

## Commitment to Peace

August 6, 2009

People must overcome great challenges to be born into this world.

A mother must work her hardest to have a baby, and that baby must work its hardest to be born.

The result is a new soul that will carry on into the future. That's the miracle of life.

But when a life is lost, it won't ever come back. Wars and atomic bombs can take precious lives in a split second, and they tear apart the circle of life.

August 6, 1945, 8:15 a.m.

At this moment, the first *hibakusha* in human history were born of war.

From this moment on, the world would have to think seriously about nuclear weapons.

In an instant on that day, the atomic bomb swallowed Hiroshima whole.

Buildings were destroyed, and a great many people were crushed. Their skin hung down like old rags. Again and again, they cried for help and for water as they died. It was an inhuman scene, with people deprived of all dignity at the end of their lives.

It was a world of darkness, with the hopes and dreams of countless people blown away in seconds.

Even today, in countries around the world, a great number of lives are being lost to conflict and violence. As children, we are the number one victims of this violence, and while we carry the scars on our bodies, the loss of our families means that we carry even greater scars in our hearts. In Japan many people still suffer from the effects of the atomic bomb, and there are even second-generation survivors who are constantly hospitalized. We can't say that the war is over.

So what can we do to bring peace to the world in the future?

We can learn about war and the atomic bomb.

We can study the countries of the world and their histories.

We can refuse to turn a blind eye to fighting and bullying.

We can share our thoughts with people all over the world through the art and music that we love, and through many different languages.

Maybe it's all we can do to make one small step.

But we won't give up.

We will not avert our eyes from the darkness of war and the atomic bomb. We will seek the truth so that we can have the courage to resolve our differences with words and the strength to do away with nuclear weapons.

We make a solemn vow to continue bringing our hopes for peace to people all over the world.

Children's Representatives

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