

The delegation also had meetings with Mr. Sebastian Kurz (Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs of Austria) and Mr. Adam M. Scheinman (Special Representative of the U.S. President for Nuclear Nonproliferation). The delegation asked Mr. Kurz and Mr. Scheinman that they make further efforts to realize the abolition of nuclear weapons and also discussed the current global state of nuclear disarmament.

▼ Related information: UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's message to the Mayors for Peace Assembly in New York
<http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/sgsm16718.doc.htm>

▼ Related information: Article about the NPT by documentary filmmaker Helen Young, a long-time supporter of Mayors for Peace

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/helen-young/45-years-and-waiting_b_7181220.html

▼ Related information: Interview of Angela Kane, UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=50834#.VVjydZWJh1o>

■ Ypres' centenary commemoration of first use of chemical weapons and hosting of conference

[Ypres, Belgium; April 22 - 24, 2015]

Mayors for Peace Vice President Ypres and the Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign held a three day conference and important ceremonies for the centenary of the first use of chemical weapons in the Ypres Salient on 22 April 1915.

Ypres was on the frontline of fighting during the First World War, and on 22 April 1915 chlorine canisters were thrown over the front line for the first time, killing many soldiers. Over the course of the war over 90,000 soldiers were killed by chemical weapons. On 22 April 2015 Ypres formally remembered these events with a three day conference called 'A Century of Weaponry of Mass Destruction: Enough!'

On the first day of the conference opened by the Mayors of Ypres and Langemark, keynote speakers included the Ambassadors of Germany and France to Belgium, the Tunisian Defence Minister, Tibor Toth, the former Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), and leading figures from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). There were also ceremonies which took place at three important monuments; the Cross of Reconciliation in Steenstraete; and the Statue of the Brooding Soldier, and at the Menin Gate in Ypres.

The rest of the conference focused on the effects of chemical weapons and the impact on civilian populations of weapons of mass destruction. The Secretary General of Mayors for Peace outlined the destruction of Hiroshima by the atomic bomb and there was a video message from the Peace Boat of its joint 'I was her age' global voyage with Mayors for Peace. There were also moving and powerful presentations by representatives from Halabja, Granollers, Hamburg, Volgograd and Gaza. The Conference concluded with delegates taking part in the 'Global Wave' activity to symbolically wave goodbye to nuclear weapons.

(Report provided by Sean Morris, UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter Secretary)

▼ The whole report can be read at:

http://nfznsn.gn.apc.org/docs/about/M4P_Briefing_No_4_M4P_Ieper_Conference.pdf

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/topic/2015/150422Ypres/index.html>

▼ Full program of "A Century of Weaponry of Mass Destruction: Enough!"

http://www.gas1915.be/images/filelib/ProgramConferenceEngFinalLR_63.pdf

▼ Global Wave 2015 website:

<http://www.globalwave2015.org/>

■ Peace events in Kochi, India, organized by the Peace Boat and Mayors for Peace

[Kochi, India; April 26 - 29, 2015]

This year, coinciding with the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings, Mayors for Peace is collaborating with Peace Boat, a Japan-based peace organization in organizing "I was her age," a special project to share A-bomb experiences with the younger generations around the world. During Peace Boat's "Global Voyage for a Nuclear-Free World: Peace Boat Hibakusha Project," child-survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki traveling onboard meet parents in various countries whose children are now the age that the survivors were when they were exposed to the atomic bombings.

The current voyage began in April and the ocean liner arrived in Kochi, India, which is a lead city of Mayors for Peace, on April 27. Various events were held including a reception, peace gathering, and a presentation of A-bomb survivor testimonies, in which Mayors for Peace was represented by a staff person from Hiroshima. There was also a ceremony to present Kochi City with fire that had been taken from the Flame of Peace at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park and delivered to India on the Peace Boat. The flame will be kept burning in facility in front of the Kochi City Hall. Video messages by the Mayor of Kochi and local youth were recorded and later presented at Mayors for Peace events held at the United Nations headquarters during the NPT Review Conference.

“I was her age” project events will be organized in ten countries including India, Belgium and Germany by the end of the current cruise in July this year.

▼ 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>

▼ Special report (Peace Boat website):

<http://peaceboat.org/english/index.php?page=view&nr=445&type=20&menu=64>

▼ Video of Peace Boat's cruise from Yokohama to Kochi:

<https://vimeo.com/126304788>

■ The First Latin American Summit of Mayors for Peace in Bogota, Colombia, on June 3 and 4

The First Latin American Summit of Mayors for Peace in the Colombian capital of Bogota has been confirmed for Wednesday, June 3rd and Thursday, June 4th, 2015. This Mayors for Peace summit is part of the "Dialogue of Latin American Cities", and participants will aim to discuss issues related to governance and democracy, social integration, a citizen's right to their city, peace, coexistence and post-conflict. On June 4th, all morning is reserved to discuss the establishment of a regional chapter of Mayors for Peace in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The “Dialogue of Latin American Cities” engages cities of the region in the process of advocating for “the right to the city” at the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) World Summit 2016 in Bogota and the Habitat III Conference in Quito, Ecuador. Representatives from the capital cities of Lima (Peru), Quito (Ecuador), Montevideo (Uruguay), San José (Costa Rica), Mexico City (Mexico), San Salvador (El Salvador), Buenos Aires (Argentina) and Santiago (Chile) have already confirmed their participation. In addition, the UCLG and Mercociudades, Redcidur and FLACMA, the main networks of local governments from Latin America and the Caribbean, confirmed their participation, along with representatives from national networks of local governments from Chile, Brasil, Colombia and Mexico.

For more information, please contact:

Pol DHuyvetter, Coordinator of Mayors for Peace in Latin America and Executive Adviser of the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation, at:

pol2020@gmail.com

■ Chapter meeting of UK and Ireland Mayors, Provosts, and Leaders for Peace on Manchester, June 19

The first full meeting of the new UK and Ireland chapter of Mayors for Peace will take place in Manchester Town on June 19.

The Chapter was formally agreed upon in January. The June meeting will discuss its plans for the coming 12 months, including how members will commemorate the centenary of the First World War, the 70th anniversary of the end of the Second World War and the 70th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings. The meeting will also consider how to deepen and expand membership. The meeting will further consider preparations for a visit to the UK in November by the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The meeting takes place from 1:30 – 3:30 in Room 301, Manchester Town Hall.

If you require any further information, please contact Chapter Secretary Sean Morris at:

s.morris4@manchester.gov.uk

■ **Bike Away the Nuclear Bombs bicyclists' successful ride from Washington, D.C. to New York City**

Bike for Peace is a Norwegian based organization that seeks to promote peace and nuclear disarmament through bike rides and is in close cooperation with Mayors for Peace.

On the eve of the NPT Review Conference, an initiative named Bike Away the Nuclear Bombs was organized by Bike for Peace, Mayors for Peace, and the ATOM Project, a global online petition against nuclear testing. The aim of Bike Away the Nuclear Bombs was to draw attention to the growing worldwide threat of nuclear weapons and to call on governments at the conference to agree to nuclear abolition. Riders included Tore Narland, founder of Bike for Peace, Mayor Thore Vestby of Frogn, Norway, who is the vice president of Mayors for Peace, and Karipbek Kuyukov, a Kazakhstani artist who is a victim of nuclear tests.

The riders began their journey from Washington, D.C. on April 21. Meeting with elected officials and giving talks at schools in cities along the way, they arrived in front of the United Nations headquarters on April 24. Following their arrival in New York, a gathering was held in honor of the group and United Nations members, foreign delegations and U.S. experts attended the event.

▼ Bike for Peace website:

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

▼ ATOM Project website:

<http://www.theatomproject.org/2015/04/bike-away-atomic-bomb-ride-completes-nonproliferation-tour-united-nations/>

■ **Memorandum of Understanding between Mayors for Peace and the Partnership for Change**

Partnership for Change is a Norwegian NGO aiming to contribute to socially, environmentally, and financially sustainable local communities. On April 23, Mayors for Peace and Partnership for Change signed a Memorandum of Understanding. The purpose of this agreement is to establish collaboration in the Minnesota 2015 process leading up to and following the Minnesota Summit in October. Mayors for Peace can participate in the working groups established as part of the process and Mayors for Peace members are encouraged to take part in and/or initiate action groups in their respective cities. The Memorandum of Understanding has defined nine issues of priority, and abolishing nuclear arsenals threatening our world is one of them. An action plan for this collaboration between Mayors for Peace and Partnership for Change will be worked out in the near future.

▼ Partnership for Change website:

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

▼ More information about the Summit "Minnesota 2015":

<http://mn2015.org/>

■ **Article by Mayor Paulo Alexandre Barbosa of Santos, Brazil, in 'Cities Today'**

'Cities Today', a leading magazine on the sustainable development of cities, published an article in its May 2015 edition contributed by Mayor Paulo Alexandre Barbosa of Santos, Brazil. Santos has accepted to become a lead city of Mayors for Peace. The article can be read at the link below.

▼ 'Cities Today' digital publication May 2015 edition (Mayor of Santos' article is on Page 4)

<http://en.calameo.com/read/003329972059c2af7242f?authid=hlA01Nx9LMVr>

■ **"Peace News from Hiroshima"**

- Contributed by the Hiroshima Peace Media Center

The Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) which is held every five years opened at United Nations headquarters in New York on April 27. For this four-week conference, Kazumi Matsui, mayor of Hiroshima and president of Mayors for Peace, A-bomb survivors, and Hiroshima citizens paid visits to New York. Among them are two high school students who serve as Junior Writers at the Chugoku Shimbun, where they gather news and write

articles on peace-related issues. What sort of coverage have these teenagers conducted in New York, and what are their impressions of this experience? Find out in the articles below, from the Hiroshima Peace Media Center.

[News on the NPT Review Conference]

- Two junior writers, bound for NPT conference, share aspirations for their trip

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=42980>

- Junior writers from Hiroshima report on events in New York in connection with NPT Review Conference

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=43985>

- Junior writers from Hiroshima interview Japanese foreign minister in New York

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=44055>

- Junior writers from Hiroshima pose questions at panel discussion held at U.N. headquarters

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=44102>

- Students from Japan convey A-bomb survivors' suffering at Youth Forum in New York

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=44152>

- Junior writers covering NPT Review Conference report from New York via video chat

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=44203>

[Articles on the Chugoku Shimbun Holocaust study tour]

- High school students' views

Peace Seeds: Teens in Hiroshima Sow Seeds of Peace (Part 7): Study tour of the Holocaust

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=43421>

- College students' views

College students from Hiroshima share impressions of study tour to learn about Holocaust, vow to act for peace

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=43691>

■Member City Activities

*Wassenaar, the Netherlands

Mayors for Peace Netherlands: Meeting with Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs before NPT Review Conference

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On April 24, 2015, the day before the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, Bert Koenders, travelled to New York for the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference (NPT-RevCon) about nuclear weapons, he met with Mayor Jan Hoekema of Wassenaar, Chair of Mayors for Peace-The Netherlands, and Doctor Herman Spanjaard, Chair of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War Netherlands (IPPNW), to discuss their views on nuclear weapons and the necessity of abolition.

They urged the Minister to take into account that ensuring safety for civilians is an important task of mayors worldwide and that doctors have no cure for the effects of nuclear weapons, once used. Prevention is the only responsible way forward so there is a very strong urgency to make the NPT-RevCon a success. One thousand paper cranes, made by Hibakusha and Japanese students were handed to Minister Koenders, conveying everyone's wishes for the Minister's health, longevity, and wisdom in the negotiations.

(Report by Dr. Herman Spanjaard, on behalf of the Secretariat Mayors for Peace-Netherlands)

▼ Photo on the Mayors for Peace website:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2015/Dutch_MfP/meeting_Foreign_Minister.html

We have also received activity reports from the following member cities:

*Kahrizsang, Iran

Commemorative Ceremony on the Day of Remembrance for All Victims of Chemical Warfare

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2015/Kahrizsang/150429chemical_victims.html

*Las Flores, Argentina

Club Paper Cranes School 1 folded a thousand paper cranes for world peace (website in Spanish)

<http://lasflores.gob.ar/embajadoresdelapaz/>

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

■ 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 in light of this.

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. 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>

■ 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, 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 8th General Conference.

Thanks to many supporters across the world, we have received 2,048,607 signatures as of May 1, 2015.

At the Peace Festival held in New York on April 26, the Mayors for Peace delegation handed a certificate of approximately 1,110,000 signatures to Ms. Angela Kane, United Nations High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and Ms. Taous Feroukhi, President of the NPT Review Conference. The signatures were collected between April 2014 and April this year. The same certificate was handed to Ms. Virginia Gamba, Deputy to the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, at the “Hiroshima-Nagasaki Appeal Assembly” organized by Mayors for Peace on April 27.

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

▼ Online petition:

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

■ Visitors to the President of Mayors for Peace last month

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

*April 3- H.E. Ms. Taous Feroukhi, Ambassador, Councilor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Algeria and President of the 2015 NPT Review Conference

*April 14- H.E. Mr. Evgeny V. Afanasiev, Russian Ambassador to Japan

*April 17- H.E. Ms. Caroline Kennedy, U.S. Ambassador to Japan

■ Mayors for Peace member cities - 6,675 cities in 160 countries/regions

Through your invaluable support, on May 1, 2015, we added 27 new member cities, bringing total membership to 6,675.

Thanks to the continued efforts of the team at the Teheran Peace Museum, 23 cities from Iran joined this month and the total number of Iranian member cities reached 651.

We also welcomed a city each from Germany, Hungary India, and Japan.

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.

▼ List of new members (PDF):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/2015/newmembers1505_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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