#### Mayors for Peace News Flash (November 2012) No.35

Dear member cities and supporters of Mayors for Peace,

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Please find below recent news related to our activities.

If your city has any news it wishes to share with others, please feel free to contact us!

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Mayors for Peace member cities as of November 1, 2012

5,443 cities in 155 countries/regions with 25 new members

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#### <<Table of Contents >>

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- Pre-announcement of the Mayors for Peace 8th General Conference in Hiroshima, August 3 6, 2013
- Frogn, Norway became a new executive city
- General Assembly of French Mayors for Peace in Paris
- Hiroshima message for Mayor Marcelo Ebrard of Mexico City
- National Federation of Mexican Mayors signs Agreement of Cooperation
- The UNGA opens fast track to the establishment of a NWFW
- Financial contributions from member cities to the 2020 Vision Campaign Update for October 2012
- Member City Activities (Misato, Japan)
- New poster exhibit commemorates 5,000-city milestone
- Please support the petition drive for a nuclear weapons convention
- Mayors for Peace member cities 5,443 cities in 155 countries/regions

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# ■Pre-announcement of the Mayors for Peace 8<sup>th</sup> General Conference in Hiroshima, August 3 - 6, 2013

As announced in the October issue of the Mayors for Peace News Flash, Mayors for Peace will hold its 8th General Conference from August 3 to 6, 2013 at the International Conference Center Hiroshima located in the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park.

The Secretariat in Hiroshima is now sorting out member cities' responses to the questionnaire about the next General Conference. According to the replies returned so far, the agenda on which the largest number of our members want to discuss is the "Outreach and peace education to raise awareness about peace."

As guided by members' opinions, the Secretariat is preparing for the General Conference to make sure it will be a rewarding meeting for raising international awareness of urgency of the abolition of nuclear weapons. The results of the questionnaire will be used as a guideline for the program of the 8<sup>th</sup> General Conference and it includes some fundamental inquiries that the Secretariat should ask for their database. Though the deadline for the questionnaire is over, members who have not yet presented it are kindly requested to fill it in and return it by e-mail, fax or physical mail to the Secretariat in Hiroshima by the end of November.

You can also download the form and return it through the Mayors for Peace website at: <a href="http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/index.html">http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/index.html</a>

Please consider joining next year's General Conference in Hiroshima and save these dates in your calendar. A detailed schedule of the General Conference will be provided soon.

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# ■Frogn, Norway became a new executive city

On November 5, Frogn, Norway was appointed as an executive city, based on the provisions of Section 5 of Article 4 of the Covenant of the Mayors for Peace. The total number of executive cities has now reached 19.

Frogn, an executive member of the Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign Association, has been offering full cooperation to Mayors for Peace, serving as the Chair at the General Meeting of the 2020 Vision Campaign held in

Granollers, Spain last November and volunteering to host a meeting to strengthen the foundation for Mayors for Peace management in July this year.

Frogn has been a central figure in promoting the activities of Mayors for Peace in Norway, recruiting new members within the country and translating the monthly email magazine News Flash into Norwegian and sending it to the members in Norway.

Further development of Mayors for Peace activities in the Nordic region will be expected.

**▼**Related Information:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/topic/2012/201211\_frogn\_ex.cities\_en/index.html

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#### **■**General Assembly of French Mayors for Peace in Paris

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On October 19<sup>th</sup>, Paris City Hall (France) welcomed the General Assembly of AFCDRP (French Association of Cities, Departments and Regions for Peace), the French chapter of Mayors for Peace. Mayors and representatives of 30 French member cities attended this meeting, where a wide range of peace related issues were discussed, including increasing the membership and raising awareness about the urgent need of abolishing nuclear weapons.

One of the main propositions was made by the city of Aubagne (AFCDRP/Mayors for Peace France's President). Aubagne presented its project to host, in close collaboration with the city of Granollers (Spain), a Conference of Mediterranean Mayors for Peace members some time during fall 2013. This proposition received a very warm welcome and full support of the assembly. Many member cities are willing to participate in such an event. It was decided that Aubagne and Granollers will put together a working group to carry on with the project.

▼ Full article (2020 Vision Campaign website):

 $\underline{http://www.2020vision campaign.org/en/home/artikel/50988a8b08cd1de364861cabbf505105/general-assembly-of-french-mayors-fo.html}$ 

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## ■Hiroshima message for Mayor Marcelo Ebrard of Mexico City

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AALMAC, the <u>Association of Local Authorities of Mexico</u>, invited Mayors for Peace to its XV Anniversary Conference in the City of Mexico. At the start of the conference a message from Mr. Kazumi Matsui, the mayor of Hiroshima and President of Mayors for Peace, was delivered to Mr. Marcelo Ebrard, the outgoing Mayor of Mexico City. During the AALMAC conference 15 Mexican mayors joined Mayors for Peace, which are expected to be officially enlisted on December 1. Plans were also discussed to establish a Mayors for Peace office in Mexico City and involve the 16 district mayors of the capital city of Mexico. Mr. Miguel Angel Mancera Espinosa will replace Marcelo Ebrard on December 5th as the new mayor of the Federal District.

▼ Full article (2020 Vision Campaign website):

 $\underline{http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/en/home/artikel/2ea3f9d86d1c7e8c1709f3b011f7bda0/hiroshima-message-for-mr-marcelo-eb.html$ 

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#### ■National Federation of Mexican Mayors signs Agreement of Cooperation

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During a first meeting with Mr. Sergio Arredondo Olvera, the Secretary General of FENAMM, an <u>agreement of co-operation was signed with Mayors for Peace</u>. FENAMM, the <u>National Federation of Municipalities of Mexico</u>, is the largest Association of Local Governments in Mexico with over 1,500 affiliated Mayors. FENAMM, a network of networks, represents local governments mostly affiliated with the PRI, the political party that won the latest national and Local elections.

During the meeting at the FENAMM headquarters the historic and current role of Mexico was discussed with regard to nuclear disarmament. Meeting in the Tlatelolco district of Mexico City on 14 February 1967, the nations of Latin America and the Caribbean signed the Treaty of Tlatalolco to keep their region free of nuclear weapons. This was the first time such a ban was put in place over a vast populated area.

Also the current violence shaking Mexico was discussed at FENAMM headquarters. What is worrying is the escalating violence where also Mexican Mayors are being threatened and murdered by drug gangs. Especially the role of drug cartels trafficking drugs to the US on one hand, and illegal arms being trafficked from the US to Mexico keep Mexico

in the grip of violence. It was agreed that Mayors for Peace could play an important role to promote a culture of peace.

▼ Full article (2020 Vision Campaign website):

 $\frac{http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/en/home/artikel/3959739fc09f06cd661ce386d8fbab04/national-federation-of-mex}{ican-mayor.html}$ 

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#### ■The UNGA opens fast track to the establishment of a NWFW

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Two resolutions adopted by the First Committee of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) create an opening to put the world on a fast track to nuclear disarmament. Whether this opening will be fully exploited depends in no small part of civil society recognizing it and acting on it. Taken together with the 35-country Statement concerning the Catastrophic Consequences of Nuclear Weapon Use – a virtual declaration of war on nuclear weapons – the 67<sup>th</sup> UNGA may come to be seen as the moment the world finally shook off the legacy of the Cold War and returned to the UNGA's original mission: "the elimination from national armaments of atomic weapons and of all other major weapons adaptable to mass destruction." (From the first resolution adopted by the UNGA in January 1946.)

Neither of the new resolutions, in itself, is earthshaking; it is the combination of the two which is so promising. The 2020 Vision Campaign is proud of its contributions to the development of both these resolutions.

▼ Full article (2020 Vision Campaign website):

 $\underline{http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/en/home/artikel/b0403b3d0369a6cd6bac7b143f4becd5/the-unga-opens-fast-track-to-the-est.html}\\$ 

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- Financial contributions from member cities to the 2020 Vision Campaign
- Update for October 2012 [Ypres, Belgium]

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The 2020 Vision Campaign received donations from 9 cities in 5 countries during the month of October coming to a total of 3,902.74 Euros.

We would like to extend our gratitude to our member cities for this generosity in supporting our efforts to realize a nuclear-weapon-free world by 2020.

▼Full article (2020 Vision Campaign website):

 $\underline{http://www.2020vision campaign.org/en/home/artikel/63d3c58df346ddf089e6a51de9f50a7f/contribution-update-october.}\\$ 

▼ List of cities that made contributions in October:

http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/fileadmin/user\_upload/2020VC/Home/October.pdf

**▼**How to make contributions:

http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/en/members/contribute-to-mayors-for-peace.html

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# **■**Member City Activities

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Misato Town, Japan held the 'Gathering for Deliberation about Peace in Misato' with the theme of the abolition of nuclear weapons and abandonment of nuclear power generation on September 30. It featured the video letter from Mayor Tomihisa Taue of Nagasaki City, presentation of the peace study by the junior high school students in Misato Town, a testimony of an A-bomb survivor and a report about the current state of the affected area by the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant accident and people's effort to clear the radiation. The activities of Mayors for Peace were shared as well while the 5,000-city milestone poster exhibit and the petition drive for a nuclear weapons convention also took place at the site.

Please visit the "Member City Activities" page on our website for ideas you can implement in your city. The URL of this page has been changed.

▼ To see the "Member City Activities" webpage, click the link below:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/index.html

#### << Please Send Information on 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.

We need comprehensive information including the date, venue, organizers and description of the event.

We will be glad to help you advertise.

▼ Please send the name/title of the activity along with the link to: <u>mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp</u>

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#### ■Poster exhibit commemorates 5,000-city milestone

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To commemorate the 5,000-city milestone, please hold a poster exhibit in your municipality sometime around the Peace Memorial Day of your municipality in 2012.

By holding these exhibits in as many cities as possible, we hope to directly inform millions of citizens regarding the impact of nuclear war, including the fact that even a limited war would cause catastrophic climate change resulting in global famine, and the role city leaders strive to play. Please do hold an exhibition and bring this problem to the attention of people in your city.

And while you're at it, please set up petition booths during the exhibition to collect signatures calling for an immediate start to negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention.

The posters are available in English, French, German, Russian and Japanese. You can download them from the Mayors for Peace website. We are also preparing Arabic, Spanish and Catalan versions. For detailed information, please refer to the instructions for downloading the posters in "The Atomic Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki -The 5,000-Member Milestone Exhibition,-" a document forwarded to our member cities.

- >>Posters: A2 size (approximately 24 by 36 inches); 19 posters.
- >>This poster exhibit was created based on a mandate from the 8th Executive Conference held in Granollers, Spain last November and Japanese member cities' Conference in January.

The first poster exhibitions were held in Vienna International Center and Vienna City Hall during the first Preparatory Committee Meeting for the NPT Review Conference to lead those taking place in all the member cities. More than 200 cities have already held or expressed their plan to hold this exhibition. Please be sure your city joins this movement.

#### **▼**Related Information:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/campaign/projects/poster/index.html

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#### ■Please support the petition drive for a nuclear weapons convention

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The next step in abolishing all nuclear weapons by 2020 is to negotiate a nuclear weapons convention. A nuclear weapons convention will prohibit the acquisition, development, possession, deployment and use of nuclear weapons and all related activities.

At our Executive Conference in Granollers, Spain in November 2011, we agreed to promote a global grassroots petition drive through which all member cities can call for an immediate start to negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention.

On behalf of Mayors for Peace, President Kazumi Matsui handed a certificate representing 478,303 signatures collected by April 30 to Mr. Peter Woolcott, chairman of the first Preparatory Committee Meeting for the 2015 NPT Review Conference in May 2012 in Vienna, Austria.

We will continue collecting signatures until 2015 and present them to the UN at appropriate times.

Please promote this petition drive in your city. For example, the City of Hiroshima has set up petition booths in the lobbies of City Hall and other municipal offices since April 2, and we have been collecting signatures at the venues of events organized by the city. Please let us know how your city is working on this petition drive so we can tell others. Let's gather millions of signatures and make our voices heard. (The petition is available for printing or online at the links below.)

#### **▼** Petition form (PDF):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/petitionform\_en.pdf.

#### **▼**Online petition:

https://www.ssl-hiroins.city.hiroshima.jp/pcf/en/form.htm.

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## ■ Mayors for Peace member cities - 5,443 cities in 155 countries/regions

Thanks to your invaluable support, on November 1, we added 25 new member cities, bringing total membership to 5,443.

Five municipalities joined from Madagascar with the kind assistance of the City of Antsirabe. As a result of the recruitment drive in the Netherlands, nine cities were enlisted to our new members. And four cities joined from Paraguay thanks to the continued support of the former mayor of the City of La Paz.

We welcome further initiatives to promote membership and can provide support from Hiroshima as needed. Please invite your fellow mayors to join.

**▼**Related information (PDF):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/2012/newmembers1211\_en.pdf

# If you have any comments, questions, or would like to unsubscribe or change your contact information, please contact us at:

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