

**For the Abolition 2000 AGM, May 23, 2020**

**Prepared by the Japan Council against A and H Bombs (Gensuikyo)**

**Report on the Hibakusha Appeal International Signature Campaign:**

The international signature campaign in support of the “Appeal of the Hibakusha” was launched in April 2016 in the name of prominent Hibakusha of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, including Nihon Hidankyo representatives, Setsuko Thurlow (Canada) and Kwak Kwi-hoon (ROK). This campaign aims to gather hundreds of millions of people’s voices to press all State Governments to conclude a treaty to ban and eliminate nuclear weapons.

Since its launch in 2016, the signature campaign has been welcomed and supported by a broad range of peace communities, including many peace movement leaders of the Abolition 2000 and political figures. Every year, the collected signatures have been submitted to the U.N. and NPT PrepCom Chairs. The latest number of the petition is 105 million (as of October 2019), making it one of the largest-scale signature campaigns ever. Together with moving testimonies given by Hibakusha representatives at these occasions, this signature campaign has been acknowledged highly by the U.N. as the High Representative Izumi Nakamitsu stated in the Online World Conference on April 25, 2020. Since the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in 2017, the campaign has played even more important role in urging national governments to sign and ratify the Treaty. The final submission of the petition is planned during the First Committee of the 75th UN General Assembly in October 2020.

Especially in Japan, the campaign has been carried out jointly by the Hibakusha, peace and social movements of many different causes, mayors and elected officials, labor unions and others, and served as the core around which to unite many people for the common demand of the abolition of nuclear weapons. At local levels, promotion committees of the signature campaign have been organized in 45 prefectures out of 47. Through their efforts, so far 1,252 mayors/governors have endorsed the Appeal, and a growing number of local assemblies are adopting the resolution to urge the Japanese government to join the TPNW (488 out of 1,788 as of May, 2020).

*Online petition:* <https://hibakusha-appeal.net/english/>

*Download:* <https://hibakusha-appeal.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/shomei-english.pdf>

**Proposal on the “Peace Wave” and the 2020 World Conference against A and H Bombs to commemorate the 75h anniversary of the atomic bombing:**

During the period of the 75th anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki from August 6 to 9, we propose that grass-roots peace groups and organizations across the world join the “Peace Wave” international joint actions. Starting at 8:15 on August 6 from Hiroshima, many creative and diverse

peace activities will take place and carried over to next time zones. Thus, the wave of actions will circle around the globe westward with the rotation of the planet and conclude at 11:02 on August 9 in Nagasaki. The common goal of the Peace Wave is abolishing nuclear weapons, and the Hibakusha Appeal international signature campaign will be carried out as a common form of action. We want to invite also a broad range of social movements on climate change, economic justice and other causes to join the Peace Wave, linking these issues with nuclear weapons to achieve a nuclear-free, peaceful and just world.

We request all the peace organizations and networks to send us beforehand your planned actions during the period – peace marches, signature drives, exhibitions, seminars, rallies, street actions -- both in-person and online. We will compile and publicize them across the world through SNS, emails and on websites and media. And after the actions, photos, movies and reports of your own actions carried out should also be sent in, which we will announce globally upon the conclusion of the Peace Wave on August 9.

The 2020 World Conference against A and H Bombs will be held online with the theme: “With the Hibakusha, Let Us Achieve a Nuclear Weapon-Free, Peaceful and Just World – for the Future of the Humankind and Our Planet”. We want to bring together the wisdom of the anti-nuclear movements from around the world to the World Conference and set out the direction to proceed in the coming period. The main program includes the International Meeting (August 2), Hiroshima Day Rally (August 6) and Nagasaki Day Rally (August 9). The Organizing Committee will invite speakers and delegates of peace movements and non-nuclear governments to join these events from across the world either live (Zoom Webinar) or through YouTube livestreaming. Please stay connected for further information on the programs and registration.

*Contact: Japan Council against A and H Bombs (Gensuikyo)*

*Email: [antiatom@topaz.plala.or.jp](mailto:antiatom@topaz.plala.or.jp) Website: <http://www.antiatom.org/english/>*