



Mayors for Peace Newsletter

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Mayors for Peace Marks 25th Anniversary

On June 24, 1982, at the 2nd Special Session on Disarmament held at UN Headquarters in New York, the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki together proposed a Program to Promote Intercity Solidarity for the Total Abolition of Nuclear Weapons. The idea was for cities around the world to band together and carve a new path toward a nuclear-weapon-free world. Hiroshima and Nagasaki have now been asking cities around the world to support this program for twenty-five years. During this quarter-century, Mayors for Peace has developed a large global network of 1578 member cities.



Main Initiatives for 2007

To celebrate our 25th anniversary, we are planning the following events and projects.

Recruiting Drive Targeting 2020 Member Cities

Because Mayors for Peace will turn 25 in June this year, and because we are campaigning to promote our 2020 Vision for a nuclear-weapon-free world, we are launching a campaign to build our membership up to 2020 cities by June 24, 2007.

2020 Vision Campaign (The Emergency Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons)

Our Good Faith Challenge, launched last July, will be actively pursued as Phase II of the 2020 Vision Campaign. A particular priority will be the Cities Are Not Targets (CANT) project described below on page 2.

This project will call on nuclear-weapon states and all governments to engage in good-faith negotiations for the elimination of nuclear weapons, thereby arousing international public demand. In addition, we will utilize UN and other international conferences to call for

support of the 2020 vision. In these and other ways, we will redouble our efforts to eliminate nuclear weapons by 2020.

NPT Review PrepCom

The first Preparatory Committee meeting for the next NPT Review Conference (to be held in 2010) will be held in Vienna, Austria this May. Mayors for Peace will participate to promote our 2020 Vision Campaign and renew our call for conclusion of a Nuclear Weapons Convention by 2010.

7th Executive Committee Meeting

General Meetings of Mayors for Peace are held every four years. In the second intervening year, we hold Executive Committee Meetings to deliberate our action plan and set the agenda and directions for the following General Meeting. The year 2007 comes between our 6th General Meeting in 2005 and our 7th, which will be held in 2009. Thus, we will hold an Executive Committee Meeting where we expect to discuss plans for the 2020 Vision Campaign, and plan for the 7th General Meeting to be held in Nagasaki. The date and venue for the Executive Meeting are still under discussion.

Good Faith Challenge - Get involved in CANT!

When Mayors for Peace launched Phase II of our 2020 Vision Campaign (Emergency Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons) last July, the centerpiece was our "Good Faith Challenge" to all nuclear-weapon states, other governments around the world, cities, and citizens. We are asking all involved to promote good-faith negotiations for nuclear disarmament.

As a concrete response by cities to this campaign, we are developing a global project called Cities Are Not Targets or CANT. The gist of this project is for cities to demand assurances of nuclear-weapon states that neither they nor any city is targeted for nuclear destruction.

Through the CANT project, the cities of the world will make it abundantly clear to all nuclear-weapon states that "we no longer tolerate being hostages to the nuclear threat." Highlighting the inhumanity and illegality of targeting cities full of innocent noncombatants, the project is a serious effort to force nuclear weapon states to change their policies. Concretely, we are expecting each member city to express to their own government and to the governments of all nuclear-weapon states their belief that the obliteration of cities is illegal and their desire for good-faith efforts toward the abolition of nuclear weapons. We are also calling for events in each city to raise consciousness among residents.

To effectively promote this project, we need hundreds of cities around the world representing the will of the human family and sending out a powerful message that nuclear weapons are unacceptable. Please become involved and implement the following in your city:

-- Send a demand to your own government

Please send a letter to your own national government demanding that it challenge nuclear-weapon states to work

in good faith for nuclear weapons abolition, and that it assist Mayors for Peace lobbying efforts.

-- Send demands to the nuclear-weapon states

Please send letters to the national governments of nuclear-weapon states demanding that cities not be targeted for attack and that they engage constructively in good-faith negotiations to abolish nuclear weapons.

-- Pass resolutions in the local government organizations in your country

Please work to pass resolutions that clearly support the CANT project in various local government organizations in your country. The US Conference of Mayors, for example, has passed such a resolution. Meanwhile, we will be working for a resolution at the World Congress of the United Cities and Local Governments to be held October 2007 in Jeju, South Korea. It would also be extremely helpful for individual cities to pass their own resolutions.

-- The CANT project at home

Finally, we ask that you communicate the CANT project to your citizens and that you support the campaign as a part of the peace activities in your own city.

To learn more about the 2020 Vision, and the Good Faith Challenge, please visit the Mayors for Peace website at: <http://www.mayorsforpeace.org>

Mayors for Peace Member Cities

-- as of February 21, 2007

1578 cities in 120 countries and regions

Asia 164 cities in 29 countries and regions
Oceania 77 cities in 8 countries and regions
Africa 40 cities in 23 countries
Europe 1125 cities in 40 countries
North/Central America 150 cities in 11 countries
South America 22 cities in 9 countries

Total 1578 cities in 120 countries and regions

Dramatic increase in German members

On December 20 last year, we registered 95 German cities. Now, Germany has 281 members, making it, once again, the country with the most Mayors for Peace. Elsewhere in Europe our rapid growth continues with 24 new Italian cities and 20 Austrian cities. Please disseminate our information and do whatever you can to recruit new members to keep the circle of solidarity spreading.

Mayors for Peace in Northern Europe

To arouse public sentiment for the abolition of nuclear weapons in Northern Europe, Mayor Akiba of Hiroshima, president of Mayors for Peace, visited Northern Europe in September last year. There, he took every opportunity to ask governments and NGOs to support Mayors for Peace and strengthen the bonds among member cities. His primary activities were:



Requesting support from the Prime Minister of Finland

On September 8, Mayor Akiba met with Mr. Matti Vanhanen, prime minister of Finland, and Dr. Erkki Tuomioja, the minister of Foreign Affairs. He explained the Mayors for Peace campaign and our 2020 Vision and requested support at the UN. In response, Prime Minister Vanhanen expressed support and a determination that Finland would do everything in its power to promote the abolition of nuclear weapons.

The same day, Mayor Akiba attended the 17th World Congress of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) where he delivered a keynote address to the first plenary session on the theme "Nuclear Abolition."

Strengthening Bonds with Norwegian Cities and NGOs

On September 12, Mayor Akiba met with Mr. Kjetil Skogrand, Norway's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs. He expressed gratitude for the role Norway has played in the field of nuclear disarmament and asked for continued leadership until concrete results are achieved. Asking for redoubled disarmament effort, he handed the deputy minister a letter asking the Norwegian prime minister for cooperation in abolishing nuclear weapons.

Mayor Akiba later spoke at a conference sponsored by a

coalition of NGOs in Oslo. After explaining the facts of the bombing and the accomplishments of the *hibakusha*, he called on the approximately 100 representatives of Mayors for Peace member cities, NGOs, and lay citizens in attendance to work more actively than ever to eliminate nuclear weapons and build genuine world peace.

He also met with Mayor Herman Kristoffersen of Tromsø, Mayor Per Ditlev-Simonsen of Oslo, and Deputy Mayor Olav Sigurd Alstad of Narvik seeking to strengthen collaboration for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Mayors for Peace Wins the IPB Sean MacBride Award



Mayor Akiba receiving the medal in Helsinki (far left)



Mayor Itoh receiving the medal in Nagasaki (2nd from right)

The Nobel Peace Prize-winning NGO International Peace Bureau (IPB) awarded its Sean MacBride Award to Mayors for Peace. This prize, established in 1992, is given every year to a group or individual who makes a conspicuous contribution to peace and disarmament.

An award ceremony was held in September last year during an IPB General Assembly in Helsinki. IPB Chairwoman Cora Weiss presented a medal to Mayor Akiba, president of Mayors for Peace. The same medal was presented by former IPB Vice Chairwoman Kate Dewes to Mayor Itoh of Nagasaki at the Global Citizens' Assembly held in Nagasaki in October.

In explaining the award, Chairwoman Weiss pointed to the 2020 Vision and the global scale of Mayors for Peace activities, which, she stated, have helped significantly to arouse international public demand for the abolition of nuclear weapons and realization of genuine world peace. She expressed great expectations for continued Mayors for Peace campaigning and the desire for closer cooperation with IPB.

Protest against the Nuclear Test by North Korea -- Protest letter and statement from the Mayors for Peace --

On October 9, 2006, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) tested a nuclear weapon. On October 10, Mayors for Peace send a protest letter to DPRK. We then issued a further statement demanding that all nuclear-weapon states immediately terminate all nuclear weapons programs and tests and ban all use of such weapons. The letter also demanded the prompt start of good-faith negotiations toward nuclear disarmament and a commitment not to target any city with nuclear weapons.

The protest letter and statement are available on the Mayors for Peace website, and we called on member cities to issue similar statements and release them to the media. Please go to our website to see the protest and statement.

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org>

Campaigning at the 3rd Nagasaki Global Citizens Assembly for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons



Campaign manager speaking at the workshop

The 3rd Nagasaki Global Citizens' Assembly for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons was held October 21 to 23 last year in Nagasaki. Aaron Tovish, international campaign manager,

explained the 2020 Vision Campaign's new initiatives, the Good Faith Challenge and the Cities Are Not Targets (CANT) project, at a workshop entitled "Nuclear-Free Local Authorities Forum." Throughout the assembly we maintained a Mayors for Peace booth and spoke to visitors regarding Mayors for Peace and the 2020 Vision. The booth display included:

- 1) Photos of Mayors for Peace activities (NPT review conference, 10th anniversary of the International Court of Justice advisory opinion)
- 2) UN peace poster
- 3) Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-bomb Posters
- 4) Mayors for Peace and 2020 Vision Campaign leaflets (which were distributed)



Information and Requests from the Mayors for Peace Secretariat

- These days, nearly all our communication and information exchange takes place via e-mail. Therefore, we are doing our best to update the e-mail addresses and other information for each city in our database. Please send us your latest contact information, and please be sure to inform us if your e-mail address or the name of your mayor changes. Thank you.

- The Mayors for Peace website presents the peace activities of member cities. Please send us any information you may have regarding any peace activities by any cities.

Please hold an A-bomb exhibition in your city

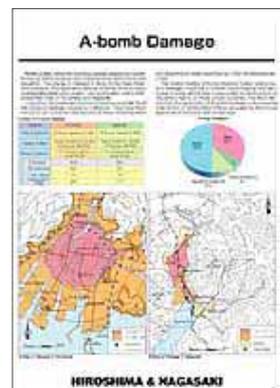


We want the world to know the facts about the atomic bombings. We want to stimulate public demand for the abolition of nuclear weapons. For these purposes, we will be glad to loan you our Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-bomb posters. Please use these posters to hold an A-bomb exhibition in your city or school. For more information, contact the Mayors for Peace Secretariat.

[A-bomb Photo Poster Set]

The set includes photos and explanations that present an easy-to-understand explanation of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the current world situation regarding nuclear weapons. * For the English version, we are able to provide the posters as ready-to-print digital data on CD-ROM or DVD.

Languages: English, French, German, Russian, Spanish, Italian, Chinese, Korean, and Japanese
 Number: The set includes 30 posters.
 Size: 90cm x 60cm



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