



Global Voyage for a Nuclear-Free World Peace Boat Hibakusha Project

**PEACE
BOAT**

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The 95th Peace Boat Hibakusha Project ---Promoting the Nuclear Weapons Prohibition Treaty around the World---

■ Overview

The Japan-based international NGO Peace Boat launched the “Global Voyage for a Nuclear-Free World: Peace Boat Hibakusha Project” in 2008. To date, over 170 Hibakusha (survivors of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki) have joined this project and travelled around the world to give their testimony and appeal for a nuclear-free world.

On the 95th Peace Boat Global Voyage (August 13, 2017 - November 24, 2017), a Hibakusha from Nagasaki will visit various countries in Europe and the Americas. Travelling with the ship between October 3-30, 2017, through her testimony she will appeal for the abolition of nuclear weapons. Additionally, she will be joined by a “Youth Communicator for a Nuclear-Free World.” This third-generation Hibakusha will engage in promoting her message of the urgency of nuclear weapons abolition to people around the world.

Building upon the international momentum surrounding the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, the Nuclear Weapons Prohibition Treaty was adopted at the United Nations in July of this year. The call of the Hibakusha contributed greatly to the creation of this new international treaty. Throughout this project, Peace Boat will call on each country visited to immediately sign and ratify the Nuclear Weapons Prohibition Treaty. Signatures to the “Hibakusha Appeal”, the Hiroshima and Nagasaki survivor-led signature campaign calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons, will also be gathered at each port of call.

With the average age of the Hibakusha now over 81 years old, the memories of war and the atomic bombs are fading. As we lose those who directly experienced the suffering of World War II, dangerous trends towards war and militarism are beginning to appear. Many people from both Japan and other countries in East Asia travel together onboard Peace Boat. Testimony events and discussions will also be held onboard the ship, building mutual understanding and joint action in regards to war and peace.

■ Duration and Ports:

Begins: October 3, 2017 (Tues) (Edinburgh, Scotland)

Ends: October 30, 2017 (Mon) (Corinto, Nicaragua)

Ports: Reykjavik (Iceland), New York (United States), Havana (Cuba), Cozumel (Mexico) etc.



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■Participant Profiles:

[Hibakusha (atomic bomb survivor)] Ms KIMURA Tokuko
*Nagasaki survivor (exposed to a-bomb at age 10), born June 25, 1935.
Setagaya Ward, Tokyo Prefecture.*



Ms Kimura was on the second floor of her house in Shinchi Town, Nagasaki City (3.6 km from the hypocenter) with her younger brother and sister when the atomic bomb was dropped. Although she was trapped under a collapsed brick wall, she crawled out and sought safety. While desperately fleeing, she witnessed the intense suffering of the scene immediately after the atomic bomb.

She was active as a broadcast announcer in Nagasaki, and later moved to Tokyo following her marriage. Ms Kimura began to share her testimony 40 years ago. In her testimony, she speaks of the scene immediately after the atomic bomb was dropped, as well as about her life thereafter, and how the bomb continues to affect future generations.

In addition, since 2000 Ms Kimura has been active in supporting other Hibakusha, as well as participating in campaigns to gather signatures for the abolition of nuclear weapons. In 2010 and 2015, she attended in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conferences at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

She is now president of the Setagaya Hibakusha Association and vice-chairperson of a committee of the Tokyo Federation of A-Bomb Sufferers Organizations (TOYUKAI).

[Youth] Ms URATA Shion

From Tokyo Prefecture, resident in Kyoto, 23 years old



In 2003, moved by the Iraq War, Shion started a peace group with friends that sold t-shirts and shared their message through workshops. She believes that art has the power to convey messages to large numbers of people and, while still at high school, decided to become an artist. In March 2011, the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami and subsequent Fukushima nuclear disaster occurred. At that time Shion moved to Kyoto to study at the Kyoto University of Art and Design, and since then as an artist she mostly creates artwork with social meaning.

From 2014 to 2016, Shion was a co-representative of the Kyoto Headquarters of Greens Japan, the Japanese Green Party, and was also involved in many civil society activities such as SEALDs KANSAI and the Kansai Civil Alliance for Peace and Constitutionalism (Shimin Rengo).

Shion's mother came from Hiroshima and is related to MASADA Shinoe, a singer who performs songs about the atomic bomb. Shion's paternal grandfather was also in Nagasaki at the time of the atomic bombing. Reflecting on these roots and with a desire to gain experience in expressing these issues, Shion decided to join Peace Boat for this project.

Website: bit.ly/pbhibakusha