

▼ Membership Growth by Year (PDF) :

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/01_monthly_updating/08_membershipgrowth_en.pdf

▼ Membership by Country (PDF):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/01_monthly_updating/07_membership_by_country_en.pdf

▼ List of New Members (PDF):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/2016/newmembers1604_en.pdf

▼ Map of Member Cities:

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

■ The G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting Hosted by Hiroshima City

[Hiroshima, Japan; April 10th and 11th, 2016]

This year's G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting was held in Hiroshima City on April 10th and 11th, prior to the G7 Ise-Shima Summit to be held in Ise City, Mie Prefecture on May 26th and 27th. The Meeting was attended by the Foreign Ministers of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States and the High Representative of the European Union to address a number of major international issues that impact global peace, security and prosperity.

It was the first time for incumbent foreign ministers from the United States, Britain and France, all nuclear power states, to visit Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park. All the foreign ministers visited the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and laid a wreath at the Cenotaph for the Atomic Bomb Victims located in the park. At U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry's suggestion, the foreign ministers also made an impromptu visit to the Atomic Bomb Dome nearby. At the end of the Meeting, in addition to a joint communique, the foreign ministers adopted the Hiroshima Declaration, which calls for a world without nuclear weapons.

Mayors for Peace put on an exhibition on its work and on member cities' activities in G7 countries at the temporary international broadcasting center set up for media representatives covering the Meeting.

Please read more about the G7 Hiroshima Foreign Ministers' Meeting in the "Peace News from Hiroshima" section below, contributed by the Hiroshima Peace Media Center.

▼ G7 Hiroshima Foreign Ministers' Meeting (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan website):

http://www.mofa.go.jp/ms/is_s/page24e_000138.html

▼ G7 Foreign Ministers' Hiroshima Declaration on Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan website):

<http://www.mofa.go.jp/files/000147442.pdf>

■ The Marshall Islands vs. the Nuclear-Armed States

[The Hague, the Netherlands; February 7th-16th, 2016]

From the 7th to the 16th of March at the International Court of Justice in The Hague, the Republic of the Marshall Islands presented its preliminary arguments in cases brought against three nuclear-armed giants, the United Kingdom, India, and Pakistan, contending that each of them is in breach of its obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and/or customary international law to end the nuclear arms race and to engage in negotiations on nuclear disarmament. Mayors for Peace Executive Advisor Jackie Cabasso attended the hearings and reported on them for Pressenza International News Agency. Read her articles:

▼ "Another kind of Nuclear Security Summit: The Marshall Islands vs. the Nuclear-Armed States"

<http://www.pressenza.com/2016/04/another-kind-nuclear-security-summit-marshall-islands-vs-nuclear-armed-states/>

▼ “The Marshall Islands vs the world’s nuclear powers: questions and answers”

<http://www.pressenza.com/2016/04/marshall-islands-vs-worlds-nuclear-powers-questions-answers/>

■ Visit of Honorary Mayor of Frogn, Norway to Kazakhstan

[Astana, Kazakhstan; March 19th, 2016]

While on his private mission in Astana, Kazakhstan, Thore Vestby, the Honorary Mayor of Frogn and a Vice President of Mayors for Peace, met with Deputy Chairman Askar Abdrakhmanov of Kazakhstan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Honorary Mayor Vestby is actively involved in “Bike for Peace,” a Norway-based organization that seeks to promote peace and nuclear disarmament through bike rides. He expressed his gratitude for Kazakhstan’s support of Bike Away the Nuclear Bomb, a Bike for Peace project organized last year in cooperation with Mayors for Peace and the Atom Project on the occasion of the NPT Review Conference.

Mr. Vestby also used the opportunity to inform Mr. Abdrakhmanov about the ongoing preparations for a sustainable Silk Road Bike Ride, a new joint project planned by Bike for Peace in September this year. In an interview with Astana Times, Mr. Vestby reconfirmed the commitment of Mayors for Peace to abolish nuclear weapons, and follow in the footsteps of Kazakhstan’s actions for the last 25 years.

▼ Interview of Honorary Mayor Vestby in Kazakh newspaper, “Astana Times”:

<http://astanatimes.com/2016/04/mayor-for-peace-calls-for-abolishing-nuclear-weapons/>

■ Invitation from Mayors for Peace French Chapter to Participate in a Poster Contest

The Mayors for Peace French Chapter, AFCDRP (Association des Communes, Départements et Régions pour la Paix) is co-organizing with Academie des banlieues (“Suburbs Academy”), a French NPO, a poster contest on the theme of Peace. The deadline for submission is September 1st, 2016.

100 posters will be selected by a jury composed of members of AFCDRP, Academie des banlieues, and graphic designers. The Jury will meet to judge the artwork on the symbolic date of September 21st for International Peace Day.

The first-prize winner will receive a Prize of 1,000€ and will have his/her poster printed by Academie des banlieues. AFCDRP will also remit a special award.

▼ More information on how to participate, on the AFCDRP website (in French):

<http://afcdpr.com/affiche-paix/>

■ National Event in Manchester for the Centenary of the Battle of the Somme

Manchester will be hosting UK national events commemorating the centenary of the Battle of the Somme on the 1st July. The Battle of the Somme in France was one of the most destructive battles of the First World War, and of any war in human history, with over a million casualties on both sides. It affected the lives of millions more back in the UK, many Commonwealth countries, France and Germany. The first day of the battle was particularly bloody with over 57,000 killed on this day alone. Many of these soldiers came from Manchester and towns around the north west of England (often known as the 'Pals' Regiments made up of friends and colleagues from industrial towns), which is why it has been chosen to host national commemorations on the battle’s centenary.

Events taking place include a parade through the city centre, a remembrance service being held at Manchester Cathedral and an evening concert at Heaton Park, which had been used as a training ground in 1916.

▼ Full report on the Mayors for Peace website:

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2016/Manchester/Somme.html>

■ **“Peace News from Hiroshima”** (Contributed by the Hiroshima Peace Media Center)

The U.S. Secretary of State, from the nation which dropped the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the foreign ministers from the United Kingdom and France, both nuclear weapon states, visited Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park for the first time, touring the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and offering wreaths at the Cenotaph for the A-bomb Victims. This took place in connection with the meeting of G7 foreign ministers held in Hiroshima on April 10 and 11. This summer of 2016 will mark the 71st anniversary of the atomic bombings, but the path toward nuclear arms reduction, let alone elimination, remains elusive. This is precisely why the leaders of the nuclear nations must gain a better grasp of the devastation that would befall people and cities if a nuclear weapon was actually used and the effects of radiation on human health. In this sense, their visit is of great significance and can be deemed a historic occasion.

Although this is an important step forward, the goal of nuclear weapons abolition, which Hiroshima has long called for, is still distant. Some might say that the Hiroshima Declaration on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation that was adopted by the foreign ministers is not sufficiently ambitious. Many people in the U.S. still believe that the atomic bombings were justified. Hiroshima must keep moving forward, one step at a time, to help realize a world without nuclear weapons where the entire human race can live together in peace.

Visit the following links for articles from the Hiroshima Peace Media Center.

- G7 foreign ministers visit Hiroshima, offer flowers at Cenotaph for the A-bomb Victims

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=58410>

- U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry makes unexpected visit to A-bomb Dome, is moved by A-bomb damage

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=58413>

- Students at G7 Youth Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Hiroshima call for peace with “Hiroshima Declaration”

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=57814>

- A-bomb survivors express hope that Obama will visit Hiroshima

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=57892>

- Youth offer ideas for a nuclear-free world at a forum prior to the foreign ministers' meeting

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=57810>

■ **Member City Activities**

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Cambridge, USA

Cambridge Votes to Divest From Nuclear Weapons
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The City Council of Cambridge, Massachusetts (USA) has voted unanimously to divest their \$1 billion pension fund from nuclear weapons producing companies. In an historic, unanimous vote, the Cambridge City Council decided on 22 March to go on record opposing investing funds from the Cambridge Retirement System in any entities that are involved in or support the production or upgrading of nuclear weapons systems. Mayor Denise Simmons said “It’s my hope that this will inspire other municipalities, companies and individuals to look at their investments and make similar moves”.

▼ For more information, and to see the policy order, click here:

<http://www.dontbankonthebomb.com/cambridge-will-divest-from-nuclear-weapon-producers/>

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Malakoff, France

Commemorative event for the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings
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From December 2015 to February 2016, the City of Malakoff, a Vice President of Mayors for Peace and a Lead City in France, organized a special program to commemorate the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki at local schools.

The City of Malakoff organized a program for about 80 children, ages 9-10, to teach them about those tragic events. The children were asked to make drawings on the theme of peace, which were later displayed in the City Hall along with the "Sadako and the Paper Cranes" exhibition developed by the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum. A screening of the animated movie, "On a Paper Crane," was also held in each class, followed by discussions with their teachers and Mrs. Miho Cibot-Shimma, a Hiroshima Peace Ambassador. Finally, the students attended a guided tour of the exhibition in the City Hall. The guided tour included a workshop to learn how to fold paper cranes guided by Mrs. Cibot-Shimma and Ms. Shiori Ueki, a university student from Hiroshima.

The exhibition was displayed in the City Hall from January 7th to February 8th, 2016. On February 5th, the Mayor of Malakoff hosted a public event for the last days of the exhibition where the children who participated and their parents were invited. Approximately 150 people attended the event.

▼ Photos of the closing event on the Malakoff City website:

<http://www.malakoff.fr/fr/a-propos-de-malakoff/malakoff-en-images/sadako-et-les-grues-en-papier.html>

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Mirano, Italy

Invitation to Participate in the International Mail Art Contest: WOMAN AND/IS PEACE
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The City of Mirano is soliciting art works for the International Mail Art Contest: WOMAN AND/IS PEACE until May 16th, 2016. The theme of this contest is "Woman" versus any violence, perpetrated against herself and against others, throughout all wars. The event will culminate in the exhibition of accepted works, and will be held in Mirano on Sunday, May 29th on City Peace Festival 2016.

▼ More information on the contest (Mayors for Peace website):

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2016/Mirano/MailArt.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

The list of events commemorating the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings organized between January 2015 and March 2016, as based on reports received from member cities, is available at the link below.

▼ List of commemorative events (as of April 8th) (PDF, Mayors for Peace website):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/campaign/projects/70th_anniversary/List_of_commemorative_events.

pdf

■ 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 utilize this system for their activities related to Mayors for Peace.

Please check your city's information on the system such as the name and contact information of the mayor, contact person, etc. If this information needs revision, we ask that you log into the system and make corrections. We would greatly appreciate each city keeping its own information up-to-date.

Instructions on how to use this system are included in an email which has been 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:

mfpsystem@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

■ Request for Payment of the 2016 Mayors for Peace Membership Fee

At the 8th General Conference of Mayors for Peace in August 2013, the 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. Following this decision, last year, we launched an annual membership fee of 2,000 Japanese Yen (about USD15-16 / EUR12-15) per city. This year again, we would like to ask each city to contribute the same amount. The funds raised by this fee will be utilized as a resource for the projects listed on the Mayors for Peace Action Plan (2013-2017).

A request for payment of the 2016 membership fee will be sent to each city later this month. We deeply appreciate your kind cooperation.

■ Plea to Support Nuclear Weapons Convention Petition Drive

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. Mayors for Peace is promoting 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 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 2,252,355 signatures as of April 1st, 2016.

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>

■ Visitor(s) 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.

*March 2nd - Ms. Anne Hidalgo, Mayor of Paris, France

*March 6th - H.E. Mr. Olemic Thommessen, President of the Storting of the Kingdom of Norway

*March 24th - H.E. Mr. Fernando da Piedade Dias dos Santos, National Assembly Speaker of the Republic of Angola

*March 30th - Mr. Yasushi Misawa, Consul General of Japan in Honolulu

If you have any comments or questions, or would like to unsubscribe, please contact us at:

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