

## Mayors for Peace News Flash (April 2014) No.52

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 April 1, 2014

**6,000 cities in 158 countries/regions with 88 new members**

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### ■ Mayors for Peace membership reached 6,000 cities in 158 countries/regions

Thanks to your invaluable support, on April 1, we added 88 new member cities, bringing total membership to 6,000. It took two years and six months to add 1,000 cities since we achieved 5,000 members in September 16, 2011. This month, we welcomed 56 cities from Iran (Thanks to our 2020 Vision Campaigner Dr. Shahriar Khateri and the team at Tehran Peace Museum), 29 cities from Japan, a city each from Italy, the Netherlands and Norway. 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/2014/newmembers1404\\_en.pdf](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/2014/newmembers1404_en.pdf)

▼ Membership by country (PDF):

[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/01\\_monthly\\_updating/07\\_membership\\_by\\_country\\_en.pdf](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/01_monthly_updating/07_membership_by_country_en.pdf)

### ■ Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI) 8th Ministerial Meeting held in Hiroshima [April 11 and 12]

On April 11 and 12, Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI) 8th Ministerial Meeting was held in Hiroshima city. NPDI is a cross-regional group of 12 willing countries that don't possess nuclear weapons initiated by Australia and Japan. Other members are Canada, Chile, Germany, Mexico, the Netherlands, Nigeria, the Philippines, Poland, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates. The Ministerial Meeting focuses on discussion on practical and innovative policies on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

High officials from the 12 NPDI member states including 7 ministers as well as persons in charge of disarmament in the U.S. and Indonesia visited Hiroshima and laid flowers at the Cenotaph for the A-bomb victims. They then visited

Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and listened to the testimony of an A-bomb survivor to deepen their understanding of the indescribable human suffering and the earnest humanitarian appeal of the A-bomb survivors for the peace and the abolition of nuclear weapons.

To coincide with the NPDI Ministerial Meeting, the city of Hiroshima held side events such as the Nuclear Disarmament Symposium and the Dialogue between Foreign Ministers and A-bomb Survivors/Citizens. On behalf of the A-bombed city and Mayors for Peace, Mayor Matsui of Hiroshima, President of Mayors for Peace, stressed the inhumane nature of nuclear weapons and expressed our desire to abolish nuclear weapons by 2020.

As we have separately informed to our member cities, the Secretary General of Mayors for Peace also took this opportunity to convey Hiroshima's wish for a world without nuclear weapons, and handed to the participating officials an excerpt of the Hiroshima Appeal and a Message from Hiroshima, and asked for their support in the activities of Mayors for Peace.

▼ Hiroshima Declaration (Website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan):

<http://www.mofa.go.jp/files/000035199.pdf>

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**■ The Mayor of Semey and the Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Japan visited Hiroshima**

[March 28]

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Mr. Aybek Karimov, Mayor of Semey and his wife, along with Ambassador Akylbek A. Kamaldinov of Kazakhstan to Japan visited Hiroshima and met with President Matsui (Mayor of Hiroshima) and Secretary General Komizo of Mayors for Peace. At the meeting with the Mayors for Peace President, Mayor Karimov of Semey accepted the request to be a lead city on this occasion of the visit, which was extended last October, saying, "The City of Semey has been initiating an anti-nuclear movement for the last 25 years. Just like the citizens of Hiroshima, the citizens of Semey also fully understand the horror of nuclear weapons. Last year, Mayors for Peace campaign was conducted in Semey and we also participated in the 8<sup>th</sup> General Conference of Mayors for Peace. Through these, we have realized the importance of this organization. We are pleased to accept this suggestion from Mayor Matsui to become a lead city in our region."

The City of Semey is formerly known as the City of Semipalatinsk, where nuclear tests had been conducted 458 times over 40 years at the Semipalatinsk test site and a huge number of citizens has been seriously affected. August 29, the day the nuclear test site was closed, was designated by an UN resolution as the International Day against Nuclear Tests, and memorial events now are observed every year.

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**■ Mayors for Peace representative participates in Conference of Victims in Colombia**

[Bogota, Colombia, April 9]

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On April 9<sup>th</sup>, Pol Dhuyvetter, the Mayors for Peace coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean, had a meeting with Mayor Gustavo Petro (then ousted and now reinstated). As planned they discussed Bogota's interest to host the first regional conference of the Mayors for Peace, and recognizing Bogota as an important local and regional peace actor by becoming a lead city of Mayors for Peace.

The Mayors for Peace representative was invited to participate in an International Forum for Victims' Rights, Democracy and Peace on April 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. April 9<sup>th</sup> marks the National Day of Memory and Solidarity. An estimated 220,000 people have been killed in Colombia's ongoing armed conflict where more than 5 million Colombians are internally displaced and an estimated 390,000 Colombian refugees fled the violence and live abroad.

The international conference was hosted at Bogota's new Center for Memory, Peace and Reconciliation. The new Center for Memory was opened in December 2012 by Mayor Gustavo Petro, It is a new and contemplative space in the heart of Bogota, which aims to maintain the collective historical memory of victims of Colombia's armed conflict, as well as allowing recognition of the rights of victims, peace-building and promoting a culture of democracy and human rights.

▼ Full article (2020 Vision Campaign website):

<http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/en/home/artikel/c3fa1ab79cb87f8e1eb062e1ec81227a/gustavo-petro-peace-mayor>

[-of-bogota.html](#)

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### ■ Brochure for the 2020 Vision Campaign India has been created

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Dr. Thomas Mathew, 2020 Vision Campaigner in India, created a handy, comprehensive brochure for the Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign in India this month. The PDF file can be downloaded from the link below.

▼ Brochure for the 2020 Vision Campaign India (PDF)

[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/2014/MfP\\_Brochure\\_for\\_Indian\\_Campaign.pdf](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/2014/MfP_Brochure_for_Indian_Campaign.pdf)

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### ■ The European leg of Bike for Peace 2014 world tour finished, and has now reached Asia

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-Report from Mayor Thore Vestby of Frogn, Norway

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The European leg of Bike around the World in 72 days has been completed. It started out with a great opening in Manchester, the Lord Mayor, councilors, former Prime Minister of Norway Mr. Bondevik, now president for The Oslo Center, 5 Mayors from Norway, ex pro biker and world champion Anita Valen, Vice President in Bike for Peace Frank Tomlinson and Mr. Bike for Peace, Tore Naerland took place. The stopover in Coventry was overwhelming, Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, Rotary and Lady Godiva stood by the delegates for 24 hours.

London was hilarious, biking from the hotel at Euston station down to the Parliament was great fun, there was a large media presence gathered in front of Big Ben, and the tour met with a Scottish MP.

France was done by Tore, Anita and Gordon Ommen, Partnership for Change. At every stop, they met with Mayors, peace activists and bikers. They were very warmly welcomed in every city.

Italy was like a dream, impressively organized by 2020 Vision Campaigner Lisa Clark, the bike tour visited schools, City Halls, lots of MPs and others. Ended with a "baci mano", audience with Pope Frances.

From April 18<sup>th</sup>, the tour is now going through China. Tore is joined by the Mayor of Kvinesdal, one of the latest members of Mayors for Peace, Svein-Arne Jerstad, Gordon Ommen and Mayor Vestby of Frogn, Vice President of Mayors for Peace.

After China, the tour continues in Japan before entering the US and first Kansas City. The return to Norway is planned on May 17<sup>th</sup>. In Drøbak, Frogn a Welcome home-reception is planned on the 19<sup>th</sup> in the Freedom of Speech-museum after biking 3 hours through 4 municipalities and visiting 4 Mayors.

▼ Further details on the Bike for Peace global tour:

<http://bikeforpeace.info/2014/BikeForPeaceAroundTheWorld.pdf>

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### ■ Republic of the Marshall Islands sues nine nuclear-armed nations

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On April 24, the Republic of the Marshall Islands filed lawsuits against each of the nine nuclear-armed nations at the International Court of Justice at The Hague accusing them of "flagrant violations" of international law. The Marshall Islands was the site of 67 nuclear tests from 1946 to 1958 and the citizens have been seriously affected.

▼ Related news: The Gurdian, Thursday 24 April 2014 issue, article by Julian Borger, diplomatic editor:

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/apr/24/marshall-islands-sues-nine-nuclear-powers-failure-disarm>

▼ Related news: The Mainichi, April 25 issue

<http://mainichi.jp/english/english/newsselect/news/20140425p2g00m0in022000c.html>

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### ■ Member City Activities

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\* Granollers, Spain

The Catalan section of Mayors for Peace created in Granollers

On March 11th, 2014, over 50 representatives of Catalan municipalities met in Granollers with the aim to develop initiatives towards better coordination among the member cities and to share experiences and resources for the action. The meeting was co-organized by the executive city of Granollers and the two Catalan associations of municipalities (Catalan Association of Municipalities and Federation of Municipalities of Catalonia), with the collaboration of the Barcelona Provincial Council and the Catalan Fund for Cooperation to Development. It was agreed to create a Catalan Section of Mayors for Peace within the Association and the Federation of municipalities to gather the 200 member cities. A joint committee with a representation of the mayors of 8 municipalities was appointed to work in the development of the Section.

The meeting was also attended by representatives of NGOs and institutions working in the field of peace and disarmament campaigns, who participated in a panel discussion. Materials related to the ICAN Campaign, initiatives developed by the International Catalan Institute for Peace, the Mayors for Peace's Poster Exhibition and other resources were displayed during the meeting.

▼ Full text of the article (Mayors for Peace website)

[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2014/140311\\_Granollers\\_Catalan\\_meeting/index.html](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2014/140311_Granollers_Catalan_meeting/index.html)

▼ The City of Granollers website (in Catalan)

<http://www.granollers.cat/noticies/ajuntament/es-crea-la-secci%C3%B3-catalana-dalcaldes-la-pau>

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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**■ Mayors for Peace A-bomb posters exhibition**

- updated versions in Catalan, Dutch, French, German, Russian and Spanish now available  
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To commemorate the 5,000-city milestone of the Mayors for Peace membership, we called for all member cities to hold a poster exhibit, premiered in Vienna (Austria) in May 2012. Based on the decisions at the 8th General Conference of Mayors for Peace in August 2013, we have updated a part of the Mayors for Peace A-bomb posters (English version). The contents in pages 15 and 16 have been updated. 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 March, Granollers (Spain) exhibited the leaflets of the poster exhibition during the Catalan regional meeting in the above article and called for holding the poster exhibition in each member city in the Catalan area.

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

The translation for updated versions has been completed, and now the updated posters are also available in Spanish, Catalan, French, Dutch, German, and Russian. You can download the updated posters from the Mayors for Peace website.

We would appreciate it if you could let us know when you will 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); 18 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**

- 40,000 signatures submitted by high school students  
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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 940,667 signatures as of April 1, 2014.

Among the signatures, 40,000 signatures submitted to the mayor of Hiroshima from a petition drive by high school students mainly in Hiroshima are included. Eight representatives of the high school students participated in this campaign will join Mayors for Peace delegation as Youth Communicator for a World without Nuclear Weapons designated by the Japanese government to attend the third Preparation Committee Meeting to the 2015 NPT Review Conference to be held later in this month at the UN Headquarters in New York.

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 (New URL due to a server transfer):

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

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**■Financial contributions from member cities to the 2020 Vision Campaign**

- Update for March 2014 [Ypres, Belgium]  
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In the month of March 2014, the 2020 Vision Campaign received donations from 5 cities in three countries, amounting to a total of 1,200 Euro. These significant donations were made by our member cities in Belgium, Germany and Italy. 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/d4315e971413f2b0759a6ea44d068d69/-92bd70069b.html>

▼List of cities that made contributions in March:

[http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/2020VC/Home/03\\_March.pdf](http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/fileadmin/user_upload/2020VC/Home/03_March.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 February and asked them to support the activities of Mayors for Peace and cooperate with the membership expansion.

\*March 15 - H.E. Mr. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, President of Somalia

\*March 19 - H.E. Mr. Lech Walesa, Former President of Poland

\*March 20 - H.E. Ms. Maria Teresa L. Taguiang, Philippine Consulate-General in Osaka-Kobe

\*March 24 - H.E. Mr. Oscar Arias Sanchez, former President of Costa Rica

\*March 28 - H.E. Mr. Akylbek A. Kamaldinov, Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to Japan and  
Hon. Mr. and Mrs. Aybek Karimov, Mayor of Semey, Kazakhstan

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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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