

Mayors for Peace News Flash (August 2014) No.56

Dear member cities and supporters of Mayors for Peace,

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Below is recent news related to our activities.

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

Mayors for Peace member cities as of August 1, 2014

6,206 cities in 160 countries/regions with 79 new members

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Please also check our website and Facebook page:

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace>

"Like" our Facebook page to help spread awareness of our mission.

■Peace Declarations by the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

On the occasion of the 69th anniversary of the A-bombings, the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki announced the 2014 Peace Declaration on August 6 and 9 respectively. In the Hiroshima Peace Declaration it is mentioned, "Mayors for Peace, now with over 6,200 member cities, will work through lead cities representing us in their parts of the world and in conjunction with NGOs and the UN to disseminate the facts of the bombings and the message of Hiroshima." The full text of the declarations are available at the links below.

▼Hiroshima Peace Declaration:

<http://www.city.hiroshima.lg.jp/www/contents/000000000000/1317948556078/index.html>

▼Nagasaki Peace Declaration:

<http://www1.city.nagasaki.nagasaki.jp/peace/english/appeal/archives.html>

■Hiroshima Day and Nagasaki Day commemorations around the world

On the occasions of Hiroshima Day on August 6 and Nagasaki Day on August 9, many cities, municipalities and peace organizations around the world observed commemorative peace events. Here are some examples of such events:

[Argentina]

- Río Grande: On August 6 and 7, a conference called “Dialogues of Río Grande” was held.
http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2014/140806-7_RioGrande/english.html
- Villa Mercedes: On August 5, the City Council President declared August 6 to be a date of “Legislative Interest” in order to celebrate the commitment to peace in Villa Mercedes. On August 6, a commemorative event and a ceremony were held at the Nihongo Gakko (a school to learn Japanese language and culture) and at the Casa de la Cultura of the City, which were attended by City Hall and City Council authorities.
http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2014/140805-6_VillaMercedes/english.html

[Austria]

- Vienna: At Hiroshima Day in Vienna, the annual lantern march was held.

[Germany]

- Berlin: The Annual Hiroshima Day Ceremony was held at the Peace Bell by NGOs such as IPPNW Germany and the German-Japanese Peace Forum.
- Frankfurt: IPPNW Germany hoisted the Mayors for Peace flag on the occasion of Hiroshima Day

[Greece]

- On August 6, NGOs such as PADOP, IPPNW Greece and the Anti-Nuclear Organization of the Mediterranean held a conference focusing on modern nuclear dangers in Athens.

[India]

- Imphal: Chaired by the former Minister of Art and Culture and the mayor of Imphal City, peace declarations were recited and a Peace Drawing Competition among children was held at the annual commemoration.

[Iran]

- Esfarayen: A “fabric for peace” drawing competition was held to encourage a world free of weapons and mass destruction. Children and adolescents in the city participated in the contest on August 7.
http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2014/140807_Esfarayen/drawing_competition.html

[Iraq]

- Halabja: A commemoration of the 69th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombardments on August 9 at the Halabja monument. Many people, including Halabja chemical victims, survivors and officials, participated in the ceremony and laid flowers on the symbol of Hiroshima.
http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2014/140809_Halabja/ceremony.html

[Italy]

- An annual event called “Pace in bici 2014” was held from August 5 to 9 by the NGO, “Beati i costruttori di pace”. Four mayors attended the event. Seven new mayors decided to join Mayors for Peace.
Event page: <https://it-it.facebook.com/PaceInBici2013> (Pace in bici 2014)

[Japan]

- Hiroshima: An annual meeting was held for the Nagasaki A-bomb victims on August 9.
- Kashihara: From August 1 onward, the city mounted a Paper Cranes for Peace booth for community members to fold paper cranes as a wish for peace.
- Kunitachi: A Peace Mini-Concert and a meeting to listen to war/A-bomb experiences were held on August 6. Works collected from the public as a way to never forget the day of the A-bombings were on exhibit at several facilities in the city from August 4 to 22.
- Village of Takagi: An annual peace bus tour to Hiroshima was conducted. Around 40 residents, including many elementary and junior high school students, attended the Peace Memorial Ceremony and dedicated a thousand paper cranes to the Children’s Peace Monument.

[Mexico]

- Salamanca: From August 4 to 6, the city held an event called “Salamanca for Peace” to commemorate the A-bombings.
<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2014/140804-6Salamanca.pdf>

[Russia]

- Volgograd: A peace memorial ceremony was held with the mayor, city officials, honorary citizens of both Volgograd and Hiroshima, young people and enthusiasts of the peace movement in general in attendance. They rang the Peace Bell—an exact copy of the original bell in Hiroshima—and laid folded paper cranes under the bell.
<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2014/140806Volgograd.pdf>

[UK / Ireland]

- Across towns and cities in the UK and Ireland many events were held to commemorate those who died in Hiroshima and Nagasaki from the atomic bomb blasts, and to also remember civilian communities affected by conflict around the world today. Connections were also made with the centenary of the start of the First World War, which had taken place earlier in the week.

- Manchester: A full civic commemoration was led by the Lord Mayor. Readings, poetry, the laying of a white floral wreath and a formal observance of two minutes of silence was held. Amongst those present at Manchester's event included two North West Members of the European Parliament, the Police Commissioner of Greater Manchester and several councillors, along with members of Manchester's many active peace, humanitarian and multi-faith groups.
- Sheffield: Annual Peace Picnic commemorations were held for Hiroshima on August 3 and for Nagasaki on August 12.
- Other civic events were held in places like London, Birmingham, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dublin, Cardiff, the National Welsh Eisteddfod in Llanelli, Bradford, Leeds, Milton Keynes, Dundee, Paisley, Aberdeen, Oxford and Liverpool.
- A major national event organised by the UK Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament was held on Nagasaki Day, where a 7 mile woollen scarf was unfolded and carried by hundreds of people connecting the UK's nuclear weapons facilities of Aldermaston and Burghfield, in an event called 'Wool Against Weapons'.
More information about 'Wool Against Weapons':
<https://www.opendemocracy.net/5050/rebecca-johnson-jaine-rose/guerilla-woolfare-against-madness-of-mutually-assured-destruction>

[USA]

- Oak Ridge, TN: The Peace Declaration on August 6 was read during the Names and Remembrance Ceremony at the front entrance to the Y12 Nuclear Weapons Complex, the site that produced the highly enriched uranium (HEU) used as fuel in the Little Boy bomb. During the commemoration, attendants joined their voices with the *hibakusha* and the people of Japan to say, "Never again!"
- A protest rally was held at the Livermore Nuclear Weapons Lab. At 8:15 am local time, an air raid siren sounded to signal a minute of silence. After the rally, another siren sounded for Nagasaki and protestors held a "die-in" at the main gate of the lab. Some participants drew chalk outlines around the "dead" bodies, simulating the A-bomb shadows of victims that still haunt the walls and sidewalks of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
- In Washington DC, the Hiroshima Nagasaki Peace Committee of the National Capital Area and other peace building communities held a vigil where an A-bomb survivor, Mr. Toshiyuki Mikami, shared his testimony. Mr. Melvin Hardy, 2020 Vision Campaigner, read President Matsui's message to the participants assembled at the Martin Luther King Peace Memorial.

And more...

We deeply appreciate commemorations held around the world for the A-bomb victims.

■The mayor of Montreal (Canada) and other city representatives' visit to Hiroshima

-- Montreal's acceptance of a lead city role

Mr. Denis Coderre, Mayor of Montreal, Canada, visited Hiroshima to attend the Peace Memorial Ceremony and meet with the President of Mayors for Peace, Hiroshima Mayor Matsui. President Matsui requested of Mayor Coderre that Montreal become a lead city in Canada, which Mayor Coderre graciously accepted. In addition to the mayor of Montreal, a Mayors for Peace Vice-President City of Volgograd Councilmember, Mr. Andrey Taev, and the Mayor of Honolulu, U.S.A., Mr. Kirk Caldwell, visited Hiroshima during the same period.

■The Society for Chemical Weapons Victims Support (Iran) delegation's visit to Hiroshima

 From August 3 to 8, a delegation of the Society for Chemical Weapons Victims Support (SCWVS) visited Hiroshima and met with President Matsui, Mayor of Hiroshima on August 7. The Tehran Peace Museum, founded by the SCWVS, conducted an active campaign to invite Iranian mayors to join Mayors for Peace and successfully achieved a 270 city increase of the number of member cities in Iran in the past one-year period. During the meeting, a Certification of Membership in Mayors for Peace for the 37 cities which joined this month was passed from President Matsui to Mr. Mohammad Rezaei, Mayors for Peace coordinator at the Tehran Peace Museum. Dr. Nasrollah Fathian, Board Director of the SCWVS, expressed their aim to have all Iranian mayors join Mayors for Peace in the next five years. The SCWVS has visited Hiroshima in August every year since 2004 through coordination with MOCT, an NGO based in Hiroshima. This was their 11th visit to Hiroshima. Film directors and actors related to the Hiroshima-Iran Love & Peace Film Festival held from August 2 to 8 in Hiroshima City were also in the delegation.

■Follow-up Conference of Cities for Peace in the Mediterranean

[October 2-3, 2014, Granollers, Spain]

Last year, on September 20 and 21, the First Conference of Cities for Peace in the Mediterranean was held in Aubagne, France. Co-organized by the Mayors for Peace Executive Cities of Granollers and Biograd na Moru, as well as the Mayors for Peace French Chapter, the AFCDRP-Mayors for Peace France, and the city of Aubagne (France), the Conference gathered 130 participants from fifteen countries, who were invited to exchange ideas on best local policies to promote a culture of peace. Participants adopted a Final Appeal in which they committed to develop the initiatives of Mayors for Peace throughout the Mediterranean, and to participate in efforts to eradicate nuclear weapons. The organizers and participants committed to meet again in 2014 in Granollers.

This follow-up meeting will take place in Granollers, on October 2-3, 2014. Building on the results of last year's conference, it will aim at strengthening relationships between Mayors for Peace member cities in the Mediterranean and developing their networks. All member cities from the Mediterranean Basin are welcome to attend this follow-up meeting.

▼ Registration and information: <canjonch@ajuntament.granollers.cat>

■Radio broadcast in Australia of a Hiroshima survivor's testimony

[August 6, 2014]

An A-bomb survivor's testimony from Mr. Keiji Matsushima delivered in English at the 8th General Conference of Mayors for Peace in August 2013 was broadcasted on an FM radio station on August 6th, 2014 in Perth, Australia. You can listen to the testimony at the following website:

▼ Testimony of Mr. Keiji Matsushima:

<http://rtrfm.com.au/story/understorey-hiroshima-a-gentle-telling-of-an-horrific-tale/>

■IFRC/ICRC: "Remembering Hiroshima: Nuclear disarmament is a humanitarian imperative"

A joint statement titled "Remembering Hiroshima: Nuclear disarmament is a humanitarian imperative" was issued by Mr. Tadateru Konoe, President of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and Mr. Peter Maurer, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross. The full text of the joint statement is available at the following website.

▼ Joint Statement "Remembering Hiroshima: Nuclear disarmament is a humanitarian imperative"
(website of the Foreign Press Center Japan):

<http://fpcj.jp/en/useful-en/wjn-en/p=23703/>

■ATOM Project (Kazakhstan) calls for a global minute of silence on August 29

The government of the Republic of Kazakhstan is calling for an international moment of silence during the August 29 UN International Day Against Nuclear Tests in memory of all victims of nuclear weapons testing.

This is an initiative of the ATOM (Abolish Testing. Our Mission) Project launched by the President of Kazakhstan two years ago. The following is an excerpt from the ATOM project website:

"We are calling for people around the world to observe 11:05 a.m. their local time as a moment of silence,' ATOM Project Honorary Ambassador Karipbek Kuyukov said. 'That time was chosen because the clock hands show a V, which stands for victory. This moment is meant to signify a victory of common sense over fear and a victory for global efforts towards a nuclear-weapons-free world.'"

We would appreciate your cooperation in a minute of silence at 11:05a.m. on August 29 in your local time.

▼ For more information (The ATOM Project website):

<http://www.theatomproject.org/2014/08/atom-project-calls-global-minute-silence-august-29/>

■Member City Activities

* Kawaguchi, Japan

Kawaguchi City Peace Exhibition—Conveying the Memories of the War and Family Ties to the Present Day
[held from July 19 to 23]

The city council of Kawaguchi unanimously decided to declare itself to be a peace city on December 21, 1985. Since 1988, the city has held the Kawaguchi City Peace Exhibition annually; this year marked the 27th exhibition. In 2014, 4,808 people visited the venue. This year's exhibition featured reproductions of war-time houses, period family photographs and children's playthings. As a special event, they also performed a *kamishibai* (Japanese traditional picture show, and an event called "Peace Caravan" in which a curator from the Saitama Peace Museum gave a lecture on peace-related issues using artifacts from the war. In addition, sixteen video programs related to peace were showed. Also exhibited were: essays and pictures of children who participated in an annual tour of the Saitama Peace Museum, an explanation of the wartime and post-war periods using panels and artifacts from the Showa Museum in Tokyo, an explanation of the Aoki-town Peace Park and Peace Memorial as well as Mayors for Peace A-bomb posters. The city of Kawaguchi joined Mayors for Peace in August 2009.

▼ The city of Kawaguchi website (in Japanese)

<http://www.city.kawaguchi.lg.jp/kbn/08010021/08010021.html>

* Rio Grande, Argentina

"Dialogues of Rio Grande"

[held from August 6 to 7]

The Municipality of Río Grande, Argentina, has carried out an initiative called "Dialogues of Rio Grande".

Rio Grande is a city that, in its history, has had the sad experience of having taken part in military conflict. This history clearly imposes residents to allocate their resources and efforts towards preventing a future recurrence of a similar situation.

The "Dialogues of Rio Grande" were created as a way to meet, reflect, and discuss, while proposing that different cities around the world join in the construction of cities and regions of peace. The Dialogues are also a way to spread the understanding that in this "new world of cities," local governments cannot be mere witnesses of what other levels of government perform, but rather, must exhaust their efforts in fulfilling a commitment to peace building.

In an unprecedented way, these first "Dialogues of the Rio Grande" have had the participation of influential people from the United Nations, political representatives of the Peace and Cooperation Zone of the South Atlantic (ZOPACAS) and members of civil society organizations. All agreed on the need to have cities and organizations work together to solve current issues that threaten the safety of every one. Climate change, drug trafficking, militarization and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, etc., must be issues in whose alleviation all are actively involved.

▼ Full story (Mayors for Peace website):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2014/140806-7_RioGrande/english.html

▼ Original Spanish text

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2014/140806-7_RioGrande/spanish.html

Aside from these cities, Hiroshima Day events of the cities of Esfarayen (Iran), Halabja (Iraq), Salamanca (Mexico), Volgograd (Russia), and Villa Mercedes (Argentina) are also available at the Member City Activities page 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 US 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 to help you advertise.

Please include comprehensive information including the date, venue, organizers and description of the event.

We are looking forward to receiving information from your city.

▼ Please mail us with the name/title of the activity and website link at: mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

<<PLEASE SEND INFORMATION ON YOUR CITY'S INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE EVENT >>

We would like to introduce your city's event and activities for the International Day of Peace (September 21) in the

September and October issues of the Mayors for Peace News Flash. If you intend to organize such an event, we would be pleased if you would inform our secretariat. Thank you for your kind cooperation.

▼ Please email us an outline of the activity at: mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

■ Mayors for Peace A-bomb poster exhibition

To commemorate the 5,000-city milestone of the Mayors for Peace membership numbers, we called for all member cities to hold a poster exhibition, which premiered in Vienna (Austria) in May, 2012.

By holding these exhibitions in as many cities as possible, we hope to directly inform millions of citizens of the impact of nuclear war. We would like exhibition attendees to understand that even a limited nuclear war would cause catastrophic climate change resulting in global famine, and to consider the role that city leaders should 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 poster exhibitions in response to our request.

In July, the city of Kawaguchi (mentioned above) held a poster exhibition in conjunction with their Peace Exhibition from July 19 to 23. The city of Himeji, Japan, also held a poster exhibition from July 12 to August 8. The city of Mirano, Italy, held a second poster exhibition from July 26 to August 10 at the Council Hall, following their first one in June. All mayors of the province of Venice have been invited to the opening day of the exhibition and to join Mayors for Peace.

We ask your city to also hold an exhibition and bring this issue to the attention of people in your city.

The posters are available in English, Spanish, Catalan, French, Dutch, German, Japanese and Russian. Updated posters can be downloaded from the Mayors for Peace website. We would be most grateful if you would continue to support the exhibitions by using the new posters, and hold a poster exhibition in your municipality.

We would appreciate it if you notified us of when you will hold a poster exhibition and submit a report after the exhibition to the Secretariat. The report format is provided on the Mayors for Peace website below.

>>Posters: A2 size (approximately 24 by 36 inches or 61 by 91.5 cm); 18 posters.

▼ Related Information and download link to the posters:

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

■ A plea to support the petition drive for a nuclear weapons convention

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

A nuclear weapons convention will prohibit the development, production, testing, stockpiling 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 for 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 many supporters across the world, we have received 1,011,821 signatures as of August 1, 2014.

Let us gather millions of signatures and make our voices heard.

(The petition is available to print or online at the links below.)

▼ Petition form (PDF):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/01_monthly Updating/11_petitionform_en.pdf.

▼ Online petition:

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

■ Financial contributions from member cities to the 2020 Vision Campaign - Update for May, June and July 2014 [Ypres, Belgium]

In the months May, June and July, the 2020 Vision Campaign received donations from many different cities of different

countries, amounting to a total of 12136,40 Euro.

Significant donations were made by our member cities in Belgium, Germany, Luxembourg, Italy and Spain. The complete list of contributing cities in these months 2014 can be viewed at the links below.

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to the people behind every single donation made for their continuing 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/456786b714e5b2ef8c138536fb445869/contributions-may-june-july-2014.html>

▼ List of cities that made contributions in May:

http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/fileadmin/user_upload/2020VC/Home/May_Contributions.pdf

▼ List of cities that made contributions in June:

http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/fileadmin/user_upload/2020VC/Home/June_Contributions.pdf

▼ List of cities that made contributions in July:

http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/fileadmin/user_upload/2020VC/Home/July_Contributions.pdf

▼ How to make contributions:

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

■ Visitors to the President of Mayors for Peace last month

President Kazumi Matsui of Mayors for Peace welcomed the following visitors in July and asked them to support the activities of Mayors for Peace and cooperate towards membership expansion.

- July 7 - Hon. Ms. Claire Deronzier, Deleegue generale du Quebec au Japon
- July 28 - Hon. Mr. Laurent Wehrli, Mayor of Montreux, Switzerland

■ Mayors for Peace member cities - 6,206 cities in 160 countries/regions

Through your invaluable support, on August 1, we added 79 new member cities, bringing total membership to 6,206.

Thanks to a volunteer supporter, Mr. Habab Ben Ali IVESSI, three cities including Moroni, the capital of the Union of Comoros and first in its country to join, became members of Mayors for Peace. This brings the total capital city membership to 115. During its 7th Global Voyage for a Nuclear Free World, the Peace Boat called on the cities they visited to join Mayors for Peace. As a result, Motril (Spain) and Kotol (Montenegro) became new members.

This was also the first member city from Montenegro. The first member cities from Comoros and Montenegro expanded our network of member cities from 158 to 160 countries and regions.

Thanks to the continued efforts of the team at the Teheran Peace Museum, 37 cities from Iran joined this month and the total number of Iranian member cities reached 311.

31 cities joined from Japan, making the total number of Japanese member cities 1,491. These Japanese member cities account for 85.6 percent of all municipalities in Japan.

We also welcomed four member cities from France, and one member city each from Germany and the U.S.A. The number of member cities in the U.S. reached 200 in this month.

We encourage further initiatives to promote membership and can provide support from Hiroshima as needed. Please help us invite mayors who are not yet members to join Mayors for Peace.

▼ Related information (PDF):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/2014/newmembers1408_en.pdf

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

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