

## Peace Gathering on the 80th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki



*"Nuclear weapons are a costly and dangerous liability. They represent a 'risk multiplier' that provides only an illusion of a 'peace of sorts'. Here, I wish to reaffirm that the use of nuclear weapons, as well as their mere possession, is immoral."*

~Pope Francis, June 21, 2022

Eighty years ago, on the mornings of August 6 and 8, 1945, the U.S. detonated atomic bombs over two Japanese cities: Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The nuclear bombs killed nearly 210,000 citizens by the end of 1945 and, over the years, have maimed and ruined the health of many survivors. The average age of hibakusha, or atomic bomb survivors, is now 86 years old; many still suffer from terrible health issues.

Today, to honor the memory of those who lost their lives to the atomic bombs, a coalition of citizens and peace activists gather at the Japan Consulate to express our sincere regrets and apologies for our nation's atomic bombings over Hiroshima and Nagasaki. A claim that doing so ended World War II, thus saving untold lives, has since been disproven by extensive U.S. documents. True reasons for dropping the bombs had more to do with politics and scientific experimentation than with ending the war or saving lives.

We are also here to express our solidarity with all peoples and nations across the globe who reject all nuclear and related aspects: storage, manufacturing or upgrading them, mining for fuel. Rather, we simply demand Abolition, as well as respect for International Law, which, through the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), calls on both the U.S. and Japan to join the 73 nations and states that have already signed and ratified it.

Our message is urgent: 80 years since Hiroshima and Nagasaki, we are closer to nuclear annihilation than ever before. Russia has threatened the use of such weapons against Ukraine. Israel and the USA—both nuclear-armed—attacked Iran, supposedly to stop any nuclear ambitions by Iran. Further, the Trump administration has ordered a 29% increase in the U.S. National Nuclear Security Administration and aims to re-establish the U.S. "as the global leader in nuclear energy." Simultaneously, the other 8 nuclear-armed states are modernizing their arsenals. And New York State Governor Hochul has directed the New York Power Authority to develop and construct an advanced nuclear power plant "to support a reliable and affordable electric grid." Such actions make us neither safer nor more secure and are not reliable or affordable. Rather they endanger our environment, our economy, and our very lives.

Consequently, our demands seek an end to uranium mining and other activities, the shutdown of all nuclear weapons manufacturing sites, the abolition of all nuclear weapons, and that we focus our efforts and resources to compensate nuclear victims and find safe storage for radioactive waste. The future of our world is at stake! Join us in these demands.

**Contact your Senators and Representatives.  
Call 202-224-3121, and ask for them by name.**

"We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them." *(Albert Einstein)*  
**ABOLISH ALL NUCLEAR WEAPONS !**

*Co-sponsored by Veterans for Peace – NYC Chapter 34, the Manhattan Project for a Nuclear-Free World, Pax Christi New York State, Peace Action New York State, NYC War Resisters League, the NYC Metro Raging Grannies, and allies.*