

Peace Declaration, August 6, 2003

Tadatoshi Akiba, Mayor, the city of Hiroshima

HIROSHIMA, Japan — This year again, summer's heat reminds us of the blazing hell fire that swept over this very spot fifty-eight years ago. The world without nuclear weapons and beyond war that our *hibakusha** have sought for so long appears to be slipping deeper into a thick cover of dark clouds that they fear at any minute could become mushroom clouds spilling black rain.

The nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the central international agreement guiding the elimination of nuclear weapons, is on the verge of collapse. The chief cause is U.S. nuclear policy that, by openly declaring the possibility of a pre-emptive nuclear first strike and calling for resumed research into mini-nukes and other so-called "usable nuclear weapons," appears to worship nuclear weapons as God.

However, nuclear weapons are not the only problem. Acting as if the United Nations Charter and the Japanese Constitution don't even exist, the world has suddenly veered sharply away from post-war toward pre-war mentality. As the U.S.-U.K.-led war on Iraq made clear, the assertion that war is peace is being trumpeted as truth. Conducted with disregard for the multitudes around the world demanding a peaceful solution through continued UN inspections, this war slaughtered innocent women, children, and the elderly. It destroyed the environment, most notably through radioactive contamination that will be with us for billions of years. And the weapons of mass destruction that served as the excuse for the war have yet to be found.

However, as President Lincoln once said, "You can't fool all the people all the time." Now is the time for us to focus once again on the truth that "Darkness can never be dispelled by darkness, only by light." The rule of power is darkness. The rule of law is light. In the darkness of retaliation, the proper path for human civilization is illuminated by the spirit of reconciliation born of the *hibakusha's* determination that "no one else should ever suffer as we did."

Lifting up that light, the aging *hibakusha* are calling for U.S. President George Bush to visit Hiroshima. We all support that call and hereby demand that President Bush, Chairman Kim Jong Il of North Korea, and the leaders of all nuclear-weapon states come to Hiroshima and confront the reality of nuclear war. We must somehow convey to them that nuclear weapons are utterly evil, inhumane and illegal under international law. In the meanwhile, we expect that the facts about Hiroshima and Nagasaki will be shared throughout the world,

and that the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Course will be established in ever more colleges and universities.

To strengthen the NPT regime, the city of Hiroshima is calling on all members of the World Conference of Mayors for Peace to take emergency action to promote the abolition of nuclear weapons. Our goal is to gather a strong delegation of mayors representing cities throughout the world to participate in the NPT Review Conference that will take place in New York in 2005, the 60th year after the atomic bombing. In New York, we will lobby national delegates for the start of negotiations at the United Nations on a universal Nuclear Weapons Convention providing for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons.

At the same time, Hiroshima calls on politicians, religious professionals, academics, writers, journalists, teachers, artists, athletes and other leaders with influence. We must establish a climate that immediately confronts even casual comments that appear to approve of nuclear weapons or war. To prevent war and to abolish the absolute evil of nuclear weapons, we must pray, speak, and act to that effect in our daily lives.

The Japanese government, which publicly asserts its status as "the only A-bombed nation," must fulfill the responsibilities that accompany that status, both at home and abroad. Specifically, it must adopt as national precepts the three new non-nuclear principles — allow no production, allow no possession, and allow no use of nuclear weapons anywhere in the world — and work conscientiously toward an Asian nuclear-free zone. It must also provide full support to all *hibakusha* everywhere, including those exposed in "black rain areas" and those who live overseas.

On this 58th August 6, we offer our heartfelt condolences to the souls of all atomic bomb victims, and we renew our pledge to do everything in our power to abolish nuclear weapons and eliminate war altogether by the time we turn this world over to our children.

**Hibakusha* is the Japanese term for survivors of the atomic bombings.



Photo by John LaForge

Above, Weapons Inspectors prepare to enter Project ELF in northern Wisconsin. Activists with the Chicago based Christian Peacemaker Teams, Loaves and Fishes Catholic Worker Community from Duluth, Minn. and Nukewatch organized the event for August 9. Trespassers include: (Not in order shown) Elizabeth Garcia, Sunrise, Tex.; Sheila Provencher, South Bend, Ind.; Kitty Ufford-Chase, Tucson, Ariz.; Matthew Chandler, Springfield, Or.; Kryss Chupp, Chicago, Ill.; Rose Whiteside, and Haven Whiteside, both of Tampa, FL; Mortimer Cushman, LaPoint, Wisc.; Muriel Fitzgerald, Ironwood, Mich.; Catherine McClean, Strathroy, Ontario; Pat Basler, Webster, Wisc.; and Ozone of Duluth, Minn. Corey Chupp, 12, crossed the line but was not cited.

Citizen Weapons Inspectors Refused Access to Project ELF

CLAM LAKE, Wisc. — Twelve people were cited for trespass and two were jailed overnight after they attempted to conduct a citizens' inspection of the Navy's Project ELF submarine transmitter on Saturday, Aug. 9, the 58th anniversary of the U.S. atomic attack on the Japanese city of Nagasaki.

About 75 people gathered at the remote "extremely low frequency" transmitter to commemorate the Aug. 9, 1945, bombing which killed 70,000 people instantly. In the morning there was a panel discussion that included reports on U.S. plans to design and develop the "mini-nuke" and robust nuclear earth penetrator, the use of depleted uranium in Iraq, and an update from two members of the Christian Peacemaker Team who were recently in Iraq.

The ELF facility, secluded in the Chequamegon National Forest in north central Wisconsin, sends one-way messages to submerged British and U.S. submarines around the world.

Dressed in hardhats and carrying clipboards, the 12 modeled UN inspectors and demanded "unfettered access" to the compound, just as U.S. and UN inspectors demand of other countries suspected of concealing weapons of mass destruction. The group, calling themselves the (U)nited for (N)onviolence Weapons Inspectors, read the following statement of intent to the eight or nine police officials guarding the facility before walking under a wooden gate onto the national forest property: "Given the overwhelming evidence, the Weapons Inspection Team will investigate the scope and specifics of ELF's nuclear weapons activities and demand cessation and termination of those activities pursuant to Article VI of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which entered into force and became U.S. law in 1970. The NPT's Article VI reads: *Each of the Parties of the Treaty undertakes to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament, and on a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.*"

The Trident submarines that receive ELF messages can carry 192 hydrogen bomb warheads — eight each on 24 missiles. Each warhead can be as much as 38 times the power of the atomic bomb that incinerated Hiroshima. The U.S. maintains 18 Trident submarines.

Elizabeth Garcia and Sheila Provencher were taken into custody and transported to Ashland County Jail for refusing to give their names to arresting officers. They were released the morning of Sunday, Aug. 10, after providing identification. Their overnight jail witness was undertaken in solidarity with the thousands of "nameless" individuals in the world taken into custody and disappeared. Garcia and Provencher were additionally charged with obstructing an officer. All of those cited on August 9 were given arraignment dates of Oct. 14 for federal court in Madison, Wisc.

In other ELF news, an arraignment date of Sept. 18 is set for Bonnie Urfer, who was ticketed at Project ELF on May 10, 2003. Her codefendants were arraigned by telephone July 18 and have been given a trial date of Oct. 24 in federal court in Madison on trespass charges. Urfer pled guilty in the same court phone call, and the judge ordered an appearance in person to accept the plea. It is uncertain whether Bonnie will still plead guilty at that time.

Current U.S. Nuclear Weapons Arsenal

The B61 — A "dial-a-yeild" weapon, ranging between 100 and 500 kilotons (kt.), and a special low 10 kt. yield. The latest version of this is the earth-penetrator B61-11. Approximately **1500 are still in deployment**;

W62 — Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM). **600 are still in deployment**. Two or three W62's can be carried on each Minuteman III missile. Explosive yield is believed to be 170 kt.

W78 — Minuteman III ICBM, with 2 - 3 warheads on each missile. **900 are still deployed**. Yield believed to be around 335 kt.

W80 — Warhead for sea-launched cruise missiles from ships and subs. Also adapted for air-launch on B-2 and B-52 bombers. **1,120 still in deployment**. Yield is believed to be around 150 kt.

B83 — Air Force strategic bomb for use against hardened targets. Up to **950 may still be in deployment**. Yield is believed to be between 1 - 2 megatons.

W87 — MX ICBM, sadly called "peacekeeper," which can carry up to 12 warheads each. **500 still in deployment**. Yield is 300 kt. and can be increased up to 475 kt.

W76 — A Trident I missile. Each Trident submarine can carry 24 missiles with eight warheads each. Yield of the W-76 is believed to be around 100 kt. **3,000 are still deployed**.

W88 — Trident II missile. Yield is 475 kt. Each Trident carries up to 24 Trident II missiles with up to eight independently targeted W88's each. **384 still in deployment**. The W88 is considered to be the U.S.'s most advanced nuclear weapon; its plutonium pit is the first scheduled for resumed stockpile pit production.

The current nuclear arsenal carries the equivalent explosive force of over 200,000 Hiroshima bombs.

Source: *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*