

July 20 in 2017

A Statement to Welcome U.N. Treaty to Ban Nuclear Weapons
by
Association to Support the Bikini Atoll Nuclear Test Victims' Lawsuit for
Reparation by the State

Negotiation over concluding Treaty to Ban Nuclear Weapons started in May 2017 at the United Nations and it was approved on July 7 by almost three second of 193 member nations of the United Nations: 122 nations in favor with the Netherlands opposed and Singapore abstaining. It was boycotted by all nuclear-armed nations. We wholeheartedly welcome the long-awaited Treaty to Ban Nuclear Weapons because we went through hardship by nuclear weapons and nuclear tests, and we actually know that it is not possible for nuclear weapons and human beings to coexist. At the same time, we would like to express our strong protest against the Japanese government that opposed to the treaty and did not attend the conference. The Japanese government official should have attended the conference as the representative of Japanese people who went through hardship by nuclear disaster in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, U.S. nuclear tests in the Bikini Atolls in the Marshall Islands and nuclear accidents in Fukushima four times. The Japanese government should have played active roles in adopting the resolution of the treaty.

It was made clear in Article 6 on Victim Assistance and Environmental Remediation as “Each State Party shall, with respect to individuals under its jurisdiction who are affected by the use or testing of nuclear weapons, in accordance with applicable international humanitarian and human rights law, adequately provide age- and gender-sensitive assistance, without discrimination, including medical care, rehabilitation and psychological support, as well as provide for their social and economic inclusion.”

Japanese tuna fishing boats such as the 5th Lucky Dragon boat and many other boats were exposed to radiation by six U.S. hydrogen bomb tests at Bikini Atolls in the Pacific Ocean from March to May in 1954. Attention was paid internationally to such events as the third exposure to radiation by the Japanese after the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The Japanese government checked the level of radiation of fish brought by fishing boats that returned to Japan from March to December in 1954. As a result, about 500 tons of tuna were thrown away and the number of Japanese fishing boats from which radiation-contaminated fish was thrown out was about a total of 1000. Radioactive fallout was spread from the Bikini Atolls to Japan, the Philippines, Mexico and so forth globally

especially in the Northern Hemisphere. Five times as much as fallout in Japan could be seen in the Middle West of the USA. All the power of six nuclear tests was 48.3 megaton (about 3220 times as much as the atomic bomb used on Hiroshima) and the whole amount of radioactive fallout was 22.73 mega curies (22.73 million curies, 840,000 tera Bq) 100 days after the nuclear tests according to an official document of the United States Department of Energy.

However, the Japanese government stopped investigating the level of radiation of tuna in December in 1954, and received \$2 million as a gift in token of the U.S. sympathy without demanding compensation for damage by nuclear tests in January 1955. The both governments made this final solution, which was political settlement. The U.S. nuclear tests in the open sea are against international law and there was no responsibility for Japanese tuna fishing boats. Fishermen and their bereaved families filed a lawsuit against the Japanese government on May 9 in 2016, sixty-two years after the nuclear tests seeking redress by the state because they were abandoned by the political settlement and have been suffering from the damage for a long time.

The U.S.A. conducted atmospheric nuclear tests in the Pacific Ocean 105 times repeatedly since the hydrogen bomb tests in the Bikini Atolls. Nuclear power nations such as the U.S.A, former USSR, Britain, France, China and so forth conducted atmospheric nuclear tests 488 times. As a result, radioactive contamination spread globally. Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Test in the Atmosphere, in outer Space and under Water banned atmospheric nuclear tests in August 1963, but nuclear power states that conducted nuclear tests did not make clear reality of damage and conducted underground nuclear tests over 2000 times until 1998.

The media tends to report that problems of nuclear disaster of nuclear power states are only about soldiers who participated in nuclear tests without referring to nuclear disaster that spread globally. It is important for people in the world to show long-term threat to human beings and global environmental contamination by the use of nuclear weapons, nuclear tests and nuclear accidents so that nuclear power states will sign the Treaty to Ban Nuclear Weapons.

The Japanese government has roles and responsibility to demand nuclear power states inspect their own nuclear tests comprehensively as a state that went through nuclear disaster four times. We would like to suggest the following actions.

1 . Signing of the Treaty to Ban Nuclear Weapons will start from September 20. Let's promote the movement to raise awareness of people to abolish nuclear weapons with hibakushas and victims of nuclear disaster, and demand each government (including nuclear power states and those under nuclear umbrella) sign the treaty and ratify it.

2 . Let's promote peace education at various places in the world teaching the treaty banning nuclear weapons in order to protect the earth from nuclear contamination with an emphasis on citizens, young people and children by having study meetings and discussion and exchanging ideas.

3 . Let's investigate reality of the use of nuclear weapons and nuclear tests scientifically by nuclear power states at regions of nuclear disaster in the world, make a network of victims of nuclear disaster regions and promote the establishment of the system of compensation for hibakushas and victims of nuclear disaster.

Reference:

WORLD-WIDE FALLOUT FROM OPERATION CASTLE:

<http://large.stanford.edu/courses/2012/ph241/garcia2/docs/51383e.pdf>

The number of nuclear tests in the world:

<https://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E6%A0%B8%E5%AE%9F%E9%A8%93>

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