



Mayors for Peace News Flash

August 2021 / No.140

Mayors for Peace Member Cities
8,043 cities
in 165 countries and regions
(as of August 1, 2021)

Help us achieve 10,000 member cities!

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Commemorative events around the world marking 76 years since the atomic bombings

The annual Peace Memorial Ceremonies were held solemnly in Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6 and 9, marking 76 years since the atomic bombings (see page 11 for a relevant article). As was the case last year, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and to avoid the further spread of the virus, the scale of this year’s ceremonies had to be greatly reduced compared to previous years. However, even in the time of the pandemic, the movement for nuclear disarmament must not be allowed to stagnate, and we shall promote a worldwide ‘culture of peace’ to create an environment that urges policymakers to demonstrate decisive leadership to effect peace-oriented policy changes.



Peace Memorial Ceremony of Hiroshima
(Photo: Courtesy of the City of Hiroshima)



Peace Memorial Ceremony of Nagasaki
(Photo: Courtesy of the City of Nagasaki)

At each city's ceremony, each mayor delivered his Peace Declaration, calling for the total elimination of nuclear weapons and the realization of lasting world peace.

🔗 "Peace Declaration" by Mayor of Hiroshima (YouTube):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=99nJ2fJQV-I>



Marking 76 years since the atomic bombings, commemorative events, including ones reported on below, have been held in member cities all around the world. Mayors for Peace sincerely appreciates the efforts of those organizing these events to console the souls of atomic bomb victims and pray for peace.

Member city activities

● Edinburgh, UK

Edinburgh hosts monumental Peace Crane Exhibition as part of the Just Festival

Report by Mr. Sean Morris, UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter Secretary



One of the most prominent Hiroshima-related events held in Scotland this August is a major Peace Cranes Exhibition taking place as part of the Edinburgh Just Festival. Curated by the artist Janis Hart, it includes 140,000 folded peace cranes that remember the 140,000 people killed in the Hiroshima atomic weapon attack.



Hosted in the Scottish Peace and Justice Festival in St John's Church in Edinburgh city centre, the project is inspired by Atsuko Betchaku (1960-2017). As a teenager she visited Nagasaki where the atomic bomb was estimated to have killed 40,000 people and injured a further 60,000. But it was not until after settling in Edinburgh to pursue her PhD in history at the University of Edinburgh, and four decades following her Nagasaki visit, that she was compelled to launch a poignant project commemorating each of the 140,000 Hiroshima victims and illustrating our shared desire for peace and disarmament.

This vast number of peace cranes represents not only the victims of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima in 1945 but the lives lost to the COVID-19 pandemic in the UK, as well as the great acceleration of species extinction through the symbol of the endangered, red-crowned crane. The exhibition is on from the 6th - 27th August, but it may extend to link into the upcoming COP26 climate change conference in Glasgow this November.

🔗 [Link 1](#) [Link 2](#)

● **Shetland Islands, UK**

Shetland Islands Council plants one of its Hiroshima peace trees on Hiroshima Day

Report by Mr. Sean Morris, UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter Secretary

Over the past few years, a growing number of UK members of Mayors for Peace have requested and received ginkgo seeds from Hiroshima. These seeds originate from a mother tree damaged in the Hiroshima atomic bomb that survived and regrew. The seeds are powerful symbols of peace and the power of nature to regenerate after disaster.



There are now 12 UK Councils with ginkgo seeds from Hiroshima. One of those is the Shetland Islands Council, the most northerly part of the UK. Shetland Amenity Trust staff have carefully nurtured the ginkgo seeds, which were initially grown in a greenhouse before being brought on outdoors. Some seedlings have already been planted out in other locations in Shetland, including at some local schools, with other sites still being considered. It is hoped that the story of the trees will be an educational resource to stimulate discussions about conflict and peace.

Photo: The Convener of the Shetland Islands Council Malcolm Bell with staff and fellow councillors with the ginkgo tree planted in Lerwick.

On August 6th, a ginkgo tree sapling was planted beside Shetland Library, in the grounds of the former St Ringan’s church, ahead of the planned move of the Council Chamber from the Town Hall next year.

Malcolm Bell, Convener of the Council said: “The seeds of the ginkgo trees in Hiroshima are a powerful symbol of hope, survival and resilience. They serve as a constant reminder of the need for meaningful dialogue and political discourse as a prerequisite to achieving lasting peace between nations.”

[Link \(Shetland Islands Council website\)](#)

● **Volgograd, Russia**

Peace Ceremony in Volgograd 2021

Report by Ms. Maria Deeva, the City of Volgograd, Russia

On August 6, the day of the first ever atomic bombing, peace events are held both in Hiroshima and its friendship cities all over the world. In Volgograd, it is a memorial ceremony traditionally hosted by the “Stalingrad Battle” panorama museum.

Among its attendants in 2021 were the Chair of Volgograd City Council Mr. Vladlen Kolesnikov, an honorary citizen of both Volgograd and Hiroshima Mr. Yury Starovatykh and participants of the International Youth Conference for Peace in the Future (IYCPF) 2021.



Photos by the “Stalingrad Battle” panorama museum

Following the toll of the Peace Bell, Memorial Ceremony attendants dedicated a moment of silence to the memory of the A-bomb victims and laid flowers and paper cranes to the bell.

A large and meaningful contribution to the event was made by Volgograd attendants of the IYCPF: school pupils, Medical University students, their friends, classmates and even children.

- Sergey Babenko of the “Satori” Japanese language club delivered a presentation about the restoration of Hiroshima after the bombing.
- Diana Martirosyan and Elina Skabelina from Gymnasium №3 read out poems about peace, and Alexander Malakhov from Gymnasium №5 put together a video message to support those who wish the power to cement peace on the planet through the power of their hearts.

The International Youth Conference for Peace in the Future is an event organized this year online by the City of Volgograd and the City of Hiroshima. Combining lectures by experts (on history, youth events and ecology) with discussion sessions and independent work, the event is aimed at helping its participants from 7 countries answer the most important question: what can we personally do to promote and cement peace?

Co-chaired by the Chair of Volgograd City Council Mr. Vladlen Kolesnikov and the Chair of Hiroshima International Friendship Association Dr. Kouki Inai, the IYCPF is held from 2 to 15 August 2021.

● Yzeure, France

Peace at a young age in the City of Yzeure

Report by Ms. Loréna Schlicht, AFCD RP-Mayors for Peace France

The city of Yzeure nurseries had worked throughout the year on the theme of tolerance: to apprehend the other in his difference, to open up to the world and to build from the youngest age a better world and peace. The children were thus introduced to art. Creation of artworks, manipulation, exposure to great classical or contemporary works, the little ones of “L'Escalette” and the family nurseries had prepared a travel diary to wander from workshop to workshop, during the big summer party on Tuesday, June 15. Families were invited to discover the “Cradle Art Museum in Bellecroix Park”. The summer party of “La Coquinette” on June 24 was an opportunity for parents to discover the moments of friendship and games experienced by their children during the year. The little hands of the “P'tit monde d'Yzatis” were proud to exhibit their artistic creations for the public to see from July 2 to 27.



Photos: courtesy of AFCD RP-Mayors for Peace

Regional chapter activities

● German Chapter

Flag Day of German Members of Mayors for Peace

Report by Ms. Evelyn Kamissek, the City of Hannover, Germany

This year, the German Mayors for Peace are celebrating a double anniversary on Flag Day. Twenty-five years ago, on July 8, 1996, the International Court of Justice in the Hague published a remarkable legal opinion. The Court found that the threat to use and the use of nuclear weapons generally violate international law. In addition, the Court found that there is an obligation under international law "to conduct and conclude negotiations in good faith leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control."

To commemorate this expertise, the state capital of Hannover, as vice president of Mayors for Peace, introduced the so-called Flag Day in Germany 10 years ago. In the meantime, more and more cities across Germany are taking part in the campaign, with about 400 members flying the flag against nuclear weapons on July 8.

Numerous peace initiatives throughout Germany accompany this special day with a variety of actions.



Photos: courtesy of the City of Hannover

 To watch a video message (in German) of Belit Onay, Mayor of the city of Hannover, please visit:

<https://www.hannover.de/Leben-in-der-Region-Hannover/Politik/Politische-Gremien/Mayors-for-Peace/Flaggentag/Mayors-for-Peace-Flaggentag-am-8.-Juli>

● Belgian Chapter

Belgian Cities commemorate Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic attacks

Report by Mr. Filip Deheegher, the City of Ypres, Belgium

On 6 and 9 August, it will be exactly 76 years since the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki fell victim to two atomic attacks. On Friday morning, the atomic attack on Hiroshima was commemorated during a ceremony in Ypres. At the same time, the new peace pole was unveiled.

On 6 August it was exactly 76 years ago that nuclear weapon was deployed for the first time on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. Three days later a second nuclear weapon was dropped over the city of Nagasaki. Actually, the American army wanted to bomb the city of Kokura, but clouds made that impossible. In the end, the second, and up to now last, atomic bomb destroyed the city of Nagasaki on 9 August. Yet the nuclear threat remains.

For over 15 years the city of Ypres has been involved in the Mayors for Peace network. As Lead City for Belgium Ypres called again this year on all Belgian members of Mayors for Peace to remember the horror of the past and to show solidarity with the victims of the bombing by raising the Mayors for Peace flag at a visible location in the city/municipality. Over 100 Belgian towns and municipalities have already responded by raising the flag at 8.15 a.m. on 6 August and lowering it at 11.02 a.m. on 9 August. These are the two exact times when two bombs destroyed two cities and almost immediately caused more than 200,000 casualties.



Photo: courtesy of the City of Ypres

In Ypres the ceremony took place near the library, due to roadworks being carried out in the city centre. During the ceremony, a new peace pole was also unveiled. The original pole, which had been removed due to the works in the city centre and was in need of replacement. Some 30 years ago, the pole was donated to the city by the Japanese artist Mié Thabé in her quest for universal peace. The new peace pole will be erected in that spot until the end of the work in the town centre and will thus give visibility to the City of Ypres' pursuit of peace.


● UK and Ireland Chapter

UK and Ireland Chapter Briefing outlines Hiroshima and Nagasaki commemoration events this August

Report by Mr. Sean Morris, UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter Secretary

A new report has been developed by the Secretary of the UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter, Manchester City Council officer Sean Morris, which outlines the live and online events that took place across the UK and Ireland to remember the 76th anniversary of the atomic weapons attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It outlines the importance of such ceremonies and notes some of the Mayors, councillors and Parliamentarians that took part in local events amongst our Mayors for Peace members.

The report also outlines an upcoming Mayors for Peace European Chapter webinar with ICAN in October which will prepare for the first States Parties Conference of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. It notes support for a Call for Action from the Global Parliament of Mayors on climate change and migration.

 UK and Ireland Mayors for Peace Briefing Paper 35 (PDF):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/activities/data/2021/UK_Briefing_No_35.pdf

Call to hold events to mark the 2021 International Day of Peace on September 21

The United Nations has established September 21 as a fixed International Day of Peace (IDP) and an annual day of non-violence and cease-fire. Mayors for Peace has been a long-time supporter of the IDP and encourages all member cities to commemorate the International Day of Peace on September 21.

If your city intends to organize a commemorative event, please send your event report to our secretariat. We will share the report on the Mayors for Peace website, etc.

Please mail us with an outline of your event at:

mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

 100-Day Countdown Message for the International Day of Peace (September 21, 2021):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/news/data/210613_IDP100day_message_E.pdf

 International Day of Peace 21 September (UN website):

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/international-day-peace>

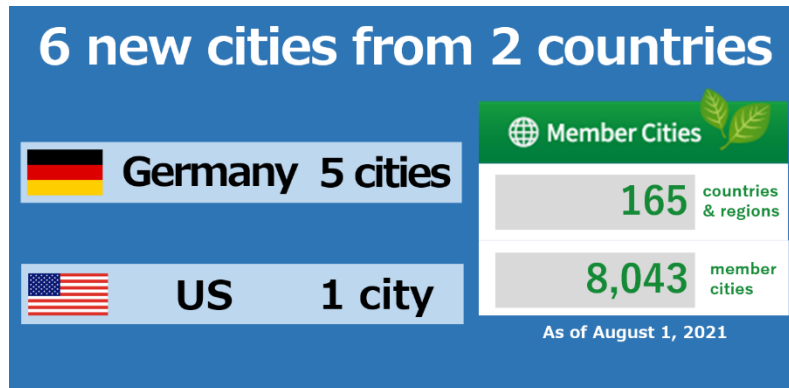
Request from Takayama City

The City of Takayama, Japan, a member city of Mayors for Peace, requests other member cities to join in a bell ringing for peace at noon on September 21, in each city's local time. We humbly ask that you consider calling for the ringing of bells at noon on September 21 at facilities and organizations which own bells in your city.

 Request letter from the President of Mayors for Peace

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/news/data/20210819/20210819.pdf>

Mayors for Peace member cities - 8,043 cities in 165 countries/regions



Help us achieve 10,000 member cities!

On August 1, we gained 6 new member cities, bringing our total membership to 8,043. We thank all involved in promoting expanded membership for their invaluable support. Below is the breakdown of the new members.

Country	New Members	Total No.	Remarks
Germany	Coesfeld (City) Heuweiler Leisnig Tamm Waldkirch	721	Thanks to efforts by Hannover, a Vice President and Lead City.
US	Port Townsend (WA)	219	

List of new members (PDF):
http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/03_newmembers/2021/newmembers2108_en.pdf

Membership by country (PDF):
http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/01_monthly Updating/07_membership_by_country_en.pdf

Help us achieve 10,000 member cities!

Mayors for Peace aims to achieve 10,000 member cities to foster international public support for the realization of a world without nuclear weapons. 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 below.

The document pack is available in 10 different languages: Chinese, English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish.

Letters of request to join Mayors for Peace and document pack
<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/aboutus/join.html#section01>

Request to implement initiatives outlined in the Mayors for Peace Action Plan

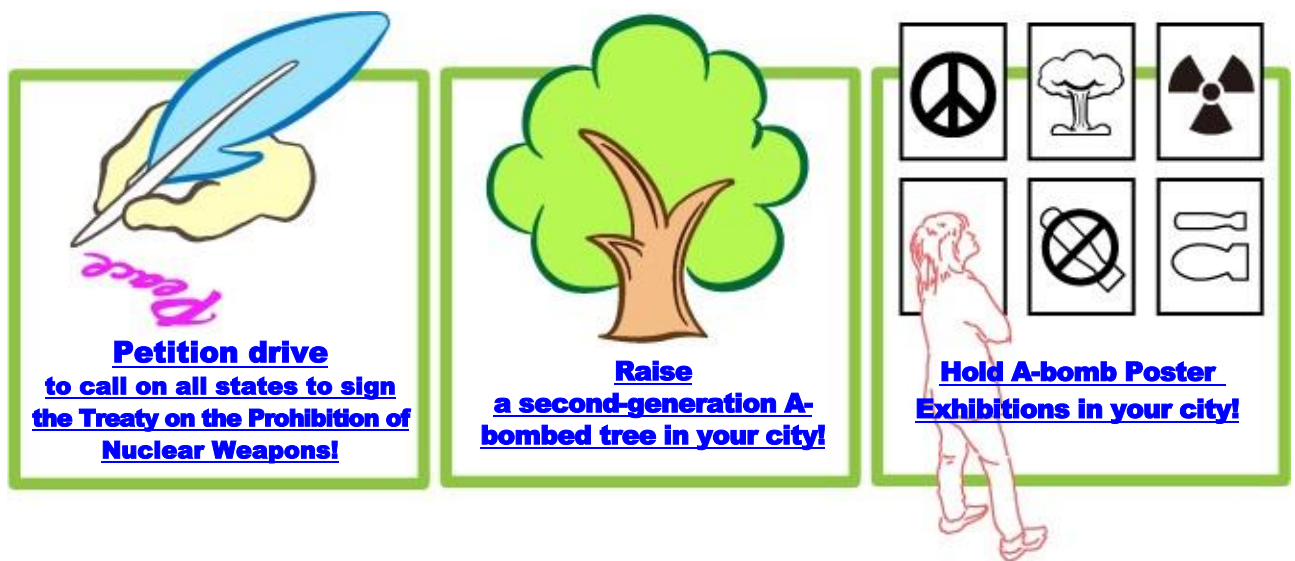
At the 12th Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace held online in July this year, we adopted our new Action Plan (2021-2025). Together, let us continue our utmost efforts toward our ultimate goal of realizing lasting world peace. Please implement initiatives outlined in the Action Plan within your own municipality or regional group.

📄 Mayors for Peace Action Plan (PDF):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/conferences/executive/data/12th_ec/PX_Vision_Action_Plan_en.pdf

📄 Initiatives implemented under the Action Plan:

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



Please send us a report on your city's peace activities

Help us tell other members what you are doing! Please send the Secretariat a short report on a peace activity or initiative by your city based on the Action Plan so that we can share it on our [website](#) or the News Flash. Reports on your city's activity or initiative that stimulate youth to be engaged in peace activities or promote 'a culture of peace' are especially welcome! We look forward to receiving ones.

Email: mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

*Please write a short (up to 200 words long) report in English, and send it to the above email address with photos (if any). Please include key information such as the date, venue, description, and result.

Request for Payment of the 2021 Mayors for Peace Membership Fee

In order to facilitate future activities and strengthen the sense of solidarity amongst member cities, Mayors for Peace introduced an annual Membership Fee in 2015.

This year again, we ask each member city to pay a fee of 2,000 Japanese yen (about 19 USD/16 Euro as of March 2021) per city. If your city has not paid their Membership Fee in previous years, we ask your city to pay the total amount owed for each unpaid year since 2015. The collected Membership Fees will be allocated toward new and existing projects listed on the [Mayors for Peace Action Plan](#).

A request for payment of the 2021 membership fee was sent to each city by email on April 1. We deeply appreciate your kind cooperation.


* If you want to know your city's payment status or if you have not received the email of request for payment, please contact the Secretariat.

 Request for the 2021 Mayors for Peace Membership Fee (Mayors for Peace website):
<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/aboutus/fee.html>

Contact: Mayors for Peace Secretariat (email: mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp)

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.

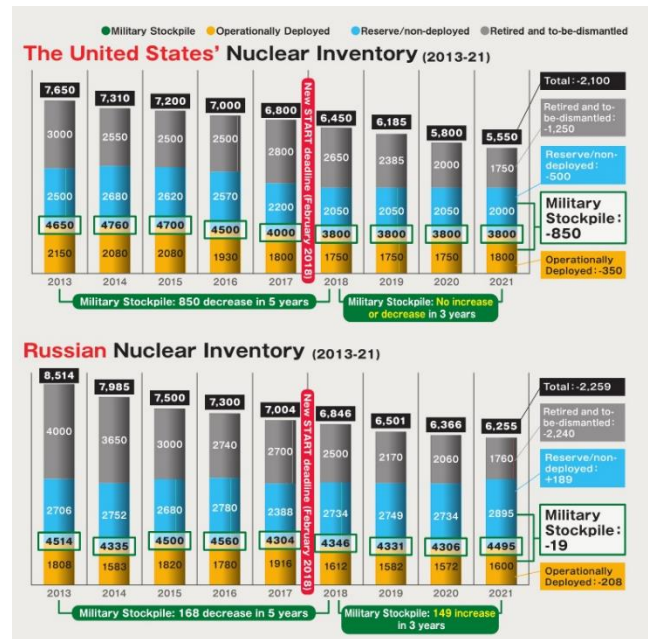
 Call for Input on the Mayors for Peace website:
<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/vision/initiatives.html#section10>

A closer look at the “World’s Nuclear Warheads Count in 2021” Part 2 Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, Nagasaki University (RECNA)

Building on an article in the previous issue, let us continue to have a look at the nuclear landscape of the United States and Russia.

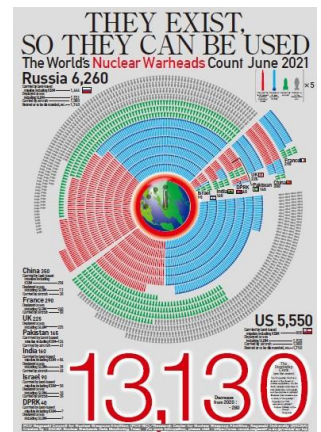
Figure

The figure on the right shows the change in the number of U.S. and Russian warheads over the eight-year period from 2013, when the poster first appeared, to 2021. Over the past eight years, the total number of U.S. nuclear warheads has been reduced by 2,100, but in terms of the military stockpiles, i.e. the total number of deployed and reserve/non-deployed nuclear warheads, the reduction has been limited to 850. When it comes to Russia, the total number of nuclear warheads has been reduced by 2,259, but the military stockpile reduction amounts to only 19 warheads. Moreover, the Russian military stockpile in 2021 contains 4,495 warheads which is an increase from 4,306 in the previous year. In sum, even though world’s nuclear warheads count is on the decline, a substantial progress in nuclear disarmament is far from advancing.



In February 2021, the U.S. and Russia agreed on the 5-year-extension of the New START Treaty. Under this treaty, which entered into force in February 2011, the two nations committed to reduce the number of deployed strategic nuclear warheads held by each country to 1,550 or less. The reduction levels envisaged by the treaty were achieved by both countries before the deadline in February 2018. However, as shown in the figure above, the pace of reduction in military stockpiles in both countries has slowed further. The two governments must hurry to agree on a successor treaty with higher goals.

For further information, please see: <https://www.recna.nagasaki-u.ac.jp/recna/en-top>



Peace news from Hiroshima

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

On August 6, Hiroshima marked the 76th anniversary of the atomic bombing of the city. In the “Peace Declaration” he announced during the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony, Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui emphasized that the A-bombed city would continue its efforts to communicate worldwide the reality of the atomic bombing, with the aim of ensuring the voices of people determined to live free of nuclear weapons become “the consensus of civil society,” as well as press leaders of nuclear weapon states to change their policies accordingly. Mayor Matsui also called on Japan’s national government to join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), which entered into effect earlier in January this year, and to provide relief in timely fashion to those who were exposed to “black rain.” Following the declaration, Maria Ito and Yoshimasa Takumi, 6th grade elementary school students who served as youth representatives in the ceremony, read aloud their “Commitment to Peace.”

The 2021 Peace Memorial Ceremony was held in a year of historic milestones for the A-bombed city of Hiroshima, with the TPNW going into effect and the Hiroshima High Court ruling in favor of victims affected by the black rain that fell immediately after the atomic bombing. However, due to the coronavirus pandemic, attendees of this year’s ceremony were markedly reduced in number, as was the case last year.

As of the end of March 2021, a total of 127,755 A-bomb survivors in Japan and overseas were in possession of Atomic Bomb Survivor’s Certificates, falling to less than 130,000. At an average age of 83.94 years, A-bomb survivors are growing more elderly. Toward the realization of their long-cherished wish of the “abolition of nuclear weapons,” what can citizens achieve in the year ahead? Echoing the closing words of the Peace Declaration, we pledge that, “Together with like-minded people around the world, we will do everything in our power.”

Please see the following for more peace-related news.

Number of A-bomb Survivor’s Certificate holders as of end of March this year falls below 130,000, with average age now 83.94 years

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=106505>

Hiroshima mayor signals intent to preserve one portion of A-bombed remnants unearthed at planned site of new soccer stadium

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=106945>

IOC president Thomas Bach tours Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and weeps for “that day” with no mention of nuclear abolition

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=107072>

Prime Minister will not appeal “black rain” lawsuit ruling

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=108075>

86% of *Hibakusha* groups say “Government should take part in meeting of State Parties” of TPNW, realities of atomic bombings should be conveyed: Survey

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=107656>

Peace Park VR tour begins; participants learn what Hiroshima was like at time of atomic bombing

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=108058>

Striving to fill voids in Hiroshima 76 years after the atomic bombing—Records of mobilized students at First Girls’ School, Part 1: Survivors’ guilt

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=107588>


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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