



Mayors for Peace

Secretariat

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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, the U.S. has announced again a new type of nuclear test conducted sometime between July and September of last year at Sandia National Laboratories in New Mexico, following the ones in November 2010 and March 2011.

Though the test did not involve a nuclear explosion, it 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 after the fact, in the same fashion as the subcritical nuclear tests you conducted in December 2010 and in February 2011, the test has aroused suspicion regarding your intentions as well as betraying the hopes of the *hibakusha* and the millions of others who seek a nuclear-weapon-free world. Such actions are completely unacceptable, and on behalf of the 5,111 cities in 153 countries and regions that are members of Mayors for Peace, we vehemently protest.

We sent two similar protest letters to you last year. And yet, it has come to our attention that another test was conducted since then. This fact disappoints us greatly because it seems that our wish for peace has not reached you. We urge you to contemplate the agonizing 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, without betraying our expectations.

January 6, 2012

The Conference of Mayors for Peace

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