

## Mayors for Peace News Flash (October 2015) No.70

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!

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Mayors for Peace member cities as of October 1, 2015

**6,857 cities in 161 countries/regions with 37 new members**

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Please also check our website and Facebook page:

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

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

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

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### ■ Release of Open Letter to the United Nations General Assembly

On October 16th, Mayors for Peace executive mayors jointly released an open letter to the United Nations General Assembly to request its First Committee currently in session to decide on the establishment of an open-ended working group to identify and elaborate effective measures to realize the full implementation of nuclear obligations as stipulated in Article VI of the NPT.

The letter was sent to the Secretary General of the UN, the President of the UN General Assembly, and the Chairperson of the First Committee as well as government representatives to the UN.

▼ The Open Letter to the United Nations General Assembly on the Mayors for Peace website (PDF):

[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/topic/2015/UN/Open\\_Letter\\_to\\_UNGA.pdf](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/topic/2015/UN/Open_Letter_to_UNGA.pdf)

### ■ Presentation of the Joint Statement of Nuclear Abolition Call to the United Nations

On August 6th, leaders of Religions for Peace, Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (PNND) and Mayors for Peace adopted a joint statement in support of nuclear disarmament titled "A Nuclear-Weapon-Free World: Our Common Good." The statement has been circulated worldwide and has been endorsed by more than 180 legislators, religious leaders, and mayors as of September 29th.

On September 28th, the representatives of the three organizations presented the statement to Mr. Mogens Lykkesøft, President of the UN General Assembly, as world leaders gathered for the opening session of the UN in its 70th anniversary year.

The joint statement was also presented to the United Nations in Geneva at a special event on September 22nd to commemorate the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons (September 26th).

▼ Presentation of the joint statement to the President of the UN General Assembly (UNFOLD ZERO website):  
<http://www.unfoldzero.org/religious-leaders-and-legislators-present-nuclear-abolition-call-to-the-united-nations/>

▼ Presentation of joint statement to the United Nations in Geneva (the UN Office of Disarmament Affairs website)  
<http://www.un.org/disarmament/update/20150923/>

▼ Press release including the text of the joint statement in eight languages (PNND website):

<http://www.pnnd.org/article/nuclear-weapon-free-world-our-common-good-legislators-and-religious-leaders-join-forces>

The statement remains open for endorsement and will be used on other occasions to advance nuclear abolition, including at the United Nations during UN Disarmament Week (October 24<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup>).

▼ To endorse the statement, please contact Mr. Alyn Ware, PNND Global Coordinator at:  
[alyn@pnnd.org](mailto:alyn@pnnd.org)

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### ■ Events Commemorating “International Day of Peace 2015”

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The United Nations has established September 21 as a fixed International Day of Peace (IDP) and an annual day of non-violence and cease-fire. Mayors for Peace has been a long-time supporter of the IDP and this year again all member cities were encouraged to commemorate the IDP. In Hiroshima and member cities around the world, various commemorative events were held.

▼ Event Commemorating “International Day of Peace” Held

[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/topic/2015/Sep21\\_peaceday/IDP.html](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/topic/2015/Sep21_peaceday/IDP.html)

Please also consider that this year, all year, can be used to mark the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. As we have requested through email, we are calling for all member cities to hold commemorative events in their municipality or regional group at a time that suit you best.

The list of events commemorating the IDP and the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings, as based on reports received from member cities, is available at the link below.

▼ List of commemorative events (As of October 13th)(PDF, Mayors for Peace website) :

[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/campaign/projects/70th\\_anniversary/List\\_of\\_commemorative\\_events.pdf](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/campaign/projects/70th_anniversary/List_of_commemorative_events.pdf)

If you would like to inform our secretariat of the details of the events held in your city, we would be pleased to share the report on the Mayors for Peace website, etc.

▼ Please email event summaries to:

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

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### ■ "I Was Her Age" Documentary Available Online

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This year, coinciding with the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings, Mayors for Peace collaborated with Peace Boat, a Japan-based peace organization in organizing “I Was Her Age,” a special project to share A-bomb experiences with younger generations around the world.

During Peace Boat’s “Global Voyage for a Nuclear-Free World: Peace Boat Hibakusha Project,” the delegation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bomb survivors traveling onboard met parents in various countries whose children are now the age that the survivors were when they were exposed to the atomic bombings. During the voyage from April to July, the eight child survivors gave testimony at 25 cities in 19 countries.

A documentary film about this journey was created and is now available online. Mayors for Peace members and all

others are welcome to download and screen this film, to further share the hibakusha's message and encourage action for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

▼ The documentary "I Was Her Age":  
<https://vimeo.com/137809836>

▼ Information about the documentary on the Peace Boat website:  
<http://peaceboat.org/english/?page=view&nr=175&type=21&menu=62>

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### ■ Short Film of Bike Away the Nuclear Bombs Available Online

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Bike Away the Nuclear Bombs is an initiative organized by Bike for Peace, Mayors for Peace, and the ATOM Project, a global online petition against nuclear testing. It was launched on the eve of the NPT Review Conference this year to draw attention to the growing worldwide threat of nuclear weapons and to call on governments at the conference to agree to nuclear abolition. The riders traveled from Washington, D.C. to New York City in April this year. A short film about this initiative was created and is now available online.

The film won the first prize in the Professional Category of the "Nukebusters 2015 short film awards" sponsored by Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR), a Nobel Peace Prize-winning NGO.

▼ Bike Away the Nuclear Bombs on YouTube:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=giDfm6AJaeY>

▼ Nukebusters 2015 Short Film Awards (PSR website):  
<http://www.psr.org/nuclear-weapons/nukebusters-short-film-awards.html>

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### ■ "Peace News from Hiroshima"

- Contributed by the Hiroshima Peace Media Center

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The national women's football team from Afghanistan visited Hiroshima in September. During their roughly week-long stay in the A-bombed city, they took part in a training program with lectures on leadership, the horrors of the atomic bombing, and other topics. In addition to the training sessions, they enjoyed a cultural exchange with local high school students and played a friendly match with a women's football team based in Hiroshima. The efforts of the Afghan players were greeted enthusiastically by Hiroshima citizens.

Afghanistan has suffered from a series of civil wars and Afghan women are seeking to combat the discrimination they have long faced. The members of the Afghan football team were encouraged by how the people of Hiroshima have been able to restore the once devastated city. This visit by the Afghan women has reaffirmed Hiroshima's role as a source of inspiration and hope. Further efforts must be made, by the city and its citizens, to bring more people to the A-bombed city.

Please visit the following links for articles from the Hiroshima Peace Media Center:

- Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum ranked No. 1 Japan museum for two years in a row  
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=51521>

- 300 Buddhist priests from Japan, China, and South Korea pray for peace in Hiroshima  
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=51422>

- Women football players as leaders for recovery and change in Afghanistan  
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=52234>

- Head of Afghan women's football shares hopes for women, peace in Afghanistan  
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=51877>

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### ■ Member City Activities

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Commemoration of the 2015 International Day of Peace by 138 Belgian cities and municipalities

On September 21<sup>st</sup>, 138 cities and municipalities in Belgium joined an initiative to raise a flag for peace to commemorate the United Nations' International Day of Peace.

▼ Full report and photos of the event on the Mayors for Peace website:

[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2015/Ghent\\_Belgium/IDP.html](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2015/Ghent_Belgium/IDP.html)

Behshahr, Iran

Ceremony to observe the International Day of Peace

On September 21<sup>st</sup>, several programs were held in Behshahr to commemorate the International Day of Peace.

▼ Full report and photos of the event on the Mayors for Peace website:

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2015/Behshahr/IDP.html>

Halabja Iraq

Ceremony on the International Day of Peace

Commemoration on the 71st Anniversary of the Marzabotto Massacre

The City of Harabja celebrated the International Day of Peace on September 21<sup>st</sup> and held an event on October 1<sup>st</sup> to commemorate the 71st Anniversary of the Marzabotto Massacre in Italy.

▼ Full reports and photos of the events on the Mayors for Peace website:

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2015/Halabja/IDP.html>

[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2015/Halabja/Marzabotto\\_commemoration.html](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2015/Halabja/Marzabotto_commemoration.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 its URL:

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

## ■ Launch of the Mayors for Peace Information System

An online information system for Mayors for Peace has been launched in order to facilitate information sharing among member cities. This system enables searches for member cities' information, the renewal of records by each member as well as payment of membership fees by credit card without any transfer charges. We hope that each member city will keep their own information up-to-date and utilize this system for their activities related to Mayors for Peace. The instructions on how to use this system are included in an email which was recently sent to each member city.

▼ Mayors for Peace Information System:

<https://www.mfpinfosys.org/>

▼ Mayors for Peace Information System Operating Manual:

[https://www.mfpinfosys.org/manual/secure/pdfs/lec7/lm/07manu\\_pdf\\_en.pdf](https://www.mfpinfosys.org/manual/secure/pdfs/lec7/lm/07manu_pdf_en.pdf)

▼ Please email us at the following address if you have any inquiries about the Mayors for Peace Information System:

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

## ■ Request for 2015 Mayors for Peace Membership Fee Payment

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At the 8th General Conference of Mayors for Peace in August 2013, introduction of an annual Membership Fee was determined in order to strengthen the foundation of Mayors for Peace and the sense of solidarity amongst member cities. This year, we launched an annual Membership Fee of 2,000 Japanese Yen per city (about USD15-16 / EUR12-15). If you are able to pay by credit card, your city may do so through the Mayors for Peace Information System, and you will not need to bear any handling fees. The Membership Fees will be utilized as a resource for new and continued projects listed on the Mayors for Peace Action Plan (2013-2017). We deeply appreciate your kind cooperation.

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**■ Request to Hold A-bomb Survivor Testimonies over Skype**  
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The Mayors for Peace Action Plan (2013-2017) adopted at the 8th General Conference in August 2013 includes the promotion of holding A-bomb survivor testimonies over Skype. Please host an event connecting your city and Hiroshima by Skype in order to have the citizens hear the live voices of the A-bomb survivors and deepen their understanding of the reality of the atomic bombing.

▼ Please consult the Mayors for Peace Secretariat for details:  
mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

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**■ Plea to Support Nuclear Weapons Convention Petition Drive**  
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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 8th General Conference in August 2013.

Thanks to many supporters across the world, we have received 2,190,585 signatures as of October 1st, 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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**■ Last Month's Visitors to the President of Mayors for Peace**  
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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.

\*September 8th - H.E. Mr. Mogens Lykketoft, President of the 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

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**■ Mayors for Peace Member Cities - 6,857 Cities in 161 Countries/Regions**  
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Through your invaluable support, on October 1st, 2015, we added 37 new member cities, bringing total membership to 6,857.

Thanks to the continued efforts of the team at the Tehran Peace Museum, 18 cities from Iran joined this month and the total number of Iranian member cities reached 753. Thanks to the efforts by the Dutch Medical Association for Peace Research, which is the Dutch affiliate of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW), 7 cities from the Netherlands joined this month and the total number of Dutch member cities reached 136.

