

A People's Peace Declaration from the August 6, 2023 Hiroshima Gathering for Peace

Seventy-eight years since the atomic bombings and the end of the war, Hiroshima demands that Japan be a demilitarized, nonaligned, neutral nation opposed to the globalization of NATO and part of a strong, friendly East Asian community.

It has been 78 years since the battle on Okinawa, the A-bomb attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the military defeat of Japan.

We have long questioned our responsibility. Who was responsible for the invasion of Asia and the Pacific by Japan's military? Who was responsible for the indiscriminate massacres in Hiroshima and Nagasaki by the U.S. military-industrial-academic complex? Who was responsible for the problems of post-war democracy in a U.S.-occupied country that retained its anti-democratic emperor system?

From May 19 to 21, the G7 Hiroshima Summit was held in Ujina, the port from which soldiers were dispatched to invade Asian countries, starting with the Sino-Japanese War in 1894. As we anticipated, the name "Hiroshima" was used by that summit to promote an arms buildup, strengthen a military alliance, intensify the war in Ukraine, and justify nuclear deterrence. The G7 Hiroshima Summit was a war-preparation and intensification summit.

"Pave a road to a world free from nuclear weapons." This phrase, voiced loudly by Prime Minister Kishida, was revealed the deceit by the leaders' call for "solutions based on the assumption of nuclear deterrence." The "nuclear button" was in Peace Park. This summit, which happily accepted parties involved in an ongoing war, was far from any discussion of a future of peace for the world. The G7 merely confirmed stronger military support for the war in Ukraine and stronger armaments to be arrayed against China and Russia, a structure they called "strengthening the Japan-U.S.-South Korea military alliance through the globalization of NATO."

The scheme involved U.S. and Japanese rulers cynically utilizing A-bombed Hiroshima to get nuclear military power approved and a war accepted, covering up the aggression and war crimes of both countries. The cries of A-bomb sufferers against war and for the abolition of nuclear weapons were betrayed and transfigured.

The invasion of Ukraine has been going on for more than a year since February 2022 and eight years since Russia's annexation of the Crimean Peninsula. A brutal battle is underway. We demand the immediate withdrawal of the Russian army, and we oppose continued intervention by NATO taking advantage of concessions by Russia. Based on Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution, we oppose any military assistance. We demand that the Japanese government refuse to condone the invasion of Russia and encourage negotiations for peace based on the fundamental need to keep people from dying right now and in the days and years to come. Further, we demand that Japan abandon policies that follow the dictates of the U.S. Instead, it should pour all its energy into persuading the U.N. General Assembly to cooperate with the ASEAN nations, including China, Brazil, Turkey, the Arab countries, and Indonesia.

We oppose strengthening the Japan-U.S.-South Korea military alliance and globalization of NATO. We call for a worldwide anti-war movement in cooperation with the Russian anti-war movement, which is struggling under severe circumstances, and the Ukrainian public resisting the invasion.

We will further promote the movement for *Peace: Public Perspectives through Nonviolence and Dialogue*, which we confirmed at the forum opposing the Okinawa Summit in July 2000, and we will work toward global social reform in opposition to capitalism, including its effects on the economic and global environment.

To achieve non-dominance, non-militarism and solidarity in East Asia beyond the confrontation between U.S. and China, today's economic activity must seek not profit and efficiency but solidarity and mutual support rooted in the social needs of the public, not led by the government.

In addition, with a view toward peace in East Asia and based on the fundamental need to protect the lives of the people, let's put an end to the Kishida administration's effort to make Japan a warlike nation.

As Hiroshima marks the 78th anniversary of the atomic bombing, we call for discussion, solidarity, and

action to resolve the structural conflicts in the Far East related to the peaceful unification of the Korean Peninsula, the democratization of Myanmar, and peace for the people in Ukraine.

With the above in mind, let us work toward the following:

- Demand that the Japanese government 1) sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, 2) break away from dependence on U.S. nuclear deterrence, and 3) support a Northeast Asian nuclear-weapon-free zone, including the Korean Peninsula. To this end, we must demand that Japan stop all joint military exercises with the U.S., Korea, Australia, and India, including RIMPAC (Rim of the Pacific) maneuvers.
- Urge Russia to withdraw immediately from Ukraine while not condoning NATO's excessive intervention; oppose all military assistance by Japan.
- Prevent the U.S. military and Japanese Self-Defense Forces from deploying or expanding into new locations. Japan must immediately 1) stop all land reclamation for the new Henoko base, which uses earth and sand containing the remains Battle-of-Okinawa victims, 2) stop construction of Self-Defense-Force bases in the Ryukyu Arc, and 3) immediately repeal the "Critical Land Regulation Law," which violates democratic principles and oppresses citizens protesting in areas around military bases and nuclear power plants.
- Immediately and permanently stop nuclear power generation, which causes radiation damage and ecological destruction. Force the government and TEPCO to admit their responsibility for the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant disaster; make them apologize and pay full compensation to the victims. Immediately reverse the decision to discharge contaminated water into the ocean, which will cause additional pollution and radiation exposure. Stop promoting nuclear power by tightening the power supply under the guise of reducing CO₂ emissions.
- Demand that the Japanese government offer compensation to all hibakusha, including those living in Korea and "black rain areas."
- Demand that the Japanese government and corporations accept responsibility for all forced relocation to Japan and forced labor; demand that the Japanese government accept responsibility for wartime sexual slavery, offering a sincere apology and reparations while taking measures to prevent any repetition of such atrocities.
- Demand that Japan pay its debts incurred by invading Asia. Japan must live up to the 2002 Pyongyang Joint Declaration, normalize diplomatic relations with North Korea, apologize and pay reparations for its colonial rule, and eliminate its discriminatory policies toward Koreans in Japan. The Japanese government must immediately apply the "free high school admission system" to Korean schools.
- Preserve in its entirety the Hiroshima Army Clothing Depot and other historical war ruins and A-bombed buildings. These structures are valuable historic sites that powerfully convey the reality of the atomic bombing and Hiroshima's role in Japan's aggression against Asia.
- Express solidarity with the people of Myanmar (Burma), who continue to resist the military coup; denounce Japanese government and corporate support for the military regime.
- In Palestine, military actions by the Israeli military have taken countless lives. Support Palestinian protests against Israel's apartheid policies in Gaza, the West Bank, Jerusalem, and Israel itself.
- The Immigration Control "Worsening Act" approved and passed in the diet in June is a refusal to solve the fundamental problems of immigration control. It preserves and intensifies the profound human rights violations of Japan's immigration control. At the heart of immigration control governance lie actions taken during colonial rule prior to WWII and efforts to keep Koreans from living in Japan after WWII. Japanese society must put an end to our history of discrimination and exclusion. We must respect and assure the human rights of foreigners living in Japan. We oppose the enactment of the Immigration Control Worsening Act. We urge the passage of laws that guarantee to all foreigners living in Japan fair treatment that conforms to international human rights and refugee authorization standards.

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