

**A People's Peace Declaration  
from the Hiroshima Gathering for Peace  
August 6, 2024**

**79 years since the bombing and surrender  
Fighting war, nuclear power, and genocide**

**Stop Israel's genocide in Gaza and its occupation of Palestine**

It has been 79 years since the Battle of Okinawa, the indiscriminate slaughters in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the defeat of our Emperor's militaristic war of aggression in Asia.

We have sought accountability both for Japan's war of aggression in the Asia-Pacific and the indiscriminate mass murder in Hiroshima and Nagasaki by the U.S. We have continuously sought to bring to light problems of our "postwar democracy," which began when, as an occupied nation, the U.S. retained our anti-democratic Emperor System.

The world situation during this "post-war" period now includes the ongoing military coup in Myanmar, the war of aggression by Russia and the Putin regime against Ukraine, the G7 versus Russia, intensifying U.S.-China confrontation, military tensions on the Korean Peninsula, and Israel's genocide (mass indiscriminate slaughter) against Gaza in Palestine.

In May 2023, the G7 Hiroshima Summit was held in Ujina, a base from which Japanese troops departed to invade Asia beginning with the Sino-Japanese War. The G7, led by the U.S., agreed to expand its militaries, strengthen military alliances, intensify the war in Ukraine, strengthen extended nuclear deterrence, and implement derisking (avoiding economic risk).

Hiroshima City has followed suit, as evidenced by the "sister" relationship between Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park and the Pearl Harbor Memorial "Park" (a military base and museum honoring the military). Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui has quoted the Imperial Rescript on Education in his training sessions for newly appointed officials from the time he took office until today, but he has failed to mention compliance with Japan's peace constitution. This is exactly the kind of conduct that seeks gradually to deprive Ground Zero of its meaning as "the start of nuclear genocide" and turn Hiroshima into a symbol of "peacekeeping through nuclear deterrence" under the control of the United States.

Furthermore, Russia and Belarus are not invited to Hiroshima's Peace Memorial Ceremony due to their military aggression against Ukraine, but Israel, which has been committing genocide in Palestine since October 7, 2023, is about to be invited. In response, many are calling for Hiroshima to reject this double standard and withdraw the invitation to Israel.

During the Russian invasion of Ukraine that began in 2022, nuclear power plants have actually become nuclear targets. Nuclear power plants are not a peaceful use of nuclear energy. They cause major accidents like Three Mile Island, Chernobyl, and Fukushima, and even routine operations produce enormous amounts of nuclear waste that cannot be treated or discarded.

In the name of Hiroshima, where nuclear genocide first emerged, we appeal in solidarity with the global anti-war, anti-nuclear, and anti-genocide movements for an immediate ceasefire and the liberation of Palestine from occupation, which is illegal under international law.

Israel's illegal occupation of Palestine began with its forcible declaration of statehood in 1948. It continues to deprive Palestinians of the right to return to their own land. It continues to deprive them of the right to come and go freely and live in safety and security. To put an end to this injustice, the Japanese government must stop following the U.S. in supporting Israel and demand action toward an immediate ceasefire. Japan must also work to eliminate all vestiges

of colonialism and neocolonialism.

In Kure, with no explanation, a huge military base is being built on land formerly owned by Japan Steel, which was sold to the Ministry of Defense. This base is part of the Kishida administration's plan to strengthen the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty, improve military integration, and build bases in Okinawa, Iwakuni, and elsewhere in Japan. The goal is to create a "war-ready nation." We must prevent this military buildup and demand that the Military Port City Conversion Law (Gunten Hou) be applied to Kure City.

On the Korean Peninsula, military tensions between North and South Korea have never been higher. U.S. military adventurism is increasing as America's economic and political power declines, but repeated U.S.-Japan-Korea military exercises must stop. We must stop all military posturing and create an environment in which the peoples of North and South Korea can voluntarily and peacefully unify their country. But the U.S. is provoking military tensions in the South China Sea.

In Myanmar, the military coup by the national army continues. Conscription has begun. Petitions have been submitted by various organizations calling on the Japanese government to issue a formal letter demanding safety for Myanmar residents in Japan and for young people wishing to flee to Japan.

It is clear that climate change is now upon us. This "global boiling," if left unchecked, will create crises that will threaten the human race and all life on Earth. We appeal from Hiroshima for dialogue, action, and collective action for a demilitarized, non-aligned, neutral Japan, the dissolution of structural conflict in the Far East, peaceful reunification of the Korean Peninsula, democratization of Myanmar, peace in Ukraine, and the liberation of Palestine. Our primary appeals are listed below:

- We urge the Japanese government to break from its dependence on U.S. expanded nuclear deterrence, ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, and work toward a nuclear-weapon-free zone on the Korean Peninsula and in Northeast Asia. Seventy years after the establishment of the Ground, Maritime, and Air Self-Defense Forces in violation of the Constitution, we strongly oppose creation of the Joint Operations Command, Japan-U.S. military integration, strengthening the military alliance between the U.S., Japan, and South Korea. We call for suspension of all joint military exercises, including Japan-U.S., U.S.-South Korea, Australia-India, and RIMPAC (Rim of the Pacific) joint naval exercises.
- We call for the immediate withdrawal of Russian troops from Ukraine as well as all NATO intervention. We oppose any military assistance by the Japanese government. We call on the Japanese government to facilitate negotiations for peace between Russia and Ukraine to resist Russian aggression and prevent further casualties.
- From the "starting point of nuclear genocide," we vigorously protest Israel's continued occupation and illegal settlement in Palestine, its apartheid policies, and the ongoing massacre in Gaza. We call for immediate ceasefire. We call on the Japanese government to stop following the U.S. and take immediate action to promote that ceasefire. We call on the Japanese government to eliminate all vestiges of colonialism and neocolonialism, which pervade the world, and never allow their return.
- We determinedly protest the Japanese and U.S. governments' cover-up of crimes committed in Japan by U.S. soldiers. We call on the Japanese government to take effective action to prioritize the human rights of its citizens against U.S. personnel. We oppose any new deployment or buildup of U.S. forces in Japan and our own Self-Defense Forces. We demand the immediate cessation of land reclamation for the new Henoko base. The earth and sand being used contain the remains of victims of the Battle of Okinawa and the construction of the Self-Defense Forces base in the Ryukyu Arc. We demand the immediate repeal of the "Critical Land Regulation Law," which violates democracy and oppresses citizens who protest in the vicinity of military bases and nuclear power plants.
- We oppose operation of nuclear power plants and demand the immediate shutdown of all such plants, which continually cause a broad spectrum of nuclear damage, including the destruction of ecosystems. We demand that the government and TEPCO accept

responsibility for the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant disaster, apologize to the victims, and pay full compensation. We further demand an immediate halt to all discharge of contaminated water into the ocean, which only compounds environmental contamination and radiation exposure. We oppose the dumping of radioactive waste mixed with industrial waste. We oppose nuclear energy development under the guise of CO<sub>2</sub> reduction and growing demand for electricity. We demand that the Shimane nuclear power plant be decommissioned. We oppose any "interim" storage facility for spent nuclear fuel in Kaminoseki, and we further demand that construction of the Kaminoseki nuclear power plant be abandoned.

- We demand that the Japanese government offer compensation to all hibakusha, including those living in Korea and "black rain areas."
- We 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.
- We 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 preschool and high school admission system" to Korean schools.
- We demand preservation in its entirety of 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.
- We demand that Kure City stop preparing for war and strengthening its military functions without regard to local residents by building a huge military base on the site abandoned by Japan Steel. We demand that Kure complete its Peaceful Industrial Port City plan in accordance with the Military Port City Conversion Law.
- We express solidarity with the people of Myanmar (Burma), who continue to resist the military coup. We denounce Japanese government and corporate support for the military regime.
- The "Immigration Control Worsening Act" passed in the diet in June 2024, following the 2023 version, is a refusal to solve the fundamental problems of immigration. It preserves and intensifies the profound human rights violations of Japan's immigration policies and violates fundamentally the right of permanent residence. At the heart of immigration governance lie actions taken during colonial rule prior to WWII and efforts to keep Koreans from living in Japan after that war. Japanese society must put an end to our practices of discrimination and exclusion. We must respect and assure the human rights of foreigners living in Japan. We oppose enactment of the Worsening Act and 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. We urge establishment of independent national human rights committee.
- We oppose the entry restrictions placed by the administration of Mayor Kazumi Matsui for the morning of August 6 in the area around the Atomic Bomb Dome. Those restrictions violate our right to freedom of expression.

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