
The Norwegian Nobel Committee
Henriks Ibsens gate 51
0255 Oslo

30 January 2015

Dear Sir/Madam

NOBEL PEACE PRIZE NOMINATION 2015

I am pleased to convey to you the IPB's nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize 2015.

A total ban and the elimination of nuclear weapons was the task set out by the very first resolution of the first General Assembly of the United Nations (January 1946), a task that remains unfulfilled. Yet, as seen in the success of the international conferences on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, held in Oslo in 2013 and in Nayarit and Vienna in 2014, momentum is building up once more, and promises to turn this 70th anniversary of the tragedies of Hiroshima and Nagasaki into a milestone on the path to a world free of nuclear weapons.

For this reason IPB once again nominates for the Nobel Peace Prize the **Hibakusha**, those who personally suffered from the atomic bombings of the two cities. They are quite simply extraordinary human beings; not giving in to despair, they became convinced, through their struggle to survive the attacks and the subsequent long years of suffering, that their agonies must never be repeated anywhere. Over these 70 years they have made the choice of activism, unceasingly recounting their experiences and struggles, and working constantly for a total ban and the elimination of nuclear weapons, appealing to governments and peoples all over the world.

We nominate :

(1) **the Japan Confederation of A-and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations (Nihon Hidankyo)**, a nationwide independent organization of the Hibakusha. Since its founding in August 1956, it has been working in unity, beyond the difference of beliefs and opinions, encouraging its members to help each other to promote the cause of a ban on atomic and hydrogen bombs, by making known their sufferings and struggles. Their activities are fully worthy of the name, "champion of peace", in the light of the ideal of disarmament, for which Alfred Nobel established the Nobel Peace Prize.

(2) Mr. **Sumiteru TANIGUCHI** and (3) Ms. **Setsuko THURLOW**, outstanding representatives of the Hibakusha movement, who have been at the forefront of the efforts of the Hibakusha throughout their lives, calling for a ban and for the abolition of nuclear weapons, based on their own painful experiences.

Background details on all 3 nominees can be found at Annexes 1-3, below.

IPB believes that the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to these courageous persons, and indeed to a courageous movement, would be a contribution of unique value and extraordinary importance to the worldwide community of nuclear disarmament advocates, itself 70 years old this year.

The continued existence of nuclear weapons threatens the very survival of life on earth. The Norwegian Nobel Committee has recognised this supreme threat in several of its previous awards. We urge the Committee, at this historic moment, to return to this theme and to itself make a courageous choice: to recognise and reward the Hibakusha.

Sincerely yours,

Colin Archer
Secretary-General

ANNEX 1: The Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations (Nihon Hidankyo)

Address

Gable Bldg. #902 1-3-5 Shiba-Daimon Minato-ku Tokyo 105-0012 Japan

Phone: +81-3-3438-1897

Fax: +81-3-3431-2113

Email: kj3t-tnk@asahi-net.or.jp

<http://www.ne.jp/asahi/hidankyo/nihon/>

Co-chairpersons

Sunao TSUBOI (Mr.)

Sumiteru TANIGUCHI (Mr.)

Prof. Mikiso IWASA (Mr.)

Secretary General:

Prof. Terumi TANAKA (Mr.)

Founding

August 10, 1956

Organization and Membership

NIHON HIDANKYO is the only nationwide organization of A-bomb survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki (Hibakusha). It has member organizations in all 47 Japanese prefectures, thus representing almost all organized Hibakusha. Its officials and members are all Hibakusha. The total number of the surviving Hibakusha living in Japan is about 190,000, as of the end of 2014. Also there are Hibakusha living in Korea and other parts of the world outside Japan. HIDANKYO is cooperating with them in their effort to defend their living conditions and human rights.

Main Objectives

- 1) Prevention of nuclear war and the elimination of nuclear weapons, by way of an international agreement for a total ban and the elimination of nuclear weapons.
- 2) State compensation for the A-bomb damages. The state responsibility of having launched the war, which led to the damage by the atomic bombing, should be acknowledged, and the state compensation provided.
- 3) Improvement of the policies and measures on the protection and assistance for the Hibakusha.

Major Activities

- 1) Telling stories of the Hibakusha to make known their experiences, actual damage and after-effects of the A-bombings both within and outside Japan; Sending A-bomb sufferers to the U.N. and other international fora, nuclear-weapon states and other countries;
- 2) Actions for the enactment of a Hibakusha-aid law providing state compensation for the Hibakusha themselves and bereaved families; Running signature drives, marches, sit-ins and other forms of action.
- 3) Providing counseling and other assistance to the Hibakusha in their difficulties on health and living.

Major Actions since the Founding

HIDANKYO has held dozens of petition actions every year to urge both the Japanese government and the Diet to take steps to make known to the world community the full dimension of the damage

caused by the A-bombings and take the lead in promoting public opinion for the prevention of nuclear war and the elimination of nuclear weapons. HIDANKYO also urges the Japanese government to admit Japan's responsibility for having launched the war, which eventually led to the atomic bombing, and that it should provide state compensation for the bereaved families, as well as the sufferers on whom health damage was inflicted.

The "Hibakusha Aid Law" demanded by HIDANKYO, therefore, is to include a pledge that Japan would make every effort so that there would never be another Hibakusha anywhere.

HIDANKYO is playing a major role in the movement against A and H bombs. Not only taking part in a number of peace events during summer, HIDANKYO sends its representatives all over Japan, who bear witness to their A-bomb experiences, helping to promote the public awareness on the need for a ban and the elimination of nuclear weapons. Internationally, HIDANKYO sends many Hibakusha overseas, to make heard their appeals for the prevention of nuclear war and the abolition of nuclear arms.

Hibakusha, sent by HIDANKYO, have made contributions to many important international forums, including two UN Special Sessions on Disarmament in 1982 and 1988, the NPT Review Conferences in 2005 and 2010 and its Preparatory Committee sessions, and the three International Conferences on Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons in March 2013 in Oslo, February 2014 in Nayarit, and December 2014 in Vienna.

ANNEX 2: Sumiteru TANIGUCHI (Mr.)

Address (home): 15-33 Otori-machi, Nagasaki-shi, Nagasaki, 852-8005 Japan

Current position: President of the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Survivors Council (Nagasaki Hisaikyo) & Co-Chairperson of the Japan Confederation of A-and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations (Nihon Hidankyo)

Background:

Sumiteru was born on January 26, 1929 in Fukuoka, Japan. On August 9, 1945, he was hit by the heat rays, radiation and blast pressure of an atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki, when he was engaged in the delivery of postal mails. It was some 1.8km from the center of the blast. He narrowly survived but had to spend subsequent three years and seven months in hospital bed. He became able to leave the hospital in March 1949, and returned to his job at the Nagasaki Post Office in April.

In October 1955, in the rising public opinion for a ban on atomic and hydrogen bombs following the damage from the hydrogen bomb test on March 1, 1954 at the Bikini Atoll, the Pacific, he joined with Senji YAMAGUCHI, another founding member of the Hibakusha movement, to form the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Youth Association, following the formation of the Nagasaki Atomic Maidens. The two organizations merged in June 1956 to form the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Survivors Council, of which he is now the president.

His Scarlet Back:

In June 1970, a Japanese journalist of Asahi Shimbun found a film depicting Sumiteru lying on his stomach with blood all over his back, at the US National Archives. The picture was printed by newspapers and magazines nationwide, and also internationally. Even now his entire back is covered by scars and keloids. He is unable to lie on his back, nor is he able to press his back to backrest when seated. All his activities as witness of the A-bomb tragedy have been conducted in such painful conditions.

Testimonies, Speeches and Literatures on his life:

Particularly since the picture of his back was press-reported, he has been engaged to work as witness of the calamities, telling stories to pupils, students and other young people visiting from all over the country and from overseas to Nagasaki. He has made travels overseas on many occasions to give his witness and appeal for the elimination of nuclear weapons. He attended an international conference of NGOs for disarmament held prior to the first UN Special Session on Disarmament in 1988, and in May 2010, he made a speech at a session of the 8th NPT Review Conference held at the UN Headquarters in New York.

Literature:

Sumiteru's life is told by "The Postman of Nagasaki – The Story of a Survivor" authored by Peter Townsend and published by Collins, London, etc.

Another, more accurate, account is told by "Genbaku-wo-Seotte" (literally, "Carrying A-bomb on my back", authored by Tomokuni HISASHI and published in August 2014 by the Nishinippon Shimbun. This book, published in Japanese, is now being translated into English.

ANNEX 3: Setsuko THURLOW (Ms.)

PERSONAL

Name: Setsuko Thurlow
Born: January 3, 1932, Hiroshima, Japan
Widowed from: James M. Thurlow with two sons, Peter (1958) and Andrew (1961)
Residence: 1703-5 Kenneth Ave., Toronto, Ontario, Canada M2N 6M7
Telephone & fax: (416) 221-9669
Email: setsukothurlow416@gmail.com

EDUCATION

BA English Literature and Education with high school teacher's certificate, Hiroshima
Jogakuin University
BA Sociology, Lynchburg College, Virginia
BSW School of Social Work, University of Toronto
MSW School of Social Work, University of Toronto

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

1957-62 United Church of Canada
Lecturing at a training institute, Tokyo Family Court
Group counselling Japanese women preparing for foreign assignments,
Nishinomiya
1965-69 YWCA of Metropolitan Toronto, Associate Director, Northeastern Area, Toronto
1969-70 Field Instructor, School of Social Work, University of Toronto
1969-72 Coordinator of interdisciplinary Parent Information Service, Ontario Crippled
Children's Centre (currently the Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital),
Toronto
1972-93 School Social Worker, Toronto Board of education, early retirement taken in
1993
1980 Taught an intensive course in social work at Kwansai Gakuin University, Japan
1987-88 Field Instructor, School of Social Work, University of Toronto
1990-97 Executive Director, Japanese Family Services of Metropolitan Toronto

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Membership in: Ontario Association of Professional Social Workers (OAPSW)
Ontario College of Certified Social Workers
Social Planning Council of Metropolitan Toronto
Has served on: OAPSW, Metro Toronto Board of Directors
OAPSW, Metro Toronto Program Committee
OAPSW, Metro Toronto Professional Development Committee
OAPSW, Nuclear Disarmament Committee
Yorkville Health Centre, board of Directors
Social Planning Council of Metro Toronto, Board of Directors
University of Toronto Alumni Association, Faculty of Social Work, Board of
Directors

AMERICAN ORTHOPSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION

1980 Member, AOA Nuclear Issues Study Group; Fellow, AOA
1986-89 Board of Directors, Served on Personnel and Membership Committees
1980, 1985-88 Presenter at annual conferences (San Francisco, Chicago, Boston, New York,

Washington DC, Dallas, Toronto)

1988 - 1991 Served as Executive Director, Search Committee; Legislative, Ethical Standards, Nominating Committee and Legislative and Ethical Standards Committees

SPEAKER AT NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES ON SOCIAL WORK

1980, 1984 & 1986 International Conference of Social Welfare (Hong Kong, Montreal & Tokyo)

1980 & 1982 North-east Asia Symposium on Social Work Education (Taipei and Tokyo)

1985 National Association of Social Workers (USA), New Orleans

1996 Overseas Japanese Conference organized by the Japanese government, Tokyo

MULTICULTURAL ACTIVITIES

1975 Advisory Committee, Multicultural Workers Network, University of Toronto

1976 Editorial Board, Rikka magazine of Asian Canadians dealing with social and political issues

1978 Facilitated founding of Japanese Language school, Toronto; Facilitated founding of Korean Educational Council

1987 Founder and president, Japanese family Services of Metropolitan Toronto; Board of Directors, Nikkei Voice, national publication of Japanese Canadians

1988 Executive Committee, Greater Toronto Chapter of the National Association of Japanese Canadians

1992-95 Appointed to Community Reference Group for multi-ethno-racial policies by Metropolitan Toronto Council

1994 Appointed adjudicator for the Ministry of Health, long-term care service for ethno-cultural communities; Planning Committee for the East Asian Community consultation with the Ontario Government

2003 Speakers' Bureau, Dominion Institute of Canada

PEACE AND DISARMAMENT

1974 Founder and Co-President, Hiroshima-Nagasaki Relived, a group for public education on the danger of nuclear war

1975 Speaker at Disarmament Symposium, University of York, England. Since that time I have spoken at innumerable occasions at various academic religious and civic institutions in North America, Europe, Asia, Africa and the Middle East

1980 National Steering Committee, Canadian Voice of Women for Peace Steering Committee, Social Workers for Peace and Disarmament

1983 Facilitating the cities of Toronto, Hiroshima and Nagasaki to establish the Peace Garden at Toronto City Hall involving Prime Minister Trudeau, Pope John Paul II and Queen Elizabeth II.

1984 Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament events in England and Scotland, including a mission to Greenham Common with messages from the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, the Canadian Council of Churches and the Canadian Labour Congress.

1985 Conference on International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, Budapest, Hungary

1986 Organized a disarmament education program involving the Toronto, Hiroshima and Nagasaki Boards of Education, and the YMCAs of Metropolitan Toronto and Hiroshima.

1995 Speaker at Non-Governmental Organization conference parallel to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review and Extension Conference. Around the world with Peace Boat, a Japan-based NGO concerned with peace, disarmament, environment and sustainable development. Conducting seminars for passengers and with local people at port of call.

- 2003 Establishment of the *James and Setsuko Thurlow Scholarship in Peace and Disarmament Studies* at the Simons Centre for Peace and Disarmament Studies at the Liu Institute for Global Issues, University of British Columbia
- 2004, 2006 Peace Boat, covering Central America, Caribbean, North America
- 2008 Peace Boat - Around the world Hibakusha Voyage for a Nuclear Weapons Free World
- 2008 Invited to address the U.N. General Assembly First Committee
- 2009 Invited to address the International Commission on Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament, Washington, D.C.
- 2009 Facilitating the collaboration between the Canadian war Museum and the Hiroshima Peace Cultural Foundation in the preparation of a forthcoming exhibit on Canada's peace keeping role, and Canadian citizens' activism for peace
- 2010 Invited to join the Canadian Pugwash Conference for Peace
- 2011 Invited to address the U.N. General Assembly First Committee by Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan
- 2013 Donated an ornamental clock, retrieved from the ashes of my Hiroshima home, to the Peace Exhibit, Canadian War Museum, Ottawa.
- 2014 Addressed Second International Conference on the Humanitarian Impacts of Nuclear Weapons, Naryarit, Mexico
- 2014 Addressed International Symposium on the Humanitarian Impacts of Nuclear Weapons, Dublin, Ireland
- 2014 Addressed Pegasus Conference on Peace, Global Health & Sustainability, Toronto, Canada
- 2014 Addressed Little White House Symposium on H.S. Truman's Decision to Use the Atomic Bomb, Key West, U.S.A.
- 2014 Speaking tour of Norway as guest of Peoples Aid Group, Sweden as guest of the IPPNW, addressing youth, parliamentarians, TV, radio and newspapers
- 2014 Addressed Third International Conference on Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, Vienna. Speaking tour of schools in and near Vienna.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

- Scholarships from Lynchburg College, Virginia and the Tokyo University Women's Club
- 1982 Recipient of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council award to make a psycho-historical study of survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki
- 1985 Woman of Distinction Award from YWCA of Metropolitan Toronto for contributions to Health and Education
- Periodical Distributors of Canada for an article in *Saturday Night*
- 2003 Recognition by the Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto, for contributions to the profession of social work
- 2004 Distinguished Alumni Award, Lynchburg College, Virginia
- 2004 Recognition by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, for founding Japanese Family Services of Metropolitan Toronto
- 2006 Awarded membership in the Order of Canada by the Government of Canada
- 2009 Audience with the Emperor and Empress of Japan
- 2011 Commendation by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan for contribution for peace and nuclear disarmament
- 2012 Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Award
- 2013 Outstanding Asian Award, Canadian Multicultural Council
- 2013 National Merit Award, national Association of Japanese Canadians
- 2014 Tanimoto Kiyoshi Peace Award by the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation
- 2014 "Hiroshima Peace Ambassador" presented by the Mayor Kazumi Matsui of Hiroshima

PUBLICATIONS

“Nuclear War in Human Perspective: a Survivor’s Report” *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, October 1982

“From Victim to Activist”, *Therapy Now*, Summer 1984

“Defence of Civil Disobedience in the cause of Peace”, *Testimony of Hiroshima and Nagasaki*, Spring 1984

“Easter Pilgrimage to Greenham Common” *Testimony of Hiroshima and Nagasaki*, Summer 1984

“Message to the Japanese Peace Movement”, *Women 351: Women’s View of the 21st Century*, Iwanami Shoten, October 1984

“Silent Flash of Light”, *Saturday Night*, August 1985. Also published in *Your Voice and Mine 2*, Holt, Rinehart and Winston of Canada, 1987

“The Atomic Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki: the Role of Women in the Japanese Peace Movement”, Ruth Pierson (ed.) *Women and Peace*, Croom Helm, London, 1987

“I will Continue Witnessing”, *For Those Who Pray for Peace*, Hiroshima Jogakuin, 2006
