

**Appeal for the Human Rights of Nuclear Victims
Including Second-Generation Atomic Bomb Survivors and Future Generations
And for the Nuclear Abolition**

**By
Japanese Liaison Council of Second-Generation Atomic Bomb Survivors**

**The Eleventh NPT Review Conference (New York)
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1. The Japanese Liaison Council of Second-Generation Atomic Bomb Survivors was formed in Japan in December 1988 by the groups made up of the second- (and third-) (hereinafter called “2nd- and 3rd-”) generation atomic bomb (hereinafter called “A-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 2nd-generation A-bomb survivors and to achieve the nuclear abolition.
2. In the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which was adopted in July 2017 and came into effect in January 2021, “the importance of awareness raising on the risks and consequences of nuclear weapons for current and future generations” was described in the preamble and “victim assistance” was mentioned in the Article 6. Our organization submitted the working paper entitled “Information on the Situations of Second-Generation Atomic Bomb Survivors in Japan and Proposals on ‘Victim Assistance’ mentioned in Article 6 of the TPNW”, in which we proposed 1) that nuclear victims including 2nd-generation A-bomb survivors and future generations should be included as victims of “victim assistance” mentioned in Article 6 of the TPNW and 2) that comprehensive “victim assistance” based on the fundamental legislative purpose of “the Atomic Bomb Survivors’ Relief Law” in Japan should be given to them.
3. We also sent a delegation to the Tenth NPT Review Conference at the UN Headquarters in New York, during which we appealed for the establishment of the human rights of nuclear victims including 2nd-generation A-bomb survivors and future generations and for the nuclear abolition at the side event and the NGO Session for presentations. As the aging population of A-bomb survivors, we, the 2nd-generation, who are also nuclear victims because there is no scientific evidence to clearly deny the trans-generational genetic health effect of radiation, have been determined to take over the experiences of A-bomb survivors, to appeal for the human rights of nuclear victims including 2nd-generation A-bomb survivors and future generations and for the nuclear abolition through our own experiences, and to aim at achieving them. We really hope to share our experiences and views with the other participants in this Conference, and to contribute to the promotion of nuclear disarmament.
4. The A-bombs dropped on Hiroshima at 8:15 a.m. of August 6th and on Nagasaki at 11:02 a.m. of August 9th, 1945, by the American Army were responsible for existence of A-bomb survivors. More than 200,000 were either

killed or injured by the A-bombs. Survivors have suffered or have been suffering from acute radiation disorders as well as the onset of the delayed effects of radiation from the bombings. Since then, survivors have been suffering from the difficulties of life caused by health problems, and have had to contend with prejudice and discrimination in the society. The untiring efforts of survivors resulted in “the Atomic Bomb Survivors’ Relief Law, the law which supports A-bomb survivors”. The said law provides such supports as free medical examinations, benefits for medical treatment and allowances for A-bomb survivors. However, the Japanese government support measures for A-bomb survivors remain insufficient. Although eighty long years have passed since the A-bombs were dropped, even their human rights have not been adequately guaranteed by the government. There are still A-bomb survivors who have not been included as A-bomb survivors. All the A-bomb survivors have been requesting for the Atomic Bomb Survivors’ Relief Law based on state compensation.

5. It is unfair that 2nd-generation A-bomb survivors, who were not born at the time of the bombings during the war, have or will have health risks in the present or in the future due to the genetic effects from A-bomb radiation. Their human rights have been violated with the following problems.

First, 2nd-generation A-bomb survivors are in health dangers from the genetic effects of A-bomb radiation. Many of them, like their parents, have died of cancer and leukemia. There are present sufferings of physical disorders like cancer and leukemia. Some of them have been suspecting that their present diseases, which are similar to their parents’ diseases, are related to the radiation exposure of their parents. The mental anguish and torture of worries about their present diseases and in the near and distant future scare them every day of their lives. In these ways, they have been suffering from their present and past health problems, and from anxiety about their future health disorders.

Second, they are confronted by difficulties in their social life because they are A-bomb survivors’ children. Due to diseases or physical disorders caused by the A-bombs, not a few of A-bomb survivors are unable to settle into regular jobs or have to consent to low pay. Living under such meager means, some 2nd-generation A-bomb survivors were not able to attain higher education. Even as adults, they have had to live an economically hard life because they need to take care of sick parents or grandparents who are the first-generation A-bomb survivors. Some lived and still live within “the vicious cycle of diseases and poverty”—such a hard life as their parents’, to be sick and not to have money for treatments.

Third, 2nd-generation A-bomb survivors suffer from severe social prejudice and discrimination. Under such circumstances without any public support for the 2nd generation, people often have such prejudice as follows, which leads to discrimination: “All 2nd-generation A-bomb survivors have health disorders because of their parents’ exposure to A-bomb radiation,” or “If you are married with a 2nd-generation A-bomb survivor, you may have a baby with congenital malformation.” Once it was found out that they were 2nd-generation A-bomb survivors, some were denied marriage by their prospective spouses’ parents, some committed suicide after they were divorced, or some were dismissed from their jobs. Though all 2nd-generation A-bomb survivors do not actually have health disorders, people in the society often have such a prejudice against them that all of them must have any health problems, which leads to discrimination. In these ways, they have been coping with social prejudice and discrimination against them in their everyday life.

6. For more than thirty years, our organization has requested the Japanese government for the application of “the

Atomic Bomb Survivors' Relief Law" to 2nd-generation A-bomb survivors as "victims of the A-bombs". However, in March 2018, the Japanese government reported their views in reply to the recommendations made in "Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review" to the UN Human Rights Council that Japan does not consider amplifying the application of the Atomic Bomb Survivors' Relief Law to 2nd-generation A-bombs survivors, because "no scientific knowledge of hereditary influencing caused by radiation to the second generation of the survivors of atomic bombs has been obtained to date."

7. 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. For example, the experiments using mice showed that baby mice whose male parents had been exposed to radiation were born with the constitutions liable to diseases of various types including cancer, which turned out to be inherited by the next generations. The result of such experiments using mice implies that there are increased health risks from the genetic effects caused by A-bomb radiation on human beings as well, which like mice belong to the mammal species.
8. In the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development made during the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (the Earth Summit) of 1992, "the Precautionary principle"—"Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty" shall not be used as a reason for postponing measures—was internationally verified.
9. The war of aggression initiated by the Japanese government resulted in the use of A-bombs by the United States on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Therefore, both the Japanese government, which started the war, and the American government, which dropped the A-bombs, are to blame for the consequences of the A-bombs. Having signed the San Francisco Peace Treaty after the war, the Japanese government gave up its rights to claim compensation for damages. Therefore, it is now the Japanese government's responsibility to institute support measures for A-bomb survivors and their 2nd generation, and thereby to guarantee their human rights. The government must have a full grasp and understanding of the predicaments faced by 2nd-generation A-bomb survivors, and so must guarantee their human rights by applying the Atomic Bomb Survivors' Relief Law to them.
10. The bodies of us, 2nd-generation A-bomb survivors, were formed when our parents' germ cells which had been directly exposed to A-bomb radiation were fertilized, and then differentiated and developed through repeated cell divisions. Therefore, we as well as our parents are A-bomb survivors, because there is no scientific evidence to clearly deny the trans-generational genetic health effect of radiation. Whatever support measures the Japanese government will take and whether it will take measures to guarantee the human rights of 2nd-generation A-bomb survivors who are the next generation of A-bomb survivors will be relevant not only to 2nd-generation A-bomb survivors in Japan, but also to those outside Japan. The protection of the human rights of 2nd-generation A-bomb survivors in Japan is a critically important, international human rights issue as it also relates to the protection of the human rights of other kinds of 2nd-generation nuclear victims in the world. We emphasize that one of the

most serious human rights violations caused by nuclear damages is the radiation effects on future generations. We are confident that a common understanding of this aspect will lead to the realization of a nuclear-free world so that no more people will become nuclear victims. We, 2nd-generation A-bomb survivors in Japan, think it our mission and duty to continue to appeal to the international community the problem of serious human rights violations of future generations caused by radiation exposure of the A-bombings.

11. 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 effects on next 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 2nd-generation A-bomb survivors 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 2nd-generation A-bomb survivors and future generations, and for the nuclear abolition so that there will be no more nuclear victims.

12. “Nuclear power and humankind can never coexist.” This is a lesson and a message to the whole world which A-bomb survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki have learned and become convinced of through their serious sufferings from the nuclear disasters and also from the exchanges and solidarity with the other nuclear victims in the world. We, the 2nd-generation A-bomb survivors, nuclear victims ourselves, have the same conviction and strongly appeal this message to the world. 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.”

Let us work together to establish the human rights of nuclear victims including 2nd-generation A-bomb survivors and future generations. Let us move forward towards “a nuclear-free world” so that there will be no more nuclear victims.

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