

There have been many events around the world commemorating the International Day of Peace. Mayors for Peace has been a long-time supporter of the IDP. It is included in the Action Plan we adopted last year that all member cities will also be encouraged to commemorate the International Day of Peace on September 21. The theme of the 2014 International Day of Peace is the “Right of Peoples to Peace”. In the June issue of this Mayors for Peace News Flash sent on June 27, we included a message titled, “International Day of Peace, 100 Day Countdown”, and asked all member cities to pray for a peaceful world without nuclear weapons and hold a commemorative event marking this day. Here are some examples of such events in our member cities:

[Australia]

- Fremantle: organize the first regional conference of Mayors for Peace West Australia on September 21-22.

[Japan]

- Takayama: organize the Peace Bell Ceremony where like-minded bell owners in the city, such as temples and churches, sound them in unison at noon on the IDP. Furthermore, the mayor of Takayama City requests our member cities to do the same to offer as many people as possible an opportunity to renew their determination to bring peace to the globe.

In this context, we humbly ask that you consider calling for bells to sound at noon on September 21 at facilities and organizations which own bells in your city. If you intend to organize such an event, we would be pleased if you could inform our office.

More details:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/topic/2014/Sep21_peaceday/Request_from_TakayamaCity.pdf

- Hiroshima: participants including staff members of the city of Hiroshima and the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation as well as representatives from such organizations as Hiroshima Prefectural Confederation of A-bomb Sufferers Organizations, Hiroshima Consumers’ Cooperative Union and students from Hiroshima Jogakuin Senior High School and three other high schools will gather in front of the Cenotaph of the A-bomb Victims. Each group will lay a flower bouquet on the Cenotaph and observe a minute of silence at noon to pray for the abolition of nuclear weapons and everlasting world peace. They also will put up the Mayors for Peace banner that reads “Total Abolition of Nuclear Weapons by 2020” and will ring the Peace Bell.

[France]

Most French Mayors for Peace members are organizing events for September 21. Here are some examples:

- Belcodène, a town in the South of France, organizes a Peace Rally on Sunday, September 21. During this event, which includes a horse parade, the Children’s City Council members will plant an olive tree to symbolize peace. The town began celebrating Peace Day when it joined Mayors for Peace in 2010.

- In Choisy-le-Roi, Peace Day will be dedicated to honouring the memory of the victims of the genocide that took place in Rwanda 20 years ago. Two exhibitions and two debates are organized by the city.

More information (in French): <http://www.choisyleroi.fr/fre/La-ville/News/Journee-internationale-de-la-paix>

- La Courneuve hosts an exhibition called “Art breeds Peace” during the whole month, realized in cooperation with the French Peace Movement. The city has also planned several debates and public meetings on the theme of the current conflicts in Palestine.

More information (in French): http://www.ville-la-courneuve.fr/LC_infos/actualite/index.php

- Malakoff will celebrate Peace Day during the whole month with various activities. Among them, the now traditional exhibit “Artists for Peace”, co-organized with the French Peace Movement, will take place in various places in the city (in the City Hall, the public library and even in several shops) until October 8. A one day training course for elected officials, members of unions and city staff is also scheduled on October 10.

More information (in French):

<http://www.ville-malakoff.fr/agenda/fiche/artistes-pour-la-paix/section/1788.htm?cHash=9604caefb9f42449ad3cd406cd7607bb>

- Vitry-sur-Seine, a Mayors for Peace member since 1998, has a tradition of celebrating the International Day of Peace since its creation. This year, Vitry chose to show its solidarity with Western Sahara and the Palestinian people. On September 16, the city held a public debate after the projection of the documentary, Sons of the Clouds: The Last Colony, and on September 21, one-thousand doves will be released in a call for world peace.

More information (in French): <http://afcdrp.blogspot.fr/2014/09/journee-mondiale-de-la-paix-2014-vitry.html>

<<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 October issue of the Mayors for Peace News Flash. If you 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 event at: mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

■Reminder: 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, the Conference gathered 130 participants from fifteen countries who were invited to exchange ideas on the 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 to strengthen relationships among Mayors for Peace member cities in the Mediterranean region and develop their networks. All member cities from the Mediterranean Basin are welcome to attend this follow-up meeting.

▼ Registration and information: [<canjonch@ajuntament.granollers.cat>](mailto:canjonch@ajuntament.granollers.cat)

■Support the Nuclear Zero Lawsuits by the Republic of the Marshall Islands

On April 24, 2014, the Republic of the Marshall Islands filed lawsuits in the International Court of Justice and U.S. Federal District Court against the nine nuclear-armed nations claiming that they have failed to comply with their obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) to pursue negotiations for the worldwide elimination of nuclear weapons. For 12 years from 1946 to 1958, the Marshall Islands was used as a test ground for the U.S. nuclear program and 67 nuclear bombs detonated over the Marshall Islands during that period. The destructive power of the nuclear tests was equivalent to 1.7 Hiroshima type bombs detonated daily for 12 years.

Mayors for Peace is one of the organizations supporting the Nuclear Zero lawsuits by the Marshall Islands.

You can find the Mayors for Peace logo posted on the Nuclear Zero website as a supporter. Please find details at the following website:

▼ Online petition and more details (the Nuclear Zero website):

<http://www.nuclearzero.org/>

■Member City Activities

* Kazo, Japan

Activities for Peace

The city of Kazo declared itself a Peace City on March 1, 2011. They select 16 representatives from their citizenry and have them recite the Peace City Declaration during the ceremony at the Peace Festival of Kazo Citizens, held annually in May. The city also organizes exhibitions of photographs of war damage including the A-bombings, and drawings made by war survivors to provide the citizens with opportunities to think about the preciousness of peace. Every August, the city co-organizes a photo exhibition for peace with the Kazo City Labor's Welfare Council. This year's photo exhibition was held from July 30 to August 1 at the citizens' gallery on the ground floor of Kazo City Hall.

▼ The city of Kazo website (in Japanese)

<http://www.city.kazo.lg.jp/cont/s151000/d011300/index.html>

* Zushi, Japan

2014 Zushi Peace Day

[held from August 21 to 24]

The city of Zushi annually co-organizes Zushi Peace Day events with the executive committee. Civil societies committed to peace and anti-nuclear activities brought their ideas and implemented such programs as film showings and live music performances. The city of Zushi planted a seedling which is the second generation of an A-bombed Aogiri tree (Chinese parasol tree) that was brought from Hiroshima by the 2010 peace messengers of Zushi city. The city also hosted a session entitled, “Talk with junior high school students about peace and the future –A report of dispatching the peace messengers to Hiroshima”, and a screening of the film, “Aogiri ni takushite (Placing our hope in the Aogiri tree).”

▼ The city of Zushi website (in Japanese)

<http://www.city.zushi.kanagawa.jp/syokan/hisho/heiwa/2014heiwaday.html>

* Kashihara, Japan

Projects for Peace

Kashihara City Council declared itself a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Peace City in 1986 and based on that declaration, the city rings peace bells in cooperation with the Kashihara City Buddhist Association at the time and date of the A-bombings on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Every summer, the city sets up “Paper Crane for Peace” booths to call on citizens to fold paper cranes that symbolize their wishes for peace. This year, they mounted two booths at the municipal library and an open space for children from August 1, onward. They made several bunches of a thousand paper cranes and asked some elementary schools in the city to bring them to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park on the occasion of their school trips. The city also organizes an annual project for peace. This year’s project featured an exhibition of A-bomb exposed materials from Nagasaki from July 30 to August 5, and also exhibited art works for peace by elementary school students in the city.

▼ The city of Kashihara website (in Japanese)

<https://www.city.kashihara.nara.jp/kikaku/shisei/heiwa/index.html>

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

■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.

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 in the UK, Volgograd in Russia and Kabul in Afghanistan, that they held poster exhibitions in response to our request.

In August, the following cities/town in Japan also organized poster exhibitions:

-Miyoshi: July 18-August 31

-Gero: July 31-August 15

-Kusatsu: August 1-31

-Kure: August 1-14

-Matsue: August 4-12

-Ibaraki town: August 5-15

-Awaji: August 5-18

-Odawara: August 11-18

-Fujisawa: August 21-28

We ask your city to also hold an exhibition and bring this issue to everyone's attention.

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 afterwards to the Secretariat. The report format is provided at 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 1,034,219 signatures as of September 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 August 2014 [Ypres, Belgium]**

In the month of August, the 2020 Vision Campaign received donations from many different cities in Germany and Belgium, amounting to a total of 4566.28 Euro.

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to the people behind every single donation 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/dde0b12436853f4b61b48e555038c66f/contributions-august.html>

▼ List of cities that made contributions in August:

http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/fileadmin/user_upload/2020VC/Home/08_contribution_aug.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 last month and asked them to support the activities of Mayors for Peace and cooperate towards membership expansion.

August 4- Participants of the 23rd Hanover-Hiroshima YMCA International Exchange Program

August 5- Hon. Mr. Andrey Taev, the City of Volgograd Council member, Russia

August 5- Hon. Mr. Denis Coderre, Mayor of Montreal, Canada

August 5- Hon. Mr. Kirk Caldwell, Mayor of Honolulu, U.S.A.

August 5- A group from American University and Ritsumeikan University

