

Cities Are Not Targets (CANT) project Petition Drive

Please tell the nuclear powers that Cities Are Not Targets!

Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation

< Mayors for Peace calls cities together to build a nuclear-weapon-free world. >

Since our experience of the atomic bombing 64 years ago, Hiroshima has continually called for the abolition of nuclear weapons and realization of lasting world peace. Despite our efforts, many areas around the world remain trapped in chains of hatred, violence and retaliation, our planet still bristles with vast arsenals of nuclear weapons, and the probability that such weapons will be used is increasing.

In response to this crisis, Mayors for Peace, an NGO over which we preside that now has more than 3,100 member cities in about 134 countries and regions, is conducting an emergency campaign to eliminate all nuclear weapons by 2020 globally. This is our 2020 Vision Campaign.

The year 2006 was the 10th anniversary of the International Court of Justice advisory opinion that, "The threat or use of nuclear weapons would generally be contrary to the rules of international law applicable in armed conflict, and in particular the principles and rules of humanitarian law." Mayors for Peace marked this landmark finding by launching Phase II of our 2020 Vision Campaign. The centerpiece of this phase is the *Good Faith Challenge*, a program for demanding that all governments abide by the other ICJ finding that, "There exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control." As a further contribution by cities, we have also initiated a *Cities Are Not Targets (CANT)* project to demand assurances from nuclear weapon states that no cities are targeted for nuclear attack.

We attended the NPT Preparatory Committee with the Mayoral Delegations formed by our member cities, held in Geneva, Switzerland in April 2008. We called for the good faith efforts to government representatives, and launched the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol, which shows the roadmap with certain process each government much address toward the total abolition of nuclear weapons. This will reinforce our activities toward the elimination of nuclear weapons by the year 2020.

< Please support the *Cities Are Not Targets* project. >

Nuclear weapons are illegal, immoral devices designed to obliterate entire cities. Despite the end of the Cold War, the danger of nuclear weapons remains virtually unchanged. We still have thousands of nuclear warheads deployed and ready to fire on warning. At the push of a button, nuclear-tipped missiles can be on their way to a target city. If such an event were to take place, some city, home to children and hundreds of thousands of innocent noncombatants, would suffer utter devastation.

The Mayors for Peace project is designed to lift the voices of cities and citizens to say, "No! You may not target cities. You may not target children." Through these activities, we intend to bring to the attention of mayors, citizens and national leaders the fact that cities are, in fact, still being targeted for annihilation and the International Court of Justice has found this threat itself to be a war crime. Furthermore, we hope this project will intensify our demand that the nuclear-weapon states fulfill their promise to "negotiate in good faith" to abolish all nuclear weapons.

In addition, based on the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol, each government should address concretely to realize the abolition of nuclear weapons. Through our member cities, we ask each government's favor to this Protocol and aim at obtaining a resolution at the United Nations General Assembly. To make the momentum, we try to raise the citizens' voice to stimulate the international public opinion.

The goal of this project is not a shifting of nuclear weapons away from cities but their total elimination. And, when we speak here of "cities," we refer not to a municipal entity of a certain size but to any area in which children and non-combatants are living routine daily lives.

Please participate in the petition drive associated with this project. Mayors for Peace will deliver your message to the nuclear-weapon states and to the United Nations. Let all peoples around the world come together and bequeath to our children a genuinely peaceful world free from nuclear weapons!

(* Your name, address and other personal information provided here will not be used for any other purpose.)

Cities Are Not Targets (CANT) project

Petition Form

Petition for the Non-Targeting of Cities and the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons

We, the undersigned, make the following demands of the leaders of all Nuclear Weapon States.

- ✧ Do not target the cities in which we live with nuclear weapons!
- ✧ Do not target any cities, towns or villages anywhere in the world inhabited by innocent children!
- ✧ In accordance with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol for a Nuclear Weapons Convention, please engage constructively in good-faith negotiations to abolish all nuclear weapons by the year 2020!
- ✧ Do not, even in war, attack cities or non-combatants!

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* The personal information you provide here will not be disclosed to any third party or used for any purpose other than for the stated purpose of the petition unless required by law.

Mayors for Peace Secretariat

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