

February 13, 2019

Her Excellency Ms. Federica Mogherini
High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
European Union

Request for your visit to the A-bombed cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

Excellency:

We hope this letter finds you in the best of health and spirits.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to you for visiting the A-bombed city Hiroshima to attend the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in April 2016. We also appreciate that you and other G7 foreign ministers announced the Hiroshima Declaration, emphasizing the need to issue a strong message towards a world without nuclear weapons.

As you know, the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945 reduced our cities to ashes in an instant and took many precious lives. Our *hibakusha* who managed to survive, while suffering the aftereffects of radiation and facing discrimination and prejudice, continue to tell their painful stories to ensure that no one else in the world experiences the horror of another nuclear attack. Now their average age is over 82 and their ardent wish is nothing but the realization of a world free from nuclear weapons.

Today, more than 14,000 nuclear warheads still remain, and as long as such weapons exist, so too does the danger remain that the horrors seen in Hiroshima and Nagasaki will be repeated, by intent or accident, plunging people into fear and agony. Under these circumstances, we would like to request that you visit the A-bombed cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki with EU officials on the occasion of the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting to be held in Japan this November. We believe that you have already taken our *hibakusha*'s ardent wish for peace to heart, but through the visits to our cities, we would like for you to further appeal for a world without nuclear weapons.

We, the citizens of the A-bombed cities, will readily welcome you once again and hope to work with EU members to rid the world of nuclear weapons.

In closing, we offer our best wishes for your health and every success in your endeavors.

Sincerely,

MATSUI Kazumi
Mayor
The City of Hiroshima

TAUE Tomihisa
Mayor
The City of Nagasaki