

8/9/16 , at Lawrence Livermore Lab

Ohayou gozaimasu! Good morning!

In 1974, I left my life in Japan to come to the United States. For over 40 years now, I have called the Bay Area my home. I live in Berkeley, and I love it there. This is where I met my husband and raised my children. And this is where I've made many friends, many of whom I see in front of me right now.

But as I stand here today, in front of the Lawrence Livermore Lab, I cannot help but think about the atrocities that took place in Japan 71 years ago, and the path that led to a nuclear dependent Japan.

In August of 1945, the United States dropped two atomic bombs on Japan. Within six months, over 200,000 people were dead, and to this day, over 600,000 people have died. To put that in context, more people were killed in the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombs than the entire population of Oakland and Berkeley combined. Imagine that for a moment, everyone you know in Oakland and Berkeley, GONE forever. Thousands dead instantly, their shadows cast upon the ruins of buildings. Even more in hospitals, their skin crackling from burns, their insides sick from radiation. And the children, their futures destroyed like everything else.

Japan knows the horror. They experienced the destructive effects of nuclear weapons, of isotopes and uranium and plutonium and radioactive material. They, of all countries, should understand its catastrophic effects.

Well, Japan is an ironic country. Instead of learning from history, instead of running AWAY from the horrors of August 1945, they have run TOWARDS nuclear power, towards a Japan that is dependent on this abomination. Today, nuclear power plants are littered all over Japan to be restarted.

And the irony doesn't stop there. It was the United States who dropped those bombs on Japan, and today it's the United States who pushes for a nuclear Japan. It wasn't enough to kill hundreds of thousands of people. The United States has profited from Japan's nuclear path, and it is the Japanese people, once again, who must pay the price.

On March 11th, 2011, a 9.0 magnitude earthquake and the following tsunami destroyed the Fukushima Daiichi power plant, and three reactors were melted down. Even 5 and a half years later, the Japanese people are STILL paying for this calamity. They finally found the melted core of one of three reactors recently, but still don't know how to retrieve or contain it. Nearly 1000 contaminated water tanks are filling up in the Daiichi facility lot. The Ice-wall is not entirely blocking the contaminated water, which seeps into the ocean. Thyroid cancer amongst children is increasing, now over 170 children have

the cancer or suspected to have it. The Japanese government is declaring some areas safe, and forcing the evacuees to go back, so that compensations can be cut. But it's very clear that the area is NOT safe, and may never be.

President Obama visited Hiroshima last May as a tribute to atomic bombs victims, but he didn't offer any apology. He called for a world free of nuclear weapons, but he leads a country that spends to create even more nuclear warheads. Did his visit make this world one step closer to nuclear disarmament? No. In fact, his visit strengthened the tie with the Abe government which is pushing Japan towards militarism. Abe's governing party and allies took two third of upper house seats in last July's election after Obama's visit. Prime Minister Abe is sending hundreds of special military to Takae in Okinawa to suppress the protesters against building the USA army helicopter pads and to Henoko against building a new base. The alliance between the Obama and Abe administration is NOT about peace. It is about power. We should not be fooled.

Like many Japanese citizens, I have learned that we can not coexist with nuclear plants. But the Abe government will never give up nuclear energy and they are pushing to restart even more plants. The government is crushing the majority of Japanese people's voices against militarism and nuclear energy. Why? Because Abe government wants Japan to step forward to a military country like the USA and wants to make nuclear weapons in the near future. Japan needs to operate nuclear plants in order to enrich uranium and plutonium.

As I stand here today, I can feel the many spirits of Hiroshima, Nagasaki, the Marshal Islands and Fukushima. They are here with us now. They are watching us and they are encouraging us to fight.

What we do here today and in the future matters. The past must be remembered. The catastrophes of history must not be forgotten. On this day and everyday we fight for a world without nuclear weapons and nuclear energy.

Thank you.