

8/6 Hiroshima Day speech

Ohayou gozaimasu、 Good morning!

I was born in Tokyo, Japan, three years after the United States of America detonated two atomic bombs over Hiroshima and Nagasaki. And while I've called America my home for 40 years, I can never forgive this country for the inhumane acts it committed in 1945. Simply put: atomic bombings are international war crimes.

But I am grateful to see you gathered here. I believe your will and strength to abolish nuclear weapons will change the world one day.

The Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings were demonstrations done on innocent human beings. The USA government needed to show their might and power. And they succeeded, showing the rest of the world that they had the most powerful weapons in the history of man.

But when I think of those bombings, I think of the victims and their sufferings. Pika-Don. That's what the victims called the atomic bombs. Pika to describe the intense light, and Don to describe the enormous explosion that followed.

Pika-Don killed more than a hundred thousand people instantly in Hiroshima and Nagasaki together, and in the first four months acute effects killed another hundred thousand people. And suffering of the survivors, Hibakusha, from aftereffect of the radiation, still continues to today. There is no end to the suffering caused by atomic bombs.

The USA has spent billions of dollars to develop new nuclear weapons and nuclear technology, and of course they have looked for ways to recoup their investment. That's where nuclear power plants come in.

The USA sold nuclear power plants to Japan, and Japan bought them. Imagine that. Japan, a country that suffered so much from atomic bombs, decided that nuclear power was a good decision. The American government was cunning and sly, and the Japanese government was stupid and vain, wanting to own nuclear technology and nuclear weapons for themselves.

Since then, fifty-four nuclear plants have sprouted up like mushrooms on an earthquake prone island. Fifty four plants.

And 3 years and 5 month ago, the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant

melted down when a huge earthquake and tsunami struck Japan. Were we supposed to be surprised? To rely on a technology with a history of calamity. What were we to expect?

And today the Fukushima accident is far from the over. The problems and the difficulties are only growing. But despite all these troubles, the Japanese government has not given up on the nuclear power plants. And they are pushing forward on a nuclear recycling programs, and are planning to restart many nuclear plants despite the disapproval of majority of the people.

Why can't the Japanese government give up the nuclear power plants?

Because their nuclear power plants can produce plutonium. The nuclear power plants are a path to the nuclear weapons.

In 1993 former Prime Minister Hata said "Japan has the capability to produce nuclear weapons."

On July 1st this year, Japan approved a re-interpretation of the peace constitution. This approval allows the use of self-defense forces outside of Japan.

Japan is stepping forward towards militarism with the capacity to produce nuclear weapons.

This is a terrifying thought and it must be stopped.

Nuclear weapons and nuclear power plants go hand in hand. It is foolish to think otherwise. The International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War stated "A world without nuclear weapons will only be possible if we also phase out nuclear energy."

If we want a world without nuclear weapons then we must phase out nuclear energy. This is what we fight for. We fight for our children. We fight for the coming generations. I came from Tokyo. A long-time resident of America. And I have decided to fight. I hope we will continue to fight together.

Thank you.