



Mayors for Peace

Secretariat

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I am sending this message on the occasion of the memorial services for the victims of mass killings by chemical weapons in Sardasht City, Iran. I understand that 27 years ago on June 28, 1987, a chemical bomb was dropped on Sardasht City, claiming many precious lives, and even now, many people continue to suffer from the aftereffects. It is always the ordinary civilians who become the victims of war.

69 years ago, at 8:15 a.m. on August 6, 1945, a single atomic bomb exploded in the air over Hiroshima City, taking the precious lives of as many as 140,000 people by the end of the year. Those who just barely managed to survive suffer from leukemia, cancers, and other aftereffects which continue to threaten the health of many A-bomb survivors even now, 69 years after the atomic bombing.

Those from your city who were exposed poison gas, a chemical weapon, also suffer from aftereffects, a part of which are said to appear 15 to 25 years after the exposure. I am sure the sufferers of chemical weapons from your city, which has been called “the second Hiroshima”, have had their lives changed completely and have shed many tears of agony.

Nuclear and chemical weapons are the ultimate inhumane weapons, indiscriminately stealing the lives of many innocent citizens and permanently altering the lives of the survivors, stalking their minds and bodies to the end of their days. In order to have these kinds of tragedies never happen again, it is vital for not only countries and international agencies, but for us, the civil society, to carry out activities on a wide scale and cooperate with one another.

Currently, Mayors for Peace consists of over 6,000 member cities from 158 countries and regions, with membership continuing to increase even now. Together, the population of the member cities makes up approximately 1 billion citizens, or one-seventh of the world’s population, all of whom support our measures to abolish nuclear weapons. Over this past year, more than 200 cities from your country have joined Mayors for Peace.

I hope with all my heart that you will continue to share our desire, and lend your power and act together with us for the future of humanity, and for the realization of everlasting world peace.

In closing, I offer my prayers for the peaceful repose of the victims, and the true happiness of the courageous and peace-loving citizens of Sardasht City.

June 28, 2014

Handwritten signature in Japanese calligraphy, reading '松井一貴' (Matsui Kazumi).

MATSUI Kazumi
President of Mayors for Peace
Mayor of Hiroshima