

## Mayors for Peace News Flash (October 2013) No.46

Dear member cities and supporters of Mayors for Peace,

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Please find below recent news related to our activities.

If your city has any news it wishes to share with others, please feel free to contact us!

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Mayors for Peace member cities as of October 1, 2013

**5,759 cities in 158 countries/regions with 23 new members**

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### ■Joint Statement on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons announced at the First Committee of the UNGA –and comment of the President of Mayors for Peace

On October 22, a Joint Statement endorsed by 125 countries including the Japanese government on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons was issued at a meeting of the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly. The Japanese government joined the Joint Statement for the first time while declining to endorse the similar statements for the past three times.

Mayor Matsui of Hiroshima, President of Mayors for Peace, commented on this on the same day, "I welcome the fact that the Japanese government joined the Joint Statement as an expression of national determination to work together with nations working towards the nuclear weapons abolition considering the inhumanity of nuclear weapons. I am also encouraged by the increase of the number of nations endorsing the Joint Statement. I hope the 125 governments that joined the Joint Statement will respect the purport of the Statement and make sincere efforts toward the abolition of nuclear weapons. I also hope the Japanese Government will lead these countries, convey the messages of Hiroshima to the world through such opportunities as the Foreign Minister's Meeting of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI) in Hiroshima in April 2014 and the 2015 NPT Review Conference, and make further efforts towards the abolition of nuclear weapons."

### ■First-ever High-level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on Nuclear Disarmament

-Mayors for Peace delegates observed the High-level Meeting and handed President Matsui's message [New York (USA), September 26]

On September 26, the High-Level meeting of the General Assembly on Nuclear Disarmament was held. It was the first ever highest level meeting devoted to this topic at the UN General Assembly. General Assembly President John Ashe said, "Make no mistake about it: this is a historic meeting, which will have lasting implications for our present

well-being and our shared future.” 74 speakers including the Heads of State, ministers and representatives of NGOs and international organizations addressed during the meeting.

Further details of the meeting are available from the link below.

Mayors for Peace delegates observed the High-Level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on Nuclear Disarmament. Mr. Komizo, Secretary General of Mayors for Peace, passed a message on the High-Level Meeting from the president of Mayors for Peace to Ms. Angela Kane, UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and Foreign Minister Kishida of Japan, and asked them to work towards a world without nuclear weapons. He also met with representatives of major NGOs such as International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). He explained future activities of Mayors for Peace and exchanged opinions on further cooperation with them.

▼Related information (UN website)

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2013/ga11426.doc.htm>

▼Related articles (2020 Vision Campaign website):

First-ever world summit on eliminating the nuclear threat

<http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/en/home/artikel/a503a144d9f5d2775e02faf6c0838925/first-ever-world-summit-on-eliminati.html>

2020 Vision Campaign at UN Summit for Nuclear Weapon Free World

<http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/en/home/artikel/61d13d7949a0fbf1038a565d3153444e/2020-vision-campaign-at-un-summit-fo.html>

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**■ Secretary General of Mayors for Peace visited Europe to request several mayors to be lead cities**  
[September 16 – 23]

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In order to request to be lead cities of Mayors for Peace, Yasuyoshi Komizo, Secretary General of Mayors for Peace visited three countries in Europe, prior to his visit to New York to observe the High-Level meeting of the UN General Assembly on Nuclear Disarmament.

He has requested the mayors of Manchester (UK), Ypres (Belgium), Malakoff (France) and Granollers (Spain) and the mayors of Manchester, Malakoff and Granollers agreed and signed the letter of acceptance on site. Mr. Komizo also attended the Conference of Cities for Peace in the Mediterranean (details of the conference are reported in the article below). He read the message from President Matsui and delivered a speech. As a result of encouraging participated mayors to join Mayors for Peace, the Hiroshima delegates received applications from the mayors of M'chedallah (Algeria) and Kythrea (Cyprus).

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**■ Reports of events to mark the International Day of Peace 2013**  
[September 21]

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Either in response to our call in July or as their continued efforts, a lot of member cities commemorated the International Day of Peace 2013 on September 21.

Here are some examples of their events newly reported to the Secretariat:

\*Hiroshima (Japan)

Hiroshima held an event praying for the abolition of nuclear weapons and lasting world peace. Participants observed a minute of silence in front of the Cenotaph for the A-bomb Victims, rang the Peace Bell, and held a Mayors for Peace banner reads “Abolish Nuclear Weapons by 2020”. A-bomb survivors also participated in the event.

[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/topic/2013/201309\\_peaceday\\_hiro/index.html](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/topic/2013/201309_peaceday_hiro/index.html)

Aside from Hiroshima, the cities of Hirakata and Ishigaki also rang their peace bell in Japan while Mishima sounded a siren at noon.

\*Ishigaki Link (Japanese)

<http://www.city.ishigaki.okinawa.jp/home/shiminhokenbu/shiminseikatsu/peacebell/index.html>

\*Mishima Link (Japanese)

<http://www.city.mishima.shizuoka.jp/ipn013325.html>

\*Amersfoort (The Netherlands)

Mayor Lucas Bolsius opened the Week of Peace in Amersfoort, organized by seven different churches and two NGOs. The mayor addressed the public and made a statement for the importance of celebrating peace. Throughout the week there were a lot of dialogues, e.g. with the Syrian community in the Netherlands, several Schools for Peace and between various religions.

\*Linz (Austria)

Linz has been the City of Peace since 1986, focused on the object "Active Nonviolence" and held a series of events such a workshop, a seminar and a lecture. The program is available from the link below (in German).

[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/topic/2013/201309\\_peaceday\\_hiro/Linz\\_Austria.pdf](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/topic/2013/201309_peaceday_hiro/Linz_Austria.pdf)

\*Vukovar (Croatia)

Young people participated in events supported by the mayor such as painting the exterior wall of a local stadium and printing many messages of peace as well as a peace walk carrying flags or banners with messages of peace made at summer peace camp.

Link (Croatian)

<http://www.vukovar.hr/kultura-i-obrazovanje/kultura/civilno-drustvo/210-udruge/6653-medunarodni-dan-mira-u-vukovaru>

and

<http://www.vukovar.hr/aktivnosti-vijeca-za-prevenciju/6655-hrvatska-volontirala-i-u-vukovaru>

\*Manzanillo (Mexico)

Thanks to the cooperation of the Peace Boat, all the mayors of cities/municipalities in the State of Colima have signed applications to join Mayors for Peace and the forms were handed to the Peace Boat staff by the Governor of Colima at the Festival in Manzanillo. The mayors in the State of Colima also attended the event. Earlier on the same day, A-bomb survivors shared their experiences at a university.

\*Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)

International Development Director of 2020Vision Campaign and a 2020 Vision Campaigner organized an event in the favela of Babilônia with the "Stars of Babylon" or in Portuguese the "Estrelas da Babilônia" including a program with children learning to make the origami peace cranes and sharing the story of Sadako Sasaki and Hiroshima and a Symphonic Orchestra with 40 children of the favela of Babilônia.

<https://www.facebook.com/Estrelas.da.Babilonia>

From France, we received the following reports:

\*Carrières-sous-Poissy

Hosted the Mayors for Peace exhibition for 2 weeks. They also organized various events involving citizens and schools, including releasing balloons with peace messages attached to them.

Link (French):

<http://www.carrieres-sous-poissy.fr/actualites/3220-culture-de-paix-a-carrieres--dix-jours-de-mobilisation-cinq-annees-dengagements>

\*Villejuif

Launched its 5th "Peace culture meetings", a series of events to promote peace culture in the city, from September 21 to October 13.

Link (French): [http://www.ville-villejuif.fr/rencontres\\_de\\_la\\_culture\\_de\\_paix.html](http://www.ville-villejuif.fr/rencontres_de_la_culture_de_paix.html)

\*Aubagne

Celebrated its 30th Peace Festival, a 3-day gathering with activities such as debates, concerts, and a running race on a course in the shape of a dove. The Conference of Cities for Peace in the Mediterranean was included in the Peace festival program.

Link (French):

<http://www.aubagne.fr/fr/projet-de-ville/la-ville-pour-un-autre-monde/commune-pour-la-paix/fete-de-la-paix-2013.html>

\*Malakoff

Launched its now traditional event "Malakoff makes Peace grow" with exhibitions, debates and public readings.

Link (French):

<http://www.ville-malakoff.fr/agenda/details/evenement/malakoff-cultive-la-paix-artistes-pour-la-paix>

\*Vitry-sur-Seine

Organized a Peace Evening on September 21st.

Link (French): <http://www.theatrejeanvilar.com/la-saison/detail/fiche/fete-de-la-paix>

\*Fontaine

Organized an exhibition and a free concert for the schools pupils, as they have been doing since they became a Mayor for Peace member. Link (French):

<http://afcdp.blogspot.fr/2013/10/la-journee-internationale-de-la-paix.html>

Other cities also held their events. More information and pictures of the events in France are available at:

<https://www.facebook.com/reseauAFCDP> (In French)

Aside from these, a minute of silence was observed in many cities including Luxembourg on September 30, Ibaraki-town (Japan) on September 20 and others.

These are only some examples. We would be grateful if you could let us know your events as well.

We deeply appreciate your solidarity and support for commemorating the International Peace Day.

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### ■ United Nations Disarmament Fellows visited Hiroshima and Nagasaki

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The United Nations Disarmament Fellows visited Hiroshima from September 30 to October 2. They learned the realities of the terrible devastation inflicted by the atomic bombing in Hiroshima and received a briefing on Mayors for Peace by Secretary General Komizo. Following the program in Hiroshima, the fellows visited Nagasaki and learned the realities of the devastation caused by the atomic bombing in Nagasaki.

The United Nations Disarmament Fellowship Program is to provide young diplomats in the disarmament field, mainly from developing countries with a series of training exercises including visits to the United Nations General Assembly, Conference on Disarmament in Geneva and other countries concerned. The program aims to produce competent professionals in the disarmament field. After its implementation was decided at the 1st UN Special Session on Disarmament in 1978, this program has been carried out annually since 1979. At the 2nd UN Special Session on Disarmament in 1982, the Japanese government proposed to invite the fellows to Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Since 1983, Japan has accepted the fellows every year. This is the 31st visit of the UN Disarmament Fellows to Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

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### ■ The Conference of Cities for Peace in the Mediterranean

[Aubagne, France from September 20 -21]

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On September 20th and 21st, the first Conference of Cities for Peace in the Mediterranean was held in Aubagne (Bouches-du-Rhône, France).

Co-organized by Mayors for Peace Executive Cities of Granollers and Biograd na Moru, and by the President city of AFCDP-Mayors for Peace France, Aubagne, the Conference gathered 130 participants from 15 countries who were invited to exchange ideas on the theme: "What kind of local policies to promote a culture of peace".

A wide range of issues relevant to the Mediterranean region were discussed, from the current conflicts afflicting cities and their citizens to ways of promoting a culture of peace in cities facing the economic crisis.

In the plenary session "Peace in the Mediterranean, a critical necessity", Mr. Komizo, Mayors for Peace's Secretary General, stressed on the message of the Hibakusha: "we don't want them to suffer as we did". A message of hope and a call to action and peaceful resolutions of conflicts shared by representatives of cities from countries such as Palestine, Syria or Lebanon, all of which are suffering or have suffered the scourge of war.

On September 21st, International Day of Peace, participants adopted a Final Appeal in which they committed to:

- Develop the initiatives of Mayors for Peace around the Mediterranean and act to help eradicate nuclear weapons.
- Make Culture of Peace one of their tools for local management in every domain by involving its people and local representatives.
- Share their experience within their own networks but also with the institutions of their own countries so that the

resources of Culture of Peace are known to all.

· Form a working group of cities to examine conflicts in the region and to express views towards the peaceful settlement of conflicts.

A follow-up meeting will be organized in 2014 in Granollers, Spain.

▼ Final Appeal:

<http://peacecities2013.wordpress.com/2013/09/23/conference-appeal/>

▼ Detailed information in French, Spanish, Catalan, and English:

<http://peacecities2013.wordpress.com/>

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### ■ International Women's Day 2014

- encouraging other Mayors for Peace members to commemorate the day  
[Manchester, UK March 8, 2014]

The City of Manchester will be commemorating International Women's Day (IWD) in March 2014 under a theme of 'Women as Peacemakers'. Coinciding with the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War, International Women's Day 2014 is the perfect opportunity to celebrate the role that women have played and continue to play in conflict resolution and peace-building. From international conflict to local community cohesion women are key peacemakers. Manchester City Council has been celebrating International Women's Day for over 25 years. International Women's Day is also known as the United Nations (UN) Day for Women's Rights and International Peace. Manchester encourages other Mayors for Peace members to commemorate International Women's Day in a similar way.

▼ For further details email:

[internationalwomensdayinfo@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:internationalwomensdayinfo@manchester.gov.uk)

▼ Weblink (International Women's Day page of Manchester City Council) :

[http://www.manchester.gov.uk/info/200041/equality\\_and\\_diversity/5881/engagement\\_and\\_events](http://www.manchester.gov.uk/info/200041/equality_and_diversity/5881/engagement_and_events)

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### ■ The 8th General Conference of Mayors for Peace in 'Cities Today'

Cities Today, a leading magazine on sustainable developments of cities, published an article of the 8<sup>th</sup> General Conference in its September issue. You can also read the article from the link below.

▼ Article in 'Cities Today' (Page 8, Cities Today digital publication):

[http://pfdmedia.com/read-online/ct\\_11\\_eng\\_sep\\_2013/index.html?page=8](http://pfdmedia.com/read-online/ct_11_eng_sep_2013/index.html?page=8)

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### ■ Member City Activities

\* Donostia - San Sebastian, Spain

International Conference 2013: building peace starting at the local level  
held on October 10 and 11

Donostia-San Sebastian city council organized the international conference as part of its contribution to tackling the immense challenge of building peace from the local domain. The conference aimed to draw on the diversity of international experiences at local level to advance towards fulfilling the right of peace for the people. Also, it was intended to inspire the work currently being carried out in the Basque peace process. On behalf of Mayors for Peace, Mr. Michel Cibot from Malakoff, France, Vice President city of Mayors for Peace, participated in the Conference. President Matsui of Mayors for Peace, Mayor of Hiroshima, sent a video message to the conference as well.

▼ Conference website

<http://www.donostiapeace.com/en>

Aside from this, a link to the International Women's Day 2014 in Manchester that is mentioned above is also available on our website. Please visit the "Member City Activities" page on our website for ideas you can implement in your city.

▼ To see the "Member City Activities" webpage, click the link below:

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/index.html>

<<PLEASE SEND INFORMATION ON YOUR CITY'S PEACE ACTIVITIES >>

Please help us tell others about what you are doing!

We can create a link to your city's website or the website of your peace event.

We need comprehensive information including the date, venue, organizers and description of the event.

We will be glad to help you advertise.

▼ Please send the name/title of the activity along with the link to: [mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp](mailto:mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp)

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### ■Poster exhibit commemorates 5,000-city milestone

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To commemorate the 5,000-city milestone, please hold a poster exhibit in your municipality.

By holding these exhibits in as many cities as possible, we hope to directly inform millions of citizens regarding the impact of nuclear war, including the fact that even a limited war would cause catastrophic climate change resulting in global famine, and the role city leaders strive to play. We have heard from more than 250 cities around the world, such as Vienna, Austria; London, UK; Volgograd, Russia and Kabul, Afghanistan, that they held the poster exhibition responding to our request.

In September, Zagreb (Croatia), Carrières-sous-Poissy (France), Marion (Australia) and Rucphen (the Netherlands) held the poster exhibits.

Please do hold an exhibition and bring this issue to the attention of people in your city.

The posters are available in Spanish, Catalan, English, French, Dutch, German, Russian and Japanese. You can download them from the Mayors for Peace website. We are also preparing an Arabic version. For detailed information, please refer to the instructions for downloading the posters in "The Atomic Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki -The 5,000-Member Milestone Exhibition,-" a document forwarded to our member cities. We would appreciate it if you could let us know when you hold the poster exhibition and submit the report after the exhibition to the Secretariat. The report format is provided at the Mayors for Peace website below.

>>Posters: A2 size (approximately 24 by 36 inches); 19 posters.

>>This poster exhibit was created based on a mandate from the 8th Executive Conference held in Granollers, Spain in November 2011 and Japanese Member Cities' Conference in January 2012. Promotion of this poster exhibit in member cities is also included in the Mayors for Peace Action Plan (2013-2017) adopted at the 8th General Conference.

▼ Related Information:

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/campaign/projects/poster/index.html>

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### ■Please support the petition drive for a nuclear weapons convention

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The next step in abolishing all nuclear weapons by 2020 is to negotiate a nuclear weapons convention.

A nuclear weapons convention will prohibit the acquisition, development, possession, deployment and use of nuclear weapons and all related activities.

At our Executive Conference in Granollers, Spain in November 2011 and the first Japanese Member City Meeting in Nagasaki in January 2012, we agreed to promote a global grassroots petition drive through which all member cities can call for an immediate start to negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention. Promotion of this petition drive is also included in the Mayors for Peace Action Plan (2013-2017) adopted at the 8th General Conference.

Thanks to a lot of supporters across the world, we received 826,891 signatures as of October 1, 2013.

Let's gather millions of signatures and make our voices heard.

(The petition is available for printing or online at the links below.)

▼ Petition form (PDF):

[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/01\\_monthly\\_updating/11\\_petitionform\\_en.pdf](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/01_monthly_updating/11_petitionform_en.pdf) .

▼ Online petition:

<https://www.ssl-hiroins.city.hiroshima.jp/pcf/en/form.htm>.

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### ■Financial contributions from member cities to the 2020 Vision Campaign - Update for September 2013 [Ypres, Belgium]

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During September the 2020 Vision Campaign experienced yet another increase in the number of donations and in the total amount raised. In total the campaign received 7 donations, spanning two countries, Belgium and Italy and one donation of the Art Exhibition held in Belgium. All in all the amount donated reached 2245Euro.

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to the people behind every single donation made, for their generosity in

