



Mayors for Peace News Flash

December 2020 / No.132

Mayors for Peace Member Cities

7,974 cities

in 165 countries and regions

(as of December 1, 2020)

Help us achieve 10,000 member cities!

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"Like" and share our Facebook and Twitter posts to help spread awareness of our mission.

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■ Secretary General Koizumi visits six embassies to ask for support in expanding membership

From November 24 to 26, Mr. Takashi Koizumi, Secretary General of Mayors for Peace visited six embassies* in Tokyo.

During the visits, Secretary General Koizumi explained about Mayors for Peace and our initiatives. In particular, he talked about our continued work on expanding our network to foster international public support for the abolition of nuclear weapons, especially now that the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons has reached the required 50 ratifications for its entry-into-force. To that end, he requested the head of each embassy's support in recruiting member cities in their country.

Every country whose embassy he visited this time is either party to a nuclear weapon free zone treaty or has declared itself as such, and has actively worked toward the abolition of nuclear weapons. All the representatives with whom he met kindly expressed their support for the initiatives of Mayors for Peace.

On November 24, Mr. Koizumi visited the embassies of New Zealand and Paraguay. Mr. Dominic Walton-France, Chargé d'Affaires ad interim of New Zealand to Japan, told us about New Zealand's own organization composed of mayors as a potential starting point for expanding membership in New Zealand. H.E. Mr. Raúl Florentín Antola, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Paraguay to Japan, said that as a symbol of peace, he would like to plant and grow atomic bomb survivor trees in Asunción, the capital.

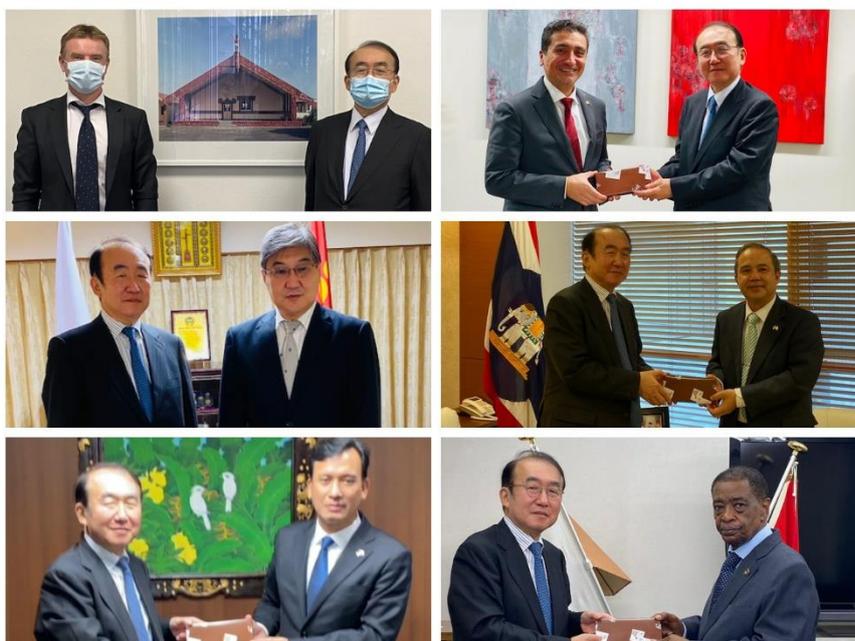
On November 25, Mr. Koizumi visited the embassies of Mongolia, Thailand, and Indonesia. H.E. Mr. Dambadarjaa Batjargal, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Mongolia to Japan, stated that he would like to encourage all the 21 provinces in Mongolia to join Mayors for Peace. H.E. Mr. Singtong Lapisatepun, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Thailand to Japan, told us that this year he had not been able to attend the Peace Memorial Ceremony in Hiroshima, but that Bangkok (a Lead City of Mayors for Peace) had held an Atomic Bomb Exhibition and invited the Ambassador of Japan to the Kingdom of Thailand. Mr. Tri Purnajaya, Chargé d'Affaires ad interim of the Republic of Indonesia to Japan, said that he had an interest in our initiatives and would like to encourage cities to participate in them.

On November 26, Mr. Koizumi visited the Embassy of the Republic of Ghana. H. E. Mr. Frank Okyere, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Ghana to Japan, stated that creating opportunities for younger generations to think about peace is very meaningful, and so he would like to tell people in Ghana about Mayors for Peace.

Thus, these were meaningful meetings, during which we gained their support for the initiatives of Mayors for Peace, and the head of each embassy expressed willingness to help stimulate Mayors for Peace initiatives and increase membership.

Mayors for Peace has been working on recruiting member cities actively to achieve 10,000 member cities, and we plan to continue to do so through embassies.

*New Zealand, the Republic of Paraguay, Mongolia, the Kingdom of Thailand, the Republic of Indonesia, and the Republic of Ghana



(top left) With Mr. France, Chargé d'Affaires ad interim of New Zealand to Japan
(top right) With Ambassador Florentín Antola of Paraguay to Japan
(middle left) With Ambassador Batjargal of Mongolia to Japan
(middle right) With Ambassador Lapisatepun of Thailand to Japan
(bottom left) With Mr. Purnajaya, Chargé d'Affaires ad interim of Indonesia to Japan
(bottom right) With Ambassador Okyere of Ghana to Japan

■ Japan Chapter submits a letter of request to the Japanese government

November 20, 2020

The Japan Chapter annually submits a letter of request to the Japanese government calling for the promotion of actions to realize the abolition of nuclear weapons.

On November 20, Mayor Matsui of Hiroshima (President of Mayors for Peace) and Mayor Taue of Nagasaki (Vice President of Mayors for Peace) visited the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. There they met with Mr. Eiichiro Washio, State Minister for Foreign Affairs, and handed him a letter of request addressed to Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga.

Mr. Washio replied, “We take this request very seriously. As the only country to have experienced the devastation caused by atomic bombings, it is Japan’s mission to take the lead in international society to promote initiatives to realize a world free of nuclear weapons. The government considers it to be of great significance to build common ground between the nuclear-armed and non-nuclear weapon states. Japan intends to continue making efforts to be the ‘bridge’ between countries in different positions. We would like to express our sincere appreciation for Mayors for Peace’s ongoing engagement in disarmament.”



(from left to right) Mayor Taue of Nagasaki,
Mayor Matsui of Hiroshima, State Minister Washio

■ Welcoming a new Executive Advisor

Mayors for Peace currently works with three Executive Advisors (two in North America, and one in the Latin American and Caribbean area). They give advice and support for our initiatives and activities.

We have been looking for an appropriate candidate for an Executive Advisor based in Europe, and we are pleased to announce that from January 2021, Mayors for Peace will welcome Mr. Thomas Hajnoczi, as a new Executive Advisor. Mr. Hajnoczi, based in Vienna, Austria, has been involved in disarmament for many years as a diplomat at the Austrian Federal Ministry of Europe and International Affairs. During his public service, he worked as the Ambassador of the Permanent Mission of Austria to the United Nations Office in Geneva and also as the Head of the Disarmament Department of the Ministry. Notably, he spearheaded the negotiations for adopting the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

We expect that his experience and expertise will add great strength to the initiatives and activities of Mayors for Peace.

Message from the new Executive Advisor to our member cities

I feel honoured that President Matsui (Mayor of Hiroshima) has asked me to become an Executive Adviser for Mayors for Peace. In my long career in the Austrian diplomatic service and especially on disarmament matters I have learned to appreciate the engagement and activities of this truly global organisation. Polls have shown that people trust mayors most among all politicians. Your engagement for nuclear disarmament and peace can and should have decisive influence on the foreign policy of your countries. So, it will be my privilege to contribute to the impact of Mayors for Peace.



Having been closely involved in bringing about the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons I want to thank you for your sustained support for this essential legal norm. Without it a world without nuclear weapons cannot be achieved. The TPNW is an important step towards a world free of nuclear weapons and will enter into force on 22 January 2021.

Unfortunately, nuclear weapons will not be eliminated, as long as a minority of states clings to them under the pretext that they are irreplaceable for their security. In reality, nuclear weapons can only bring insecurity, mass killing of civilians and destruction jeopardizing even the very survival of the human species. Mayors for Peace has the vocation to change this mind set and the almost 8000 cities, many of them in nuclear weapon states and their allied countries, can play a decisive role.

I want to thank you for your engagement and look forward to support you.

Sincerely,

Ambassador (ret.) Thomas Hajnoczi

■ Children's Art Competition "Peaceful Towns" 2020 -Thank you for your participation

Since 2018, Mayors for Peace has held the annual Children's Art Competition "Peaceful Towns," in order to further promote peace education in member cities around the world.

The 2020 competition, its third iteration, was open for submissions from April 10 to November 20. A total of 3,122 artworks were submitted to 99 member cities in 19 countries. Thanks to your efforts, the number exceeded that of last year's submissions. We appreciate your cooperation in the competition, despite the difficulties posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The artworks went through a screening process handled by their respective member cities, which in total selected 466 artworks to be submitted to the Mayors for Peace Secretariat in Hiroshima. The final screening is being conducted now and the results will be posted on the Mayors for Peace website in mid-January 2021.

The artwork that wins the Mayors for Peace President's Award will be printed on plastic folders. We make use of them as a tool to conduct outreach regarding the significance of peace education. We distribute these at various events, including UN conferences, and also use them when asking ambassadors in Japan for their support in expanding our membership in their respective countries.

We welcome reports from the member cities that have held any award ceremonies, projects, or exhibitions related to this art competition. Please send reports after such events. Submitted reports will be posted on our website.

■ Member city recruitment model cases

Mayors for Peace aims to achieve 10,000 member cities to foster international public support for the realization of a world without nuclear weapons. To encourage recruitment of new members, we showcase model cases that have led to gaining new members.

- **Model case in UK by Manchester City Council**

(Report by Mr. Sean Morris, Principal Policy Officer, Manchester City Council)

As the Lead City of the UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter, Manchester City Council holds two Chapter meetings with its members each year and regularly issues newsletters to keep in regular contact with them. We encouraged them to attend the European Chapter webinar as well, which was held on 4th December. We are also working with existing members on passing resolutions supporting the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

We are actively recruiting new members, too. A recruitment campaign has commenced and is being planned in various stages. A recruitment letter co-signed by the Lord Mayor of Dublin and the Lord Mayor of Manchester was sent to all Irish councils encouraging them to join. All Scottish, Welsh, Northern Irish, and English councils will be sent similar letters. We hope the recruitment campaign will be successful.

Please take inspiration from the model cases that we introduce here to invite other cities in your country, as well as your sister cities and any other cities with which you have relations to join Mayors for Peace. You can download a letter of request and document pack (ten languages) below.

▼ Letters of request to join Mayors for Peace and documents packs

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/aboutus/join.html#section01>

<<Please send a report on your city's successful recruiting activity>>

The Secretariat is looking for model cases of recruiting new members. We would like to share cases which will encourage other member cities in the News Flash. Please contact us if your city has any model cases.

Email: mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

<<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 share the activities with other member cities. Please send us information including the date, venue, organizers and a description of the event result. We look forward to receiving information from your city. Please send a report about your event to the Mayors for Peace Secretariat.

Email: mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

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

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/04_list_of_activities/monthly/2020_November_List_of_Activities_en.pdf

■ Mayors for Peace member cities - 7,974 cities in 165 countries/regions

On December 1, we gained 6 new member cities, bringing our total membership to 7,974. We thank all involved in promoting expanded membership for their invaluable support. Below is the breakdown of the new members.

Country	New Members	Total	Remarks
Philippines	1	30	This was the first member registration from the Philippines in 2 years.
Germany	3	703	Thanks to efforts by Hannover, a Vice President and Lead City.
Norway	1	104	This was the first member registration from Norway in a year.
Spain	1	393	This was the first member registration from Spain in a year.

▼ List of new members (PDF):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/03_newmembers/2020/newmembers2012_en.pdf

▼ Membership by country

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

■ Report by Executive Advisor

Major Webinar on Nuclear Weapons and International Law

Report by Mr. Randy Rydell, the Executive Advisor for Mayors for Peace

On 12 November, four American bar associations, the Fordham University Law School, Georgetown University's Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs, the Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy, and the Global Security Institute co-sponsored a major webinar on nuclear weapons and international law.

Over 600 people registered for this 9-hour conference, which was organized to deepen the understanding and support of the US legal community for nuclear disarmament. Twenty-five speakers addressed the meeting, including Professor Osamu Arakaki (International Christian University, Japan), a member of the legal team representing the Marshall Islands before the ICJ, former California Governor Jerry Brown, US Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Ford, former US Ambassador Thomas Graham, and several law school professors and NGO representatives, including Jackie Cabasso (who spoke on behalf of both Mayors for Peace and the Western States Legal Foundation).

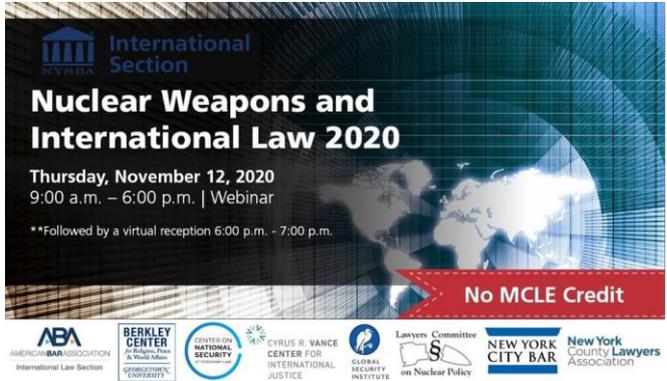


Image: Courtesy of the New York State Bar Association (NYSBA)

Speakers strongly reaffirmed the relevance and bindingness of international humanitarian law as it applies to nuclear weapons, as illustrated by many references to the suffering of the *hibakusha*. A complete video, the conference's "coursebook," and related slides are located at the following URL:

<https://nysba.ce21.com/ViewerUnAuthenticatedLink?x=raWfFH9aBpXELgNN3qSTyw==>.

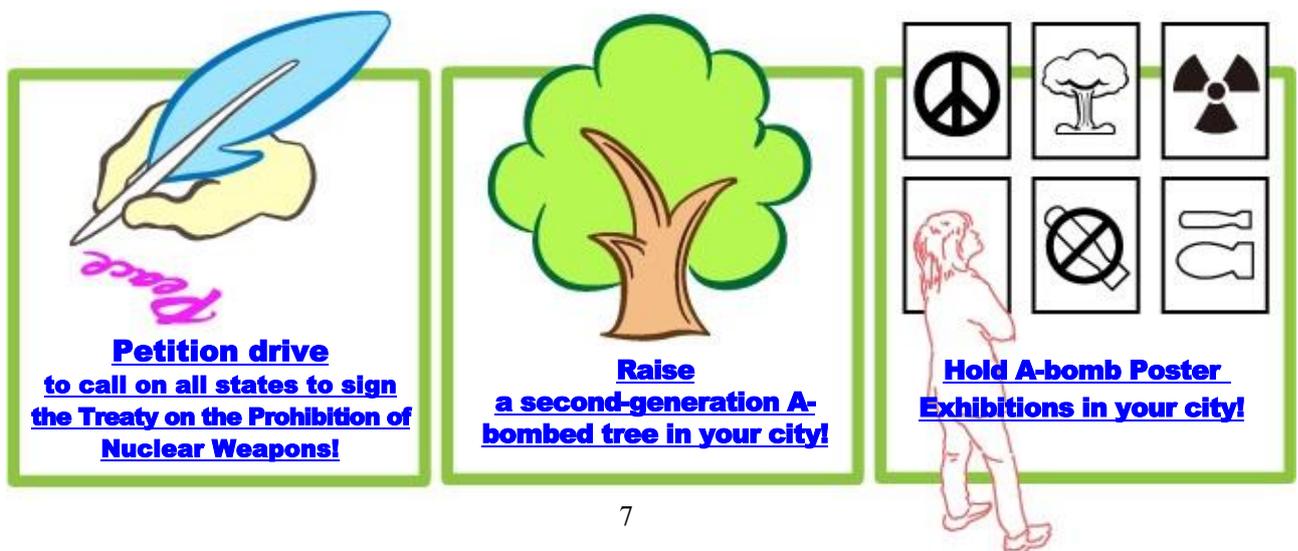
■ Request to promote various measures based on the Mayors for Peace Action Plan (2017-2020)

At the 9th General Conference of Mayors for Peace held in Nagasaki in August 2017, we decided our Action Plan for up to the year 2020, aiming for lasting world peace. Together, we hope to make significant strides toward realizing this goal. Please promote all appropriate measures based on the Action Plan within your own municipality or regional group.

▼ Mayors for Peace Action Plan (2017-2020):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/conferences/general/data/9th_gc/Action_Plan_2017-2020_E.pdf

For example, you can promote the following measures:



In November 2019, the Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace decided to set the following three items as priorities for action until the end of 2020, the final year of the 2020 Vision.

1. Expand membership to support the agreed goals of Mayors for Peace, including the entry-into-force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

For more information on “[Expanding membership](#)”

2. Conduct peace education to raise awareness among future generations

For more information on “[Promotion of peace education](#)”

3. Strengthen support for existing projects to receive youths in Hiroshima and Nagasaki such as “The Youth Exchange for Peace Support Program”

For more information on “[The Youth Exchange for Peace Support Program](#)”

■ Call for input: examples of initiatives to foster peace-seeking spirit

The Mayors for Peace Secretariat has been seeking examples of peace education initiatives conducted by any organization (city hall/school/NGO, etc.) in Mayors for Peace member cities that are conducive to raising peace-seeking spirit among future generations. The Mayors for Peace Secretariat accepts reports on a rolling basis, so please send your report whenever your project is completed. The submitted reports will be posted on our website and in the Mayors for Peace News Flash as a source of information for other member cities that are planning to launch their own peace education program.

▼ Call for Input on the Mayors for Peace website:

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/vision/initiatives.html#section10>

■ Recent visitors to the President of Mayors for Peace

President Kazumi Matsui recently welcomed the following visitors and asked them to support the activities of Mayors for Peace and cooperate on membership expansion.

- November 24 – H.E. Dr. Elisabeth BERTAGNOLI, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Austria to Japan
- December 18 – H.E. Sinisa BERJAN, PhD, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Japan

■ Peace news from Hiroshima

(Provided by the Hiroshima Peace Media Center of the CHUGOKU SHIMBUN)

At a movie theater in Hiroshima, a movie screening was held for the media recently. The documentary, titled “The Vow from Hiroshima,” follows the life of Setsuko Thurlow, 88, an A-bomb survivor living in Canada, up until the time she delivered her speech at the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize Award Ceremony on behalf of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). Completed after four years of filming, the documentary shows Ms. Thurlow conveying her A-bombing experience to young people in the United States, expending tremendous energy to help realize the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), and experiencing the TPNW’s adoption. The film’s producer, Mitchie Takeuchi, is a second-generation A-bomb survivor originally from Hiroshima who now lives in New York City. The film incorporates the process of how Ms. Takeuchi began to reflect on her identity as a “second-generation survivor” by appearing in her own film and spending time with Ms. Thurlow. The film will be released on January 22, the date on which the nuclear ban treaty is scheduled to enter into force.

As regards ICAN, in January of last year Kazuzo Tagashira, 91, an A-bomb survivor and rose breeder who lives in Hatakaichi City, produced a new variety of rose and named it “ICAN.” In addition, this year, he donated his A-bomb victim’s certificate to the anti-nuclear organization. The certificate is the actual document issued to Mr. Tagashira two days after the atomic bombing that serves as a record of his passing through the hypocenter area on August 6, 1945.

From each survivor’s life is conveyed the idea that the *hibakusha* are determined to call on people to consistently maintain awareness of the horrific outcome that would result from the use of another nuclear weapon and to encourage them to persist in taking appropriate action. The TPNW’s effectuation certainly represents a fulfillment of this longing among A-bomb survivors. However, there is still a long distance to travel to ensure effectiveness of the treaty based on the participation of nuclear weapon states. The treaty’s entry into force on January 22 next year should be celebrated. But that date should also be considered a day for younger generations to consider anew the origins of the treaty.

Please see the following for more peace-related news.

High School Peace Ambassadors from around Japan share anti-nuclear determination at team-formation ceremony in Hiroshima’s Higashi Ward

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=102553>

Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum revises panel explanation about how overseas survivors came to be covered by support law

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=102560>

At screening of “The Vow from Hiroshima,” Setsuko Thurlow tells audience in Hiroshima her promise that classmate deaths would not be for nothing

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=102594>

Rose breeder/A-bomb survivor donates victim’s certificate to ICAN in hopes that sorrow of A-bombing is conveyed through actual object

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=102193>

■Announcement from Hiroshima City University: Release of the latest issue of newsletter “Hiroshima Research News”

Hiroshima City University’s Hiroshima Peace Institute (HPI) released vol. 23 of its newsletter Hiroshima Research News in September. This volume contains 7 articles, of which three are papers that discuss the unprecedented situation brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic and two are research articles. It also features two pieces on a recent academic award and an educational initiative respectively.

The article entitled *The Constitution of Japan and Democracy in the COVID-19 Era* brings attention to a possible democratic crisis as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, confirms the rights stipulated in the Japanese Constitution, and asserts the necessity of ensuring human rights within the scope of the Constitution. The article *COVID-19 and the Korean Peninsula* outlines the situation surrounding the spread of the coronavirus on the Korean Peninsula, discusses the epidemic prevention system in South Korea, and points out that joint measures between the North and South are necessary to treat and prevent the spread of this infectious disease, which has become a common threat to the Korean Peninsula. *COVID-19 in China* provides an overview of the spread of the coronavirus in China, describes the features of the Chinese model for epidemic prevention, and summarizes global issues surrounding the situation brought on by COVID-19.

Additionally, there are two research papers: *The Trump Phenomenon and a Canary in a Coal Mine*, which indicates the necessity of building global civil society and recovering the principle of international cooperation in response to the current Trump phenomenon and its advocacy of a “my country first” policy; and *The Ethnic Peace Process in Myanmar*, which traces attempts at peacebuilding in Myanmar.

A further article reports the good news that a student of the Graduate School of Peace Studies was granted the 7th ODA Shigeru Award for Excellence hosted by the Japanese Society of International Law. The final, education-related article describes videos to promote peace made on smartphones as a new technique in peace education.

(XU Xianfen, Associate Professor of Hiroshima Peace Institute)

▼ The electronic version of Hiroshima Research News is available on HPI website.
<https://www.peace.hiroshima-cu.ac.jp/publications/newsletter/>



■Mayors for Peace collaboration with “The Hibakusha Appeal” Signature Campaign

Based on the Action Plan decided at the 9th General Conference in August 2017, Mayors for Peace is promoting a petition drive urging the nuclear-armed states and their allies to participate in the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. It was also decided that in doing so, Mayors for Peace would collaborate with “The Hibakusha Appeal”, a signature campaign launched by the *hibakusha* of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The Mayors for Peace Secretariat will compile the number of signatures collected and present it to affiliates of the United Nations.

▼ For more information about “The Hibakusha Appeal”:



Mayors for Peace Official Social Media Accounts

<Twitter>



<https://twitter.com/Mayors4Peace>



<Facebook>



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



The latest and archived issues of Mayors for Peace News Flash are available at:
<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/statements/newsflash.html>

If you have any comments or questions, please contact us at:

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