



“I am outraged by the recent statements and actions of your country, under any and all circumstance, callously trampling on our hibakushas’ wish for peace which is embodied in their words ‘no one else should suffer as we did.’

“The repeated acts have occurred while Mayors for Peace and the international community as a whole are earnestly striving for the success of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference starting on the 27th of this month, and cannot be tolerated.

“As a state party to the NPT treaty, your country has an obligation to pursue nuclear disarmament in good faith. I strongly demand that you reflect on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons and fulfill your responsibility to ensure the successful outcome of the NPT Review Conference.”

The Ambassador of Russia in Japan replied in objection on April 9 and visited Hiroshima on April 14 to explain Russia’s point of view to the mayor of Hiroshima.

Similarly, the Mayor and the Chairperson of the City Council of Nagasaki sent a letter of protest to the Russian government on April 3, to which the City of Nagasaki received a reply in objection from the ambassador on April 10.

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### ■Eight Child-Survivors set sail for Mayors for Peace member cities in India, Europe, and the Americas

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Eight elderly hibakusha who were just children when Hiroshima and Nagasaki were attacked have begun their “journey to the heart of the world”, setting sail from Yokohama on 12 April, in a joint project of Mayors for Peace and Peace Boat, called “I was her age.” A dozen member cities around the world will host this child survivor team when they arrive in their countries. There, the eight hibakusha will meet with young parents and their children. Their message to the parents: “We were their ages.”

The aim of this project is to inspire everyone, not just the young parents, to proactively protect their children from the threat of nuclear weapons. Concretely, they ask everyone to stay with them right up to the 70th commemorations of the attacks on their childhood homes. The hope is that all over the world more individuals, groups, communities, and cities than ever before will mark this 70th anniversary.

The group’s first stop is Kochi, India. Mayor Tony Chammany and civil society groups are preparing a grand welcome. The team’s day in Kochi, 27 April, coincides with the timing of the Global Wave 2015 event, so they will be able to take part in it with their guests. Mayor Jan Durnez, Chairman of the 2020 Vision Campaign, has written to all members, urging them to wave “goodbye” to nuclear weapons in the Global Wave event, and “Bon Voyage” to the group of child survivors.

▼ More information on the "I was her age" project (2020 Vision Campaign website):

<http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/en/i-was-her-age>

▼ The project's Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/IWasHerAge?ref=ts&fref=ts>

▼ More details on the Global Voyage for a Nuclear Free World – Peace Boat Hibakusha Project (Peace Boat website):

<http://www.peaceboat.org/english/?page=view&nr=83&type=28&menu=105>

▼ Profile of A-bomb survivors and youths on board (Peace Boat document, PDF):

[http://www.peaceboat.org/english/content/documents/87\\_Hibakusha\\_and\\_Youths\\_Profile\\_ENG.pdf](http://www.peaceboat.org/english/content/documents/87_Hibakusha_and_Youths_Profile_ENG.pdf)

▼ Video of Peaceboat setting sail from Yokohama:

<https://vimeo.com/124900290>

▼ More details on Global Wave 2015:

<http://www.globalwave2015.org/news-2/2015/4/10/after-waving-goodbye-to-nuclear-weapons-please-wave-bon-voyage-to-the-child-survivors>

▼ Letter from the Chairman of the 2020 Vision Campaign to all members (PDF):

[http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/2020VC/Home/letter\\_wave\\_durnez.pdf](http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/fileadmin/user_upload/2020VC/Home/letter_wave_durnez.pdf)

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### ■The commitment of the Region Ile de France to strengthen its work on peace

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On February 12, 2015, the President of the Region Ile de France committed to strengthening the Region’s work on peace in an official answer to Councillor Eddie Ait during a plenary session of the Regional Council.

In his answer, the Region President, Mr. Jean-Paul Huchon, stated that “developing peace and a culture of peace is not naïve, it is absolutely necessary”. He announced that the Region will work towards establishing a Regional Action Plan for Peace under the leadership of Mr. Aït, former Mayor of Carrières-sous-Poissy and Member of AFCD RP-Mayors for Peace France. This work will be done in close cooperation with the Mayors for Peace French chapter, AFCD RP. As part of this work program, the Region is also considering formally joining Mayors for Peace.

▼ Full story (AFCD RP-Mayors for Peace website, in French):

<http://afcd rp.com/la-region-ile-de-france-sengage-pour-une-culture-de-la-paix/>

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### ■ Mayors for Peace French Chapter Representatives' meeting with the French President's advisor

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After the tragic events that took place in Paris from January 7 to January 9, and the huge demonstrations of January 11, it was widely agreed that French society needs new answers to today's challenges. One of the answers is a culture of peace, as defined by UNESCO and promoted by the Mayors for Peace French Chapter, AFCD RP. In this context, on March 5, a delegation of representatives of AFCD RP met with the French President's advisor, Mr. Bernard Poignant, to discuss ways to promote a culture of peace as a tool in education programs and in local authorities' management. This was the first time that AFCD RP was specifically asked for its advice on this matter.

The delegation, led by the President of AFCD RP-Mayors for Peace France, Mr. Philippe Rio, Mayor of Grigny, submitted a list of recommendations to Mr. Poignant. A follow-up meeting on the implementation of those recommendations will be scheduled soon.

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### ■ Mézières-Manchester and Ors-Manchester: examples of Franco-British friendship out of the horrors of the First World War

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[Manchester, UK, April 13-May 30, 2015]

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In the period 2014 - 2018, many Mayors for Peace members are involved in a large number of remembrance events around the centenary of the First World War. This war had a huge impact, particularly in Europe, in moving warfare from the battlefield to the many towns and cities who happened to be on the frontline of the conflict, causing their destruction. A key Mayors for Peace campaign is that 'Cities are not Targets!' and civilian populations should not be specifically targeted in warfare. Mayors for Peace Vice President and Lead City, Manchester, commemorated in April a couple of important anniversary events which highlight the post-war development of friendship links between towns and cities damaged by war.

The first event commemorates the close links that have recently been developed by Manchester and the French municipality of Ors. The Manchester-based 'Feelgood Theatre Productions' have just completed a national tour of a play titled 'Not About Heroes'. This recollects a meeting between two famous First World War poets, Wilfred Owen and Siegfried Sasson, in a hospital in Edinburgh in which they talked about their personal experiences and the futility of war. Wilfred Owen was a soldier in a regiment based in the Manchester area and his poetry powerfully recalls the horror, destruction and futility of war on the Western Front in the famous battles of Ypres and the Somme. A memorial to Wilfred Owen has recently been renovated by the French municipality of Ors, and the Mayor of Ors, Jacky Duminy, attended a civic reception in Manchester with the Lord Mayor of Manchester to celebrate this play and the work of the theatre company. This award-winning play also include some educational events and was performed in Manchester and at the Wildred Owen Memorial in Ors.

In the second event, an exhibition was officially launched in Manchester Central Library to commemorate the links between Manchester and the French municipality of Charleville-Mezieres. During the First World War, the town of Mezieres was almost completely destroyed. Due to connections between the two Councils, a major fund-raising campaign was launched in the 1920s and 1930s in Manchester with a Lord Mayors parade and many other civic events. The money raised helped to rebuild Mezieres. To this day, a district of the town is called 'Manchester' and is based on English-style houses of the time, whilst the hospital is also named the 'Manchester' Hospital. The exhibition in Manchester Central Library chronicles these links, and it was formally opened by the Lord Mayor of Manchester Susan Cooley and the Mayor of Charleville-Mezieres Boris Ravignon. The Lord Mayor of Manchester also visited Charleville-Mezieres in November 2014 and took part in its remembrance events. Such links are in place between many UK Mayors for Peace members and town and cities across France, Belgium, Germany and Russia and are a reminder of the positive role municipalities can play in promoting peace after conflict and bringing friendship between communities. The exhibition runs from the 13th April to the 30th May.

▼ Manchester City Council media release:

[http://www.manchester.gov.uk/news/article/7160/central\\_library\\_exhibition\\_to\\_celebrate\\_the\\_link\\_between\\_manchester\\_and\\_mezieres](http://www.manchester.gov.uk/news/article/7160/central_library_exhibition_to_celebrate_the_link_between_manchester_and_mezieres)

▼ For further information (Manchester Libraries exhibition):

<http://www.librarylive.co.uk/event/mezieres-manchester-exhibition>

▼ For further information (Feelgood Theatre Company 'Not About Heroes' website):

<http://www.notaboutheroes.co.uk>

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## ■“Peace News from Hiroshima”

- Contributed by the Hiroshima Peace Media Center

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The Atomic Bomb Dome, a symbol of Hiroshima, turned 100 years old on April 5, 2015. The message of nuclear abolition and world peace that the dome conveys is being received by an increasing number of young people, as seen at various events. To cite a few examples, high school students from the United States and Russia, both nuclear-weapon states, and Japan came together for an international conference in Hiroshima and made presentations on nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation. Also, young Japanese and Americans recently visited Hiroshima and Nagasaki and, in a workshop, created some 30 works of art expressing the theme of peace, including drawings and three-dimensional pieces. Meanwhile, eight high school and university students from Hiroshima took part in a study tour to Europe to learn about the tragedy of the Holocaust and the genocide of the Jewish and other people. In this important year which marks the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings and the end of World War II, the enthusiasm of young people in their efforts to advance a world without nuclear weapons or war is frequently in the news.

For articles from the Hiroshima Peace Media Center, please visit the following links:

[News on the A-bomb Dome]

- Hiroshima's A-Bomb Dome turns 100

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=42890>

- 100th anniversary of A-Bomb Dome: Silent plea

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=43019>

[News on art projects]

- Japanese and American youth express wish for peace through art

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=43028>

[News on the international gathering of high school students]

- High school students from Japan, U.S., and Russia discuss nuclear disarmament at Hiroshima Jogakuin High School

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=42886>

- High school students call for nuclear disarmament at international forum in Hiroshima

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=42978>

[News on the Holocaust study tour]

- Study tour group from Hiroshima leaves for Europe to learn about the Holocaust

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=42424>

- Study tour group visits Auschwitz, site of World War II genocide

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=42426>

- Study tour members meet with local students and vow to hand down memories of war

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=42658>

- Study tour group visits Anne Frank's secret annex and feels tragedy firsthand

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=42660>

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## ■Member City Activities

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\*Malakoff, France

AFCDRP created a flyer to commemorate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the A-bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki

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AFCDPRP, the French chapter of Mayors for Peace, has created a flyer for French member cities to promote activities to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the A-bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The flyer is available at the link below.

▼Flyer (Mayors for Peace website, in French):

[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2015/AFCDPRP/70HN\\_web.pdf](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2015/AFCDPRP/70HN_web.pdf)

▼Related information (AFCDPRP website, in French)

<http://afcdrp.com/hiroshima-nagasaki-70/>

Please visit the “Member City Activities” page on our website for event ideas to implement in your city.

▼To see the “Member City Activities” webpage, click on the link below:

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

<<PLEASE SEND US INFORMATION ABOUT 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 a description of the event.

We look forward to receiving information from your city.

▼Please email us at the following address with the name/title of your event and the URL for it:

[mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp](mailto:mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp)

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**■Mayors for Peace A-bomb poster exhibition**  
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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.

We ask that your city also hold an exhibition to help bring the issue of nuclear weapons to everyone’s attention.

The posters are available in English, Spanish, Catalan, French, Dutch, German, Japanese and Russian. Persian translation is now ongoing. Updated posters can be downloaded from the Mayors for Peace website. We would be most grateful if you would continue to lend your support by using the newest posters available for your municipality’s exhibition.

We would also appreciate notification of when you will hold a poster exhibition, and the submission of an event 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>

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**■A plea to 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 development, production, testing, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons and all related activities.

At our Executive Conference in Granollers, Spain in November 2011, Mayors for Peace members agreed to promote a global grassroots petition drive as a way in which all member cities can call for an immediate start to negotiations of a nuclear weapons convention. Promotion of this petition drive is also included in the Mayors for Peace Action Plan (2013-2017) that was adopted at the 8<sup>th</sup> General Conference.

Thanks to many supporters across the world, we have received 1,605,640 signatures as of April 1, 2015.  
Let us gather millions more and make our voices heard.

(The petition is available to print or to sign 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-z.city.hiroshima.jp/pcf/en/form.htm>.

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**■ Visitors to the President of Mayors for Peace last month**  
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President Kazumi Matsui welcomed the following visitor last month and asked him to support the activities of Mayors for Peace and cooperate towards membership expansion.

\*March 6- Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi, Acting Foreign Secretary, Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal

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**■ Mayors for Peace member cities - 6,649 cities in 160 countries/regions**  
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Through your invaluable support, on April 1, 2015, we added 66 new member cities, bringing total membership to 6,649.

Thanks to the continued efforts of the team at the Teheran Peace Museum, 43 cities from Iran joined this month and the total number of Iranian member cities reached 628.

16 cities joined from Japan, making the total number of Japanese member cities 1,559. These Japanese member cities account for 89.5 percent of all municipalities in Japan.

We also welcomed four cities from Germany and a city each from Argentina, Senegal and South Korea.

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/2015/newmembers1504\\_en.pdf](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/2015/newmembers1504_en.pdf)

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**If you have any comments, questions, or would like to unsubscribe  
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