



Mayors for Peace

Secretariat

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Message from the President of Mayors for Peace

It is both an honor and a pleasure for me to send you this message on the occasion of "Mayors for Peace Day".

Seventy-eight years ago, a single atomic bomb instantly reduced our city to a scorched plain, taking countless precious lives. The lives of those who managed to survive are still altered by the damaging effects of radiation on their minds and bodies.

The heads of state attending the G7 Hiroshima Summit in May this year visited the Peace Memorial Museum and spoke with a hibakusha. After experiencing first-hand the realities of atomic bombing through these events, they wrote messages of peace in the visitors' book, and His Excellency Monsieur Emmanuel Macron, President of France, wrote: "With emotion and compassion, it is up to us to contribute to the duty of remembrance of the Hiroshima victims and to act in favor of peace, the only battle worth fighting." Standing in front of the Cenotaph in memory of the A-bomb victims, I had the opportunity to convey the Spirit of Hiroshima underlying its inscription. Enduring past grief, overcoming hatred, we aspire to genuine world peace, with all humanity living in harmony and prosperity. I believe they have taken our spirit into their hearts.

However, there is no sign of an end to the war in Ukraine, and many decision-makers and even public opinion tend to express a certain understanding of a reinforced nuclear deterrent. These conditions run counter to the desire for peace that the atomically bombed cities have continued to call for. Therefore, in civil society, each of us must embrace the generosity and love for humanity embodied in the message of the hibakusha: "No one else should ever suffer as we have suffered." It will be increasingly important for us to urge decision-makers to abandon nuclear deterrence in favor of a peaceful world that refuses to compromise human dignity and security.

As such, it could not be more significant that you have organized "Mayors for Peace Day" to highlight the network and showcase the exemplary actions undertaken by its members, and I offer you my respect.

Mayors for Peace, with its more than 8,300 member communities worldwide, intends to promote the culture of peace on a global scale through exchanges with citizens. Our goal is an environment in which our united desire for peace can touch the hearts of decision-makers, helping to build an international community that maintains peace without recourse to military force. I ask you to join us in solidarity as we strive to eliminate nuclear weapons and achieve lasting world peace.

In conclusion, I wish every success to this event, as well as health and happiness to all participants.

November 15, 2023

MATSUI Kazumi
President of Mayors for Peace,
Mayor of Hiroshima