

A People's Peace Declaration from the Hiroshima Gathering for Peace August 6, 2025
137 Years as a military city Nationwide air raids, including Tokyo
The Battle of Okinawa Eighty years since the Hiroshima & Nagasaki Atomic Genocides
From the Chongqing Bombing to the Gaza Genocide What Should Hiroshima Do?

Eighty years have passed since the end of World War II. Eighty years since the nationwide air raids on Japan, including Tokyo. Eighty years since the Battle of Okinawa and the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It has also been 80 years since the liberation of Taiwan, Korea, China, and other Asian countries.

The U.S. did not bomb Hiroshima and Nagasaki to end the war; it was sending a message to the Soviet Union. Emperor Hirohito, having instigated colonial rule and wars of aggression, refused to accept the Potsdam Declaration to preserve “national polity” (the imperial system). That led to the deaths of tens of thousands of citizens and soldiers at home and abroad, including the indiscriminate slaughter inflicted by the atomic bombings.

We have long demanded accountability for the crimes committed through Hiroshima, the base from which Japan invaded China, but we have not adequately sought accountability for Japan's indiscriminate attacks on civilians in Chongqing nor the U.S. government's use of the atomic bomb. We have failed to break the chain of inhumane acts, including Japan's brutal, deadly, and destructive actions across the Asia-Pacific region, the countless casualties and destruction caused by U.S. air raids across Japan, the occupation of Palestine following the establishment of Israel, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, the Afghanistan War, the Iraq War, the invasion of Ukraine, and the Gaza genocide.

Among the victims of the atomic bombings were Koreans brought as forced labor from Korea to Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Those who returned to Korea after the war were long excluded from survivor support programs. However, as a result of determined advocacy, atomic bomb survivors residing in South Korea and most other countries can now apply for and receive Atomic Bomb Survivor Health Handbooks from their countries of residence. However, atomic bomb survivors who returned to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) still cannot receive assistance. We believe the Japanese and U.S. governments must immediately provide medical support, living allowances, and other emergency relief, as well as apologize and compensate the elderly atomic bomb survivors residing in the DPRK.

The massive disasters caused by accidents at nuclear power facilities around the world have made it clear that radiation indiscriminately and massively damages and destroys not only humans but all life on land and in the sea, including plants as well as animals. We continue to appeal from the epicenter that nuclear power and life cannot coexist indefinitely. All nuclear reactors worldwide must be shut down and decommissioned.

At a time when those in Japan who directly experienced the atrocities and suffering of war, air raids, and atomic bombings are leaving us, the Japanese government is pursuing large-scale military expansion and military integration with the United States. This includes the construction of military bases and the reinforcement of missile deployments in the Ryukyu Islands, but such activities are expanding nationwide. In Kure, efforts are underway to establish a “comprehensive military hub.” Military-related environmental destruction, the polarization of communities, and human rights violations are occurring across the country. Repeated multi-nation military exercises seek to encircle China, while the deployment of missiles capable of striking deep within enemy territory is about to begin. Japan is, once again, walking a path that could make us both perpetrators and victims of war.

“We, the Japanese people, desire peace for all time and are deeply conscious of the high ideals controlling human relationship, and we have determined to preserve our security and existence, trusting in the justice and faith of the peace-loving peoples of the world. We desire to occupy an honored place in an international society striving for the preservation of peace, and the banishment of tyranny and slavery, oppression and intolerance for all time from the earth. We recognize that all peoples of the world have the right to live in peace, free from fear and want.” (Preamble to the Constitution of Japan)

We, peace-loving people from Hiroshima, now marking the 80th anniversary of the atomic bombing, call for dialogue, unity, and action toward the following goals: an unarmed, non-aligned, and neutral Japan; resolution of the structural conflicts in the Far East; peaceful reunification of the Korean Peninsula; democratization of Myanmar; peace in Ukraine; and the liberation of Palestine.

August 5, 2024 Participants at the August 6, 2025 Hiroshima Gathering for Peace
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