AN OPEN LETTER TO THE PEOPLE OF JAPAN
FROM CONCERNED PEACE ORGANIZATIONS
AND PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES

—In observance of the 75th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombings of Japan—

We, the undersigned, representing a coalition of concerned peace organizations and people of the United States, are advocating for abolition of nuclear weapons globally. We are gathering here to express our sincere regrets and apologies for our nation’s atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Although our government has not apologized officially for this war crime and crime against humanity, the members of our coalition would like to extend our deepest condolences to the atomic bomb survivors (Hibakusha) who have endured great mental and physical hardships for 75 years.

President Trump is advocating restarting nuclear tests at the Nevada Test Site for the first time in 28 years. In less than 4 years of his presidency, he has already rejected or plans to withdraw from many important arms treaties and agreements – the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, the Open Skies Treaty, and the New START Treaty. He is destroying the social safety net when more than 40 million American workers lost their jobs in the first 4 months of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent recession. What we need now is firm action with concrete policy goals to overcome this unprecedented global crisis, not another arms race.

Many of us believe that President Truman’s decision to use the atomic bombs in Japan, despite opposition from over 155 Manhattan Project scientists, was influenced primarily by racism. President Trump, who publicly promotes violence and a racist agenda, is creating divisions both at home and abroad. He is increasing spending on nuclear weapons and funding institutions that promote violence. We need to make sure that not a single nuclear weapon is used under any circumstances.

After more than seven decades of a nuclear deterrence policy, it has been an undeniable global consensus that the world has become more dangerous under such policy. We promise to keep raising our voices to our government regarding the importance of keeping arms control treaties and signing and ratifying the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which was adopted by the United Nations in 2017 with overwhelming support from 122 member states. We also hope that Japan will be the first country in the U.S. nuclear alliance to give up the U.S. nuclear umbrella by swiftly signing, ratifying and playing a leadership role in promoting the Treaty. Our coalition also calls on Japan to preserve its peace constitution and to support the peace process on the Korean Peninsula.

Japan has been suffering from the 2011 nuclear accident in Fukushima, which is the world’s worst nuclear disaster since Chernobyl. The triple meltdown and the explosions at Fukushima Daiichi forced some 160,000 residents to evacuate. The storage tanks of radioactive water at the stricken nuclear facility are reaching capacity, and the government plans to dump the radioactive water into the Pacific Ocean. Thyroid cancer, one of the known adverse effects from radiation exposure, has been on the rise among children. The use of nuclear technology, whether it is
military or civilian, comes with enormous risks and incalculable consequences. Effective global nuclear disarmament will not be possible as long as we allow the commercial use of plutonium and highly enriched uranium.

Within the past year, we have experienced unprecedented destruction of our communities by natural disasters accelerated by the climate crisis. We are still in the midst of the global COVID-19 pandemic and economic depression. Our communities continue to shed blood from the egregious police brutality against unarmed innocent people of color. White supremacy, nationalism, racism, fascism and hate are rising globally, quite often promoted by state leaders and institutions.

We have more than hope. Along with a growing list of cities and states, the New York City Council is poised to pass two bills with veto-proof support that call for our nation to uphold the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and to divest from nuclear weapons. Amalgamated Bank, one of the oldest banks in New York City, has stopped all investments and transactions with companies involved with nuclear weapons.

Achieving a nuclear-free society is not just about abolishing nuclear weapons. It is about dismantling the decades-long culture of normalization and glorification of violence that are deeply woven into our laws and policies. We have to defund institutions that promote racism and militarization, and invest instead in peace, education, public health, affordable housing, feeding the poor, economic security, clean water and clean air, as well as creating many green jobs. Let us continue to work in solidarity for a nuclear-free world where, as an introduction clause of your constitution states, “all peoples of the world have the right to live in peace, free from fear and want.”

NO MORE HIROSHIMA
NO MORE NAGASAKI
NO MORE FUKUSHIMA
NO MORE WAR
NO MORE HIBAKUSHU

NEVER AGAIN!

August 5, 2020

Endorsed by:

Endorsers: US organizations and individuals

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VFP - Chapter 007 - Los Angeles, CA
VFP - 009 - Eastern MA - Smedley Butler Chapter
VFP - Chapter 014 - Gainesville, FL
VFP - Chapter 021 - Northern NJ
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VFP – 026 - Chicago IL - Jane Addams/ Joe Powers Chapter
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VFP Golden Rule Project

Beyond Nuclear
Brooklyn For Peace
Coalition Against Nukes
CODE PINK
Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space
Grandmothers for Peace International
Grandmothers for Peace Northland Chapter
Granny Peace Brigade
Green Party of New York County
Environmentalists Against War
Heiwa Peace and Reconciliation Foundation of New York
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Kings Bay Plowshares 7
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Manhattan Project for a Nuclear-Free World
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New York Catholic Worker: St. Joseph House
New York Catholic Worker: The Peter Maurin Farm
NGO Committee on Sustainable Development – NY
Nuclear Age Peace Foundation
NuclearBan.US
NYC Metro Raging Grannies
NYC War Resisters League
Pacific Asian Nuclear-Free Peace Alliance
Pax Christi Metro New York
Peace Action NYS
Peace Boat US
Popular Resistance
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Anti-Nuclear Delivery Shop (Japan)
Article 9 Society for Global Peace Charter (Japan)
Chofu Congress Against A-and H-Bombs (Japan)
Citizens Network for Evacuation From Radiation (Japan)
Citizens' Radioactive Laboratory “morinosokuteishitsu namegawa”
CODE PINK OSAKA (Japan)
COVID-19 Global Solidarity Coalition (Global)
Flowers and Bombs: Stop the Violence of the War Now! (Japan)
General Incorporated Association CO-BLUE (Japan)
Grassroots Society for Education in Nakano (Japan)
Hiroshima Nagasaki Day Coalition (Canada)
Japan Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms
Japan Congress against A-and H-Bombs (GENSUIKIN)
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Nakano Action for the Nuclear-Free Future (Japan)
Nakano Appeal for the Abolition of the Security Law (Japan)
Okinawa Environmental Justice Project (Japan)
Peace Candle in Kamakura (Japan)
Stop the State Secrecy Law-Kanagawa (Japan)
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Tokyo Managers Union Anti-Nuclear Power Division (Japan)
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