
THE BERTRAND RUSSELL PEACE FOUNDATION**DOSSIER**

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NO MORE HIROSHIMAS!

The 2007 World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs will be held from 3 to 9 August 2007 in the A-bombed cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki with the theme 'For a Nuclear Weapon-Free, Peaceful and Just World'. We cordially invite all those people in the world as well as Japan who wish to contribute to achieving this goal through interaction, cooperation, and solidarity to take part in and support the 2007 World Conference.

The Iraq war was launched based on lies about weapons of mass destruction being developed by Iraq, and it is now a quagmire of death. The Bush Administration is now under severe criticism both at home and internationally.

Amid growing concern over the danger of nuclear proliferation, calls for the abolition of nuclear weapons are increasing. Recently, former US Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger and other former key US administration officials proposed that a 'world without nuclear weapons' should be created and for this 'a major effort should be launched by the United States', which 'would lend additional weight to efforts already under way to solve the problem of nuclear proliferation'.

The Bush Administration insists on modernising its nuclear armaments and is clinging to the policy of the possible use of nuclear weapons. It is also insisting on continuing the Iraq war. However, such a policy will only lead to deeper isolation and total failure. We will work to increase people's movements to make the 21st century free of the threat of nuclear weapons and wars at the earliest possible time.

The efforts by the Japanese anti-nuclear peace movement are drawing attention from people around the world, thus raising their hopes. The recent development on the issue of North Korea's nuclear programmes can be a concrete step forward toward its peaceful resolution. We do not condone the emergence of new nuclear weapons-possessing countries. We stand firm against the Japanese government considering arguments for arming Japan with nuclear weapons by capitalising on the issue of North Korea's nuclear programme. We oppose Japan's dependence on the US 'nuclear umbrella' as well as its attempt to push ahead with the adverse revision of the Japanese Constitution.

Japan is the atomic bombed country with its 'Article 9' and its Three Non-Nuclear Principles. We will increase efforts to transform our country into one that will contribute to creating a peaceful world without nuclear weapons.

The World Conference against A & H Bombs, working together with the *Hibakusha* (A-bomb survivors), has played a major role in advancing the anti-nuclear movement worldwide. In recent years, it has helped develop international solidarity and cooperation between non-governmental organisations and national governments that are making efforts to abolish nuclear weapons. This has had a positive impact on international politics. By making the voices of the *Hibakusha* and other nuclear victims heard around the world, we will work to increase the current of calls for the swift abolition of nuclear weapons. We sincerely hope that the 2007 World Conference against A & H Bombs will further build on our past achievements involving young people bearing the future of humanity and the broad range of people from around the world as well as Japan. With this, we cordially call on you to take part in and give support to the World Conference, and to cooperate with us in the various activities in preparation for a successful World Conference.

Contact the Japan Council Against A & H Bombs for more information (antiatom@topaz.plala.or.jp).

BLAIR PROSECUTION AT THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT?

Luis Moreno-Ocampo, the International Criminal Court's chief prosecutor, has urged Arab countries, particularly Iraq, to sign up to the Court to enable allegations against the West to be pursued. He said it was still possible for an investigation to be launched into coalition actions in Iraq if that country signed up. Iraq's ambassador to the United Nations, Hamid al-Bayati, said that his country was actively considering doing so.

Mr Moreno-Ocampo said it was frustrating that the Court was viewed in the Arab world as biased in favour of the West. Asked by a British newspaper, *The Sunday Telegraph* (18 March 2007), whether he could envisage a situation in which Mr Blair and Mr Bush found themselves in the dock answering charges of war crimes in Iraq, he replied: 'Of course, that could be a possibility ... whatever country joins the Court can know that whoever commits a crime in their country could be prosecuted by me'.

America has refused to accept the Court's jurisdiction and has signed more than a hundred separate bi-lateral agreements with other states not to hand over its citizens to the Court. Britain, however, has signed up.

Sudan, which has been investigated by the Court over its role in the killing of civilians in Darfur, has called for the International Criminal Court to investigate coalition actions in Iraq, although it is not a signatory to the Rome agreement which established the Court.

The UN Security Council can ask the Court to act – as in the case of Darfur – or the Court can launch an investigation if it receives a complaint from a state which is party to the Rome agreement. It can also look into alleged offences carried out by, or on the territory of, a party to the agreement.