
Second Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

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We must prevent escalating the momentum for the use of nuclear weapons. -Surmounting Inhumanity of nuclear weapons must be the foundation of our activities

Working paper submitted by Japan Congress against A-and H-Bombs (GENSUIKIN)

1. The military invasion of Ukraine by Russia that began in February 2022 shows no sign of abating, with the conflict intensifying and the precious lives of both soldiers and civilians being claimed by the acts of war. On November 2nd, 2023 Russia withdrew its ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). Considering that Russia, the country with the highest number of nuclear warheads among the CTBT-required ratifying states (44 countries), has withdrawn from this treaty, it is a grave situation. If this move suggests an anticipation of accelerating nuclear weapon development and its use after the prolonged war, it is by no means acceptable.

2. The escalation of hostilities in the Gaza Strip of the Palestinian territories, has its roots in the longstanding ethnic conflicts, and unfortunately, efforts towards achieving peace by the international community have not yielded fruitful results. Meanwhile, in the latest fierce battle between Israel and Palestina, it was demonstrated that “Nuclear Deterrence” was not working. Nuclear Weapons never protect civilian population. Unfortunately, deterrence was replaced to threat of use of nuclear weapons. On November 6th, there were statements from Israeli ministers suggesting use of nuclear bombing. According to Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition (RECNA) at Nagasaki University, as of March 2023, it is estimated that Israel possesses approximately 90 nuclear warheads. It is unacceptable for any increase in the sentiment favoring the use of nuclear weapons, including atomic bombs.

3. This time, representatives from GENSUIKIN include two high school students from Hiroshima and Nagasaki who are members of the organization "Hiroshima and Nagasaki Peace Messengers," as well as three university students who are the graduates. Recognizing the challenge of conveying the realities of the atomic bombings to the next generation within Japan, we aim to share the appeals for nuclear disarmament from these five representatives of the next generation with people worldwide.

Reference

Nuclear deterrence is transforming! Inhumanity of nuclear weapons must be the foundation of our activities

https://documents.unoda.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/TPNW.MSP_.2022.NGO_.18.pdf
