



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

**PEACE
BOAT**

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GLOBAL VOYAGE FOR A NUCLEAR-FREE WORLD - PEACE BOAT HIBAKUSHA PROJECT

Launched in 2008, the “Global Voyage for a Nuclear-Free World – Peace Boat Hibakusha Project”

consists of inviting Hibakusha (survivors of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki) to participate in around-the-world voyages to share their tragic experiences, to educate people about the devastating humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, as well as to engage policy-makers and catalyze public support to

make a nuclear-free world reality. To date, over 170 Hibakusha have participated in the project.

PEACE BOAT HIBAKUSHA PROJECT ONBOARD 98th VOYAGE

This edition of the project took place from May 8-August 21, 2018, onboard Peace Boat’s 98th Global Voyage for Peace. The delegation was composed of two Hibakusha – Mr. Koji UEDA (Hiroshima), Ms Terumi KURAMORI (Nagasaki)– and one second generation Hibakusha – Mr Kaoru SHINAGAWA (2nd Generation, Hiroshima). The Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs officially designated them as “Special Communicators for a World without Nuclear Weapons”.

FROM BANNING TO ABOLISHING NUCLEAR WEAPONS

This voyage took place after the adoption, in July 2017, of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) and the award of the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). By sharing their personal experiences with people around the world, Hibakusha seek to raise public awareness of the danger posed by nuclear weapons, their catastrophic consequences, and the urgent need to abolish them. Toward that end, they called upon the governments of countries visited to sign and ratify the TPNW at the earliest – as a step towards their elimination. The Nobel Peace Prize medal and diploma travelled onboard with Hibakusha for part of the voyage.



Overview of the Voyage's Activities

In the course of 106 days (May 8 – August 21), Hibakusha visited 25 ports in 22 countries around the world and held programs in 18 cities in 15 countries:

- They held public **testimony sessions and participated in roundtable events** to speak of their direct experiences of the atomic bombing or those of their family members, as well as of the physical, psychological and societal suffering they have endured since then in several countries, including Canada, Costa Rica, Colombia, France, Greece and Italy;
- They met with **high level national, regional and municipal government officials** in several countries, including Denmark, France, Greece, Norway, Panama, Singapore and Sri Lanka;
- They interacted with **local civil society groups** in most ports visited and with **international campaigners**, notably members of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), Mayors for Peace and the United Nations Association;
- They visited a **nuclear weapons development site** in the USA;
- They held **press conferences and interviews** with local, national and international news networks in most of the places they visited.

Audiences, Interlocutors and Partners

- **Government representatives**, including Foreign Ministry officials, Ambassadors, Mayors and City Council representatives, among them:

Prime Minister Mr. Alexis Tsipras and State Minister Mr. Dimitris Tzanakopoulos of Greece

Foreign Minister Mr. Gudlaugur Thor Thordarson of Iceland

Vice-Minister for Multilateral Affairs and Cooperation Ms. Maria Luisa Navarro of Panama

Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Matt DeCoursey of Canada

- **Members of Parliament**, including in Canada, Denmark, France and Iceland;
- **UN officials**, including UNDP representatives in Panama;
- **Civil society**, including local NGOs, international peace and disarmament networks and experts, academics, and religious groups in Colombia, Cuba, Italy, Sweden and the USA;
- **Children, youth, students and elderly people onboard and in Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, France, Italy and Greece**;
- **Victims and Survivors of conflict and radiation**, in Colombia and the USA



HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras told Hibakusha: "We need to continue to fight for a more peaceful world in order to avoid tragedies like the one that humanity lived in Hiroshima and Nagasaki."
- ❖ Following the Hibakusha's visit to Cagliari (Italy), the City Council of Cagliari (Sardinia) passed a resolution urging the Italian government to join the TPNW.
- ❖ Onboard events were held in Le Havre, France, Halifax, Canada and Cartagena, Colombia
- ❖ Signatures for the ICAN Parliamentary Pledge and for the Hibakusha Appeal were collected.
- ❖ The City of Puerto Vallarta in Mexico joined Mayors for Peace
- ❖ During the Voyage, Austria, Costa Rica, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Uruguay and Vietnam ratified the TPNW; Colombia and the Dominican Republic signed it – Colombia just ten days after Hibakusha held an event in the country.