

2024 OPEN LETTER TO THE PEOPLE OF JAPAN FROM CONCERNED PEACE AND
CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES

—In observance of the 79th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombings of Japan—

We, the undersigned, representing a coalition of concerned peace and civil society organizations in the United States, are advocating for the elimination of nuclear weapons globally. Many of us have visited your beautiful country and have met with numerous atomic bomb survivors (hibakusha) and their descendants. We have brought and continue to bring our sincere apologies for our nation's horrific atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 and for the subsequent nuclear testing in the Pacific that brought about death and great mental and physical hardships for decades since. We have shared and continue to share our joint conviction that nuclear weapons must be completely abolished. We have made and continue to make a commitment together that we will work to achieve that vital end.

While our apology is not official, coming from the U.S. government, it is an expression of the power of the people not only in the U.S. and Japan, but across the globe who are saying NO to any and all nuclear weapons, NO to mining for radioactive fuel, NO to manufacturing them, NO to upgrading them, NO to storing them, NO to proliferating them in countries like your own, NO to threatening their use as in Ukraine or Gaza, simply NO! More and more nations of the world and global leaders of diverse faiths are banding together to declare nuclear weapons immoral and unacceptable and to promote the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) in their stead. We want to preserve the beauty of Japan and our entire planet Earth, not allow the annihilation that nuclear weapons are all too able to cause. We desire healing for all who have suffered because of nuclear weapons, and we move forward speaking truth to power and walking towards justice.

To that end we urge our own country to reverse course in East Asia—to stop ratcheting up provocative military exercises that increase the danger of a nuclear conflict with China over Taiwan and a broader conflagration that could impact Korea, your own country, and all of the region.

We urge the Biden administration to stop pressuring the Kishida administration to abandon Article 9 of your Constitution and to stop pressuring the increase of your military budget so as to be more war-ready.

Rather than modernizing nuclear technology, like the Sentinel, a gigantic Intercontinental Ballistic Missile system, which is estimated to cost \$185 billion and which is considered more vulnerable to cyberattacks than the current system, we urge that it be abandoned. Modernization is totally contrary to the direction we need to be moving to eliminate nuclear weapons; it is totally contrary to the TPNW which has declared nuclear weapons illegal according to international law.

We urge the U.S. government to sign and ratify the TPNW and embark on a multilateral dialogue with all nuclear-armed states to join in this signing and ratification.

In line with that, we call upon Japan to relinquish the so-called “nuclear umbrella” of the United States by swiftly signing and ratifying the TPNW, if necessary, taking the lead on that, not waiting for the U.S. to do so. Please do not believe that regional security is enhanced by the nuclear weapons of the United States. The “nuclear umbrella” did not prevent war in Europe as certain nuclear weapon states had claimed, and the war in Ukraine has exposed the risks of the entire nuclear enterprise. We deplore Japan’s strengthening of military alliances with the United States and their allies. We oppose your establishing a NATO office in Tokyo; it will not make the region safer, as the world has become more dangerous under such military alliance and nuclear deterrence policy that escalated tensions. Under the TPNW, relying on the nuclear umbrella of the nuclear-armed states is a form of conspiracy to engage in unlawful activities under international law, because the TPNW not only prohibits nations from developing, producing, stockpiling, or threatening to use nuclear weapons, but also it prohibits nations from encouraging or inducing anyone to engage in any of these activities. The preamble of your constitution states, “all peoples of the world have the right to live in peace, free from fear and want.” Let that be so.

Many people do not seem to be aware of the nuclear risk, but it is becoming more recognized thanks to the movie Oppenheimer and tragically due to the threats coming from Russia. As people become more aware, concerned, and opposed, it is the responsibility of governments to align themselves more with the will of their citizens to abolish nuclear weapons and to educate those who still need to learn.

Our goal is to collaborate with you to achieve a nuclear-free world.

NO MORE HIROSHIMA

NO MORE NAGASAKI

NO MORE FUKUSHIMA

NO MORE WAR

NO MORE HIBAKUSHA

NEVER AGAIN!

Signed by:

Back from the Brink Coalition
Brooklyn For Peace
Broome County Peace Action
Campaign for Peace, Disarmament and Common Security
Catholic Worker
Citizens for Clean Water
Coalition for Peace Action
Dorothy Day Catholic Worker

Environmentalists Against War
Genesee Valley Citizens for Peace
Global Network of Women Peacebuilders
Granny Peace Brigade, NYC
Heiwa Peace and Reconciliation Foundation of New York
Hibakusha Stories
Judson Memorial Church
Kings Bay Plowshares 7
Linnton Neighborhood Association-Tank the Tanks
Manhattan Project for a Nuclear-Free World
Maroon Party for Liberation
Massachusetts Peace Action
Metro Committees of Correspondence for Democracy & Socialism
Nuclear Information and Resource Service
NuclearBan.US
Nukewatch
NYC Metro Raging Grannies
NYC War Resisters League
Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility
Pax Christi Illinois
Pax Christi Macon, GA
Pax Christi Metro New York
Pax Christi New York State
Pax Christi Pacific Northwest
Pax Christi Upstate NY
Peace Action
Peace Action Bay Ridge
Peace Action New York State
Peace Action of Staten Island
Peace and Social Justice Committee, 15th Street Friends Meeting
Peace Boat US
Physicians for Social Responsibility - Kansas City
United for Peace & Justice
United National Antiwar Coalition (UNAC)
Uranium Watch
Veterans For Peace - NYC Chapter 34
WESPAC Foundation, Inc.
World BEYOND War's U.S. Chapters
World Can't Wait