired by the Board of Directors) is responsible for implementing the decisions approved by the General Meeting and Board of Directors of the Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign Association. They work closely with the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Secretariat, but report directly to the Board of Directors.

## Relationship to Mayors for Peace

The 2020 Vision Campaign Association has been provisionally commissioned by the Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace to manage the 2020 Vision Campaign. The Executive Conference maintains overall direction of the Campaign on behalf of Mayors for Peace through its membership and participation in the Association's General Meeting. The Campaign Secretariat (based in Ypres, as supervised by the Board of Directors) is responsible for all tasks related directly to the campaign. The 2009 General Conference provide the membership of Mayors for Peace with the opportunity to express its satisfaction (or otherwise) with these lines of control and overall Campaign direction.

The Hiroshima-Nagasaki Secretariat conducts 2020 Vision Campaign and recruitment activities in Japan as well as continues to serve the non-campaign policies and tasks of Mayors for Peace, as determined by the Executive Conference and the General Conference. These tasks include planning and implementing Executive Conferences and General Conferences, and managing all formal matters associated with Mayors for Peace membership registration.

The two secretariats work jointly to recruit and communicate with members. They support each other, offering and requesting assistance as needed, but are not in a chain-of-command relationship. The International Secretariat in Ypres reports directly to the Chairman of the Board is meant to carry out tasks assigned to it by the Board and the General Meeting. The Hiroshima Secretariat is directly answerable to the President of Mayors for Peace and is meant to carry out organizational tasks assigned to it by the General Conference and the Executive Conference.

## General Meeting

Every member of the Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace has a right to be a member of the Campaign association and participate in its membership meetings, known as General Meetings. General Meetings must be held once each year (telephone or video conferencing acceptable).

### Members General Meeting

Hiroshima, Japan – Nagasaki, Japan – Hannover, Germany – Malakoff, France – Manchester, UK – Volgograd, Russia – Akron, US – Florence, Italy – Laakdal, Belgium – Ypres, Belgium – Biograd na Moru, Croatia – Granollers, Spain – Halabja, Iraq – Waitakere, New Zealand

It elects the Board of Directors, approves general plans, budgets and reports, and sets basic policy for the Association. The first General Meeting was held in November 2007 during the Executive Conference in order to incorporate the Association by adopting and signing its Statutes.

## Board of Directors

Elected by the General Meeting, it can include NGO representatives as well as city representatives. It must be at least one member smaller than the General Meeting. The November 2007 General Meeting approved a slate of Board members with Mayor of Ypres as Chairman of the Board. The Board meets at least twice annually and is responsible for monitoring and guiding implementation of the general plan and budget approved by the General Meeting. The Board had held meeting in May and November 2008. The International Campaign Director is an ex officio member of the Board, and serves as its Secretary.

### Daily Board

The November 2008 General Meeting approved the establishment of a Daily Board capable of convening on short notice to deal with Campaign Secretariat business. The Daily Board consists of the Chairman of the Board, the Association Treasurer, the International Campaign Director and the Secretariat Director.

# INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN



Credit: Pierre Maréchal, MFP 2020 VC

**U**nited Nations -  
Geneva,  
May 2008 - Mayors  
for Peace partici-  
pated in the 2nd NPT  
PrepCom at the  
United Nations.

2008:

## FROM THE 2020 VISION TO HIROSHIMA-NAGASAKI PROTOCOL

**In 2008**, Mayors for Peace marked the 5th anniversary of the 2020 Vision Campaign. With this milestone approaching, it was essential to take stock of not only the progress achieved, but also of expectations not met. Mayors could take great satisfaction that they were no longer alone in talking about a vision of a nuclear-weapon-free world (NWFW). Elder statesmen of nuclear weapons states and their allies had made far reaching statements on the importance of upholding the vision of a NWFW. This was most welcome, but unlike Mayors for Peace, they did not mention any target date; indeed, the vision was often discussed as if its attainment would take many generations.

Even more to the point, while Mayors for Peace campaigned vigorously and its membership nearly quadrupled in half a decade, governments had made no progress whatsoever on establishing an overarching approach to achieving a NWFW. The original 2020 Vision envisioned a Nuclear Weapon Convention (NWC) being agreed and its implementation commencing by 2010. But with just two years left, it was clear that the 2010 target could only be met if governments were challenged to act in more urgent and specific terms. It was with this in mind that Mayors for Peace, with the help of

experts and activists, developed the 'Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol.'

The Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol (H-N Protocol) can be thought of as a 'bare-bones' framework agreement on achieving a NWFW. Unlike a fully articulated NWC, it simply defines four general aspects of nuclear disarmament and sets two target dates for their realization. The NPT is taken as the foundation for these future measures, and so the target dates are linked the Treaty's five-year review cycle: adoption of the Protocol at 2010 Review Conference; verified cessation of nuclear-weapon acquisitions and preparations for use by the 2015 Review; and verified elimination of all nuclear-weapons and related acquisition facilities by 2020. By agreeing to this basic course of action, the world would have a decent chance of ridding itself of nuclear weapons by the year 2020.

In 2009, the UN will declare 2010-2020 an International Decade for Disarmament. The overarching approach provided by the H-N Protocol is the way for the world to ensure that this is a decisive decade for nuclear disarmament. The H-N Protocol calls for negotiations to begin immediately and continue without interruption until a



Credit: Pierre Maréchal, MFP 2020 VC

**U**nited Nations  
- Geneva, April  
29, 2008 –  
The Hiroshima-  
Nagasaki Protocol is  
officially presented  
to all governments  
delegates by Dr.  
Tadatashi Akiba,  
Mayor of Hiroshima  
and President of  
Mayors for Peace,  
Mr. Luc Dehaene,  
Mayor of Ypres  
and Senator Patrik  
Vankrunkelsven.

more detailed Framework Agreement or a NWC is concluded. As a gesture of good faith, the nuclear-weapon states are called upon to immediately cease acquiring and preparing for the use nuclear weapons on a unilateral-reciprocal basis, pending multilateral verification thereof (by 2015). Nuclear forces are also to be placed in safe and secure storage at the earliest possible date to guard against inadvertent use or theft by terrorists.

Mayors for Peace is encouraging State Parties to the NPT to make every good faith effort to have this H-N Protocol adopted by the 2010 Review Conference. To that end, the H-N Protocol was introduced in Geneva as part of the NGO Presentation to the 2nd PrepCom in May 2008. And a further meeting was held with the Middle Powers Initiative to promote the H-N Protocol and launch the Cities Appeal in support of the HNP [speakers in photo caption]. Already in June 2008, the U.S. Conference of Mayors endorsed the H-N Protocol at its Summer Meeting in Miami, Florida. (See US activities report) Mayors Akiba and Taue then wrote to all members asking their assistance in getting the Cities Appeal signature drive off to a strong start. Further appeals to the membership by Mayor Dehaene, Mr. Aaron Tovish, Mayor Akiba and Mayor Taue in connection with the Hiroshima-Nagasaki August Memorials, the International Day of Peace, and UN Disarmament Week, and the New Year season respectively helped to boost the signature total to over 500 city

representatives by the end of 2009. During UN Disarmament Week, Mayor Akiba met with the UN General Assembly President, Father Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann to present an interim report on the signature drive. It continues in 2009, with several national and regional efforts underway.

The backing of mayors for the H-N Protocol as demonstrated by the Cities Appeal has been a major asset when lobbying governments on achieving a NFWF. As governments prepare for the final Preparatory Committee meeting for the 2010 NPT Review Conference, the 2020 Vision Campaign is serving as a catalyst to bring together countries to press the Review Conference to take responsibility for launching Nuclear Weapons Convention negotiations. In Vienna, Mayor for Peace convened a working group of 19 countries from all continents to begin drafting a possible decision by Review Conference on this matter, with the H-N Protocol serving as an initial common point of reference.

In April and May, this work will be pursued further in New York, with a view to submission to the 3rd PrepCom of a draft Review Conference decision. One of the main activities of the Mayors for Peace delegation to the PrepCom will be the promotion of this new governmental initiative for realizing the 2020 Vision. This effort will be given a boost by a resolution on the NPT which is now under consideration in the European Parliament that, among other things, endorses the H-N Protocol.

Credit: City of Volgograd



This picture of Stalingrad – now Volgograd – during the Second World War symbolizes the work ahead of Mayors for Peace.

## “CITIES ARE NOT TARGETS!”: FROM A RALLYING CRY TO A RESPONSE CAPABILITY

The rallying cry, “Cities Are Not Targets!” naturally resonates among city organizations. Indeed the United States Conference of Mayors and the United Cities and Local Governments took it up already in 2007. It is, however, one thing to declare that cities are not targets and quite another to get governments uniformly to respect such a major constraint on the ‘freedom of action’ of their armed forces. This gap was the topic of a seminar at the United Nation, co-sponsored by Mayors for Peace and the Governments of Mexico and Peru, October 26, 2008. A video message from Mayor Akiba was played that set down the challenge of moving from the rally cry to a capacity to effectively challenge violations of the sanctity of cities. The panel featured international legal experts, and veterans of the campaign for the Land Mines Convention, the Cluster-Munitions Convention and for the International Criminal Court. Mr. Aaron Tovish spoke about national associations of cities developing a capacity to collectively represent the noncombatant rights of their citizens and pressing governments to include such representatives in delegations to negotiations to strengthen international humanitarian law. The general conclusion of the seminar was that it would be a long but worthwhile struggle to change the face of modern warfare.

In November, at a symposium in Brussels City Hall, representatives

of the city of Volgograd announced that they would help to coordinate a project advisory group made up of cities which had experienced the scourge of war. In 1943, their city had been consumed in a firestorm triggered by two days of relentless aerial bombing. Forty thousand civilians died in those first days of the Battle of Stalingrad (as Volgograd was then called). In the following 200 days almost three million soldiers died battling over the charred, depopulated core of the city and the still functioning military production facilities on its outskirts. Hundred of cities have had similar experiences, if not on quite such an epic scale.

In line with the “Cities Are Not Targets” (CANT) Project, the leading body of Mayors for Peace, acting on behalf of its 2635 member cities, has issued a statement on the conflict in and around the Gaza Strip (as you can see below). The disproportionate nature of the Israeli attack on the densely populated Palestinian cities is singled out for the harshest condemnation. Unleashing massive explosions in the heart of a city is simply intolerable -- no better than terrorism.

The Gaza experience exposed the inability of Mayors for Peace or any other cities organization to respond quickly and meaningfully to rapid military developments. Mayors for Peace aims to work with other city associations to rectify this shortcoming.

### Executive Conference condemns bombardment of Gaza through CANT

Cities are not targets! Populated areas are not targets! Anger at or fear of terrorists, unjust governments, or warriors of any kind is no excuse for the wanton slaughter of innocent noncombatants.

In August 2006, Mayors for Peace condemned both the indiscriminate firing of thousands of rockets toward populated areas in Israel by Hezbollah and the disproportionate bombardment of populated areas in Lebanon by Israeli armed forces.

Today, with Hamas firing only one tenth as many rockets as Hezbollah and with Israel concentrating firepower comparable to that used in Lebanon on an area ten times smaller, i.e. the Gaza Strip, even-handed criticism is no longer appropriate. Our condemnation of indiscriminate rocket fire stands. We call on Hamas to immediately halt all violent attacks. However, to simply condemn the disproportionate use of explosive force is, under these circumstances, grossly inadequate. We are appalled by the Israeli Government’s lack of humanity and demand immediate international intervention.

We demand an immediate halt to all use of explosive force in and from the Gaza Strip; a guarantee of immediate access for humanitarian aid to assist the Palestinian civilian population; an internationally monitored ceasefire; and negotiations involving all parties to begin as soon as the ceasefire has taken effect, as called for in UN Security Council Resolution 1860. We are convinced that the search for a political solution through dialogue and respect for human rights are the most effective avenues towards peace.

Signed on January 15, 2009,  
by The Conference of Mayors for Peace

# MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

**Mayors for Peace**, founded in 1982, grew steadily but slowly for its first 21 years. On November 2003 membership stood at 562. The launch of the 2020 Vision campaign in 2003 inspired people around the world, and is reflected in a much more rapid growth in membership in the last five years. In 2007, the 25th anniversary year, the organisation set the goal to have 2020 members by the start of 2008, a goal which was achieved. In just over four years, the organisation had quadrupled its membership. In 2008 it was also decided to continue membership recruitment as a priority action.



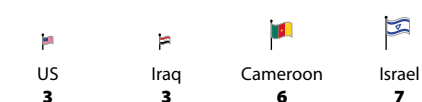
## Report 2008

For 2008, 2009 and 2010 there was a consensus to recruit at least one new member a day. This should have brought membership up to 2385 members by the start of 2009.

We did a lot better. With 555 new members during 2008, on December 1, 2008 the Hiroshima secretariat announced that membership reached 2,536 members. This higher than expect figure was due to membership being opened up in Japan to cities other than the two founding cities, Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Japan has done an excellent job of catching up with countries like Belgium, Germany and Italy.

## Top 10 success stories for 2008

A few other short stories provide interesting pointers on successful membership recruitment. These stories about how some individuals took effective initiatives could be duplicated in any country or region. We saw high levels of activity in Spain (66) and Iraq (51). In Spain the Mayor of Granollers involved the Catalan association of Cities. In Iraq, the Mayor of Halabja invited many of his colleagues, for example during the conference marking the 20th anniversary of the chemical attack on Halabja. The leadership demonstrated by the Mayors of Granollers (Spain) and Halabja (Iraq) was acknowledged by an invitation to join the Executive leadership of Mayors for Peace.



In Belgium, over 50% of all Mayors joined Mayors for Peace by the start of 2008. A new cross-party letter by the Mayors of Bastogne, Brussels and Ypres resulted in a continued growth by the end of the year, now exceeding 56% of all Mayors. The very high level of membership and activity resulted in political parties changing their nuclear security positions in favor of a more balanced approach of non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament.

In Italy a cross-party letter signed by 5 Italian Mayors and circulated by our Vice-President City of Florence through the Italian National Association of Cities and Municipalities resulted in further growth and presence of Mayors for Peace.

In Nicaragua the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure helped us to recruit new cities after his visit to Hiroshima last July 2008. This resulted in 71 new Mayors joining Mayors for Peace as of March 2009.

In the Czech Republic it was the co-operation between Mayors for Peace and the Czech League of Mayors against the deployment of a US radar base (part of the so-called National Missile Defence) which resulted in a stronger presence of Mayors for Peace in this part of Europe.



In the Netherlands it was especially the work of IKV/Pax Christi Netherlands which helped bring new members on board.

## First results 2009 Mayors for Peace counts 2,777 members on March 2, 2009

Also the first quarter of 2009 has been a great encouragement for all of us. In the first three months of 2009 we already welcomed 241 new members. In most cases this continued growth was the result of initiatives taken in 2008, such as in Japan, Nicaragua, Spain, Italy and Belgium.

The growth of our membership in Venezuela is credited to a group of survivors of the atomic bomb, called Hibakusha, who traveled around the world with Peace Boat to share their testimony and recruit Mayors.

We hope that these short stories will be an encouragement for you to take initiatives towards further growth of Mayors for Peace.

## ACTIVITIES

### A-bomb survivors find support for Mayors for Peace during Global Voyage

Peace Boat, a Japanese NGO, has been helping Mayors for Peace recruit members for several years now. In 2008, they organised a global voyage with a group of A-bomb survivors from Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The Japanese cruise ship traveled during 129 days to 23 port cities in 20 countries. During the voyage, the Peace Boat voyagers called on Mayors of the countries they visited to join and support Mayors for Peace. As a result 27 cities joined Mayors for Peace, while 25 cities signed the Cities Appeal in support of the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol. Through public testimonies held at each port of call, the Hibakusha shared their message with a broad audience, from young children who do not know the horrors of war, through to elderly people who are also victims of wars. Peace Boat is a Japan-based international non-governmental and non-profit organization that works to promote peace, human rights, equal and sustainable development and respect for the environment. Info: [www.peaceboat.org](http://www.peaceboat.org)

Credit: Syunya Miizumoto, Peace Boat



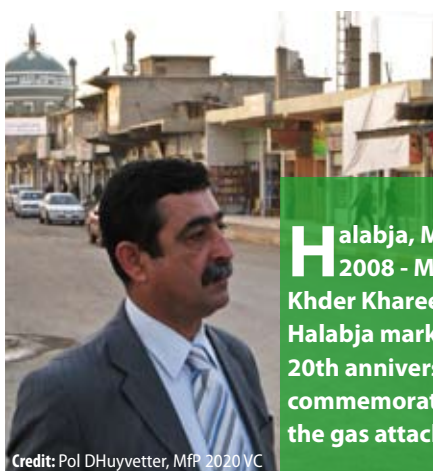
## Africa

2008 saw few activities for Mayors for Peace in Africa with only a slight increase in membership. The one real exception was Cameroon where the Mayor of Fengo Tongo began helping with recruitment toward the end of the year, netting one new member in 2008 and 6 new members in the first months of 2009.

## Africa

### 111 MEMBERS

Benin (2), Botswana (3), Burkina Faso (1), Burundi (1), Cameroon (9), Cape Verde (1), Côte d'Ivoire (1), Egypt (1), Eritrea (1), Gambia (3), Ghana (1), Kenya (2), Lesotho (1), Liberia (1), Malawi (2), Mali (5), Mauritania (2), Mauritius (1), Morocco (1), Namibia (1), Nigeria (1), Rwanda (1), Senegal (2), Sierra Leone (1), Somaliland (1), Republic of South Africa (7), Tanzania (1), Togo (1), Uganda (53), Zambia (3).



**H**alabja, March 2008 - Mayor Khder Khareem in Halabja marking the 20th anniversary commemoration of the gas attack.

Credit: Pol DHuyvetter, MfP 2020 VC

## Asia

### Iraq (96 members)

Mayors for Peace representative Pol DHuyvetter participated in a 3-day event "From Genocide into Peace" at the invitation of the Governorate of Sulymanyah, the Mayor of Halabja and the Regional Government of Kurdistan. All events took place in the Region of Kurdistan, Iraq and marked the 20th anniversary of the gas attacks on the city of Halabja. The gas attack on Halabja in March 1988 killed around 5,000 civilians.

Our presence at this conference was the start if a close co-operation with Halabja Mayor Kareem Khder who was invited to join the Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace. Ongoing efforts by Mayor Khder have resulted in a sharp increase of membership in Iraq with 51 new members in 2008. The financial supports announced by Mayor Kareem Khder impressed many of his colleagues during the General Meeting of the 2020 Vision campaign in Ypres. The announced financial contributions coming from a war torn country are heartfelt by everybody. These are an encouragement for everybody to dig deeper and show solidarity with the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

### Iran (13 members)

Since 2006, the annual "Peace tour" of the Society for Chemical Weapons Victims Support (SCWVS) has included in their agenda the presentation of the Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign to Iranian mayors. This tour visits Iranian towns along the border with Iraq which were targeted by chemical weapons during the 1980's.

In September 2008, the SCWVS and the Tehran Peace Museum in collaboration with Tehran Municipality, for the first time organized a big ceremony and a candlelit vigil to commemorate the International Day for Peace. During that ceremony, the message of Mayor Akiba addressing the 2020 Vision Campaign was read by one of the survivors of gas attacks.

In April 2008, a SCWVS delegation visited the Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign Secretariat in Ypres. During the meeting contributions of Iranian mayors to the 2020 Vision Campaign were discussed, including a visit of a delegation of Iranian mayors to Ypres or Hiroshima. The Director of Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and the SCWVS agreed to have Joint A-Bomb / C-Bomb exhibition in Tehran Peace Museum in fall 2009. This proposal is strongly supported by Tehran Municipality.

## Israel (5 members)

In December 2008 membership recruitment started one month after municipal elections. Greenpeace Israel sent most Israeli Mayors a letter from the Mayor of Hiroshima accompanied with a translation in Hebrew. A joint letter from Greenpeace campaigner Sharon Dolev explained the campaign. Unfortunately, this work was interrupted with the terrible events resulting from the conflict between Hamas in Gaza and Israel. Still 7 new members came on board in 2009 including the Mayor of Dimona. Dimona is where Israel has its secret nuclear weapons facility. The focus for 2009 will be contacting Arab mayors and establishing contacts with Israeli mayors who can help recruiting their colleagues.

to explain why several European countries have hundreds of members but Japan has only two, the decision was made to allow Japanese cities to join Mayors for Peace. In response primarily to mailed invitations, already 178 Japanese cities had joined by the end of December 2008. In addition, more than 170 cities have signed the Cities Appeal to express their support for the H-N Protocol.

Another important project in Japan is the drive for signatures on a grassroots petition in support of the CANT project and the H-N Protocol. This petition drive has been led primarily by the Japanese consumer cooperative. However, several high schools have taken this project on and have gathered thousands of signatures. Furthermore, Hiroshima's professional baseball team, the Carp, gave tremendous support to this effort in August by holding a "paper crane night game." With over a hundred volunteers collecting signatures, and with announcements between innings, this one event brought in over 3700 signatures. More importantly, tens of thousands of viewers watching the game on television heard about the campaign and watched after the seventh inning as the fans in the stands lifted their placards and the entire stadium turned Mayors-for-Peace green. Thanks to all of these efforts, we have gathered more than 400,000 signatures, but we and our contacts are determined to gather hundreds of thousands more.

In July, in conjunction with the G8 Summit at Lake Toya, Hokkaido, Hiroshima sponsored an A-bomb exhibition in Sapporo, and Mayors for Peace made a strong appeal there asking Hokkaido cities to join. Then, the G8 Lower House Speakers Meeting took place in Hiroshima September 1 and 2, 2008. While giving Hiroshima an opportunity to tell its story to these world leaders, this meeting also gave Mayor Akiba an opportunity to establish relationships that have already proven beneficial to our campaign. This event confirmed our belief that most world leaders personally support the abolition of nuclear weapons.

## Asia

### 447 MEMBERS

Afghanistan (1), Bangladesh (8), Bhutan (1), Cambodia (1), China (7), Cyprus (3), India (16), Indonesia (3), Iran (13), Iraq (96), Israel (5), Japan (178), Jordan (2), Lebanon (1), Malaysia (6), Mongolia (4), Nepal (5), Pakistan (12), Philippines (14), \*The West Bank and Gaza Strip (Palestine) (26), South Korea (2), Sri Lanka (20), Syria (2), Taiwan (2), Thailand (1), Turkey (10), \*Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (3), Vietnam (3), Yemen (2).

\* indicates Regions

## Japan (178 members)

This has been a revolutionary year for Mayors for Peace in Japan. When Mayors for Peace was first formed in 1982, the decision was made to keep it an "international" organization. Thus, despite widespread support in Japan, the only two Japanese members were Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the secretariat was based in Hiroshima. (Nagasaki still manages a separate Council of Nuclear-Free Local Authorities for Japanese cities.) This decision was taken to keep Mayors for Peace from starting out with hundreds of Japanese cities making it look like a Japanese organization. This year in June, after numerous requests from allies in Europe who were under increasing pressure



**M**ayor Akiba gathering signatures under the Cities Are Not Targets petition in Hiroshima.

# Europe

European Parliament, Brussels, July 1, 2008 - Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign help to launch a cross-party Appeal signed by well over 70 Members of the European Parliament (MEP). The Appeal endorses the Nuclear Weapons Convention for the prohibition of all nuclear weapons. The event marked the 40th anniversary of the NPT.



(from left to right) Mayor **Theo Kelchtermans**, Belgium, MEP **Angelika Beer** (Greens/EFA, Germany), MEP **Annemie Neyts** (Liberals, Belgium), MEP **Ana Gomes** (Social Democrats, Portugal), MEP **Girts Kristovskis** (Union of Europe of Nations, Latvia), Ms. **Adriana Bolanos**, Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of Costa Rica, and MEP **Frieda Brepoels** (Christian Democrats, Belgium).  
Credit: Caroline Dossche, Greenpeace Belgium

## Belgium (323 members)

Belgium remains today without doubt the country with most Mayors for Peace members, supporters and activities. This success should be accounted to a strong leadership and systematic use of cross-party letters since 2005.

Based on the satisfying results of the pilot project concerning fundraising, the Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace approved the launch of a worldwide appeal of voluntary contributions to all its members. In 2008, Belgian cities remained important financial contributors in solidarity with the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The regional secretariat of Mayors for Peace for Wallonia moved from the city of Huy to Bastogne. Bastogne was on the front line during the Battle of the Ardennes during the second World War. Ypres and Brussels keep on track for the other two regional secretariats where membership is now well over 75% both in the Flemish and Brussels regions. In 2008, Belgian Mayors of Bastogne, Brussels and Ypres launched a new cross-party letter. As a result 36 new Belgian members joined the network. In the first months of 2009, another 12 Mayors joined the network. With 335 members in March 2009, almost 57% of all Belgian Mayors have joined the organisation.

The support for the H-N Protocol through the Cities Appeal grew also well beyond the one hundred signatories and a parliamentary resolution in support of the H-N Protocol was tabled by Senator and Councilor Patrik Vankrunkelsven.

First steps were taken to develop a Belgian section for Mayors for Peace. A first national Mayors for Peace meeting was held in the city hall of Brussels on November 12 in attendance of Mayor Tadatoshi Akiba.

On November 10 the Mayor of Ypres hosted the Board of Directors and General Meeting of the 2020 Vision Campaign association in the City Hall of Ypres.

At the start of 2009, Mayors for Peace Belgium welcomed Ms. Ingrid Pira, Mayor of Mortsel, as the President of Mayors for Peace Belgium.

## Croatia (25 members)

In April 2008, the city participated in the NPT PrepCom & Mayors for Peace meetings at the UN in Geneva, Switzerland. Biograd has committed financial support to the organization. The city of Biograd na Moru became a member of the organization in spring of 2008 and was the first city to sign the Cities Appeal in support of the H-N Protocol.

In autumn 2008, Mayor Ivan Knez was invited to join the Executive Conference and participated in the Board of Directors and General Meeting of the association in Ypres, Belgium.

Biograd na Moru is demonstrating exemplary leadership as they send E-mails and faxes from the City Hall of Biograd na Moru to all the Croatian cities (286), encouraging Croatian Mayors to support the Cities Appeal in support of the H-N Protocol. Signed appeals are constantly arriving.

Biograd celebrated its feast day on January 15 2009, and Aaron Tovish, Executive Advisor and international Campaign Director of Mayors for Peace, spoke at the festivities attended by over one thousand citizens.

Brussels, November 10, 2008 - The President of Mayors for Peace was in Belgium to promote the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol during a four days visit. The tour brought Mayor Akiba to Bastogne, Ypres, Kortrijk, Gent and Brussels. In the picture Mayor Akiba as the key-note speaker during an "academic session" in the Flemish Parliament in Brussels.



Credit: Pierre Maréchal, MFP 2020 VC

Today preparations are being made in Biograd na Moru for a Hiroshima Crane statue which will be placed on the waterfront near the City Hall. Elementary school children are preparing a thousand cranes for Hiroshima. This manifestation is planned for the end of April 2009 with the participation of the President of Croatia, Mr. Stipe Mesi. Other Executive cities of Mayors for Peace have been invited. The event is expected to attract the main national TV networks and, therefore, a growing number of Croatian cities to the Mayors for Peace.



Credit: Pugwash Denmark

## Denmark (13 members)

**C**openhagen, November 17, 2008 - Pol DHuyvetter promoted the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol during a Symposium on strengthening the Non-Proliferation Treaty in the Danish Parliament. Other speakers included Hans Blix, John Avery, Danish MP Holger K. Nielsen and Hans Kristensen.

In 2008, six new members joined. Caecilie Buhmann from Danish Physicians Against Nuclear Weapons (DLMK/danish IPPNW) explained the obstacles to be overcome: “We encountered great difficulties because of a law which prohibits Danish mayors from expressing themselves officially on matters related to international affairs.

Nevertheless in 2007 we persuaded Copenhagen to join Mayors for Peace and a number of other cities followed”.

In November, the Danish Pugwash Group organised a successful high-level symposium in the Danish Parliament, including presentations by Hans Blix, Alyn Ware (PNND) and Pol DHuyvetter for Mayors for Peace.

They also nominated Mayor Akiba for the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize.

## France (98 members)

14 new members were welcomed during 2008. “Cities are not targets” was introduced and promoted during speeches while member cities address the subject of elimination of nuclear weapons year-round through local activities such as public lectures and projects with schools.

Most the members of the “Association Française des Communes, Départements et Régions pour la Paix”(AFCDRP) organized events on September 21 to mark the International Day of Peace.

A growing number of French NGO’s are getting involved in the promotion of the 2020 Vision Campaign, such as “Le Mouvement de la Paix”, “Monde sans Guerre” and Abolition 2000 France.

## Czech Republic (28 members)

In 2008 Mayors for Peace attracted 19 new members in Czech Republic. This is linked to the solidarity demonstrated by Mayors for Peace for the campaign of the Czech League against the radar base, a US project part of National Missile Defense and the Star Wars project.

During the year the Czech League of Mayors and the Czech NGO ‘Nonviolence movement’ worked closely together to prevent the US Missile Defense/ Star Wars from being expanded into the Czech Republic.

Two thirds of Czech population continue to oppose the Star Wars project and more than 140 000 people have signed the on-line petition against the US radar. One of the most significant actions to this respect was the 21day hunger strike of Jan Bednar and Jan Tamáš.

On February 18, 2009, forty Czech Mayors traveled to Brussels to meet with members of the European Parliament and the Belgian Senate. This event received support with a video message from the President of Mayors for Peace, Mr. Tadatoshi Akiba, and the presence of Ms. Ingrid Pira, the President of Mayors for Peace Belgium and Senator Patrik Vankrunkelsven.

On March, the Czech Government dropped its effort to ratify the radar base agreement with the United States, due to united opposition to the agreement in the Czech Senate. Opinion polls had consistently shown that the radar plan never had the support of the Czech people. Mayors for Peace congratulates the Czech League of Mayors for their role in this victory for democracy.

### Belgian Senate supports Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol

**O**n January 29, 2009 the Belgian Senate approved a resolution calling upon the Belgian government to support the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol in the framework of the NPT. The Belgian Senators call on their government to put the H-N Protocol on the international agenda. The initiative for the resolution was taken by Mr. Patrik Vankrunkelsven, Senator and former Mayor. The resolution (number 4-1111) was adopted with an overwhelming majority of 39 votes, with 8 abstentions.

Contact the International Campaign Secretariat if you want to receive a copy of the resolution for consideration in another Parliamentary Assembly.

In 2008 our international campaign staff was invited to make presentations about the 2020 Vision Campaign in Lille, Marseille, Paris and Saintes.

In 2009 the AFCDRP expects a fast increase of new members of Mayors for Peace, amongst other by having each member city recruit at least two new members.

Opposition to nuclear disarmament is still very vivid in France, which is one of the five nuclear-weapon states recognized by the NPT. The launch of a AFCDRP campaign to sign the Cities Appeal in support of the H-N Protocol is expected to be endorsed by a hundred French mayors. Details will be decided by AFCDRP at the general assembly in April 2009.

## Germany [\(313 members\)](#)

Germany welcomed 10 new members in 2008. 'Our future - nuclear weapon-free' was the motto of the 2008 campaign initiated jointly by the "Atomwaffen Abschaffen" (Abolish nuclear weapons) network of German peace groups and Mayors for Peace. Mayors from four federal states also took part in a week of action at Büchel in August, which included encircling the German air force base where the last remaining US nuclear weapons are stored in this country.



Credit: Wolfgang Schlupp-Hauck

**B**uechel, August 2008 - German Mayors for Peace with youth at the main gate of NATO airbase. An estimated 20 US nuclear weapons are stored at Buechel and could be "shared" with Germany in wartime.

On November 14, the Berlin City Parliament (Abgeordnetenhaus) was the venue for the 2008 German Mayors for Peace general meeting. Among the highlights was the speech by the Mayor of Hiroshima, Dr. Akiba, who had included the conference in his tour of Europe. In the closing declaration, Mayors reiterated their

demand that the Federal Government implement withdrawal of all nuclear weapons from Germany and end its participation in all NATO nuclear weapons' activities.

The meeting also offered a forum to exchange information and views between towns and cities, and proposals for future activities. As an example of the promotion of regional cooperation, a report was presented on the campaign in Herford county (North Rhine-Westphalia), where the following exhibition Hiroshima-Nagasaki was shown in schools

in eight cities: Gedenken, Mahnung, Bedrohung (Hiroshima-Nagasaki: Memorial, Warning, Threat). A regional Mayors for Peace meeting was held in January 2009 in Kirchheim unter Teck in Baden-Württemberg and another is planned for Chemnitz in Saxony, in Autumn.

A cross-party letter from the Lord Mayors of Mr. Eberhard David (Bielefeld), Mr. Stephan Weil (Hannover) and Mr. Dr. Eckart Würzner (Heidelberg) was sent to all German Mayors for Peace member towns and cities, calling on them to follow the example of the letter's signatories by financially supporting the 2020 Vision Campaign. The authors of the letter hope for a positive response despite the recent financial problems affecting almost all local authorities as a consequence of the world financial and economic crisis. An increase in members' support for the H-N Protocol is also expected.

On the initiative of Hannover, the Niedersächsischer Städtetag, the representative body of towns and cities in the fourth-largest Federal State by area and population, has called for support for the H-N Protocol in its newsletter.

The priority in 2009 will be to increase joint efforts in all these matters. At the annual meeting, planned for late autumn in Hannover, there will be reports from the 7th General Conference of Mayors for Peace in Nagasaki and, it is hoped, on further progress and successes in pursuing our common aims.

The Cities of Stuttgart and Schwäbisch Gmünd (Schwaebisch Gmuend) participated in the delegation of Mayors for Peace to the NPT PrepCom in Geneva. The Mayor of Schwäbisch Gmünd reported about the "Mutlangen Manifesto" demanding the multilateralization of the INF Treaty (Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces Treaty) and other disarmament steps in the line of the 2020 vision.

## Hungary [\(3 members\)](#)

In 2008, we welcomed 2 new member cities. For 2009, we are hopeful to increase the presence of Mayors for Peace in this country through our support for the "World March for Peace and Nonviolence", a project from World Without Wars. Mayors will be invited to join Mayors for Peace and sign the Cities Appeal in support of the H-N Protocol.



(from left to right, back)  
 Cllr **John McArdle**, Newry and Mourne District Council; **Stephen J Cooper**, N & M District Council; **John Farrell**, N & M District Council; **Sean Morris** Secretary NFLA  
 (from left to right, front) Cllr **John Connor**, Roscommon County Council; Cllr **Michael Carr**, N & M District Council and Co chair NFLA All Ireland Forum; Cllr **Caroline Burrell**, Bray Town Council; Cllr **Mark Dearey**, Dundalk Town Council and Co-chair NFLA All Ireland Forum  
 Credit: Jennie Corbett, MfP 2020 VC

**D**undolk, March 13, 2009 - During a meeting of the all Ireland NFLA (Nuclear Free Local Authorities) Mayors for Peace were invited to present the 2020 Vision Campaign. On the picture, Irish City Councilors signing the Cities Appeal in support of the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol.

## Ireland (3 members)

Historically, the Republic of Ireland has always taken a firm stance against nuclear weapons. Mayors for Peace intends for this strong national consensus to be reflected in the engagement of Irish local authorities in the 2020 Vision Campaign in the near future.

Jennie Corbett, an Irish European Voluntary Service (EVS) volunteer at the International Campaign Secretariat in Ypres, is increasing efforts to develop the presence and activities of Mayors for Peace in her home-country during her one year project.

In 2008, membership in Ireland stood at three and signatories to the Cities Appeal at zero. In 2009, we plan to see a sharp increase in support and awareness of the 2020 Vision Campaign in the Republic of Ireland. In close cooperation with the Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA), a focused Irish Campaign initiative has already been launched and the first Irish signatures to the Cities Appeal in support of the H-N Protocol have been welcomed.

On March 13, 2009, two representatives from the 2020 Vision Campaign were invited to speak at the NFLA All-Ireland Forum in Dundalk. There the Irish initiative was kick-started, with the Mayors for Peace message receiving a particularly warm reception. A cross-party letter initiative is also underway that aims to gain membership and support for the H-N Protocol in the 111 non-member local authorities in Ireland.

## Italy (281 members)

With 23 new members in 2008 and 18 in the initial months of 2009 Italy has almost crossed the 300 threshold. It is expected that soon over 300 member cities and provinces, with dozens actively contributing to the 2020 Vision Campaign.

On March 27 2008, the Italian Campaign “A Future Without Nuclear Weapons” delivered to the President of the Chamber of Deputies (Italian Lower House) the signatures collected by over 50 civil society organizations submitting draft legislation to have the country declared “nuclear weapon free”.

The Mayors of Ghedi and Aviano were the first to sign, and all the signatures (in the end over 80,000) were certified by an elected city or province official. It was a campaign that strengthened the collaboration between Mayors, City Councillors and activists for the abolition of nuclear weapons, with the active collaboration of Italian Mayors for Peace and supporters of the 2020 Vision Campaign.

In 2008, Hiroshima/Nagasaki commemorations were organised in Vicenza, Ghedi and Aviano. US nuclear weapons are stored at the air-force bases of Aviano and Ghedi.

Mayors, elected city officials and civil society representatives continue to work together to increase the membership and activities of Mayors for Peace in support of the 2020 Vision Campaign.



**A**t the 2008 PrepCom in Geneva, the City of Florence gave a presentation on its former mayor, Professor Giorgio La Pira, whose vision of a world free of nuclear weapons and of cities’ diplomacy is com-

pletely in the spirit of today’s Mayors for Peace. Mayor Akiba has called Mayor La Pira the “prophet of Mayors for Peace”. This has suggested another innovation: the introduction of a Mayors for Peace Prize, named



**A**ssisi, January 17, 2009 - Hundreds of local authorities and hundreds of associations gathered during a peace rally to stop the massacre in Gaza.

The 2009 Hiroshima/Nagasaki commemorations in Italy are being organized with the Mayor of Aviano and will be dovetailed to allow for audio or video conference links with the Mayors for Peace General Assembly in Nagasaki.

In 2009, the Italian members of “A Future Without Nuclear Weapons”, of which Mayors for Peace Italy is a main pillar, are planning to organize a Conference on the Vision of a World Free of Nuclear Weapons in the Chamber of Deputies (Lower House of Italian Parliament).

The Coordinamento Nazionale Enti Locali per la Pace e i Diritti Umani supports the 2020 Vision Campaign. This Italian coordination with over 700 Italian local governments work for peace and human rights. To stress the importance of 2020 Vision Campaign in their overall strategy, the Coordinamento appointed the Mayor of Aviano as Vice-President.

The small town of Coccaglio (near Ghedi) is donating space to establish a Museum, which will host materials from the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation.

after Mayor La Pira. The City of Florence will be responsible for the organization of this award for cities that are especially active in promoting the ideals that we all share.

## Luxembourg (54 members)

During 2008 we welcomed 10 new members. This was the result of an invitation by Mr. Paul Helminger, the Mayor of Luxembourg City, to all his colleagues to welcome Dr. Akiba Tadatoshi, the President of Mayors for Peace and Mayor of Hiroshima in Luxembourg.

On November 7, 2008, Friddensinitiativ, a civil society organization, organised a national event in support of the Mayors for Peace campaign. During a public debate a balanced approach of the NPT and the role of Luxembourg – a NATO member state - was discussed by the NGO representatives and representatives of Mayors for Peace, including the Vice-President City of Volgograd.

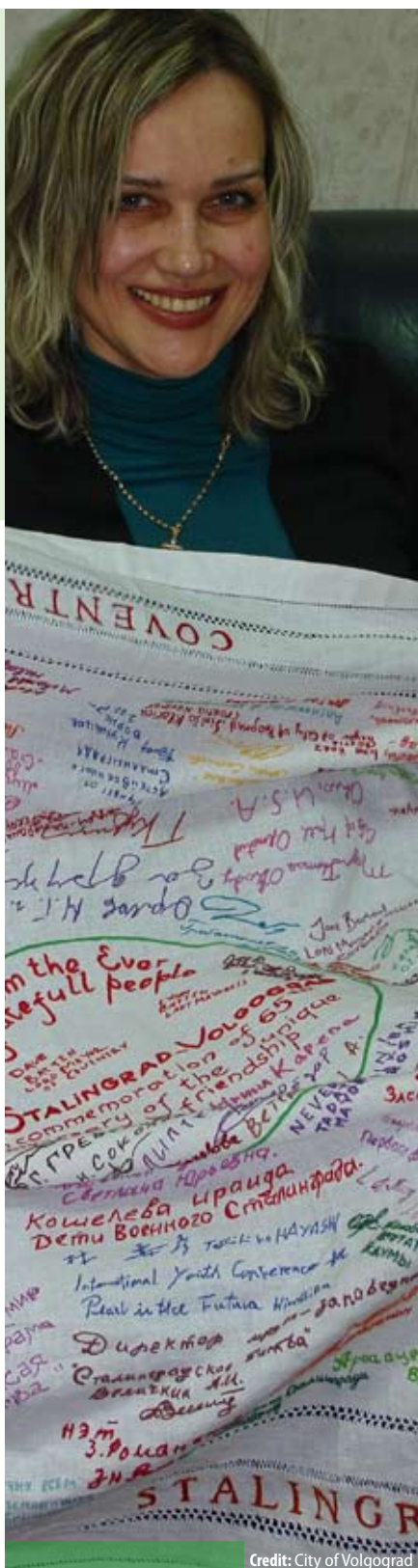
The next day, Luxembourg Mayor Helminger welcomed Mayor Akiba Tadatoshi during an Academic event at City Hall. The event was attended by 30 Mayors representing the different regions and political parties. During the event, Mr. Helminger, also a member of the Luxembourg national parliament, called his colleagues to join efforts in support of the proposed H-N Protocol.

The Mayors for Peace events were very well covered by all Luxembourg national press, including television, radio and newspapers.

In 2009, Mayors plan to meet in order to commemorate the bombing of Hiroshima and to mark their commitment to implementing the NPT.

**L**uxembourg, November 10, 2008 - A group picture with Mayor Paul Helminger and Mayor Akiba here posing with almost 40 Mayors from Luxembourg. The event was the start of a tour of events in Luxembourg, Belgium and Germany to promote the 2020 Vision.





Credit: City of Volgograd

**M**s. Elena Vasilevskaya, the new Russian coordinator of the Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign and her tablecloth.

## Netherlands (47 members)

Mayors for Peace welcomed 13 new Dutch members in 2008 in the run up to the Mayors for Peace event in The Hague. In June 2008, a national event for Mayors for Peace was organised by IPPNW Netherlands and IKV Pax Christi, in co-operation with the Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG). During this meeting, the Mayor of Uden (Volkel) gave a speech about the dangers related to the storage of US nuclear weapons on the territory of her municipality. Also, a list of practical suggestions was drafted for future reference.

Mayors for Peace organized a workshop on Cities Are Not Targets at the First International Conference on City Diplomacy organized by the UCLG (United Cities & Local Governments). Presentations were made by the Vice President of the Province of Milan, the Mayor of Granollers, Spain, and the City Manager of Malakoff, France.

Dutch Mayors have a preference for work in the fields of awareness-raising and peace education, and they propose to use the UN supported International Day for Peace, September 21, as one of the main annually recurrent moments to ask attention for the need to make true progress in nuclear disarmament.

IKV Pax Christi started drafting a report on nuclear weapons in 2008. Former prime minister, Mr. Ruud Lubbers, was one of the advisers to the working group that wrote the report. The

Mayors of Amsterdam, Utrecht and Uden (Volkel) signed the appeal incorporated in the report. The report was presented in February 2009.

IKV Pax Christi, IPPNW Netherlands and VNG are stepping up to organise, together, a more active and comprehensive support for the Dutch Mayors for Peace.

## Portugal (16 members)

In 2008, the Mayor of Ovar participated in the Mayoral delegation during the NPT PrepCom at the UN in Geneva.

Juliana Santos, a new EVS volunteer from Portugal at the International Secretariat in Ypres, is the new coordinator for the Portuguese network during her six month project.

She drafted a cross-party letter for an initial group of Portuguese mayors representing the different political parties. Once the respective logos and signatures are collected, the letter will be spread to all Portuguese Mayors to support the H-N Protocol and join the network.

## Russia (14 members)

International relations officer Ms. Elena Vasilevskaya from the Vice-President City of Volgograd (previously Stalingrad) was appointed by Mayor Akiba as the new Russian Coordinator of the Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign.

This will facilitate efforts to increase membership and financial and political support for the global elimination of all nuclear weapons by 2020.

In 2008, Volgograd received delegations from the International Peace Conference for Peace in the Future from Hiroshima (for young people) - and held the Hiroshima Carp event collecting signatures for the abolition of the nuclear weapon by 2020. Signatures have been collected among youngsters of Volgograd and guests of the city.

During the Battle of Stalingrad, the Lord Mayoress of Coventry organized aide supplies for the people of Stalingrad, with the supplies they sent a solidarity tablecloth with the embroidered signatures of lending figures of Coventry. For the upcoming 65th anniversary of that event, a Stalingrad Tablecloth was developed and bears names of the representatives of the international community throughout the world in appreciation of the contribution of Volgograd and Coventry to the victory over fascism in the World War II and to the cause of world peace. The Executive Cities led by Mayor Akiba left their signatures during the General Meeting in Ypres, Belgium, in November. "Never again", wrote Mayor Akiba.

The year of 2009 will mark the 65th anniversary of the unique friendship which emerged from the ravages of World War II between the Russian city of Stalingrad and the British Coventry. Stalingrad and Coventry became sister cities at the heat of the



Credit: Pol DHuyvetter, MfP 2020 VC

**G**ranollers, June 2008 - Mr. Josep Mayoral Antigas, the Mayor of Granollers (left) and Mr. Josep Poblet Tous, the Mayor of Vila-seca, signing a cross-party membership recruitment and a fundraising letter. This marked the start of important growth and success of Mayors for Peace in Spain.

World War II starting the International Twinning movement.

Every year Volgograd holds a Peace Bell ceremony on August 6, with the Peace Bell donated by Hiroshima, another of its sister cities.

In 2009, Volgograd plans to recruit new members and to sharply increase support for the H-N Protocol by Russian member cities.

## Spain [\(147 members\)](#)

We welcomed 66 new members in 2008 and in the first months of 2009, another 26 members were registered.

In April 2008, the City of Granollers participated in the mayoral delegation of the NPT PrepCom at the UN in Geneva, as they were preparing for the commemoration of the bombardment of Granollers and requested an active involvement with Mayors for Peace.

On May 31, Luc Dehaene, Mayor of Ypres, Pol DHuyvetter and Jaira Valenzuela took part in the Commemoration of the Bombardment of Granollers 70 years ago. In 1938, in just one minute, 224 civilians died as the Italian air-force released 30 explosive bombs and 10 incendiary bombs on the City of Granollers in support of the fascists troops of General Franco. Our presence during this commemoration was the start of an intense co-operation.

Soon, efforts were stepped up by the City of Granollers to increase the presence of support of Spanish Mayors. The Mayor of Granollers, as president of "Asociación Catalana de Municipios"

(ACM), introduced Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign to the members of that Association.

The excellent leadership demonstrated by the Mayor of Granollers was acknowledged in autumn 2008 when Mayor Akiba appointed Granollers as a new Executive City.

The overall growth of Mayors for Peace activities in Spain could not have happened without the increased capacity to communicate directly in Spanish at the international office in Ypres. Here we need to thank Jaira Valenzuela who worked for a 12 month period with an EVS project. Jaira Valenzuela, a professional translator, helped us to communicate in Spanish with Mayors throughout Spain and Latin-America. She has also translated the campaign website.

Greenpeace Spain continued to play an important role. In 2008, they developed an informative leaflet to inform Mayors about the Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign.

## Switzerland [\(17 members\)](#)

We welcomed 6 new members in Switzerland in 2008. Most of these new memberships were in response to a letter circulated jointly by the Mayors of Geneva and Lausanne. Both these cities set strong examples by their generous contributions to

**G**eneva, April 28, 2008 – The City of Geneva rolled out the red carpet for Mayors for Peace during the NPT PrepCom in support of the 2020 Vision Campaign. Here some of the delegates during a reception offered by City Hall.



Credit: Pierre Maréchal, MfP 2020 VC

(from left to right) Mayor **Wolfgang Leidig**, Mayor **Luc Dehaene**, Mayor **Tadatoshi Akiba**, International Campaign Manager **Aaron Tovish**, Geneva Deputy Mayor **Pierre Maudet**, Chairman of NPT 2nd PrepCom Ukrainian Ambassador **Yuri Yelchenko** and **Eros Crucollini**, President of Firenze City Council

the 2020 Vision Campaign. Geneva also provided meeting space for the first Campaign Association Board meeting, to which they were welcomed to participate.

Geneva also hosted the mayoral delegation to the NPT PrepCom meeting in May 2008. Mayor Patrice Mugny welcomed the delegation to Geneva at one of the delegations events in the Palais des Nations. The City Hall opened its doors to the delegation and diplomats with a marvelous reception in the Palais Renard. The Chairman of the Preparatory Committee, the Ukrainian Ambassador to Vienna, was among the many guests.

## UK (49 members)

In 2008 four new members were welcomed in the UK. 2008 was a quiet year for Mayors for Peace in the UK as important changes were implemented in our partner organisation, Nuclear Free Local Authorities.

Remarkable in 2008 is the support of Mr. Boris Johnson, the new Mayor of London, for the H-N Protocol. Mayor Johnson, member of the conservative party, is the first Mayor of a Capital City of a Nuclear Weapon State who has registered his support for the H-N Protocol by signing the Cities Appeal.

In 2009, the Mayors for Peace UK Working Group began meeting again after a one year break. The meeting group has mapped out a plan of action for the months ahead, which will see efforts directed towards fundraising and encouraging a deeper engagement of UK member Mayors in the work of Mayors for Peace.

A UK delegation will be sent to the NPT PrepCom meeting in New York in May and will also be lobbying the UK's Ambassador to the meeting to challenge the contradictory position held by the UK government in stating its support for non-proliferation initiatives whilst at the same time undertaking work to renew its own weapons of mass destruction.

## Europe

### 1603 MEMBERS

Albania (1), Andorra (2), Austria (28), Belarus (1), Belgium (323), Bosnia and Herzegovina (2), Bulgaria (4), Croatia (25), Czech Republic (28), Denmark (13), Estonia (4), Finland (2), France (98), Georgia (1), Germany (313), Greece (5), Hungary (3), Ireland (3), Italy (281), Kazakhstan (4), Kyrgyz (1), Latvia (1), Lithuania (2), Luxembourg (54), Malta (1), Moldova (1), Netherlands (47), Norway (83), Poland (6), Portugal (16), Romania (4), Russia (14), Serbia (3), Slovakia (1), Slovenia (2), Spain (147), Sweden (5), Switzerland (17), Tajikistan (2), Ukraine (3), United Kingdom (49), Uzbekistan (3)



Mayors for Peace laments the sudden passing of former Lord Mayor of Manchester and nuclear disarmament activist Bill Risby on February 16, 2009. Mr. Risby was one of Manchester's longest serving councillors and one of the founders of the Nuclear Free Movement. Cllr. Risby proposed the resolution at Manchester City Council on the 6, November 1980 that declared Manchester as the world's first 'municipal nuclear free zone'.

In 2003, it was under Risby's commitment and leadership in Manchester that the Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace crafted and launched the 2020 Vision Campaign, the Emergency Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons, that has led to a five-fold increase in membership of the network.

Cllr. Risby has also represented Manchester at Mayors for Peace delegations at the 2005 NPT Conference in New York. He was the current Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) Chair. In November 2007, Bill Risby represented the City of Manchester at the meeting of the Executive Cities in Florence, where the Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign was formally established. We also had the pleasure to have Bill Risby with us during our latest meeting of the Board of Directors and the General meeting of the 2020 Vision Campaign Association at Ypres City Hall, Belgium in November 2008. We will all miss Cllr. Risby for his vision and his friendship.



**S**ão Paulo, February 27, 2009 - The São Paulo Secretary of Sports and respected Member of Parliament, Mr. Walter Feldman (center), and Mr. Flavio Goldman, from the São Paulo international relations department (right) meeting with 2020 Vision campaign representatives, Ms. Magaly Madrid (left) and Pol DHuyvetter. Amongst others plans, it was discussed to contact all 5,600 Brazilian Mayors in support of the elimination of all nuclear weapons by 2020.

## Latin America

At the start of 2008, Latin America and the Caribbean was the continent with the lowest membership of Mayors for Peace. Strange when you realize that the world's first Nuclear Weapon Free Zone was established by the 1967 Treaty of Tlatelolco.

For the first time in its 26 years history, Mayors for Peace started to develop visibility and activities in Latin America and the Caribbean. Membership has more than doubled since the start of January 2008.

At the start of 2009, Pol DHuyvetter, Executive Advisor and Director of the International Campaign Secretariat, traveled to South-America. He represented Mayors for Peace during the "Forum of Local Authorities", a Forum within the World Social Forum (Belem, Brazil). After the Forum, he traveled in Brazil and visited the capitals of Uruguay, Chile, and Argentina to meet with mayors and NGO representatives. Ms. Magaly Madrid, a Peruvian volunteer, has assisted outreach in Latin-America and the Caribbean. In each city, the Mayors for Peace representative met with "Mundo sin Guerras" (World without Wars) activists.

### Argentine [\(7 members\)](#)

On February 19 and 20, 2009 Pol DHuyvetter had several meetings with City & NGO representatives in Buenos Aires to discuss organisational development of Mayors for Peace. The support of Buenos Aires for the H-N Protocol is under consideration while there are plans to contact Mayors throughout Argentine to involve them in the 2020 Vision Campaign.

### Brazil [\(7 members\)](#)

Activities of Mayors for Peace in Brazil have been traditionally low, although Rio de Janeiro was one of the earliest signatories of the Cities Appeal in support of the H-N Protocol.

The presence of Mayors for Peace in Brazil is considered by many as very important. The South-American regional power was preparing a nuclear weapons test during the military dictatorship (80's). Some judge Brazil to have the capacity to acquire nuclear weapons in fairly short order. Elements of the Brazilian establishment want to keep the option open to develop a nuclear weapons program. The fact that the Brazilian civilian nuclear program is controlled by the Brazilian Defense department, does not instill great confidence.

During a meeting on February 27, 2009, with Mr. Walter Feldman of the City of São Paulo, it was agreed with Pol DHuyvetter and Ms. Magaly Madrid to develop a cross-party initiative with Rio de Janeiro, Curitiba and Belo Horizonte to involve Brazilian local authorities in the 2020 Vision Campaign.



Credit: MfP 2020 Vision campaign  
 (from left to right) Dr. **Xavier Miranda**, Mr. Mayor **Ricardo Ehrlich**, **Pol DHuyvetter** and **Daiana Ferraro**, international relations for Montevideo and advisor Mercociudades.

**M**ontevideo, February 12, 2009 - Mr. Ricardo Ehrlich, the Mayor of Montevideo warmly welcomed the 2020 Vision Campaign during a meeting in the capital of Uruguay.

another 32 members joined the network, bringing total membership to 72 members. The remarkable growth of membership follows an invitation to Nicaraguan Mayors by Mr. Saul Arana Castellon, the Nicaraguan Ambassador in Japan, after a meeting with Dr. Tadatoshi Akiba on August 6, 2008, in Hiroshima. This illustrates once again the importance of individuals taking action to promote a nuclear-weapon-free world.

## Chile [\(4 members\)](#)

The Chilean President Michel Bachelet has taken a very strong position in support of the World March for Peace and Non-Violence which will end in Chile in January 2010. The Chilean representatives of Mundo sin Guerras, the organizers of the World March, were very receptive to increase the support of local authorities towards a nuclear-weapon-free world by 2020. During a meeting on February 17, 2009, the Mayor of Santiago, Mr. Pablo Zalaquett, pledged to table membership and support for the 2020 Vision campaign to the City Council.

## Nicaragua [\(40 members\)](#)

Nicaragua counted just one member at the beginning of 2008. Thirty-nine new members joined in 2008, while in the first two months of 2009

## Uruguay [\(1 member\)](#)

Mr. Ricardo Ehrlich, the Mayor of Montevideo, welcomed the 2020 Vision Campaign during a meeting with Pol DHuyvetter in the capital of Uruguay on February 12, 2009. During this meeting the Mayor agreed to invite his 18 colleagues in Uruguay to join Mayors for Peace.

Mr. Ehrlich, as co-president of the UCCI (Unión de Ciudades Capitales Iberoamericanas) also wants to invite all capital cities of Latin America and Iberia Peninsula to support the 2020 Vision Campaign. The Mayor of Montevideo presides over the UCCI together with the Mayor of Madrid. Furthermore, Mr. Ehrlich wants to invite the members of Mercociudades to join. Mercociudades is a network of cities of the Mercosur region: Argentine, Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Venezuela and Uruguay. Mercosur and Mercociudades has its headquarters in Montevideo,



**FAL network endorses 2020 Vision during annual international meeting in Belem, Brazil**

Credit: Pol DHuyvetter, MfP 2020 VC

**B**elem, January 31, 2009 – The FAL (Foro de Autoridades Locales) network meeting during the World Social Forum in the northeast of Brazil welcomed and endorsed the Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign. Approximately 400 participants from Local Authorities from around the world participated in the conference. A large majority of representatives were from Latin America. On the second day of the FAL conference Pol DHuyvetter made a presentation during a Commission on “Decentralized Co-operation, Solidarity and Peace”. The Mayors for Peace introduced text for the final declaration of the FAL meeting in Belem, called the “Compromiso de Belem”. In their final declaration FAL declared “*FAL explicitly supports the 2020 Vision Campaign of the Mayors for Peace*”



Credit: Peace Boat

**C**aracas, November 26, 2008 - The city of Caracas (the capital of Venezuela) organised a peace ceremony under the banner of "Aiming for a world free of nuclear weapons" at the municipal theater. A delegation of Hibakusha, survivors of the A-bomb and Peace Boat participants, joined the thirteen mayors from cities around Venezuela. The mayors officially joined Mayors for Peace. The mayor of Caracas received the delegation of Hibakusha as honoured visitors, and through them bestowed upon Mayors for Peace the City's highest honour: the medal of Juan Cisco de Leon.

## Venezuela [\(2 members\)](#)

Venezuela did not have any members before 2008. Two cities joined in 2008. But this was only a timid start as another 22 local authorities joined Mayors for Peace in the first two months of 2009. On November 25, the Peace Boat, a Japanese based educational project based on a cruise ship, visited the port of La Guaira. This was the start of a series of activities including cultural exchange and study programmes. (See more about the Peace Boat page 11, Asian section)

In recent years, Venezuela has been promoting the free medical care and literacy education for the poor as part of its "Bolivarian Revolution." A network of over 250 mayors supporting this policy in their municipalities, called Asociación Bolivariana de Alcaldes de Venezuela (Bolivar Mayors' Association of Venezuela) were the driving force

behind organising this peace ceremony and the call for Venezuelan mayors to join Mayors for Peace, led by the Mayor of Caracas, Mr. Freddy Bernal.

The many new signatories to Mayors for Peace in Venezuela during Peace Boat's visit are a sign of this strong will for peace, in the words of a participating Hibakusha that "the winds of nuclear abolition will blow from Latin America to the world."

*which lobbies the international community to renounce weapons of mass destruction. We call on local authorities to join Mayors for Peace and support the "Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol" to eliminate nuclear weapons by 2020. We also call on nation states and armed groups to cease considering cities as military objectives: 'Cities are not Targets!'"*

This Forum of Local Authorities was founded during the first World Social Forum in Porto Alegre in 2001. The World Social Forum was created as an alternative summit for the World Economic Forum in Davos. This year over 100.000 people participated in the World Social Forum in Brazil.

FAL members on <http://redfal.org/miembros>



## Latin America and Caribbean

**87 MEMBERS**

Argentina (7), Bolivia (2), Brazil (7), Chile (4), Costa Rica (3), Cuba (2), Dominica (1), Dominican Republic (2), Ecuador (2), Greenland (1), Guyana (1), Haiti (2), Honduras (1), Jamaica (1), Mexico (3), Nicaragua (40), Paraguay (1), Peru (2), Trinidad and Tobago (2), Uruguay (1), Venezuela (2).



Credit: Pierre Maréchal, MfP 2020 VC.

**Y**pres, November 11, 2008 – Mayor Tadatoshi Akiba and Mayor Thomas O’Grady during the memorial for the 90th anniversary of the end of the First World War. Mayor O’Grady represented US Mayors for Peace during the General Meeting and Board of Directors of the 2020 Vision Campaign Association.

## North America

### Canada [\(70 members\)](#)

During 2008, we welcomed seven new Canadian members. There were many Mayors for Peace related activities in Canada during that year. These include 60 people at August 6 Commemoration including Mayor Atchison, organised by Saskatoon Peace Coalition and the United Nations Association of Canada-Saskatoon.

In Vancouver, British Columbia, Mayor Sam Sullivan declared August 6th the official Vancouver Hiroshima Day. The event was co-organised with City Councilor Suzanne Anton and David Laskey of Veterans Against Nuclear Arms.

In Hamilton, Ontario, Mayor Fred Eisenberger acknowledged Hamilton’s continued support and membership in Mayors for Peace at the 2008 Gandhi Peace Festival.

In Toronto, Ontario, the Hiroshima Day Coalition organized an exhibition of photographs and paintings by Hiroshima and Nagasaki survivors of the A-bomb in Toronto City Hall. In a special message videotaped in Hiroshima, Mayor Tadatoshi Akiba asked Toronto Mayor David Miller to sign the Cities Appeal in support of the H-N Protocol.

In Ottawa, a coalition of civil society groups under the Ottawa Peace Assembly organized the Hiroshima and Nagasaki Commemoration events. On August 9, at the gathering, a letter of greeting from Mayor Akiba to the people of Ottawa was read out.

In September, Montreal City Council authorized Mayor Tremblay to sign the Cities Appeal in support of the H-N Protocol.

### USA [\(131 members\)](#)

Mayors for Peace increased membership with seventeen new cities in the USA. However, the most significant result during 2008 is without doubt the adoption by the US Conference of Mayors of a Resolution in support of the H-N Protocol. (see separate box, page 25)

In January 2008, Mayor Donald Plusquellic (Akron, Ohio), Vice President of Mayors for Peace and former President of the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM), spoke to the USCM International Affairs Committee at its annual winter meeting in Washington DC. Mayor Plusquellic updated the Committee on Mayors for Peace and reported on the decisions taken at the first meeting of the 2020 Vision Campaign Association held in Florence, Italy, in November 2007.

Mayor Plusquellic also introduced Jacqueline Cabasso, Mayors for Peace North American Coordinator for the 2020 Vision Campaign, to the USCM.

In March, Ms. Cabasso, took part in a panel presentation on “municipal diplomacy” at the winter meeting of the National League of Cities, in Washington DC. The panel was organized by the Institute for Policy Studies Cities for Peace project, which is building a network of local elected officials in the USA. Other panelists included city council members from Chicago and Seattle, Washington. Mayors for Peace is continuing to develop a collaborative relationship with Cities for Peace. August was declared “Nuclear-Free Future Month” by United for Peace and Justice, the largest anti-



Credit: Jackie Cabasso, MFP 2020 VC

**O**akland, California, August 1, 2008 - Hiroshima-Nagasaki poster exhibit opening in the Oakland California City Hall Rotunda.

In 2008 the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation organised exhibitions all across the USA in co-operation with Mayors for Peace.

war coalition in the United States. In support of this effort, Mayors for Peace member Mayor Bob Kiss issued a proclamation citing the accomplishments of Mayors for Peace and declaring August 6, as Nuclear Disarmament Day in the City of Burlington. The proclamation asked “all citizens to pause and reflect on ways in our lifetime to bring about world peace and the abolition of nuclear weapons.”

The City Hall of Oakland, California, hosted a two-week exhibition of a graphic poster display, entitled “Witness to History: Conveying the Tragedy of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.” At the opening reception, attended by a number of local elected officials, the Deputy Mayor presented a formal Mayor’s

Proclamation, signed by Mayors for Peace member Mayor Ronald Dellums, declaring August 1, as “Witness to History Day.”

In 2008, the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation worked with local host organizations to mount this exhibit in more than 100 US cities.

On October 23, with support from the Ford Foundation, Western States Legal Foundation, the Lawyers’ Committee on Nuclear Policy and Global Action to Prevent War organized a conference at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, called “Nuclear Abolition, Climate Protection and Our Cities’ Future.” Convened by Mayors for Peace, we worked closely with Mayors for Peace member Des

### US Conference of Mayors supports the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol (H-N Protocol)

**O**n June 23, 2008, the US Conference of Mayors (USCM), at its 76th annual meeting in Miami, Florida, unanimously adopted a far-reaching resolution entitled “Support for the Elimination of All Nuclear Weapons by the Year 2020.” The US Conference of Mayors (USCM) is the official nonpartisan organization of US cities with populations of 30,000 or more. There are 1,200 such cities in the US today. Each city is represented in the Conference by its chief elected official, the mayor.

The resolution, submitted by Mayors for Peace Vice-President Donald Plusquellic (Akron, Ohio) and 9 co-sponsors, recommends that the U.S.

government “urgently consider” an agreement - the “Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol” - as a means of “fulfilling the promise of the NPT by the year 2020, thereby meeting the obligation found by the International Court of Justice in 1996 to ‘conclude negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control.’”

The resolution also encourages USCM members to participate in the delegation and activities being organized by Mayors for Peace at the third NPT Review Conference Preparatory Committee Meeting in New York in May 2009, and to sign the Cities Appeal being circulated in support of

the H-N Protocol and to encourage other elected officials in their cities to do likewise.

Before going to the plenary session, the resolution was considered and adopted by the International Affairs Committee where it was successfully championed by co-sponsors, the Mayors Jennifer Hosterman (Pleasanton, CA) and Thomas O’Grady (North Olmsted, OH). The resolution was opposed by just one member of the Committee. In the conference plenary, the resolution was adopted without opposition.

The full text on the USCM website: [www.usmayors.org/resolutions/76th-conference/adoptedresolutions.pdf](http://www.usmayors.org/resolutions/76th-conference/adoptedresolutions.pdf)

# Oceania

## Aotearoa/New Zealand (30 members)

In autumn 2008, Robert Harvey, the Mayor of Waitakere, was invited to join the Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace.

During a visit in February 2009 by Mr. Luc Dehaene (Mayor of Ypres, Belgium and Chair of the Board of Directors), a meeting was arranged with Mayor Mr. Robert Harvey and Alyn Ware (Global Coordinator PNND). During the discussions for the promotion of Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign it was decided that the Mayor of Waitakere will write to all mayors inviting them to join. He will also write to members encouraging them to support the H-N Protocol.

Mayor Mr. Bob Harvey also encouraged Mayors for Peace to endorse the Global March for Peace and Nonviolence which will start in New Zealand. In March 2009 Mayors for Peace decided to endorse this Global March.

Kerry Prendergast, the Mayor of Wellington, who has endorsed the H-N Protocol, is willing to host a reception for the mayors who are participating in the march, many of whom will be coming to Wellington, the starting point of the March, which will end 3 months later in Chile.



**N**ew Executive official Mayor Robert Harvey from Waitakere, New Zealand, meeting Ypres' Mayor Luc Dehaene during a visit in New Zealand. Plans were discussed to increase our presence and activities in 2009.

Credit: MfP 2020 VC



Credit: Jackie Cabasso, MfP 2020 VC

**//October 2008, Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa - Des Moines Mayor, Mr. Frank Cownie and Fairfield Mayor, Mr. Ed Malloy, speaking on "Nuclear Abolition, Climate Change and Our Cities Future"**

Moines Mayor Mr. Frank Cownie in organizing the conference. Mayors and city council members from several Iowa cities participated as speakers or attendees. The conference program was rich in content, among other things exploring the inter-connections between climate change, nuclear power and nuclear disarmament.

In November, Mayor Thomas O'Grady of North Olmsted, Ohio, stood in for Vice-President Donald Plusquellic at the 2020 Vision Campaign Association meeting in Ypres, Belgium. From there, Mayor O'Grady went on to Geneva, where he spoke on behalf of Mayors for Peace at a forum, hosted by Costa Rica in the United Nations on a nuclear weapons convention.

Mayor O'Grady and Ms. Cabasso are currently recruiting U.S. members to participate in the Mayors for Peace delegations to the 2009 NPT PrepCom and 2010 NPT Review Conference at UN headquarters in New York. They are also preparing for Mayors for Peace involvement in the USCM annual meeting, which will be held in June 2009 in Providence Rhode Island.

Finally, we are pleased to report that Mayors for Peace North American Coordinator, Jacqueline Cabasso, was awarded the Sean MacBride peace prize, by the International Peace Bureau, in November 2008. Two years before, this peace prize was awarded to the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

## North America

**201 MEMBERS**

Canada (70), US (131).



Credit: ICAN

**C**ity Councilor Jenny Farrar (center), the official representative of Mayors for Peace Australia, was accepted as an official member of the Australian delegation at the May 2008 NPT PrepCom in Geneva. On the picture Jennie Ferrar with Prof Tilman Ruff (left) and Tim Wright (right) both from the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear weapons (ICAN).

## Australia (49 members)

Six new members joined in 2008, in Australia, where Mayors for Peace has continued to grow and network informally. The Victorian Local Governance Association, the City of Yarra and the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons have been working together to stimulate new memberships and activities with members.

In April 2008, the former Australian convenor of Mayors for Peace Ms. Jenny Farrar, represented Mayors for Peace in a consultation with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade with 23 other NGO's. Following this meeting, she was invited to be a member of the Australian Government's official delegation to the NPT PrepCom in Geneva.

Mayors for Peace in Australia plans to continue to expand its memberships through 2009 as well as engage Councils in further peace activities.

## Oceania

### 88 MEMBERS

Australia (49), Fiji (2), French Polynesia (1), Marshall (1), Micronesia (2), New Zealand (30), Northern Mariana Islands (1), Papua New Guinea (1), Solomon Islands (1).



**world without wars**

and without violence

### Mayors for Peace formally endorses the World March for Peace and Non-Violence

**O**n March 3, 2009 Mayor Akiba, President of Mayors for Peace, announced the endorsement of the World March for Peace and Non-Violence.

The World March will begin in New Zealand on October 2, 2009, the anniversary of Gandhi's birth, declared the "International Day of Nonviolence" by the United Nations. It will conclude in the Andes Mountains in Argentina on January 2, 2010. The March is organized by World without Wars and has nuclear abolition as one of its main goals.

Ms. Montserrat Pietro Gonzalez from World without Wars declared "We fully support Mayors for Peace and formally commit ourselves to help the "Cities Appeal" campaign in support of the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol. We recognize it as one of the greatest initiatives launched today to enhance the cause for Peace and Nonviolence".

World Without Wars (WWW) is an international organization that works to promote and foster all kinds of ideas and actions that have the potential of helping put an end both to war in our world and to violence in its different forms. Its methodology of action is based on active nonviolence.

Since 1994 WWW has developed numerous activities in many countries on the five continents. Over the last several years it has focused on campaigns for worldwide peace and nuclear disarmament and the development of nonviolent methodologies. WWW organizes itself in each country, city and neighborhood by forming Grassroots Groups. In 2009 it has permanent teams in more than 30 countries and has launched activities in many more.

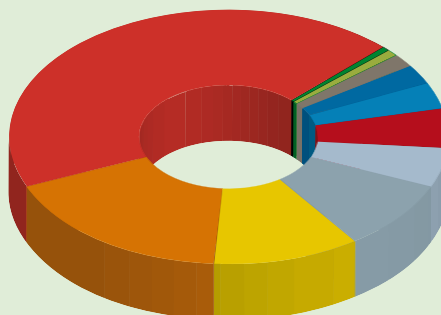
More information: [www.theworldmarch.org](http://www.theworldmarch.org)

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign Association (vzw)

The figures below (in Euro) only show the accounts of the International Campaign Secretariat, legally established in Ypres, Belgium. Note that the expenses by the Cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, an average of 250,000 Euro annually, are not shown here. These expenses include the staff at the Hiroshima Mayors for Peace Secretariat, the salaries of the three Executive Advisors, the office and travel expenses.

## Country Contribution 2008 (€)



BE	26680,67
UK	10763,06
CH	6571,48
DE	5350,00
HR	3110,48
SP	3100,00
NL	1932,00
AU	1554,29
CY	1125,00
IT	458,60
CA	413,02
<b>TOTAL (in €)</b>	<b>61.058,60</b>

### Expenses

International Office Manager Ypres	18060,86
Office staff	2485,55
EU European Voluntary Service	9770,08
Consulting (i.e. strategic, legal & financial)	1717,62
Office supplies	2079,91
Insurances volunteers	71,01
Insurances staff	453,85
Office communications	4490,19
2020 VC Outreach materials	4464,63
Travel international	3760,87
2020 VC Conferences & meetings	2288,00
Other conferences & meetings	407,92
Travel Belgium (staff & volunteers)	3538,12
Financial costs (bank fees)	65,76
Taxes	60,63
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>53715,00</b>

### Income

Contributions members	61058,60
Participation fees MfP NPT PrepCom	750,00
EU grant EVS Youth for Action	8893,00
Interest	404,17
Donations	752,61
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>71858,38</b>

<b>Balance for the year</b>	<b>18143,38</b>
<b>Accummulative balance 2007 – 2008</b>	<b>20452,60</b>

## Expected contributions 2008

Below you also find a table from contributions which have been committed by members for 2008, but have not yet been wired to the bank account of the Ypres campaign office.

BE_Amay	130	IR_Ducan	750
BE_Brussel	1000	IR_Halabja	400
BE_Eeklo	250	IR_Khaniqin	240
BE_Habay	200	IR_Nafutkhan-Khaniqin	400
BE_Huy	500	IR_Saruchawa	210
BE_Ichtegem	125	IR_Shkarta	170
BE_Maarkedal	160	IT_Firenze	6000
BE_Machelen	312,5	SP_Riudecanyes	19,68
BE_Puurs	400	SP_Vila-seca	500
BE_Saint-Léger	50	USA_Akron	3764
BE_Schelle	195,15		
FR_Malakoff	1000	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16776,33</b>

## Financial Results membership contributions 2008 Ypres secretariat bank account

During 2008 we received financial contributions from cities and municipalities from 11 countries. We wish to thank our members in Australia, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Germany, Switzerland, Croatia, Italy, Netherlands, Spain and UK for their contributions. Altogether we achieved 24% of our fundraising goal, which was matching the contribution of 250 000€ donated by the Cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

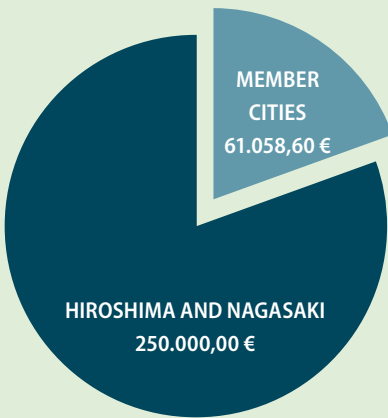
COUNTRY	CITY	EURO
AU	Leichhardt	1145,68
AU	Marion	128,37
AU	Melbourne	280,24
BE	Antwerpen	1000
BE	Beersel 2007	589,45
BE	Beersel	589,43
BE	Boechout 2007	125
BE	Boechout	125
BE	Boom	450
BE	Bornem	505,8
BE	Brasschaat	930
BE	Dendermonde	1090,58
BE	Durbuy	125
BE	Forest/Vorst	1217
BE	Geel	250
BE	Geetbets	145
BE	Hamois	50
BE	Hamont-Achel	100
BE	Hasselt	1750
BE	Hechtel Eksel	100
BE	Herzele	425
BE	Heist-op-den-Berg	125
BE	Ieper	1000
BE	Ingelmonster	250
BE	Ittre	300
BE	Kapellen	250
BE	knokke-heist	850,7
BE	Kortrijk	1000
BE	Kruikeke	387,23
BE	Kuurne	315
BE	Lennik	200
BE	Maaseik	604
BE	Malle	355,58
BE	Meerhout	237
BE	Melle	267,62
BE	Mesen	24,6
BE	Middelkerke	451,93
BE	Mol	800
BE	Mortsel	611
BE	Nazareth	276,45
BE	Nijlen	250
BE	Oostkamp	552,8
BE	Ottignies 2007	250
BE	Peer	400
BE	Ravels	375

### > continuation of previous table

BE	Riemst	420
BE	Rotselaar	375
BE	Ruiselede	127,65
BE	Sint-Lievens-Houtem	238,65
BE	St-Truiden	960,67
BE	Stabroek	443,35
BE	Staden 2007	275
BE	Staden	275
BE	Thuin	100
BE	Tielt	484
BE	Voeren 2007	106
BE	Voeren	106
BE	Waasmunster	250
BE	Waregem	895,7
BE	Wetteren	587,5
BE	Wortegem-Petegem	153,98
BE	Zoersel	100
BE	Zottegem	621
BE	Zwijndrecht	460
CA	Chetwynd	57,44
CA	Duncan	112,02
CA	Whistler	243,56
CH	Geneve	4726,89
CH	Lausanne	1844,59
CY	Ammochostos Famagusta	1125
DE	Heidelberg	5000
DE	Lohfelden	350
HR	Biograd	1500
HR	Grad Koprivnica	992,74
HR	Kutina	617,74
IT	Castenedolo	270,6
IT	Tavarnelle	188
NL	Beek	425
NL	Bloemendaal	422
NL	Maasgouw	625
NL	Winschoten	460
SP	Castelldefels	600
SP	Gernika	400
SP	Granollers	1500
SP	La Llagosta	600
UK	Manchester	10263,06
UK	Oxford	500
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>61.058,60</b>
(01/01/2008 - 31/12/2008)		

# FUNDRAISING

## Worldwide contribution 2008 (€)



## Fundraising 2008

Although 2008 was a successful year in many areas, the Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign Association did not succeed to match the financial contributions of the Japanese Cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki as planned. The Appeal launched by the Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace on December 21, 2007, did unfortunately not have the desired effect. See the tables for 2008 contributions by members (page 28) and the graphics (top page 28 and top page 29).

But let us thank here all the cities which did step forward. We are confident that they are leading the way to an increased solidarity so that we will receive the means to ban nuclear weapons before 2020.

## Fundraising 2009

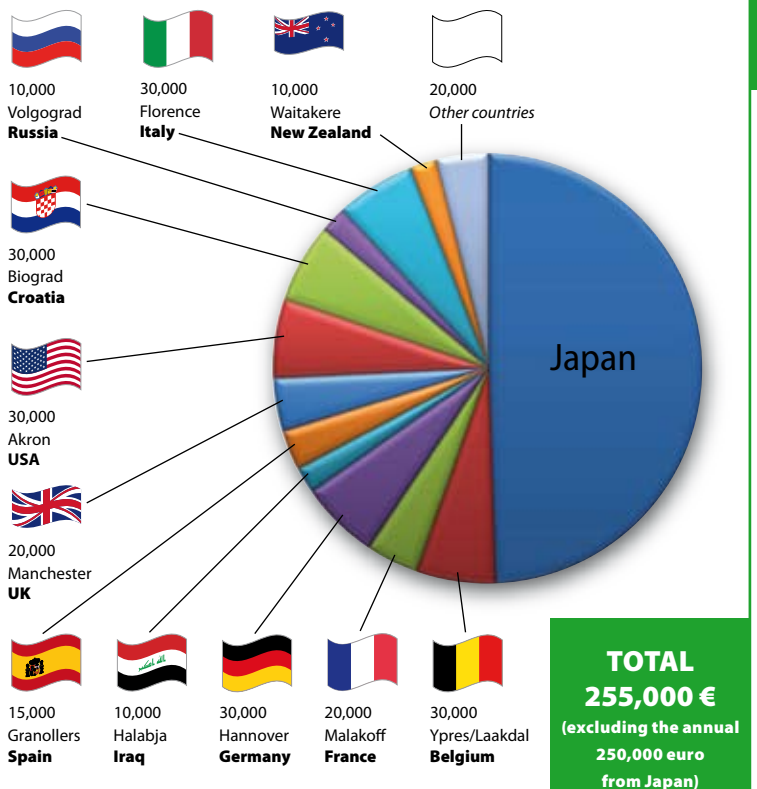
Aware of the challenging financial situation, the Board of Directors and the General Meeting of the Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign Association decided to increase the leadership role of the members of the General Meeting (see this page, graphic “Worldwide approved contributions 2009”).

All members present, approved by general consensus, to share the financial challenge to build further capacity, a condition for a successful campaign.

The members of the General Meeting agreed to encourage the Mayors for Peace members in their country to make a voluntary financial contribution to the international campaign. In general, there was an agreement that the proposed annual contribution of 0,025 Euro/inhabitant/year was a reasonable formula. An increasing number of cities pledge an annual contribution all the way up to 2020.

## Worldwide approved contributions 2009 (€)

Approved on November 10, 2008



On December 1, 2008, the International Campaign Association hired a full-time assistant manager and fundraiser to pursue these goals. Myriam Chaabnia started by producing an “Action Kit” explaining a successful approach.

Here, we refer and encourage everybody to make a systematic use of cross-party letters, a very rewarding model developed in Belgium. As you can read in the Belgian section of this report, the cross-party letters gave exemplary results not only concerning fundraising, but also on membership recruitment and a fast-growing political support for the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol.

### BANK DETAILS

Bankaccount for Mayors for Peace  
2020 Vision Campaign vzw  
Grote Markt 34,  
B-8900 Ieper

Account Number 088-2371003-27  
IBAN Number BE48-0882-3710-0327  
BIC (SWIFT code) GKCCBEBB

Name of bank DEXIA  
(branch Vlamertinge - Dikkebus),  
Kerkplein 18  
B-8908 Vlamertinge - Ieper



Credit: Pierre Maréchal, MfP 2020 VC

## PRESS

Press releases by Mayors for Peace in general continue to be ignored by main stream press. Here the further growth of the organisation, and cooperation with VIP's, should contribute for the press taking more interest in the future.

Today, public events are ideal to attract the attention of the mainstream press and inform the public.

### Annual Hiroshima and Nagasaki commemorations

On August 6 and 9, 2008, Hiroshima and Nagasaki had once again the world's attention for the 63rd anniversaries of the atomic bombings. In Hiroshima, some 45,000 people gathered to attend the commemoration ceremony, including diplomats from 55 countries. The ceremonies were covered by Reuters, Associated Press and Kyodo agencies, but only Kyodo's piece mentioned Mayors for Peace and the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol (H-N Protocol).

In 2009, there should be a focus on taking advantage of this international media opportunity offered by these events to put the 2020 Vision Campaign priorities in the international spotlight.

Between November 8 and 14, 2008, Mayor Akiba was in Europe for the promotion of the H-N Protocol. Events were organized in Luxembourg, Belgium and Germany.

Mayors for Peace was very well covered by all mainstream press in Luxembourg. In other countries the press continues to pay very little attention.

We plan to involve a full time press and communications officer and VIP's to increase our visibility.

**Y**pres, November 2008 – The Peace Pillar with Mr. Filip Deheegher near City Hall. Mr. Deheegher designed the Peace Pillar. He is both the Director of the Peace Department of the City of Ypres and the Treasurer of the Board of Directors of Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign Association.

### The Mayors for Peace Pillar

The Mayors for Peace 'Peace Pillar' (pictured) stands outside the 2020 Vision Campaign Secretariat office in Ypres, marking the presence of Mayors for Peace in the city. It was erected in its present form at the beginning of November 2008, following the General Meeting of the 2020 Vision Campaign Association hosted by Ypres City Hall. The Pillar provides information in four different languages to locals and tourists on the history of nuclear weapons, the present nuclear situation and Mayors for Peace's plans for the future. Peace Pillars are the perfect way for member cities and municipalities to educate their citizens on nuclear arms and inform them of their Council's actions against such weapons. We hope that 2009 will see Peace Pillars erected in numerous member cities around the world.

**If you want such a pillar in your city please contact the International Campaign office in Ypres.**

## WEBSITE

### [www.2020visioncampaign.org](http://www.2020visioncampaign.org)

The 2020 Vision Campaign website serves as the information and communications centre of the Campaign. Throughout 2008, visitors have been kept up-to-date with all the important Campaign developments through regular 'Latest News' articles. The progress of the drive for the Cities Appeal in support of the H-N Protocol has also been available to follow online, with figures updated almost every day.

### **Campaign website now in English, French and Spanish**

2008 has also seen excellent, new progress made in the translation of the 2020 Vision Campaign website into French ([www.2020visioncampaign.org/fr](http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/fr)) and Spanish ([www.2020visioncampaign.org/es](http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/es)). This has been indispensable to the development of the Campaign in the Spanish-speaking and Francophone worlds. In 2009 this progress will hopefully be continued and built upon, but for this extra capacity is always needed.

## VIDEO ON-LINE

For the General Meeting on November 10, 2008, delegations from Executive and Vice-President Cities traveled to Ypres at the invitation of Mayor Luc Dehaene. Among them were mayoral representatives from the cities of Halabja (Iraq), Hannover (Germany), Volgograd, previously Stalingrad, (Russia), Manchester (UK), North Olmsted (USA), Biograd na Moru (Croatia), Granollers (Spain), Florence (Italy) and Malakoff (France). During the events surrounding the Meeting and the commemoration of the 90th anniversary of World War I, Indymedia Belgium prepared a short video concerning the vision of the Mayors for Peace leadership for the future of nuclear weapons. In clips from representatives such as Mayor Akiba, Campaign Secretariat Director, Pol DHuyvetter, Deputy Mayor Ingrid Lange of Hannover (Germany) and Mayor Khder Kareem of Halabja (Iraq), a positive vision of the future and a push for action is put across. Please, find this video in full on the 2020 Vision Campaign website.

## WAR-SCOURGED CITIES: NEVER AGAIN!

### **Montevideo, Uruguay plan out-door public exhibition in 2009**

The Capital city of Montevideo prepares an outdoor exhibition in the second half of 2009. Large pictures will illustrate the destruction and reconstruction of cities following wars and natural disasters. Mayors for Peace was invited to provide pictures and text to illustrate that cities can no longer be considered as military targets. The list of cities which were bombed is very long and is unfortunately getting longer.

We are now in touch with Hiroshima, Volgograd and Ypres to provide Montevideo with high-resolution pictures. Let us know if your city is interested to co-operate and provide us with pictures and text.



**In World War I (1914-1918)**, around 500,000 soldiers from all over the world died on the territory of the Belgian city of Ypres. It was also near Ypres that chemical weapons were used for the first time on April 22, 1915. Trapped on the front-line of battle, the so-called Ypres Salient, the city was completely destroyed by the end of the war (picture).

**In World War II (1939-1945)**, on August 6, 1945, the first of two nuclear weapon attacks in the history of warfare to date was launched on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. The bomb instantly flattened the city and killed as many as 140,000 people by the end of 1945. Since then, thousands more have died from injuries or illness attributed to exposure to radiation released by the bomb. The overwhelming majority of the dead were innocent civilians.

Today, these War-Scourged Cities lead Mayors for Peace in making sure such atrocities never occur again.

Volgograd has pledged to provide leadership in forming a War-Scourge Cities advisory group for the Cities Are Not Target project. The Mayor of Hiroshima, Dr. Tadatashi Akiba, is the President of Mayors for Peace, with Hiroshima as its President and founding city. It is tragedies such as Ypres and Hiroshima that drive the 2020 Vision Campaign to ensure that the international community learns from its mistakes. Such inhumanity must not be repeated.

# THANKS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**First of all** we would like to thank the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, for their financial support, along with the contributing member cities from 11 countries.

We would like to thank all the Mayors for Peace campaigning supporters from member cities, civil society, NGOs, our staff and volunteers. As of March 2nd 2009 the Mayors for Peace consists of 2,777 cities in 134 countries and regions around the world. Together, we can make our goal become a reality in 2020.

## General Meeting of Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign Association

The General Meeting sets the strategic lines for the campaign body, including campaign plans and budget, at its annual meetings.

**Tadatoshi Akiba**  
Mayor of Hiroshima, Japan

**Tomihisa Taue**  
Mayor of Nagasaki, Japan

**Leonardo Domeneci**  
Mayor of Florence, Italy

**Luc Dehaene**  
Mayor of Ypres, Belgium

**Stephan Weil**  
Mayor of Hannover, Germany

**Catherine Margaté**  
Mayor of Malakoff, France

**Donald L. Plusquellic**  
Mayor of Akron, Ohio – US

**Mavis Smitheman**  
Lord Mayor of Manchester, UK

**Patrik Vankrunkelsven**  
Former Mayor of Laakdal and Senator, Belgium

**Khder Kareem**  
Mayor of Halabja, Iraq

**Ivan Knez**  
Mayor of Biograd na Moru, Croatia

**Robert Harvey**  
Mayor of Waitakere, New Zealand

**Josep Mayoral i Antigas**  
Mayor of Granollers, Spain

**Roman Grebennikov**  
Mayor of Volgograd, Russia

**Board of Directors of Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign Association**  
Nominated on Nov. 22, 2007 in Florence, Italy. The Board deals with management issues. Its members meet at least twice a year.

**Luc Dehaene (Chairman)**  
Mayor of Ypres, Belgium

**Filip Deheegher (Treasurer)**  
Director Peace Department City of Ypres, Belgium

**Aaron Tovish (Secretary, ex officio)**  
International Campaign Director

**Tadatoshi Akiba**  
Mayor of Hiroshima, Japan

**Leonardo Domeneci**  
Mayor of Florence, Italy

**Michel Cibot**  
Chief Admin. of Malakoff, France

**Donald L. Plusquellic**  
Mayor of Akron, Ohio – US

**Mavis Smitheman**  
Lord Mayor of Manchester, UK

**Patrik Vankrunkelsven**  
Former Mayor of Laakdal and Senator, Belgium

## International Secretariat staff

**Aaron Tovish**, Director Int. Campaign - **Pol D'Huyvetter**, Director Int. Secretariat - **Myriam Louisa Chaabnia**, Assistant Manager & Fundraiser - **Jennie Corbett**, Communications EVS Volunteer from Ireland - **Juliana Santos**, Communications EVS Volunteer from Portugal - **Pierre Maréchal**, IT Manager & Support - **Annie Barbier**, Financial and HR-administration - **Martial Vermès**, Book-keeping - **Jean Pierre Vanhove**, Financial administration - **Filip Verhulst**, Picture library & administration - **Véronique Herbeuval**, Coordinator French translations - **Helena Karlsson**, Mayors for Peace Representative to the UN, Geneva - **Margo LaZaro**, Mayors for Peace Representative to the UN, New York - **Magaly Madrid**, Volunteer Assistant Outreach Latin-America & Caribbean

**North-America Secretariat staff, US**  
**Jackie Cabasso**, North America Coordinator

**Former volunteers & staff**  
**Alketa Dedvukaj**  
**Jaira Valenzuela Toledo**  
**Steven Leemans**  
**Iwan Van Merhaege**

With support of



**Programme Youth**

For grants European Voluntary Service (EVS).

## Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign vzw

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[www.2020visioncampaign.org](http://www.2020visioncampaign.org)



**H**iroshima - Picture taken on August 7, 1945, from Hondori, 500m away from the hypocenter. "Little Boy", the 15 kT A-bomb completely destroyed Hiroshima and in 1945 an estimated 140,000 people died. Today 25,000 nuclear warheads have a potential explosive force of almost half a million Hiroshima sized bombs.

Credit: Mitsugi Kishida