

Many Cultures - One Vision: A Nuclear-Free World – a World of Peace and Non-Violence. Remembering Hiroshima and Nagasaki - Aug. 6

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On August 6, tens of thousands of people will gather to commemorate the anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6 and 9, 1945. There will be many voices and many stories but all will be united to work for lasting world peace and to celebrate their vision of a just and nuclear weapons free world.

<http://history1900s.about.com/od/worldwarii/a/hiroshima.htm>

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In August of 1945, the first nuclear attacks on humanity devastated an entire nation. You may ask: Why should we care about something so horrific, so long ago? Ponder these thoughts:

- From that day on, the world has lived under a nuclear shadow and the danger of another nuclear holocaust is greater than ever.
- 63 years after the war, thousands of people in both cities still suffer from the trauma and the devastating after-effects of radiation. To prevent any repetition of the use of atomic bombs, the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki have continually sought to remind the world of the inhuman cruelty of nuclear weapons and have consistently urged the abolition of such weapons. <http://citymayors.com/orgs/mayors4peace.html>
- "... To remember Hiroshima is to dedicate oneself to peace" - Setsuko Thurlow
- "Memory is the place where past and future meet." Mayor of Hiroshima
- "We remember the victims and over 60 years of war and continuing nuclear terror. We remember that there are more than 30,000 nuclear weapons stockpiled in countries around the world. As long as they exist, they continue to threaten all our lives. One could be used again..." "Our actions now can lay the foundation for the peace of the future. We can plant the seeds that will one day abolish nuclear weapons and heal the global wounds that are their legacy." Physicians for Global Survival.

<http://www.ippnw.org/Programs/ICAN/index.html>;

<http://www.ippnw.org/About/Accomplishments.html>

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Every year on August 6, the city of Hiroshima holds a Peace Memorial Ceremony to pray for the peaceful repose of the victims of the atomic bombing and to pray for the realization of everlasting world peace. The Peace Declaration, which is delivered by the Mayor of Hiroshima during the ceremony, is sent to every country in the world thus conveying Hiroshima's wish for the abolition of nuclear weapons and the realization of eternal world peace. At exactly 8:15 a.m., the time the atomic bomb was dropped, the Peace Bell is rung, sirens sound all over the city and for one minute people at the ceremony grounds, in households and in workplaces pay silent tribute to the victims of the atomic bombing and pray for the realization of everlasting world peace.

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Each year on August 6 Peace Quest Cape Breton gathers to share their hopes and dreams for a world of genuine and lasting world peace where nuclear weapons are abolished and no population will ever again experience the cruel devastation suffered by Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Members of Peace Quest Cape Breton met in late June to plan for August 6. We have designed part of our reflection on the Hiroshima Panels. "Virtually unknown in the west, *The Hiroshima Panels* are as profound an antiwar work as Pablo Picasso's famous mural, *Guernica*. The creation of Japanese artists, Iri and Toshi Maruki (both now deceased), depict the atomic holocaust wrought upon Japan when the U.S. dropped nuclear bombs on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The monumental panels... provide a chilling look at the terror of nuclear war." <http://www.theblackmoon.com/blog/2005/08/hiroshima-panels.html>.

For a message from IRI & TOSHI Maruki visit: www.aya.or.jp/~marukimsn/english/indexE.htm To view the panels visit: <http://www.aya.or.jp/~marukimsn/english/genbakuE.htm>

Mayors for Peace, an international organization of cities, dedicated to the promotion of peace was established in 1982 at the initiative of then mayor of Hiroshima Takeshi Araki. By building international solidarity, Mayors for Peace hope to raise global consciousness regarding nuclear weapons abolition. It is formally committed to pursuing lasting world peace by working to address starvation, poverty, refugee welfare, human rights abuses, environmental destruction, and other problems that threaten all cities. As of June 2, 2008 there are 2,277 member cities from 129 countries and regions.

Mayors for Peace is recognised by the UN as an official NGO.

<http://citymayors.com/orgs/mayors4peace.html>;

<http://www.wloe.org/Hiroshima-Nagasaki.238.0.html>

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/citiesappeal.pdf>

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/index.html>

Let us join those who gather to pray for the victims of violence and injustice and to work for lasting world peace. Remembering the principle of the echo, may the sounds of peace that we utter move into the whole world! May we continue to be persons of peace, creating a "culture of peace", a world of peace and justice!

"Without justice there is no peace!" (Pope John Paul II)