

**Aiming for the Establishment of the Human Rights of Nuclear Victims
Including Second-Generation Atomic Bomb Survivors and Future Generations, and
the Realization of the Nuclear-Free World**

by

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1 I am Noboru Sakiyama, president of the Japanese Liaison Council of Second-Generation Atomic Bomb Survivors.

2 My parents were both A-bomb survivors, or *hibakusha*, of Nagasaki and I am their second generation. My father was affected by the bomb 4 kilometers away from the hypocenter, and then was exposed to radiation further when he entered a bombed area less than 2 weeks later. He used to say that what it was then was just “hell”. He had suffered from emphysema and herniated intervertebral disk for a long time, which prevented him from working. He died of respiratory failure at the age of 69. My mother was 7 kilometers away from the hypocenter at the time of the bombing. In her later years, she suffered from Alzheimer’s dementia, and gradually became unable to walk, speak, or eat. She died of pancreatic cancer at the age of 81. As such, we, the second generation, have seen our parents’ sufferings as *hibakusha*.

3 We ourselves are nuclear victims because there is no scientific evidence to clearly deny the trans-generational genetic health effect of A-bomb radiation. A lot of second-generation *hibakusha* as well as their parents have passed away from diseases such as cancer and leukemia. As I have a cyst in the pancreas, I am very anxious that I may get pancreatic cancer in the future like my mother. The second-generation *hibakusha*, who were not born when the A-bombs were dropped, have been suffering from health disorders and are apprehensive of their future due to the genetic effect of A-bomb radiation. Furthermore, we are subjected to serious social prejudice and discrimination in various aspects such as in marriage and in getting jobs. However, we have been left behind without any public assistance to guarantee our human rights.

4 The Japanese Liaison Council of Second-Generation Atomic Bomb Survivors was formed in December 1988 by the groups made up of the second-generation atomic bomb survivors who live in Japan. The aims and purposes of our organization are to take over the experiences of A-bomb survivors, to establish the human rights of A-bomb survivors and second- and third-generation A-bomb survivors, to protect their life and health, to prevent further nuclear disasters, and to realize the nuclear abolition and the complete disarmament. Despite our activities for more than 30 years, further efforts should be made to establish the human rights of second-generation A-bomb survivors

and to achieve the nuclear abolition.

5 Our organization submitted the working paper to the First Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons held in Vienna in June 2022. We proposed in the paper that nuclear victims including second-generation A-bomb survivors and future generations should be included as victims of “victim assistance” mentioned in Article 6 of the TPNW. In August 2022, we sent a delegation to the Tenth NPT Review Conference, during which we appealed for the human rights of nuclear victims including second-generation A-bomb survivors and future generations and for the nuclear abolition at the side event and the NGO Session for presentations.

6 In plant and animal experiments, it has already been proved that there are radiation effects on the next generations. The United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR) reported in 2001 that “Human beings are no exception”, which has become an international consensus. The Japanese government must have a full grasp and understanding of the predicaments faced by second-generation A-bomb survivors, and so must guarantee their human rights by applying the Atomic Bomb Survivors’ Relief Law to them.

7 We strongly appeal to the international community from our experiences that one of the most serious human rights violations caused by nuclear weapons is the radiation effect on future generations. At present, there are not only nuclear weapons victims but also many different kinds of nuclear victims, such as those affected by the “nuclear experiment” in the Marshall Islands or the “peaceful uses of nuclear energy” in Chernobyl and Fukushima. There are second-generation *hibakusha* in other countries as well like the Korean Peninsula as a result of Japan’s past colonization and war of aggression. We appeal for the recognition of the human rights of nuclear victims including second-generation *hibakusha* and future generations, and for the nuclear abolition so that there will be no more nuclear victims.

8 “Nuclear power and humankind can never co-exist.” This is the message of the *hibakusha* from Hiroshima and Nagasaki to the whole world. We, the second-generation, strongly appeal to the world to hear out this message. The nuclear-armed states should pursue negotiations faithfully and effectively towards the promotion of nuclear disarmament and also general and complete disarmament based on Article 6 of the NPT. All of the nuclear-armed states and the other states which are under the “nuclear umbrella” should sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons for the abolition of nuclear weapons. Every country should withdraw from the “peaceful uses of nuclear energy”.

Thank you for listening.