

## Mayors for Peace News Flash (November 2013) No.47

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 November 1, 2013

**5,804 cities in 158 countries/regions with 45 new members**

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### ■Protest against a new type of nuclear test conducted by the US

It was announced that the United States conducted another test of the Z-Machine involving plutonium on September 12. On October 30, Mayors for Peace sent out the Letter of Protest to the government of the US to protest against the test.

▼Text of Letter of Protest:

[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/statement/protest/131030\\_en.pdf](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/statement/protest/131030_en.pdf)

### ■The 5th Nagasaki Global Citizens' Assembly for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

-Report by Ms. Jackie Cabasso, Mayors for Peace Coordinator in North America, attended the Assembly as a speaker and a draft committee member

The 5th Nagasaki Global Citizens' Assembly for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons was held in Nagasaki in November 2 - 4, 2013. Hosted and organized by a committee made up of local NGOs, Nagasaki City and the Nagasaki prefectural government, the Assembly involved hundreds of local activists, academics, NGO representatives and scholars from around Japan, and international NGO representatives from Australia, New Zealand, the Netherlands, South Korea, and the United States. In a series of spirited workshops and plenary sessions presentations were made by A-bomb survivors (hibakusha), religious leaders, the Mayor of Nagasaki, the Governor of Nagasaki Prefecture, a representatives from the Norwegian Embassy in Japan and from the Japanese Foreign Ministry, as well as local high school students. The opening and closing ceremonies were interspersed with an impressive variety of cultural performances including the very moving "Himawari" (sunflower) choir, the world's only hibakusha choir.

The workshops and plenaries explored rejecting nuclear "umbrellas" (extended deterrence) and creating more Nuclear Weapon Free Zones; the Fukushima nuclear power plant accident and its relationship to the atomic bombing of Nagasaki; establishing a legal framework to ban nuclear weapons; transmitting the legacy of the hibakusha to future

generations; and what the world should do to address the inhumanity of nuclear weapons. An international drafting committee worked throughout the conference to produce the 2013 Nagasaki Appeal, reflecting the discussions and findings of the conference. The appeal, which was adopted by the closing plenary, calls for concrete actions at the international level, and makes specific appeals to the Japanese government.

▼ 2013 Nagasaki Appeal

<http://ngo-nagasaki.sakura.ne.jp/wp/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/2013-Nagasaki-Appeal.pdf>

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### ■ **Mayors for Peace Germany lobbies vocally the negotiations of the major German political parties to create a new German government**

[Hannover, Germany]

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In early November, Mr. Stefan Schostok, the Mayors for Peace Vice-President and new Lord Mayor of Hannover (Germany) raised the voice of the German Mayors for Peace on the occasion of the negotiations among major German political parties on creating a new German government.

More than 110 colleagues from all over Germany from small to large cities asked by individually signing a respective letter that the government be commit to (1) a nuclear-weapon free world, (2) the withdrawal of nuclear weapons from Germany and to (3) oppose the life extension program of the B-61 bombs based in Germany.

This initiative became possible due to two 2020 Vision Campaigners in Germany, Xanthe Hall and Wolfgang Schlupp-Hauck, and the very fruitful collaboration with German civil society campaign called "atomwaffenfrei.jetzt" (no-nukes.now).

This has been accompanied by an eye-catching presence of the theme "nuclear weapons in Germany" and their intended life extension / modernization in the media (link below) and is certainly due to hard lobbying towards the press and politicians of all the involved parties.

The work is not done with issuing these letters yet. This time it looks as if it will be difficult to get these aims into the new governments' working papers. Thus the campaign and the Mayors have to continue to push more. And that is what Mayors for Peace Germany aims to do! This process will continue until early December.

▼ Related article in the German press "Der Spiegel" about the life extension program of the US B61 bombs (in German):

<http://www.spiegel.de/politik/deutschland/us-regierung-will-atomwaffen-in-deutschland-modernisieren-a-931449.html>

▼ Press release from German Mayors for peace (in German):

See the article titled "Bürgermeister fordern aktive Schritte für atomwaffenfreies Deutschland"

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.de/>

▼ "Cooperation" partner "atomwaffenfrei.jetzt":

<http://www.atomwaffenfrei.de>

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### ■ **Lord Mayor of Manchester holds reception for Mayors for Peace to support the call to abolish nuclear weapons**

- Mr. Salahuddin Choudhry pledged as a Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign Ambassador

[Manchester, UK November 13, 2013]

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The Lord Mayor of Manchester, Councillor Naeem ul Hassan, formally conferred the position of a Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign Ambassador to Mr Salahuddin Choudhry on the 13th November. Mr Choudhry is a former Consul General of Pakistan to the UK and has over 30 years diplomatic experience. He was stationed in Bosnia on behalf of the United Nations during the civil war in the 1990s and was also in Burma / Myanmar during the campaign for more democratic rights. He is a Past Chair of the Manchester branch of Rotary International. As a 2020 Vision Ambassador, Mr Choudhry has pledged to help Mayors for Peace develop diplomatic contacts at the United Nations and in South Asia and help in the development of events to support a UK & Ireland chapter of Mayors for Peace.

The civic reception also allowed for the Lord Mayor to receive a paper crane garland from the Greater Manchester branch of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, which had been given to them by the Gensuikyo Hiroshima group. The event was an opportunity for Manchester to reiterate its agreement with Hiroshima to develop a national Mayors for Peace chapter and also to announce its support for the 'Making Peace' exhibition. This major photographic exhibition will be held in The Quays, Manchester in June 2014. Curated by the International Peace Bureau, it looks at the various ways to promote peace and justice in the world. A satellite exhibition in Manchester city centre will

commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Nobel Peace Laureate organisation, Mines Advisory Group, who has their international headquarters in Manchester.

▼ The press release can be found on Manchester City Council's website at the following weblink:

[http://www.manchester.gov.uk/news/article/6728/lord\\_mayor\\_of\\_manchester\\_holds\\_reception\\_for\\_mayors\\_for\\_peace\\_to\\_support\\_the\\_call\\_to\\_abolish\\_nuclear\\_weapons](http://www.manchester.gov.uk/news/article/6728/lord_mayor_of_manchester_holds_reception_for_mayors_for_peace_to_support_the_call_to_abolish_nuclear_weapons)

▼ Further information on the Making Peace exhibition:

<http://makingpeace.org/en/>

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### ■ Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-bomb Exhibition held in Croatia

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The Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-bomb Exhibition organized by the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum was held in Zagreb (Croatia) from September 10 to October 6 and then transferred to Biograd na Moru (Croatia), which is a Vice President city of Mayors for Peace. The exhibition in Biograd na Moru opened on October 10 and will last until December 10 at Homeland Museum. As the first A-bomb testimonies ever offered in Croatia, Mr Takashi Teramoto, a hibakusha (A-bomb survivor), delivered three testimonies in Zagreb and two testimonies in Biograd na Moru in October.

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### ■ Footage of the Mayor of Hiroshima delivering the Peace Declaration in English can be viewed online [Information from the City of Hiroshima]

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We have posted a video clip of the mayor of Hiroshima reading this year's Peace Declaration in English on the websites of Hiroshima City and the Peace Memorial Museum.

The footage was filmed during the opening ceremony of the International Youth Conference for Peace in the Future 2013, an event where young people from Hiroshima and its sister/friendship cities, as well as from other cities, gather and make presentations about their peace activities to communicate the spirit of Hiroshima which calls for the abolition of nuclear weapons and the realization of eternal world peace.

Access the clip through the URLs below.

▼ Hiroshima City website (Hiroshima Movie Channel)

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wG\\_VBrH3LgE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wG_VBrH3LgE)

▼ Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum website (Hiroshima Peace Site)

<http://www.pcf.city.hiroshima.jp/declaration/English/index.html>

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### ■ 2020 Vision brought closer to realization by UNGA decisions [November 4]

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The First Committee followed up on the General Assembly's High Level Meeting on Nuclear Disarmament by deciding to convene a High-Level International Conference (HLIC) by 2018 at the latest to review the progress in negotiations on a nuclear weapon convention. The resolution calls on the Conference on Disarmament (CD) to commence such negotiations, and on the international community to annually commemorate the September 26th date of the High Level Meeting as "International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons" as a means of building public support for negotiations in good faith.

Aside from adopting updated versions of several longstanding resolutions, the First Committee was presented with a public declaration from 124 countries on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons use. This was substantially more countries than a similar statement issued in May, bringing on board several major countries, not the least of which includes Japan.

The 2020 Vision Campaign hopes that with a boost from the 2015 NPT Review Conference, the High Level International Conference can be held in 2017 or even earlier. Unfortunately, since the CD is an autonomous body, the resolution's call on the CD to commence negotiations is advisory, not compulsory. A concerted effort is underway within the CD to overcome its 17-year deadlock, so there is some hope that it will rise to this challenge from the General Assembly. Should that effort fail, an alternative could be to reconvene the Open-Ended Working Group in 2015 to ensure commencement of negotiations on a nuclear weapon convention, or similar agreed constellation of separate agreements.

▼ Link to full story (2020 Vision Campaign website)

<http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/en/home/artikel/1c4fcd5850395e4c571743abdc175830/2020-vision-brought-closer-to-realiz.html>

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## ■ Mayors for Peace A-bomb posters partly updated

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Based on the decisions at the 8<sup>th</sup> General Conference of Mayors for Peace, we have updated a part of the Mayors for Peace A-bomb posters (English version).

To commemorate the 5,000-city milestone of the Mayors for Peace membership, we have called for all member cities to hold a poster exhibit, premiered in Vienna (Austria) in May 2012. We would be most grateful if you could continue to support the exhibitions using the new posters and 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 London, UK; Volgograd, Russia and Kabul, Afghanistan, that they held the poster exhibition responding to our request. In October, we received reports of the exhibitions held in August from the cities of Matsuzaka and Takarazuka (Japan). Please do hold an exhibition and bring this issue to the attention of people in your city.

The original posters are also available in Spanish, Catalan, French, Dutch, German, and Russian. You can download them from the Mayors for Peace website. We are also preparing an Arabic version.

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.

▼ Related Information and download the posters at:

<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, 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 8<sup>th</sup> General Conference.

Thanks to a lot of supporters across the world, we received 845,679 signatures as of November 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 October 2013 [Ypres, Belgium]

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During October, the 2020 Vision Campaign received six donations, spanning three countries, Belgium, Italy and Spain. Many more will come later this year. All in all, the amount donated reached 3,300 Euro.

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to the people behind every single donation made, for their generosity in supporting our efforts to realize a nuclear-weapon-free world by 2020.

▼ Full article (2020 Vision Campaign website):

<http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/en/home/artikel/303d9a37dfc89a0ef37b371af674ba3e/contributions-october-2013.html>

▼ List of cities that made contributions in October:

[http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/2020VC/Home/October\\_2013.pdf](http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/fileadmin/user_upload/2020VC/Home/October_2013.pdf)

▼How to make contributions:

<http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/en/members/contribute-to-mayors-for-peace.html>

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**■Visitors to the President of Mayors for Peace last month**  
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President Kazumi Matsui of Mayors for Peace welcomed the visitors as follows in October and asked them to support for the activities of Mayors for Peace and cooperate with the membership expansion.

\*October 1 Mr. Dietrich Hahn, founder of Otto Hahn Peace Medal

\*October 7 Mr. Rame Buja, Minister of Education, Science and Technology, Kosovo

\*October 31 Ms. Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy / Vice-President of the European Commission

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**■ Mayors for Peace member cities – 5,804 cities in 158 countries/regions**  
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Thanks to your invaluable support, on November 1, we added 45 new member cities, bringing total membership to 5,804.

As a result of sending a letter to all non-member cities/municipalities, 15 cities/municipalities joined in Japan and the number of the member cities reached 1,387.

Thanks to our campaigner at Teheran Peace Museum, 11 cities from Iran joined in addition to the 26 cities which joined in the previous four months.

Through kind cooperation of the Peace Boat, which called for the mayors of the municipalities of the ports they visited during the 6<sup>th</sup> Global Voyage for a Nuclear-Free World, seven cities from Mexico, a city each from El Salvador and Turkey joined. The seven Mexican cities are located in the State of Colima and all the registration forms were handed from the governor of Colima to the Peace Boat when the boat called at the port of Manzanillo, Colima in September. Thanks to the support of the governor, now, all ten municipalities in the State of Colima are members of Mayors for Peace.

In the Netherlands, six cities joined thanks to our 2020 Vision Campaigner and the cooperation of the Dutch Medical Association for Peace Research (NVMP), the Dutch affiliate of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW).

We also welcomed three cities from Italy and a city from France.

We encourage further initiatives to promote membership and can provide support from Hiroshima as needed.

Please invite mayors who are not yet members to join Mayors for Peace.

▼Related information (PDF):

[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/2013/newmembers1311\\_en.pdf](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/2013/newmembers1311_en.pdf)

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**If you have any comments, questions, or would like to unsubscribe  
or change your contact information, please contact us at:**

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