

平和  
九条  
福岡建労

子供達

福祉保育労  
全国福祉保育労働者連合会  
直方支部

直安民

平和行進  
核兵器をなくそう！  
福建労

被災者にもかかる消費税  
復興財源は大企業  
核兵器  
要求す

原発ゼロ  
道後地区原水母

原発ゼロ  
道後地区原水母

原発ゼロ

原発から撤退

原発ゼロ

海軍撤退せよ

平和  
九条

原発ゼロ  
道後地区原水母

原発ゼロ  
道後地区原水母

# A world without nuclear weapons

*Hiroshi Taka*

*On 7 August 2011 in Nagasaki, at a rally to open the second stage of the World Conference against A and H Bombs, thronged with thousands of participants of all ages from all over Japan, the Representative Director of the Japan Council against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs spoke about the signature campaign in support of the Appeal for a Total Ban on Nuclear Weapons.*

Today, conference participants brought with them a large number of signatures in support of a total ban on nuclear weapons, which now are piled up on or in front of this stage. The campaign is continuing in many places at this very moment. The total number of the signatures has exceeded half a million, and reached 548,244 as of 3:30pm this afternoon (7 August 2011). The signatures in boxes piled up in front of you are part of it. On behalf of the people who appended their signatures, I want to convey to you our determination in pursuing the goal of a world without nuclear weapons.

Encouraged by the outcome of the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference in May last year, we started a new signature campaign in support of the ‘Appeal for a Total Ban on Nuclear Weapons’ on 15 February this year. Blessed by the messages of support from UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, UN High Representative Sergio Duarte, Nobel laureates and other distinguished persons in many fields, it was an exciting start. Our motto is ‘with the whole of the residents in every region’.

As the World Conference drew near, the campaign quickly gathered momentum: signature drives in the streets on 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> days in every months were conducted across the country in spite of record-breaking high temperatures; the New Japan Women’s Association, which led the last campaign prior to the 2010 NPT Review Conference, has already collected 200,000; the number of the signatures appended by mayors and municipal council leaders has reached 691 and 496 respectively, making a total of 1187.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> day after the start of the campaign, the huge earthquake and tsunami hit eastern Japan, and the nuclear crisis at the Fukushima Daiichi power plant followed. These incidents became a big challenge even to the campaign. For our movement that was founded to save the *Hibakusha*, it was a task of prime importance to organize support and rescue of the afflicted people. Without wasting time, we took action.

In the meantime, despite spreading fear of radioactivity, A-bomb sufferers in Fukushima were the first who collected signatures and brought them to Fukushima Gensuikyo. People in disaster-afflicted regions in Tohoku and Kanto were undaunted. In spite of the damage from the earthquake, tsunami and the nuclear accident, they continued their annual peace marches, setting out new slogans calling for ‘Abolition of Nuclear Weapons’, ‘Support Rehabilitation from Disaster’ and ‘Switch to Sustainable Energy’. All these efforts and their messages gave tremendous encouragement to our campaign.

The words of UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, at the Riverside Church in New York on 1 May last year, still resound in our ears:

*‘What I see on the horizon is a world free of nuclear weapons.  
What I see before me are the people who will help make it happen.  
Please keep up your good work.  
Sound the alarm, keep up the pressure.  
Ask your leaders what they are doing ... personally ... to eliminate  
the nuclear menace.  
Above all, continue to be the voice of conscience.  
We will rid the world of nuclear weapons.  
And when we do, it will be because of people like you.  
The world owes you its gratitude.’*

In September, the 66<sup>th</sup> session of the UN General Assembly will start. In spring next year, the next round of NPT review process will begin. Making this Conference a new starting point, we will build up a truly community-wide, to a nation-wide campaign, and will bring millions, or even tens of millions of signatures to the UN General Assembly, and to the next NPT Review Conference, as evidence that the people in this, the only A-bombed country, want nuclear weapons to be abolished.

I herewith request warm support and co-operation from you, representatives of the United Nations and national governments, and call on all in this Plenary to renew their determination to generate an explosive development of the campaign.

## Appeal for a Total Ban on Nuclear Weapons

In August 1945, two atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki instantly turned the two cities into ruins and took the lives of about 210 thousand people. Even now, more than 200,000 Hibakusha, or A-bomb survivors, are carrying with them scars. Their tragedy should not be repeated anywhere on earth.

The call for the elimination of nuclear weapons is becoming ever widespread across the world. Citizens are taking actions, and many governments are endeavouring to reach this goal. The surest guarantee against there being another Hiroshima, or Nagasaki, is a total ban and the elimination of nuclear weapons.

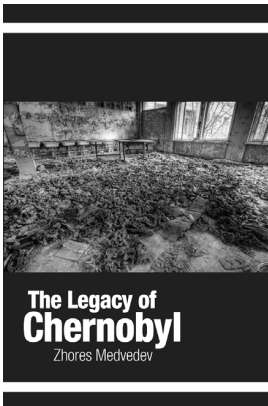
In May 2010, the 189 parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), including the Nuclear weapons States, agreed 'to achieve the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons'. Now is the time to act to accomplish it.

**We call on all governments to enter negotiations without delay on a convention banning nuclear weapons.**

**Please sign at [www.antiatom.org](http://www.antiatom.org)**

**Gensuikyo Signature Campaign**

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