



### Japan Should Abandon Nuclear Umbrella

By: Mitsuaki Takami-Catholic Archbishop of Nagasaki: reprinted from The Japan Times

NAGASAKI - When the atomic bomb exploded over Nagasaki on Aug. 9, 1945, my mother was pregnant with me. She lived one or two mountains away from Urakami, the hypocenter area. Three days after the bombing, she went to her parents' home in Urakami and was exposed to radiation. I lost my grandmother, two of my aunts, my aunt's husband and, 13 years later, one of my cousins. The body of one of my aunts was not even found. I still remember clearly how my cousin was skin and bones when he died. I became a priest and trained future priests at the Major Seminary of Fukuoka for 30 years. As a person of faith in an atomic-bombed country with a pacifist Constitution, I have a strong desire to abolish nuclear weapons. Japan is now faced with two serious realities concerning nuclear weapons. One is that Japan regrettably did not join the U.N. negotiations for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, and will not be able to join the treaty so long as it is under the nuclear umbrella of the United States. The other is that North Korea is charging ahead in pursuit of becoming a nuclear power and the military tension in Northeast Asia is running extremely high.

This situation entails Japan renewing its fundamental thinking on what nuclear weapons are all about.

We hear accusations that North Korea's activities violate U.N. Security Council resolutions. However, they tend to be superficial because such resolutions do not question all nuclear weapons, including those possessed by Security Council members, and because North Korea justifies its nuclear armament as necessary to defend against nuclear threats from other states. North Korea likewise has survivors of the Nagasaki and Hiroshima bombs.

Hibakusha have not only spoken about their suffering but have also called for "No More Hibakusha," believing that nobody should ever experience the same suffering.

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### (From last column) Nuclear Umbrella

I want the Japanese government to consider why nuclear proliferation is progressing in Northeast Asia despite the memories of the atomic bombings and how this is connected with Japan's dependence on nuclear deterrence. North Korea also needs to understand what kind of weapons nuclear weapons are.

While the government admits nuclear weapons are inhumane, it continues to rely on the nuclear umbrella, which justifies using nuclear weapons for the purpose of retaliation. Any exchange of nuclear weapons would undoubtedly cause catastrophic consequences in North Korea and Japan, even more horrible than what Nagasaki and Hiroshima experienced. Despite this contradiction, the government continues this policy. We understand that Japan is in a serious security environment. But the government has failed for decades to exert itself and improve the environment so that it can end its reliance on the nuclear umbrella. This inaction must now be strictly scrutinized.

Recently, representatives of 124 people of faith in Japan, including myself, submitted to Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida a statement entitled "People of Faith in Japan Call for Japan to Stop Relying on the U.S. Nuclear Umbrella and to Move toward the Establishment of a Northeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone."

The establishment of such a zone (NEA-NWFZ) would offer a breakthrough to the current difficult circumstances. As the statement says, "the policy to establish a NEA-NWFZ enables Japan to leave the 'nuclear umbrella' while ensuring its national security." Many scholars and researchers have already been making the same argument. In Nagasaki where I live, the Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, Nagasaki University (RECNA), proposed a NWFZ with a three-plus-three arrangement, in which three countries - North Korea, South Korea and Japan - form a geographic NWFZ, while the (Continued page 2)



*Hiroshima Peace Memorial*

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other three countries - the U.S., Russia and China - respect the zone and provide legally binding negative security assurances to the former three. Japan would no longer need the nuclear umbrella to defend itself against nuclear threats from China or North Korea, while North Korea, released from nuclear threats from the U.S., would no longer have to stick to its nuclear program. In an encouraging move, Ramesh Thakur of Australian National University gave a similar discussion in his June 28 opinion piece in The Japan Times. RECNA thinks this arrangement is still feasible today, at a time when North Korea has already conducted five nuclear tests.

Even if Japan actually proposed the establishment of a NEA-NWFZ, it would not be realized immediately. The histories of the five existing NWFZs show that it took at least 10 years to conclude such a treaty after one of the concerned states initially proposed it. Still, by proposing a NEA-NWFZ, Japan can demonstrate its will to shift its security policy from nuclear-dependent policies to nuclear-free ones. Such a shift would enable Japan to join and promote the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, just concluded in New York on July 7. From the viewpoint of a person of faith, this policy shift is a minimum requirement for Japan, the only country that has experienced wartime atomic bombings and has heard ever-lasting hibakusha's voices calling for "No More Hibakusha" after surviving a hellish catastrophe. The following passage in our statement expresses the origin of our religious spirit on nuclear weapon issues: "Any use of nuclear weapons brings about catastrophic humanitarian consequences, and is against our religious values, moral principles. . Therefore, we believe nuclear weapons abolition is a spiritual imperative."

**The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well.**

*Ralph Waldo Emerson*

**I will not tire of declaring that if we really want an effective end to violence we must remove the violence that lies at the root of all violence; structural violence, social violence, exclusion of citizens from the management of the country, repression...**

*Archbishop Romero just seconds before he was assassinated in El Salvador*

**Fifteen Moral Reasons to Abolish Nuclear Weapons**

Thou shalt not kill.

Thou shalt not threaten to slaughter the innocent.

Thou shalt not cause unnecessary suffering.

Thou shalt not poison the future.

Thou shalt not hold hostage cities and their inhabitants.

Thou shalt not threaten to destroy civilization.

Thou shalt not abandon stewardship of fish and fowl, birds and beasts.

Thou shalt not put all of Creation at risk of annihilation.

Thou shalt not use weapons that cannot be contained in space or time.

Thou shalt not waste resources on weapons and resources that could be far better used for meeting basic human needs of the poor and downtrodden.

Thou shalt not fail to fulfill one's obligations to negotiate in good faith for nuclear disarmament.

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's missiles.

Thou shalt not worship false idols.

Thou shalt not keep silent in the face of the nuclear threat to all we love and treasure.

Thou shalt live by the Golden Rule, doing unto others as you would have them do unto you.

By: David Krieger

(Continued from July issue) **BCSIPC Minutes**

**Resolutions: Committee:** As per Laura's suggestion at least 3 people are needed for this committee. After discussion the following were appointed--Laura Savinkoff, Sandra Hartline and Peter Kerr (Mark was asked to confirm his appointment; he is confirmed). Sandra will take notes on amendments to resolutions. **All finalized Resolutions will be attached and numbered.**

**BCSIPC report:** Laura presented the coordinators report (attachment # 9). Three outstanding issues were addressed.

- A) In October the two coordinator positions were left as interim, with only one position filled, therefore there is a need to clarify the length of the term of service and if two positions are necessary or even workable It was decided that one coordinator serving a one-year term was preferable with coordinator seeking assistance as necessary. It was brought up that Laura after so many years of serving in this unofficial position may want to begin training a replacement. Laura said that was the purpose of creating the 'job description' and making the position 'official'. She is very willing to give instruction and work

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- A) with anyone taking an interest. A motion was brought forward and passed as *Resolution #1.*
- B) Laura reviewed the setting up of the BCSIPC bank account as a sub-account of the BPI; creating a sub-account was the most efficient method. The same three signatories as the BPI serve for the BCSIPC--Christine Thompson as Treasurer, Laura Savinkoff as Coordinator and Lunya Foyle as the 3<sup>rd</sup> signatory. Christine presented the financial report (attachment # 9): Nov 22 a deposit of a \$100 donation. The debts were-- bank charges of \$17; \$25 membership dues to the CPC: leaving a \$58 balance as of April 5th. *Christine moved the financial report be accepted as presented; Madelyn seconds. All in favor--passed.*
- C) It was brought forward that the Kelowna Peace Group and KAIROS Nelson have, as of today, provided the agreed upon \$100 per group and the BPI \$50 with more as funds become available. There are a few outstanding groups needing to contribute.
- D) As the coordinator Laura will remain as the Liaison to the CPC.
- E) Contact information for elected officials would be helpful but each region needs to provide this information to the coordinator with updates as elected and unelected officials change.
- F) The BPI website can be used for posting events but each organization needs to send the information to Laura so it can be posted.
- G) It was also discussed that there is a need to cut down on printing for conferences to save funds and be environmentally friendly. A motion was put forward as *Resolution #2.*
- H) It was suggested an official thank you go to the Slavonic Senior Citizens Society and all donors and volunteers. Laura will do so as soon as possible.

**MP statement:**

Richard Cannings spoke to the recent situation in Syria: NDP stance on air strikes was issued by Foreign Affairs Critic. Chemical weapons attack shocking but it is still not clear who used the chemical weapons. Canada needs to work with partners and step forward much more strongly on human rights. We need to work towards a more peaceful and democratic future.

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*UN nuclear disarmament:* New York conference started on Banning Nuclear Weapons (make them illegal) but Canada was not there unlike China and India, both nuclear weapon states. Linda Duncan an NDP MP attended. Richard will ask Linda for a summary and then share it with us. Mark stated that all NATO members are Nuclear Weapon States by virtue of membership in the military body with a First Strike policy. Hannah mentioned PM Trudeau statement....find this online regarding Syria and the violation of the UN Charter Chapter 6-7, which will be included in the Emergency Resolution she is putting forward. Donna spoke about why is the need for Nuclear weapons if you do not intend to use them and mentioned the UN meeting where the Ambassador of Bolivia spoke; she will send Laura the link: **Bolivian Ambassador to UN Sacha Llorenti at the Security Council Meeting:** <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=Tjl9yp5r7K8&feature=share>). Mark stated the threat of nuclear weapons is a crime...just by having them. Laura asked Richard to take the position of the BCSIPC on both these issues to Parliament. Richard will certainly mention the conference as well as our positions and concerns.

**Canadian Peace Congress Report:** (attachment # 10)

There were no additions or questions. Laura checks the Website and Facebook page often but there have been no postings or calls for activities. Dave McGee has resigned as President so therefore CPC is going through a transition and hopefully will get organized quickly. It was suggested that we get Eva Bartlett to our region but no-one volunteered so Laura will contact the CPC on the feasibility in the future. A concern is that speakers charge a fee and therefore in small population areas the cost is prohibitive and not always recoverable. It was noted there those who aren't expensive and should be explored.

**Presentation of Resolutions:** All final drafts are attached and numbered.

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**Our Mission**

The Boundary Peace Initiative represents people of diverse backgrounds officially brought together in 2002 because of our mutual concern for the rise in world conflict. Our mandate is to participate in multilateral non-violent conflict resolution in support of global human rights, ecological and environmental sustainability and international law through education, sharing of information, dialogue and activism locally and globally. We encourage and seek your participation in our mutual work for true peace based on social justice, equality, accountability, integrity, honor, respect, etc in order to build a better world today and future generations.

**BPI web site:** [www.boundarypeace.20m.com](http://www.boundarypeace.20m.com)

*BPI meetings are suspended until at least 3 people commit to meet regularly monthly. For information call (250) 442-0434 or email [L4peace@telus.net](mailto:L4peace@telus.net).*



## What's Up?

**Hiroshima Day—August 6<sup>th</sup>**  
@ 6:30 pm Mir Center for  
Peace, Selkirk College,  
Castlegar, B.C.

**Nagasaki Day—August 8<sup>th</sup>**  
**6:30 pm in Gyro Park,**  
Grand Forks (across from  
Overwatea). In case of rain  
join us at the Slavonic Senior  
Citizens Center on 72<sup>nd</sup>  
Avenue and 7<sup>th</sup> Street.



*A Nuclear bomb explodes*

**Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> on International  
Day of Peace** the BPI hosts a  
special event in Grand Forks  
with a Drum Walk followed  
by presentation of local  
musicians, singers, dancers  
and speakers to envision the  
Canada we want to live in.  
Joining us is **B.C. Grand  
Chief Stewart Phillips**.  
Watch for details.

Voice your opinion to the Prime  
Minister and all MPs. Free  
postage: {Name of MP},  
Parliament Buildings, Ottawa,  
Ontario, K1A 0A6  
Go to the Government of  
Canada website for MP contact  
information at  
<http://www.canada.gc.ca>

## Book Recommendations



### **ATOMIC COVER-UP: Two U.S. Soldiers, Hiroshima & Nagasaki, and The Greatest Movie Never Made**

By: Greg Mitchell

**Publisher:** Sinclair Books (July 12 2011)

Greg Mitchell probes a turning point in U.S. history: the suppression of film footage, for decades, shot by a U.S. Army unit in Hiroshima and Nagasaki -- with staggering consequences even today. The shocking cover-up even extended to Hollywood -- with President Truman censoring an MGM film. How did this cover-up happen? Why? And what did the two military officers, Daniel McGovern and Herbert Sussan, try to do about it, for decades? There was no WikiLeaks then to air the film. "Atomic Cover-up" answers all of these questions in a quick-paced but often surprising narrative. "Atomic Cover-Up" opens this way: "This is the story of twenty hours of film footage, blazing with color, shot in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in early 1946 by a U.S. military crew, that would change the lives of many people, including two American soldiers, and me.

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**#3 Resolution from SAPED:** Mark moved and Hannah seconded. It was stated this is a worthy propaganda effort and may be a good way to engage the media. Chris voiced concern about finances...it is only \$50 to file but will cost much more in the end when you tangle with the courts and government. There are people who think that the Liberals have just begun as Government and may not be in a position to fulfill all their campaign promises but others stated they have waffled on many promises such as Electoral Reform, Government sponsored refugees, etc. Sandra says this motion is too vague and we need more information. Many questioned the feasibility of getting behind this initiative. Alex agrees with Richard that the chances of success are minimal but it would serve to bring the issue into the open. Most agreed that there are more pressing issues such as nuclear annihilation with the need to focus on peace is much more important than unfulfilled promises during elections since all should be aware that this is common practice, not that it is good, but it is common and therefore people should not put too much stock in election promises: we need to focus and keep our priority on peace and justice as opposed to a law suit. Donna said there is a trust issue surrounding elections since all parties' so state their promises publicly; many don't vote because they don't believe any of the candidates. We agreed with Hannah that we do need to challenge the PM and all politicians and not shrug off this common practice as acceptable. It is evident Ira is passionate about this but the concern remains who will cover the subsequent court costs; is there someone to take this on pro-bono? Mark stated that the judicial system is getting more corrupt and this is a way to challenge the system and thinks we need to go forward with this. We agreed to table this resolution until Ira is available to answer the questions in person. Mark was asked to communicate to Ira our concerns and need to be available for the next conference so a block of time can be set aside to accommodate a full discussion. Roy moved to table and Madelyn seconds. Vote to support in principle: Yes—6; No—4; Abstentions—10.

The BPI welcomes your input. But articles are the author's responsibility and may not be common consensus of members. To submit articles contact Laura at **250-442-0434** or **L4peace@telus.net**.

The BPI is a member of: BC Southern Interior Peace Coalition, Canadian Peace Congress, Abolition 2000, Lawyers Against the War and affiliate of Fellowship of Reconciliation. We also work with a wide range of local and global peace, social justice and environmental groups.