

▼Letter of Statement by AFCD RP on the Mayors for Peace Website:

[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/topic/2015/Nov13Terrorist Attacks in France/EN DeclarationAFCD RP 13nov.pdf](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/topic/2015/Nov13Terrorist%20Attacks%20in%20France/EN%20DeclarationAFCD%20RP%2013nov.pdf)

■Presentation of the La Pira Prize to Mayors for Peace by the City of Florence

[Florence, Italy; November 5th, 2015]

On November 5th at the Unity in Diversity Conference in Florence, Italy, Mayors for Peace became the first recipient of the La Pira Prize, which is administered by the City of Florence and the La Pira Foundation. Giorgio La Pira, the namesake of the prize, was Mayor of Florence in the 1950s and '60s. Under the difficult conditions of post-WWII Italy, he boldly promoted employment, low-cost housing, and peace. Mayors for Peace was awarded this prize for its work in the latter field.

▼More details on the Prize on the Mayors for Peace Website:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/award/2015_LaPira/index.html

■The 5th Mayors for Peace Japanese Member Cities Meeting in Hiroshima

[Hiroshima, Japan; November 9th – 10th, 2015]

On November 9th and 10th, the 5th Mayors for Peace Japanese Member Cities Meeting was held in Hiroshima City and attended by 126 members (including 39 leaders) from 86 municipalities throughout Japan.

On the first day, programs to learn about the realities of the A-bomb damage were offered to the participants, in which they could listen to an A-bomb survivor's testimony as well as visit the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum or the Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims in the Peace Memorial Park. Then, there were presentations by three groups and an expert in Hiroshima about their peace activities and studies.

On the second day, after the activities reports of two member mayors there were deliberations on the addition or improvement of the Mayors for Peace Action Plan (2013-2017), including the promotion of youth exchanges among member cities; activities to raise awareness of the realities of the atomic bombings and risks posed by nuclear weapons; recruitment efforts to reach 10,000 members by 2020; and the presentation of a request to the Japanese government to promote initiatives for the prompt realization of a nuclear weapons convention. All proposals were approved without change.

The Meeting closed with the adoption of the 5th Mayors for Peace Japanese Member Cities Meeting General Summary.

■UN Side-Event with Participation from Aaron Tovish, the 2020 Vision Campaign Director

[New York, USA; October 28th, 2015]

On October 28th, a UN side-event titled "Seconds to Stop the Final Countdown: the Cuba Missile Crisis in Okinawa" was held at the United Nations General Assembly and hosted by the Deputy Permanent Representative of the Chilean UN Mission, Carlos Olguin.

In April this year, an article in Kyodo News revealed that a very dangerous incident occurred at the height of the Cuban Missile Crisis, the morning of October 28th, 1962, on the Island of Okinawa. Aaron Tovish, the Director of the 2020 Vision Campaign of Mayors for Peace, followed up on the Kyodo article which describes how eight launch officers at four separate sites received authentic orders to fire 32 Mace B cruise missiles with a 2,000 kilometer range at communist cities.

This UN side-event was held on the 53rd anniversary of the incident. John Bordne, former Airman and one of those involved in the incident, contributed to the side-event via pre-recorded video and live Skype conference. Climatologist Alan Robock of Rutgers University described the impact these many 1.1-megaton warheads would have had on global agricultural production, namely a famine of historically unprecedented scope and duration, causing global consequences that would span a decade and result in upwards of one billion deaths. There was also a Panel Discussion

moderated by Jonathan Granoff of the Global Security Institute with the participation of Bruce Blair, nuclear security expert and a research scholar at the Program on Science and Global Security at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Daniel Ellsberg, former United States military analyst (via Skype) and Aaron Tovish.

▼ The event can be viewed on the UN Web TV Website:

<http://webtv.un.org/watch/seconds-to-stop-the-final-countdown-the-cuba-missile-crisis-in-okinawa/4584615881001>
(Please note that the first ten minutes are largely consumed in overcoming technical difficulties and can be skipped.)

▼ Article on the Oct. 28, 1962 incident by Aaron Tovish (The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists Website):

<http://thebulletin.org/okinawa-missiles-october8826>

■ **The Resignation of Thore Vestby, Mayor of Frogn (Norway) and a Vice President of Mayors for Peace, and His Appointment as an Honorary Mayor**

Mr. Thore Vestby, who served as the Mayor of Frogn for 12 years and was also a Vice President of Mayors for Peace, stepped down from office on October 12th.

The City of Frogn became a member of Mayors for Peace in 2009 and a Vice President City in 2013. The City has been a central figure in promoting the activities of Mayors for Peace in Norway.

The City has decided to appoint Mr. Vestby as an Honorary Mayor who will be acting on behalf of new Mayor, Haktor Slake, in peace-related matters including Mayors for Peace activities. Mayors for Peace sincerely appreciates Mr. Vestby's longstanding and invaluable contributions to its activities and would like to ask for his continued support of Mayors for Peace in his new role.

■ **Speech from Honorary Mayor of Frogn, Norway, Mayors for Peace Vice President, at an international conference on global climate change**

[Minneapolis, USA; October 25th, 2015]

Partnership for Change is a Norwegian NGO aiming to contribute to socially, environmentally, and financially sustainable local communities. In April this year, Mayors for Peace and Partnership for Change concluded a Memorandum of Understanding regarding their collaboration. On October 25-26, Partnership for Change convened a conference on global climate change, called "Minneapolis 2015 Climate Action: Last Stop before Paris," in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA.

During the opening plenary, Thore Vestby, Honorary Mayor of Frogn (Norway) and Vice-President of Mayors for Peace, was invited to join in a dialogue session to provide his input on the connection between sustainable development and disarmament as well as the roles of mayors in global climate talks. Honorary Mayor Vestby mentioned that even a small nuclear war could have a serious impact on global climate by causing nuclear famine, and stressed that the vast amount of resources now being used on nuclear weapons must be redirected in order to achieve sustainable development goals.

The outcomes of the conference will be brought to the 21st Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21), which will take place in Paris this December.

▼ More details on "Minneapolis 2015":

<http://citizensclimatenetwork.org/2015/10/07/minneapolis-2015/>

■ **Presentation of Gandhi Foundation International Peace Award 2015 to Tore Naerland, Founder of Bike for Peace**

[London, UK; November 4th, 2015]

Bike for Peace is a Norway-based organization that seeks to promote peace and nuclear disarmament through bike

rides and peace education between different communities. It has organised a number of recent events in close cooperation with Mayors for Peace and the Atom Project - which seeks to ban nuclear weapons testing. The Gandhi Foundation promotes the values of non-violence advocated by Mohandas K Gandhi. Its UK branch each year holds a peace award which commends individuals and organizations committed to peace-making and peace-building in the same spirit as Gandhi. This year's award went to Tore Naerland, the founder of Bike for Peace.

On November 4th, a special reception to present the Gandhi International Peace Award to Tore Naerland and members of Bike for Peace took place in the Houses of Parliament in Westminster, London. It was hosted by Lord Parekh, the Chairman of the Gandhi Foundation. Attendees included Mayor Thore Vestby, Vice President of Mayors for Peace, Baroness Jenny Jones, former Deputy Mayor of London and a current member of the London Assembly, and the MPs Margaret Ritchie, Mark Durkan and Kirsten Oswald.

Mr. Naerland said it was a great honour to receive the Gandhi award, the namesake of whom was one of his heroes and whose values lay at the heart of the work of Bike for Peace. He noted that Bike for Peace has major rides planned in areas such as Vietnam, Myanmar, China, Kazakhstan and Europe over the next year. A special film was also shown - 'Bike Away the Nuclear Bombs' - which outlined Bike for Peace's recent cooperation with Mayors for Peace and the Atom Project.

[Report by Sean Morris, UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter Secretary]

▼Gandhi Foundation International Peace Award (The Gandhi Foundation website):

<http://gandhifoundation.org/activities>

▼Bike for Peace website:

<http://www.bikeforpeace.no/>

▼Bike for Peace Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/BikeForPeace-195630593782513/>

▼Atom Project website:

<http://www.theatomproject.org>

■ **"Peace News from Hiroshima"**

- Contributed by the Hiroshima Peace Media Center

It is November, and the 70th anniversary year since the end of World War II and the atomic bombings will soon come to a close. Many events have taken place in connection with atomic bomb survivors.

In Hiroshima, people who were exposed to the "black rain" shortly after the atomic bombing of this city filed a lawsuit at the Hiroshima District Court. They contend that they have suffered health problems because of this rain which contained radioactive substances and that they, too, are hibakushas. Though the lawsuit has been filed against Hiroshima City and Hiroshima Prefecture, the plaintiffs' action is intended to call into question the administrative practices by the national government concerning A-bomb survivors.

In the other A-bombed city of Nagasaki, the Pugwash International Conference was held. The Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs is an international organization of scientists who seek the elimination of nuclear weapons. The participants stressed the inhumane damage wrought by nuclear arms and encouraged further discussion for the elimination of these weapons. This was a fitting effort to be made this year.

On the other hand, the Japanese government abstained from voting on a resolution which called for the creation of a legal framework to pursue a ban on nuclear weapons. The resolution was submitted to the United Nations General Assembly's First Committee, which oversees disarmament issues, at its meeting in New York. Many A-bomb survivors and Hiroshima citizens were dismayed since they believe Japan should be leading the movement to abolish nuclear weapons.

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

[Black rain]

- 64 "black rain" sufferers in Hiroshima file class action lawsuit to seek Atomic Bomb Survivor's Certificate
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=53638>

[United Nations General Assembly]

- Hiroshima, Nagasaki disappointed by Japan's decision to abstain from UN vote on creating legal framework for nuclear weapons ban

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=53643>

- Commentary: Japan's significance as the A-bombed nation is waning

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=53694>

[Pugwash Conference]

- Pugwash conference participants touch horror and hardship of Nagasaki A-bombing

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=53493>

- Pugwash Conference ends with scientists and nuclear states far apart on disarmament

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=53692>

■ Member City Activities

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Barcelona, Spain

The 15th World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates
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From November 12th to 15th, the City of Barcelona hosted the 15th World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates. The Summit's final declaration mainly addressed the refugee crisis, but it also refers to other aspects such as nuclear disarmament, sustainable development and climate change.

▼The 15th World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates Website:

<http://barcelona.nobelpeacesummit.org/>

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Kotor, Montenegro

Poster exhibition to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings
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From October 2nd to 10th, the City of Kotor held a poster exhibition to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in the City's Cultural Center. The exhibition was opened by Mr. Tvrtko Crpulja, the Deputy Mayor of the City of Kotor.

▼Report of the exhibit on the City of Kotor website (in Montenegrin):

<http://kotor.me/en/news/news-home-page/mayors-of-peace>

▼Photos of the exhibit on the local media outlet, "Crna Gora" (in Montenegrin):

<http://crna.gora.me/magazin/kultura/posljedice-atomskog-naoruzanja-na-posterima/>

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Report from Granollers, Spain and other Catalan member cities of Mayors for Peace
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This year, 2015, marks the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings and diverse activities are organized by various cities in Catalonia in commemoration.

▼Full report from the City of Granollers on the Mayors for Peace Website:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2015/Granollers/Catalan_events.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

■ 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 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

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

mfpssystem@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

■ Request for 2015 Mayors for Peace Membership Fee Payment

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.

■ Request to Hold Commemorative Events for the 70th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombings

This year, Hiroshima and Nagasaki marked the landmark 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings. As we have requested through email, we are calling for all member cities to hold commemorative events in their municipality or regional group. The events may be of any type, but we ask they be held by March 2016.

The list of events commemorating 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 November 13th)(PDF, Mayors for Peace website) :

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

■ Request to Hold A-bomb Survivor Testimonies over Skype

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

