**CITIZENS MARK HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI**

**CALL FOR NUCLEAR ABOLITION
IN THE AGE OF THE NUCLEAR BAN TREATY**

What:

Where:

When:

CONTACT:

Every August, commemorations of the US bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki take place across the United States and around the world. This year, things will be different.

 Because what was once a dream is now in the process of becoming a reality. With the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, on January 22, 2021, nuclear weapons are now outlawed by the international community.

In **[your town/city here]** events marking the Hiroshima and Nagasaki anniversaries are scheduled for **[date/time/location]**.

“There is a new energy for abolition,” said **[spokesperson]**. “Here and around the globe, actions and events will echo the demand of the international community in the Ban Treaty: nuclear weapons states give up their weapons.”

The TPNW, passed by 122 nations in June of 2017, addressed the humanitarian and environmental impacts of nuclear weapons. “There are only two possible endings to the story of nuclear weapons,” said Beatrice Fihn, director of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, 2017 recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. “Either we end nuclear weapons, or they will us. There is no other possible ending.”

Seventy-six years after Hiroshima and Nagasaki, some survivors are still living; their witness to the destruction of the bomb, coupled with the accounts from those who were subjected to the devastating effects of nuclear weapons tests, informed the discussion leading to the passage of the Ban Treaty.

“We must assert, with far more urgency, that nuclear weapons cannot coexist with humankind,” said Takato Michishita, survivor of Nagasaki. Yoshiro Yamawaki, who was 11 years old when the Fat Man bomb destroyed his home in Nagasaki, said, “Weapons of this capacity must be abolished from the Earth.”

Hiroshima survivor Setsuko Thurlow said as she accepted the Nobel Peace Prize, “Today, I want you to feel in this hall the presence of all those who perished in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. I want you to feel, above and around us, a great cloud of a quarter million souls. Each person had a name. Each person was loved by someone. Let us ensure that their deaths were not in vain.”

“For too long, the discussion about nuclear weapons has been about policy, and about military force,” said **[spokesperson]**. “This conversation masks the reality of nuclear weapons: if even a small fraction of them are used, the planet we live on will no longer sustain life. Hundreds of millions will die instantly; the rest will starve during the long nuclear winter that follows.

“So we are gathering at **[location]** ‘in the presence of all those who perished.’ We are joining our voices with the survivors to say, ‘Now is the time to abolish nuclear weapons from the Earth.’”

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