

In 2023, on the 78th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, the G7 summit meeting was held in Hiroshima.

World leaders gathered at the site of atomic bomb memorial in Hiroshima to discuss nuclear weapons, and world peace, including the war between Ukraine and Russia, where threats of using nuclear weapons have been issued

When these leaders visited the Atomic Bomb Museum, they could see with their own eyes the real tragedy of nuclear war and the catastrophic effects an atomic bomb has on civilian populations.

I believe it to be very significant that they could witness first-hand the terrible tragedy of nuclear war. I am married to a Canadian, have lived in Canada for almost 50 years, and I am a Canadian citizen. I'm pleased to say that our prime minister, Justin Trudeau, has visited this memorial twice.

But Hiroshima, was my birthplace, my first home. I was eight years old and three and a half kilometres from where the bomb went off as I was playing in the schoolyard. All these years later, I can remember the flash of the bomb and the chaos it caused to everyone I knew. Usually, with the passage of time, memories of the past fade away. However, from time to time, the vivid horror of the atomic bombing still surfaces from the bottom of my heart. It was a physical and emotional trauma that cannot be described or erased from my memory

In 2011, when an earthquake caused the Fukushima nuclear power plant accident, it reminded me of the time when I lived in an area full of nuclear radiation, and I decided to share my experience as an atomic-bomb survivor. I started telling my story to Canadian schoolchildren of what my life was like as a survivor of a nuclear bomb. My presentations were to students in both upper elementary

classes and high school, and always focused on the reasons for abolishing nuclear weapons, war, and the need for peace.

After hearing my story, their collective opinions were usually, "Don't fight, respect other people's opinions, let as many people as possible know about the nuclear war on the Internet, get along with each other, and don't be afraid to ask for help. They also added that the leader of each country should be a person with a sense of justice, and they should "have peace in their hearts".

One high school student said, "I presided over a UN conference held annually in Vancouver. Many people, including ourselves, are trying to understand what happened in the past and how to avoid such devastation in the future. From all the young people I've met in the schools where I gave my talks, I've come to believe that our young generation has unlimited potential, and a bright future ahead of them if less warlike leaders prevail.

The number of surviving Hibakusha (Japanese survivors of a nuclear bomb) is dwindling, and those who give their testimonies are now few and far between. From this point on, the third-generation of Hibakusha must carry forward the words and experiences of the atomic bomb survivors.

I sincerely hope that they will continue repeating their message of non-nuclear proliferation to help create a peaceful world. As one student said, "war is death, peace is hope." Today, the world is in a high state of nuclear alert because of the war between Russia and Ukraine. Leaders of countries involved are making threats about using nuclear weapons. This is a no-win situation for both sides, for the world. Russia and the United States each have 6,000 nuclear bombs. These bombs are said to be 100 times more powerful than the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima. In case of nuclear war, it is said that most of the earth will be affected in a very negative way.

The United States, Russia, and other nuclear power countries may have signed the Nuclear Weapons Convention but are not abiding by the treaty to decommission these weapons. I hope the countries that have not signed the Nuclear Weapons Convention will sign it as soon as possible, and that they all will abide by the rules.

My atomic bomb testimony is a small seed for peace told by a housewife and grandmother. I hope that one day the many seeds I planted with the young people of Canada will blossom into beautiful flowers of hope for a peaceful world future.

I want to continue as a "seed sower" for as long as I live.

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