

## Swedish Parliament welcomes Peace Boat to Stockholm

We, Yoshioka Tatsuya, director at Peace Boat, and Christer Winbäck, Member of Parliament for Folkpartiet (Swedish liberal party), are meeting today in Stockholm to discuss nuclear disarmament and learn from each other's efforts and strategies.

Nuclear weapons have catastrophic humanitarian consequences to which no international assistance can respond effectively. The bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 demonstrated the immense, uncontrollable, destructive as well as indiscriminate impact of a nuclear detonation. A nuclear bombing of a large city could kill millions of people, and the use of tens or hundreds of nuclear bombs would disrupt the global climate and cause a widespread famine.

The unacceptable harm caused by nuclear weapons make them a concern for all humanity. The only way to prevent these weapons from ever being used again is through their total and global elimination. We owe it to future generations to work together, governments and civil society, to fulfill our responsibility and create a world where all people can live free from the threat of nuclear weapons.

As representatives of civil society and parliamentarians we are united in a partnership. We are part of a global network of people working through peaceful means to raise awareness and undertake immediate action to eliminate the threat of nuclear weapons.

As long as nuclear weapons exist they pose a threat to all humanity. Sweden is not immune to this threat, neither is any other nation or government. We must work with others to ensure effective measures are taken towards total denuclearization driven by humanitarian reasons.

We must never forget the catastrophic destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the unspeakable suffering of victims and survivors, who are continually affected both physically and societally even now, 70 years on. The Japanese experience and the knowledge that the Japanese people carry must always be at the heart of our efforts. Sweden wrote history decades ago when we decided not to acquire nuclear weapons knowing they would not increase our security but rather the opposite. These are experiences can we all learn from.

The catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons must be the core of all efforts of nuclear disarmament. The humanitarian argument is undisputable. The unacceptable suffering caused by nuclear weapons is why they must be eliminated globally and forever.

Mr. Christer Winbäck  
MP, Sweden

Mr. Yoshioka Tatsuya  
Director Peace Boat, Japan