

December 26, 2013

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

Letter of Request

Acting upon the suggestion of Ms. Caroline Kennedy, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Japan, once again we would like to convey our sincere wish for your visit to the A-bombed cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Five years ago in your Prague speech, you explicitly laid out a path leading to “a world without nuclear weapons,” which mankind should follow. However, the path remains arduous and some 17,000 nuclear warheads still exist in the world.

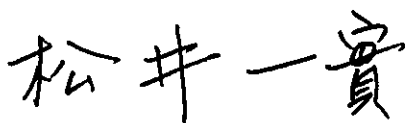
In the A-bombed cities, our *hibakusha*, whose average age is over 78, have high expectations for your further leadership. While suffering from the aftereffects of radiation, they continue to tell of their agonizing, painful experiences and call for the abolition of nuclear weapons to make sure that no one else suffers as they did.

Ambassador Kennedy, soon after assuming her current post, made time to visit Nagasaki. We believe that she fully understood the earnest desire of those *hibakusha* and other citizens for the elimination of nuclear weapons as well as their hope for your visit to their cities.

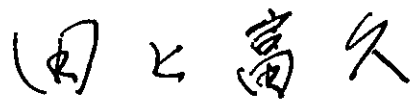
With our deepest gratitude, we still remember that prior to your first official visit to Japan in November 2009, you stated: “The memories of Hiroshima and Nagasaki are etched in the minds of the world and I would be honored to have the opportunity to visit those cities at some point during my presidency.” It has been reported that the governments of the United States of America and Japan are working to arrange your visit to Japan next April. We would like to ask you to visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki on this upcoming occasion. With a view towards the future, our citizens will wholeheartedly welcome you.

When you directly encounter the actual damage wrought by the bombings in our cities, we are certain that you will be convinced that “a world without nuclear weapons,” which you have set as your goal, is the right path. With this conviction we would like you to communicate from our cities to the world your unshakable determination to eradicate nuclear weapons. We, the citizens of the A-bombed cities, will continue to strive together with you toward this shared goal.

In closing, we offer our best wishes for your good health and great success in your endeavors.



MATSUI Kazumi
Mayor
The City of Hiroshima



TAUE Tomihisa
Mayor
The City of Nagasaki