His Excellency Mr. Barack Obama  
President  
The United States of America  

Letter of Protest  

Mayors for Peace has worked long and hard to help people around the world fully understand the pain and sorrow of the hibakusha experience. We believed that this information would help them develop the strong will required to abolish nuclear weapons. Despite our efforts, you announced this month that the U.S. conducted a new type of nuclear test last November and again this past March at Sandia National Laboratories in New Mexico.  

Though these tests did not involve nuclear explosions, they can be understood as evidence that the U.S. intends to maintain its nuclear stockpile. Coupled with the fact that you revealed the testing only several months later, these tests have betrayed the hopes of the hibakusha and the millions of others who seek a nuclear-weapon-free world, while arousing suspicion regarding your intentions. Such actions are completely unacceptable, and on behalf of the 4,704 cities in 150 countries and regions that are members of Mayors for Peace, we vehemently protest.  

We urge you to thoroughly comprehend the experience of the survivors who witnessed the bombing, understand their sincere wish for peace, and strive for the earliest possible realization of a world free from nuclear weapons.  

May 23, 2011  

The Conference of Mayors for Peace  

Kazumi Matsui  
President  
Mayor of Hiroshima, Japan  

Tomihisa Taue  
Vice President  
Mayor of Nagasaki, Japan  

Donald L. Plusquellec  
Vice President  
Mayor of Akron, USA  

Ivan Knez  
Vice President  
Mayor of Biograd na Moru, Croatia  

Freddy Thielemans  
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Mayor of Brussels, Belgium  

Matteo Renzi  
Vice President  
Mayor of Florence, Italy  

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Vice President  
Mayor of Granollers, Spain  

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Vice President  
Mayor of Halabja, Iraq  

Stephan Weil  
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Lord Mayor of Hannover, Germany  

Catherine Margate  
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Mayor of Malakoff, France  

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Lord Mayor of Manchester, UK  

Aldrin L. San Pedro  
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Mayor of Muntinlupa, Philippines  

Sergey Sokolov  
Vice President  
Acting Mayor of Volgograd, Russia  

Luc Dehaene  
Vice President  
Mayor of Ypres, Belgium  

Daniel Tsakem  
Executive  
Mayor of Fongo Tongo, Cameroon  

Gerald Tremblay  
Executive  
Mayor of Montreal, Canada