

Mayors for Peace News Flash (January 2017) No.85

Dear member cities and supporters of Mayors for Peace,

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Please find below some recent news related to our activities. If your city has any news it wishes to share, please feel free to contact us.

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Mayors for Peace member cities as of January 1, 2017
7,205 cities in 162 countries/regions with 11 new members
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<Table of Contents>

- **Release of Open Letter in Response to UN General Assembly's Vote on Resolution to Negotiate a Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapons**
- **Letter to Mr. Obama from the Mayor of Hiroshima**
- **World Forum on Urban Violence and Education for Coexistence and Peace to be Held in Madrid (April 19-21, 2017)**
- **Receiving an Intern from Des Moines at the Mayors for Peace Secretariat**
- **Regional Chapter Activities**
- **"Peace News from Hiroshima" (Contributed by the Hiroshima Peace Media Center)**
- **The 9th General Conference of Mayors for Peace**
- **Request to Promote Various Measures as Based in the Mayors for Peace Action Plan**
- **Mayors for Peace Information System**
- **Mayors for Peace Membership Fee**
- **Plea to Support Our Nuclear Weapons Convention Petition Drive**
- **Visitor(s) to the President of Mayors for Peace Last Month**
- **Mayors for Peace Member Cities - 7,205 Cities in 162 Countries/Regions**

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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 in Response to UN General Assembly's Vote on Resolution to Negotiate a Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapons

[December 24, 2016]

On December 23, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the resolution L.41, to convene negotiations in 2017 on a "legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination."

In response to this vote, on December 24, Mayors for Peace issued an open letter, in which we ask all States, including those possessing nuclear weapons and their allies, to participate in the conference and to constructively engage in the negotiations for a nuclear weapons prohibition treaty.

The letter was also sent to all the UN Member States, President of the UN General Assembly, Secretary-General and Secretary-General-designate of the UN, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs of the UN, and Director-General of UN Office at Geneva.

The negotiations will take place at the UN Headquarters in New York, from March 27 - 31 and June 15 - July 7. Mayors for Peace intends to bring to the negotiation the voices of our member cities and our civil society partners by taking various

opportunities including attending the conference and releasing open letters.

▼ Mayors for Peace Open Letter in response to UNGA vote on L.41 (Mayors for Peace Website) :

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/statement/request/161224_Open_Letter_in_response_to_UNGA_vote_on_L41.pdf

■ Letter to Mr. Obama from the Mayor of Hiroshima

[December 20, 2016]

On December 20, Mr. Yasuyoshi Komizo, Secretary-General of Mayors for Peace, visited the U.S. Embassy to Japan in Tokyo, met with Ambassador Kennedy and handed her a letter from Mayor Matsui of Hiroshima to the U.S. President Barack Obama.

The letter expressed gratitude to Mr. Obama for visiting Hiroshima as the first sitting American president in May 2016 and asked him for his support of the initiatives of Hiroshima City and Mayors for Peace in pursuit of nuclear weapons abolition after the completion of his term.

▼ Letter to Mr. Obama from Mayor of Hiroshima on the Mayors for Peace website:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/topic/2016/Letter_to_President_Obama.pdf

■ World Forum on Urban Violence and Education for Coexistence and Peace to be Held in Madrid (April 19-21, 2017)

In December 2015, the World Council of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) adopted a resolution to hold an international summit against violence and for peace education in Madrid, Spain. After months of preparation, in December 2016, the city of Madrid released an invitation to the First World Forum on Urban Violence and Education for Coexistence and Peace to be held in April 19-21, 2017.

The Forum will be a meeting place for local leaders, international organizations and networks, the academic world, NGOs and civil society. Its purpose is to open a joint process of debate, reflection and construction of common solutions that foster urban environments capable of eliminating expressions of violence.

Mayors for Peace is among the networks that are supporting the event and the City of Granollers, a vice-president and lead city of Mayors for Peace, has joined the organizing committee.

▼ The Forum website (available in Spanish, French, and English):

<https://capitaldepaz.madrid.es/>

▼ Video invitation by Mayor Manuela Carmena of Madrid on YouTube (in Spanish with English subtitles):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ohDZxCpYOrA&t=191s>

▼ The Letter of Invitation and Introductory Note on the Mayors for Peace website:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2017/Madrid/Letter_of_Invitation_and_Introductory_Note.pdf

■ Receiving an Intern from Des Moines at the Mayors for Peace Secretariat

[January 11 - 23, 2017]

Following the decision at the 8th General Conference of Mayors for Peace in August 2013, Mayors for Peace has conducted an internship program since 2014, inviting staff from member cities to the Mayors for Peace Secretariat in Hiroshima City and having them engage in peace- and Secretariat-related work.

Ms. Pa Vang Goldbeck, from Des Moines, Iowa, U.S., a Lead City of Mayors for Peace, will be working as an intern at the Mayors for Peace Secretariat from January 11 until January 23. By the end of March 2017, the Secretariat will have hosted two more interns from Muntinlupa (Philippines), and Malakoff (France).

▼ Posts on the Mayors for Peace Facebook page about Ms. Goldbeck's internship in Hiroshima:

<https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace/posts/1693436494250410>

■ Regional Chapter Activities

< Catalan Chapter, Spain >

***A second-generation of an A-bombed Ginkgo tree is growing in a school in Sant Feliu de Llobregat**

On the occasion of the International Day of Educating Cities, on November 30th, the city of Sant Feliu de Llobregat, member city of Mayors for Peace and also member of the executive committee of the Catalan Chapter of Mayors for Peace, organized an event titled “planting the tree of hope” in a local school “Aula Sant Feliu.” The participants joined an origami workshop and observed a planting ceremony in which a second generation A-bombed Ginkgo biloba from Hiroshima was planted in the school’s courtyard.

The ginkgo was one of the trees that had been grown in “Viver de Bell-lloc,” a nursery garden near Granollers, based on the protocol of agreement signed between Mayor Josep Mayoral as Vice-president of Mayors for Peace and Viver de Bell-lloc. It is a joint program of Mayors for Peace and the city of Granollers to utilize the trees as a symbol of peace in the hope of conveying the realities of the atomic bombings and raising public awareness for peace.

Several more seedlings of Ginkgo biloba, Diospyros kaki and Cinnamomum camphora are currently growing in the nursery garden under the care of a group of staff as part of a social program. Once these seedlings of A-bombed trees are ready, they will be delivered to other member cities to be planted in public parks or gardens.

▼ Photo of the event on Sant Feliu de Llobregat website (in Catalan):

<http://www.santfeliu.cat/go.faces?xmid=1467&newid=25150&language=ca>

< UK and Ireland Chapter >

***UK and Ireland Mayors, Provosts and Leaders for Peace Chapter meeting in January**

The UK and Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter is holding a meeting in Manchester Town Hall on Friday January 27th. It will be chaired by the Deputy Lord Mayor of Manchester and will consider how the Chapter is developing, the efforts to increase the amount of voluntary member donations, its plans for 2017 and its cooperation in the Bike for Peace tour from Belfast to Dublin, which is set for 6th - 9th May. If members or NGOs would like to attend the meeting please contact the Chapter Secretary Sean Morris:

Email: s.morris4@manchester.gov.uk

Telephone: 00 44 (0)161 234 3244

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

There are surely feelings of both anticipation and anxiety as we embark on the year 2017. Although making projections for the future is not an easy task, it is certain that this year will bring major changes along with the new leaders of countries and international organizations.

Antonio Guterres assumed the post of U.N. Secretary General on January 1. Donald Trump will replace Barack Obama as President of the United States on January 20. France will pick a new president to replace Francois Hollande in an election to be held on May 7, and the election for the French National Assembly will be held in June. In Germany, the leader of Europe, elections for the federal parliament will be held in autumn.

With populism rising in many nations, extreme ideas have grown more popular, including the expulsion of immigrants and refugees. The kind of changes we see this year are crucial. We are concerned that intolerance and divisions will beset our societies.

One hopeful change anticipated by the people of Hiroshima involves the multilateral negotiations to pursue a treaty to ban nuclear weapons, which will begin in March. However, these negotiations are expected to face difficulty since the nuclear

powers, including the United States and Russia, are opposed to such a treaty. Still, the citizens of Hiroshima will do what we can to help the world take the first step toward becoming free of nuclear weapons.

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

- Editorial: Advancing on the road to nuclear abolition in 2017

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=68411>

- Trump tweets U.S. should expand nuclear capability, stirring anger in Hiroshima

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=68215>

- A-bomb survivors in Hiroshima call on Japan to lead negotiations for a nuclear ban treaty

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=68407>

- Commentary: Prime minister's speech at Pearl Harbor not convincing, no reference to remorse

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=68219>

- Japanese-Americans in Hawaii faced suffering after Pearl Harbor attack

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=68217>

■The 9th General Conference of Mayors for Peace

Mayors for Peace will hold its 9th General Conference in Nagasaki this year from August 7 through 10.

The General Conference is our highest decision-making body which meets every four years. Please consider attending this conference and save the dates in your calendar. Further information regarding the conference will be provided to each member city as it is decided.

■Request to Promote Various Measures as Based in the Mayors for Peace Action Plan

At the 8th General Conference of Mayors for Peace held in August 2013, an Action Plan for up to the year 2017 was decided on with the aim of raising international support for nuclear weapons abolition through a variety of different measures. We would be grateful if you could plan events as based on those in the Action Plan within your municipality or regional group. You will find some examples of the types of events you can organize throughout the year on the webpage below.

▼Examples of measures:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/campaign/projects/2013_2017action_plan/index.html

▼Mayors for Peace A-bomb poster exhibition:

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/campaign/projects/poster/index.html>

▼DVD rental for screenings:

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/campaign/projects/DVD/index.html>

▼Please send a report about your event to the Mayors for Peace Secretariat to:

mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

▼List of peace events as based on those in the Mayors for Peace Action Plan (As of January 13):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/campaign/projects/2013_2017action_plan/2017/170113_List_of_Activities_E.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 and your city's login information are included in an email which was sent to each member city on July 15, 2015. To newly joined members after August 2015, the same information was sent when they joined Mayors for Peace.

▼ 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

■ 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, Mayors for Peace has instituted an annual membership fee of 2,000 Japanese Yen (about USD19/ EUR17) per city. We would like to thank everyone for their 2016 membership fee contributions. 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).

The request for payment of 2017 membership fee will be sent in April. We deeply appreciate your kind cooperation.

▼ Request for the 2016 Mayors for Peace Membership Fee (Mayors for Peace website):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/outlines/membership_fee.html

■ Plea to Support Our 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 2,460,920 signatures as of January 1, 2017.

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 visitor last month and asked him to support the activities of Mayors for Peace and cooperate towards membership expansion.

*December 7 - Mr. Tomohiko Furutani, Ambassador of Japan to Guatemala

■ Mayors for Peace Member Cities - 7,205 Cities in 162 Countries/Regions

Thanks to your invaluable support, on January 1, we added 11 new member cities, bringing total membership to 7,205.

