



ヒバクシャ地球一周 証言の航海

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

PEACE
BOAT

International NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

B1, 3-13-1 Takadanobaba, Shinjuku, Tokyo 169-0075, JAPAN

TEL : 81-3-3363-7561 FAX : 81-3-3363-7562 pbglobal@peaceboat.gr.jp <http://www.peaceboat.org>

Global Voyage for a Nuclear-Free World – Peace Boat Hibakusha Project Visit to Dublin - June 14, 2010

Press Statement

Peace Boat's Global Voyage, which departed from Japan on April 16, is visiting Dublin, Ireland on June 14, 2010. Along with over 850 participants, a group of ten *Hibakusha* (atomic bomb survivors) are also onboard, are visiting 22 ports in 20 countries during the 101 day journey and giving testimonies of their experiences. Nuclear disarmament is a key theme for the voyage, and a delegation of the Hibakusha also travelled to New York to participate in the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference at the United Nations in May.

The Final Document of the NPT Review Conference for the first time referred to a Nuclear Weapons Convention (NWC), a treaty to universally ban nuclear weapons. In order to advance the process for a NWC, Peace Boat convened a consultation onboard the ship between the ports of Bergen, Norway (June 10) and Dublin (June 14). Nine UN official, parliamentarians, and NGO experts participated, as listed below.

Hibakusha from Hiroshima, Mr Bonkohara Kunihiro, expressed his deep frustration after travelling to New York for the NPT Review Conference. "Countries seem to be just seeking their own national interests, and I really have to question whether they are actually sincerely seeking nuclear disarmament."

Yet Baroness Sue Miller (UK House of Lords, Liberal Democrats) emphasised that "we must urgently move the agenda towards achieving nuclear disarmament. The use of these weapons would be catastrophic. Any funds allocated to nuclear weapons, including for upgrading Trident, are today more than ever needed to deal with our real needs like health care." Baroness Miller is also Co-President of the Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND), which today announces its partnership with Peace Boat.

Participants welcomed the UN Secretary General's initiative for a NWC through his 2008 five-point disarmament proposals. They also looked forward to the opportunity provided by his planned visit to Hiroshima on August 6 this year to commemorate the 65th anniversary of the atomic bombings. Today, participants will meet Irish Department of Foreign Affairs officials to encourage Irish support of the initiative. They will also visit the Lord Mayor of Dublin, a member of Mayors for Peace, a worldwide mayors' network advocating for a nuclear abolition by 2020.

Mr Kawasaki Akira, Peace Boat Executive Committee member and Vice Chair of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), expressed Peace Boat's commitment to continue efforts towards a NWC. "We must also pay attention to another key agreement at the NPT Review Conference, namely the creation of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in the Middle East," said Mr Kawasaki.

In mid-May, over 250 Peace Boat participants – including the Hibakusha – visited a Palestinian refugee camp in Jordan. They were shocked and saddened by the Israeli attack on the flotilla carrying aid to Gaza which occurred immediately after their visit. To express their appeal for a nuclear-free and peaceful Middle East, over 100 youth onboard the ship created a 15x20 metre banner reading "End the Blockade – Free Gaza" which is displayed on the side of the 38,000 tonne ship "The Oceanic" during its stay in Dublin (until approx. 8:30 pm).

Nobel Peace Laureate Mairead Corrigan Maguire, who planned to join today's programme until her detention by Israel as a member of the Irish ship to Gaza – lent her support and thanks for "participating in this global voyage to remind the world of its moral and legal and human responsibility to demand their governments abolish these suicidal/genocidal weapons of destruction."

Contact: Tel: +81-80-3457-9714 / meri@peaceboat.gr.jp (Meri Joyce), <http://www.peaceboat.org>

Participants in Onboard Consultation:

Lisa Clark (PNND Coordinator, Italy); Jean-Marie Collin (PNND Coordinator, France); Kawasaki Akira (Peace Boat Executive Committee / ICAN Vice Chair); Sue Miller (UK House of Lords, PNND Co-President); Eros Sana (Assistant to French Senator Jacques Muller); Aaron Tovish (Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign); Alyn Ware (PNND Global Coordinator); Tim Wright (ICAN Coordinator)

Peace Boat is a Japan-based international NGO working since 1983 to promote peace and sustainability through the organisation of peace voyages onboard a large passenger ship.