



# Mayors for Peace Newsletter

Mayors for Peace Secretariat

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## April 2004, Mayors for Peace Delegation Attends NPT Review Conference PrepCom



The 2004 Mayoral Delegation in front of New York's City

Mayors for Peace formed a delegation of mayors representing 19 cities in 12 countries that participated in the 3rd preparatory committee meeting (PrepCom) for the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference held at UN Headquarters in New York April 26 to May 7, 2004.

The mayors addressed the national delegates to the PrepCom requesting cooperation with the Emergency Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons, which is demanding that the 2005 NPT Review Conference take concrete steps toward abolishing all nuclear weapons by 2020. The mayoral delegation made a strong impression at the meeting, asserting the presence of mayors as a political force.

The mayoral delegation attended the NGO session on April 27 where Mayors for Peace

President and Hiroshima Mayor Tadatoshi Akiba, Vice President and Nagasaki Mayor Iccho Itoh, and five other mayors joined 10 NGO representatives in speaking directly to the national delegates.

Groups of mayors visited UN Under-Secretary for Disarmament Nobuyasu Abe and the UN Missions of Brazil, India, Russia, and China. They also met with the Non-Aligned Movement, led by Malaysia and Indonesia, and with the EU. In all of these meetings, they requested support for the elimination of nuclear weapons by 2020 and obtained expressions of support.

Attendance by this mayoral delegation at the PrepCom won recognition for Mayors for Peace and its Emergency Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons from UN diplomats and NGOs. However, this crucial PrepCom ended in disarray due to conflicts between the nuclear-weapon and the non-nuclear-weapon states. It accomplished little more than deciding the dates, place, and president of the Review Conference.

People around the world seeking the abolition of nuclear weapons have great expectations for the NPT Review Conference. The Mayors for Peace, responding to a growing wave of international demand, is calling on all its members and, indeed, all cities of the world to do everything possible to press for a nuclear-free world by 2020.

### Massive Attendance at the NPT Review Conference in May 2005

The Mayors for Peace is forming a mayoral delegation of over 100 mayors to attend the NPT Review Conference in New York in May 2005. In addition to lobbying national delegates and speaking to the conference, they will participate in an NGO-sponsored march and rally in New York City.

In addition to mobilizing the mayors of member cities and NGO representatives, every effort is being made to mobilize hundreds of thousands of peace-loving people to take part in the rally.

## Widening the Circle of Support for the Emergency Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons

Since February 2004 when the European Parliament passed a resolution supporting the Emergency Campaign, support for the campaign has emerged around the world.

### U.S. Conference of Mayors

On June 28, 2004, the 72<sup>nd</sup> U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting in Boston passed by acclamation a strong resolution specifically expressing support for the Mayors for Peace Campaign. The U.S. Conference of Mayors was founded in 1932 to promote solidarity among cities. Its membership stands at 1,183 American cities with populations of at least 30,000.

### Japan Council of Nuclear-Free Local Authorities

On July 30, 2004, at the 19th Conference of Nuclear-Free Local Authorities meeting in Nagasaki, the Japan Council of Nuclear-Free Local Authorities passed a resolution supporting the Emergency Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons.

Membership in the Japan Council stands at 301 cities (as of Feb.7, 2005), all of which have issued declarations or passed resolutions demanding the abolition of nuclear weapons and support for Japan's three non-nuclear principles. The July meeting was attended by 84 cities and 120 people.

### International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW)

On September 16, 2004, Mayors for Peace President and Hiroshima Mayor Tadatashi Akiba addressed the 16th IPPNW World Congress in Beijing, requesting support for the Emergency Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons. His speech received a standing ovation from the audience of approximately 600, and a resolution supporting the Emergency Campaign was passed.

### Mikhail Gorbachev, former president of the Soviet Union

On September 23, 2004, while Mikhail Gorbachev was visiting Mayors for Peace member London, England, City Council Member (and former deputy mayor) Jenny Jones, who participated the 2004 Mayors for Peace delegation (see p.1), personally explained the Emergency Campaign and presented to President Gorbachev a letter requesting his support. President Gorbachev showed immediate interest and returned a letter on the 30th of the month expressing full support for the Campaign.

### Japan Association of City Mayors

On January 26, 2005, the Japan Association of City Mayors adopted a Resolution Demanding the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons. This resolution mentioned the importance of the NPT Review Conference and described the Emergency Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons in its appeal for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

This Japan Association of City Mayors was founded in 1898, and its membership includes all of Japan's 717 cities and 23 "Special Districts" (as of January 24, 2005). This resolution is expected to greatly intensify public pressure in Japan for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

## Mayors for Peace Wins World Citizenship Award

In recognition of its activities for world peace, Mayors for Peace has received the World Citizenship Award of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, an American anti-nuclear NGO.

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation was founded in 1982 in the United States to pursue the abolition of nuclear weapons. It is made up of individuals and groups around the world working for peace in the nuclear age. The abolition of nuclear weapons is its top priority, in pursuit of which it conducts a wide variety of activities. Among those activities is the World Citizenship Award. The award was created in 1988 and is given annually to individuals or groups who make conspicuous contributions to the well being of the human family

as a whole.

On October 8, 2004, at an award ceremony held at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, David Krieger, president of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, presented a plaque to Tadatashi Akiba, president of Mayors for Peace and mayor of Hiroshima.

Commenting on the award, President Krieger said, "The Survivors of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki are the peace ambassadors of the nuclear age....I hope more mayors will join the Emergency Campaign of the Mayors for Peace and that activities for the abolition of nuclear weapons will spread."

## **~Emergency Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons 2020 Vision Campaign ~ A Year of Remembrance and Action for a Nuclear-Weapons-Free World**

Looking toward the 60th anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 2005, the Mayors for Peace declared the year from August 6, 2004 to August 9, 2005, a Year of Remembrance and Action for a Nuclear-Free World." Calling on member cities and NGOs for cooperation, we are promoting the following activities as we pursue the abolition of nuclear weapons by 2020.

### **The Wall to Protect International Law**

A petition drive demanding peace and respect for international law encourages supporters to write their names and a peace message on a block of wood (8cmx4cmx2cm). These blocks are then linked to form a "wall to protect international law." The organizers hope the wall will be long enough to encircle UN Headquarters during the NPT Review Conference in May as a symbolic assertion of the importance of international law.

Beginning in January 2005, Hiroshima and Nagasaki have begun collecting blocks for the wall, and we are calling on Mayors for Peace member cities and anti-nuclear NGOs to build sections the wall.



Blocks gathered at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum

The Wall to Protect International Law Project was launched in February 2003 by the German NGO Aktion-Volkerrecht. For details, visit <http://www.a-vr.org/>.

### **Mayoral Delegation to Attend NPT Review Conference**

A mayoral delegation of over 100 mayors will attend the NPT Review Conference in May 2005. They will demand that the review conference take concrete steps toward the elimination of nuclear weapons by 2020.

### **Participation in the Mass Rally in New York**

The mayoral delegation will participate in a massive rally being planned primarily by anti-nuclear NGOs for May 1 in New York in conjunction with the NPT Review Conference.

### **Distribution of the Emergency Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons PR Video**

A video (DVD, VHS) featuring the mayoral delegation to the NPT Review Conference PrepCom at the end of April 2004 is being widely distributed. It also includes footage of the atomic bombings and *hibakusha* testimony.

### **Call for Anti-Nuclear Events**

Mayors for Peace is calling on member cities, other major cities around the world, disarmament NGOs, and local peace groups to hold parades, concerts, rallies, vigils, symposia, sports events, art competitions and other events to raise public consciousness regarding nuclear weapons.

### **City Lobbying of National Governments to Demand Nuclear Abolition**

Mayors for Peace is calling on mayors around the world to sign the Mayoral Statement of Support for the Commencement of Negotiations on the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, then go in groups to lobby their own national governments.

### **Recruiting New Members of Mayors for Peace**

To reinforce the voice of Mayors for Peace on the international stage, we are attempting to increase membership to 1,000 cities by May.

## **157 New Members**

In the past year, 64 German cities, 26 Norwegian cities, 22 Belgian cities, and 19 French cities have joined the conference. Membership is growing rapidly, especially in Europe. In France, this recruitment campaign is being led by Mayors for Peace executive city Malakoff. In other countries, leadership is coming from NGOs. As a result of this recruitment activity, by February 28, 2005, membership stood at 736 cities in 110 countries and regions.

## Requesting Cooperation for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons in US, Belgium, and Germany



Mayor Akiba speaking to the European Parliament

Tadatoshi Akiba, mayor of Hiroshima and president of Mayors for Peace, spoke to the winter meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors (1,183 members) in Washington, D.C. on January 17, 2005. From the 18th to the 23rd he traveled with Hiroshima City Council President Tadamaso Asao to Belgium and Germany to ask for cooperation with the effort to abolish nuclear weapons.

At the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) on January 17, Mayor Akiba presented a speech entitled *A Non-Violent Response to the Ultimate Violence*. In his speech, the mayor expressed gratitude for the resolution supporting the Emergency Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons passed by the USCM at their previous meeting in June. He told the audience that signatures were being collected on a Mayoral Statement based on that resolution, with the goal of collecting 1,000 signatures by the end of April. When he described the effort to take a delegation of 100 mayors to the

NPT Review Conference to UN Headquarters in New York next May and asked the US mayors to play a leading role in that delegation, he received enthusiastic applause from the over 200 mayors in attendance.

From the 18th to the 20th, Mayor Akiba visited Belgium at the invitation of the European and the Belgian parliaments. He spoke to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the European Parliament and to the Upper and Lower Houses of the Belgian Parliament, where he described Mayors for Peace and the Emergency Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons. He asked the EU nations to work actively to ensure that the NPT Review Conference leads to the abolition of nuclear weapons. In addition to a major press conference, in Brussels he attended a national conference of mayors and asked the many mayors gathered there to support the Emergency Campaign. He then visited Antwerp and Ypres, again requesting support for the Emergency Campaign and participation at the NPT Review Conference.

January 20 and 21, invited by IPPNW (International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War), the mayor visited Berlin, Germany, where he met with German government officials, the Berlin City Council Chairperson, and the mayor of Hannover. In addition to requesting cooperation with the Emergency Campaign and participation at the NPT Review Conference, he asked for even greater support for the Emergency Campaign throughout Germany. He took part in discussions with the German chapter of IPPNW and other disarmament NGO members regarding ways to promote the Emergency Campaign.Conference.

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### Requests to the Governments of Japan and the Nuclear-Weapon States regarding the NPT Review Conference

On February 18, 2005, the mayors of Hiroshima, Nagasaki and three vice chair cities of the Japan Council of Nuclear-Free Local Authorities (Chair: Nagasaki Mayor) visited Japanese government officials and the embassies of the United States, Russia, England, France, and China. They personally delivered letters addressed to the leaders of those countries requesting that they play an active role promoting nuclear abolition at the NPT Review Conference. They appealed strongly for the abolition of nuclear weapons and the realization of genuine and lasting world peace.

Japan's Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign

Affairs Shuzen Tanigawa responded, "I will work actively at the NPT Review Conference, and I hope to see many mayors at the UN appealing for the abolition of nuclear weapons."

At each of the embassies, the mayors requested that the governments of those nations take leading roles in clearly establishing the goal of eliminating all nuclear weapons by 2020.

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