

Ms. Beatrice Fihn, Executive Director of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) Visits Nagasaki

Tatsujiro Suzuki (Director, RECNA)

Ms. Beatrice Fihn, Executive Director of ICAN visited Nagasaki at the invitation of RECNA, from January 12 (Friday) to 14 (Sunday), 2018. This visit of Ms. Fihn's was arranged upon the instructions of Susumu Shirabe, Special Aide to the President of Nagasaki University, to invite Ms. Fihn to visit the university as soon as possible after ICAN's receipt of the Nobel Peace Prize, in order that exchanges could be held between Ms. Fihn and hibakusha, citizens, and the youth of Nagasaki. Thanks to a kind assistance of Mr. Akira Kawasaki, a member of ICAN's International Steering Group (and also Executive Committee Member of Peace Boat), Ms. Fihn's visit was swiftly realized. It was the first time for Ms. Fihn to visit an atomic-bombed city and she carried out her tight schedule in an energetic manner.

On the first day of her visit, January 12, Ms. Fihn attended the opening ceremony of the exhibition "2017 Nobel Peace Prize Award Commemorative Exhibition: The Peace That We Create—the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is the International Norm." After the ceremony, she exchanged views over dinner with Dr. Shigeru Kohno, President of Nagasaki University, and other faculty members of the university and RECNA.

On the second day of her visit, January 13, Ms. Fihn laid flowers in the morning at the hypocenter. Following that, she visited the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum. It seems to have been a good opportunity for Ms. Fihn to be reminded of the reality of an atomic bombing. She later commented to journalists that the visit had left a deep impression on her. After that



Ms. Beatrice Fihn, Executive Director of ICAN and Mr. Akira Kawasaki, Member of ICAN's International Steering Committee, dedicating a wreath at the Ground Zero (13 January 2018, Photo by Nagasaki City)

Ms. Fihn took part in the main event, the special Nagasaki citizens seminar titled "The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons—Where do we go from here? A Message from Nagasaki." The seminar was hosted by RECNA with the joint sponsorship of PCU-Nagasaki Council and the Organizing Committee of the Nagasaki Global Citizens' Assembly for Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. Before an audience of over 300 people, Ms. Fihn delivered a keynote speech and took part in a panel discussion held with Mr. Akira Kawasaki, Dr. Masao Tomonaga, Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the Nagasaki Global Citizens Assembly for Elimination of Nuclear Weapons (and also Visiting Professor at RECNA), and Mr. Nobuharu Imanishi, the Director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Division, Disarmament, Non-Proliferation and Science Department, the Ministry of

Foreign Affairs. At the reception party held in the evening, Ms. Fihn was able to deepen exchanges with local citizens groups as well as members of the prefectural and city assemblies, and the youth of Nagasaki.

On the third day of her visit, January 14, together with Mr. Kawasaki, Ms. Fihn took part in a youth symposium titled “Talk Session with Ms. Beatrice Fihn: Abolishing Nuclear Weapons and the Role of Youth” with about 50 local university and high school students, mostly young people including the members of the Nagasaki Youth Delegation. Ms. Fihn gave an impressive speech at the youth symposium (see article by Ms. Hanako Mitsuoka on page 3). Later, Ms. Fihn and Mr. Kawasaki had a frank exchange of opinions over lunch with RECNA faculty members and we discussed future collaborative activities between ICAN and the RECNA. After that Ms. Fihn continued on to Hiroshima and Tokyo, energetically fulfilling her demanding schedule before leaving Japan on January 18

(Thursday). In Hiroshima the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation, and in Tokyo the Peace Boat and the Japan NGO Network for Nuclear Weapons Abolition acted as the host organizations and kindly worked to arrange her schedule and set up meetings. I would like to express my sincere thanks to those concerned for their cooperation.

As can be seen from the above, Ms. Fihn’s visit to Japan and to Nagasaki was even more fruitful and left an even greater impression than had been anticipated. In conclusion I should like to quote some words from Ms. Fihn that made the strongest impression on me.

“The prime minister is not the boss. You, the citizens, are the boss. The government (the prime minister) has an obligation to listen to and respond to the voices of the citizens, so let’s raise our voices together so that we can be heard.”

Nuclear Deterrence and Citizens

Satoshi Hirose (Vice-Director, RECNA)

Through her visit to the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum and other sites Ms. Beatrice Fihn, Executive Director of ICAN, made her first visit to an atomic-bombed city, an experience that appeared to make her even more aware of the inhumanity of nuclear weapons and further strengthen her resolve towards abolishing nuclear weapons. Ms. Fihn participated in the Special Nagasaki Citizens Seminar titled “How to best use the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons—A Message from Nagasaki” which was held at the Atomic Bomb Museum on January 13. There she emphasized that Japan, the only country to have experienced atomic bombing during wartime, should exercise strong leadership in efforts to bring about the abolition of nuclear weapons. Ms. Fihn also said that in the end it was appeals by hibakusha which moved people’s hearts and led to the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. She claimed that therefore the hibakusha should be thought of as joint recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize, in acknowl-



Ms. Beatrice Finn, Executive Director of ICAN, speaking at the Nagasaki Citizens Seminar (13 January 2018, Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum, Photo by RECNA)

edgement of their contributions. In today’s democratic society the earnest wish and indeed insistence by citizens, including hibakusha, on the abolition of nuclear weapons is what moves countries and makes the abolition of these weapons a possibility, she said.

However, Ms. Fihn unsurprisingly cast doubt upon the Japanese government which seems to have taken

a definite opposing stance to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Especially during the panel discussion, not only Ms. Fihn but also panelists Mr. Akira Kawasaki, a member of ICAN's International Steering Group, and Dr. Masao Tomonaga, Visiting Professor at RECNA, together with citizens who were part of the audience, criticized the Japanese government's stance and voiced their doubts one after another. Under the Japan-US security arrangements, and in light of the harsh reality of North Korea's development of nuclear weapons and China's military expansion, the Japanese government has repeatedly stated that it has no intention of making any changes to its existing stance, i.e., any policies that would be incompatible with the United States "nuclear umbrella" are not possible. During negotiations for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, Japan declined to participate for these same reasons and also voted against the adoption of the treaty in the United Nations.

Through the seminar, it became clear how big a gap exists between on one side the countries seeking to abolish nuclear weapons and their inhumanity, the voices of citizens that are growing louder in the international community as represented by ICAN, which

seek to abolish nuclear weapons, and on the other side the stance of the Japanese government that supports security policies that depend on the power of nuclear deterrence. In addition, the difficulty of trying to dissuade countries such as Japan and the United States from relying on nuclear deterrence also stood out clearly. In order to convince the Japanese government and encourage it to participate in the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, the argument of nuclear deterrence which forms the base of the Japanese government's assertion needs to be fundamentally reviewed. In the debriefing with the RECNA faculty after the seminar, Ms. Fihn mentioned that there was a certain limit as to how much support could be gathered for the treaty through campaigns. She pointed out the importance of trying to convince those countries opposing the treaty to change their stance through theoretical discussions from a technical perspective. Then, from that standpoint, Ms. Fihn acknowledged how collaboration between citizens' activities seeking to abolish nuclear weapons and researchers whose field of expertise is nuclear disarmament, is essential in bringing about the abolition of nuclear weapons.

"I want to be the kind of person who continues to have hope" From the Talk Session with Ms. Beatrice Fihn

Hanako Mitsuoka (4th Year, Faculty of Education Nagasaki University / Fifth Nagasaki Youth Delegation)

I want to be the kind of person who continues to have hope for the future, just like Ms. Fihn. This is what I felt the strongest during the talk session held recently with Ms. Beatrice Fihn, Executive Director of ICAN.

I currently hold the post of representative of the Team Peace Caravan, a voluntary student organization. Last October my fellow students and I set up this organization and we offer classes in peace education where we go and visit schools in various locations. We carry out our activities with our team of fourteen members who are each highly individualistic. The predecessor activities of our Team Peace Caravan are those activities begun by the



Ms. Beatrice Finn, Executive Director of ICAN and Mr. Akira Kawasaki, Member of ICAN's International Steering Committee, exchanging views with local students

(14 January 2018, Ryojun Conference Hall, Photo by Nagasaki City)

Fourth Nagasaki Youth Delegation members, and this year marks the third year since initiation. As of 20 February, 2018, we have provided talks and classes for a total of 3,540 students at 34 locations. I intend to be involved in these activities in the future too and ultimately want to make this a place where many students can gain lots of experiences. I hope to offer lots of people the chance to think about peace and nuclear weapons.

I first became involved in peace activities last year, when I was in my third year at university and I became a member of the Fifth Nagasaki Youth Delegation. My start came fairly late but what really drew me to this field was the opportunity to visit New York in March 2017 to participate in the First Sessions of the United Nations Conference to Negotiate the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

What I experienced then firsthand, was the reality of how people went beyond any boundaries of nationality or status to unite for the same goal of banning nuclear weapons and becoming a force to change the world. When I saw with my own eyes how various people from NGOs and citizens organizations gave powerful speeches, not only did they seem totally dependable but also I felt it was my mission to convey their passionate and strong ideas to the next generation.

During the talk session with Ms. Fihn, Executive Director of ICAN, who made such a great contribution to the successful adoption of the treaty, I was greatly encouraged. All of the members of ICAN, including Ms. Fihn, are still fairly young. Although I myself believe that I understand the role of young people as well as their importance, even though I have decided to continue the Team Peace Caravan activities I also feel the reality that not many young people will feel able to follow *peace work* as an option for their future. When we express our ideas we are criticized and told that we will not be able to make a living through *peace*. When I told Ms. Fihn about how frustrated I felt, she totally empathized with me. Then she said that the secret weapons of young people are hope, energy to remain positive about anything, and social media that connects the entire world. So I thought that I would try to connect with other people around the world who share the same vision as me and try to do whatever it is that I can accomplish as a *person*.

The path that I am trying to take is not stable and neither can I continue on it simply with good intentions. I am



Ms. Beatrice Finn, Executive Director of ICAN and Mr. Akira Kawasaki, Member of ICAN's International Steering Committee, exchanging views with local students (14 January, 2018, Ryojun Conference Hall, Photo by RECNA)

sometimes told that the prohibition and abolition of nuclear weapons is merely an ideal. However, there are many other adults who have gone before me and I feel encouraged by seeing how hard they have worked. There are people with passionate and strong ideas like Ms. Fihn and the hibakusha who have continued, one after another, keeping up the fight for peace. Soon will come the day when there will be no more hibakusha or people alive who actually survived that war. I keep on thinking about what it is that we as the younger generation can do. However, I will not be young forever. That is why I would like to be the kind of person who continues to have hope, in this moment now and in the future too.

Dispatches from Nagasaki No.23

The Reaction in Atomic-bombed Cities to the Trump Administration Nuclear Posture Review

Satoshi Hirose (Vice-Director, RECNA)

The United States Department of Defense released the Trump administration Nuclear Posture Review (NPR) in February 2018. In line with the concerns shared by many people, the content was in direct contrast with that of the Obama administration NPR which had been based on reducing the role of nuclear weapons. Instead the Trump administration seeks to strengthen America's nuclear strategies. In particular, the administration agrees with the use of nuclear weapons against conventional weapons and its proposal to pursue development of small-sized nuclear weapons for that purpose came as a shock to many people.

Harsh criticism of the Trump administration NPR was also voiced in Nagasaki, after it was released. Nagasaki City Mayor Tomihisa Taue said that the review runs counter to efforts by the international community and atomic-bombed cities to abolish nuclear weapons, such as adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (Nagasaki Shimbun, February 4, 2018 edition). Likewise, Hiroshima City Mayor Kazumi Matsui also commented that the NPR is contrary to moves in the international community and that he urges President Trump to visit the atomic-bombed cities and to aim for a world free of nuclear weapons (Nagasaki Shimbun, February 4 edition). Toyoichi Ihara, President of the Society of Hibakusha Certificate Holders of Nagasaki Prefecture, said he thought that the NPR seemed to be discouraging efforts to abolish nuclear weapons and that it was contrary to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons as well as opposing the organization which received the Nobel Peace Prize for advocating to abolish nuclear weapons (Nishi Nihon Shimbun, February 4 edition). These comments represent the candid opinions of many of the citizens of Nagasaki.

With regard to the Trump administration NPR, even though the US Department of Defense is pitching it as "strengthening deterrence," Tatsujiro Suzuki, Director of the Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, Nagasaki University (RECNA), says it has increased

the risk of using nuclear weapons and expanded that role, and that China and Russia may end up following the United States down the path to expanded nuclear armament (Nagasaki Shimbun, February 4 edition). Severe criticism continued with remarks from Dr. Masakatsu Ota, senior editorial writer at Kyodo News and Visiting Professor at RECNA, who said that China and Russia may both react to this movement by the Trump administration resulting in a risk that the nuclear arms race could flare up again, while North Korea will probably attempt to justify its possession of nuclear arms even more (Nagasaki Shimbun, February 7 edition). The possibility of using nuclear weapons in the escalation of regional conflicts with conventional weapons was mentioned by Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation, with regard to the conflict in Ukraine in 2015. This provoked a strong reaction from Japan and the international community at large. However, the Trump administration's NPR means that the United States is following along the same lines as Russia and may use nuclear weapons in the future. The logic behind the United States showing the possible use of nuclear weapons in attacks aimed at regional conflicts or limited nuclear war is that it will strengthen deterrence. However, the new development of small-sized nuclear weapons for dealing with such a situation means that the United States is advancing preparations to deal with limited nuclear war and the possibility has arisen again of limited nuclear war on a regional level that will not impact upon the mainland, the type of war which Europe was fearful of during the Cold War era. To be honest, it is extremely difficult to understand how this results in reducing the risk of using nuclear weapons.

The Trump administration NPR has been favorably received by the Japanese government which has shown a supportive stance to the United States. Mayor Taue urged Japan, as the only country which experienced atomic bombing during the war, not to follow in the footsteps of the United States (Nagasaki Shimbun, February 4 edition). Dr. Masao Tomonaga, Honorary Di-

rector of the Japanese Red Cross Nagasaki Genbaku Hospital and Visiting Professor at RECNA, remarked that he was appalled more than angry, and that if things continue like this, the relations between countries that possess nuclear weapons and those that do not, will not get closer (Nishi Nippon Shimbun, February 4 edition). He also expressed concerns that as the Japanese government showed such swift support for this NPR, Japan's position as a mediator between countries that possess nuclear weapons and those that do not will be damaged.

The former Obama administration touted "A World Free of Nuclear Weapons" and even if it was not quite satisfactory, that administration showed a positive attitude towards advancing nuclear disarmament. However, directly after Trump's inauguration there was talk in Nagasaki of worries that nuclear disarmament would undergo a setback in light of the Trump administration's frequent statements which attached a great deal of importance to military power. Unfortunately, the content of this NPR has shown those worries have become a reality.



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