

Newsletter



August 2018



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Like every year, we participated in the commemoration days of the bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We will give you a short overview of some of the events in Japan. Take a moment and see the whole speeches on our website.

Our members remember the victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on 6 and 9 August worldwide. Our Canadian member The Toronto Hiroshima Nagasaki Day Coalition organized a wonderful public event with prominent speakers, ending at dusk with crowds watching the lighted.

In this issue, we invite you to events organized by the IPB Youth Network.

Last but not least, for all those of you who want to support us, please <u>donate</u> to IPB. We depend on any donation, regardless the amount.

We hope you enjoy reading!

With our warmest wishes

Amela Skiljan



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REMEMBER HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI



COMMEMORATION DAYS HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI

On August 6, 1945, an atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. Three days later, on August 9, 1945, Nagasaki experienced the same horror. The world should never again experience these atrocities.

This year again, representatives of IPB were present in Japan during the commemoration days and actively participating. Additionally, our members organize commemoration events worldwide.

World Conference against A- & H- Bombs in Hiroshima

Our Vice-President Joseph Gerson was one of speakers at the World Conference against A- and H-Bombs in Hiroshima.

He pointed out that "despite the Hibakusha's fundamental truth that human beings and nuclear weapons cannot coexist, the illusion that nuclear weapons have worked and can serve as the ultimate enforcer of empire, compounded by lies and mistaken beliefs about nuclear deterrence, have repeatedly brought us to the brink of nuclear omnicde and driven nuclear weapons proliferation."

Gerson also states, "We meet in a perilous time of rising great power tensions, the ascendency of rightwing autocracies, uncertainties, and renewed nuclear and high-tech arms races." Read the whole speech here. The Declaration of the World Conference can be found here.



Nagasaki Commemoration Rally

Corazon Fabros, IPB Vice-President, was invited to give a speech at the Commemoration Rally in Nagasaki.

She underlines that "against the backdrop of rising fascist and dictatorial regimes in most of Asia and the Pacific, the continuing advance of our campaign for the elimination of nuclear weapons and foreign military bases faces tremendous challenge with the narrowing democratic space necessary to advance our cause. We must find ways to address our issues comprehensively, creatively, inclusively forging solidarities with other movements to broaden our critical mass."

Ultimately, Fabros calls on all of us to "stand with the Hibakushas, whose fading health and weakening voice bear witness to the injustice and inhumane treatment by their own governments and the government of the United States. Let us not forget those who have gone before us... remembering them with deep gratitude in our hearts, today and always . . . Senji Yamaguchi . . . Sumiteru Taniguchi . . . Nelson Anjain . . many others . . . Let us be their collective and rallying voice so that their determined call of "Never again a-bomb!" will come to fruition.

No more Hiroshima! No more Nagasaki! No more Hibakusha! No more war!"

Read the whole speech here.



"Two Minutes to Midnight: Time to Ban the Bomb" - The Toronto Hiroshima Nagasaki Day Coalition held a great commemoration of the 1945 atomic bombings on August 6th

By Phyllis Creighton and Anton Wagner

Hiroshima survivor Setsuko Thurlow and Dr. Ira Helfand were the main speakers at the Hiroshima Nagasaki commemoration at the Toronto City Hall on August 6. Thurlow accepted the Nobel Peace Prize with Beatrice Fihn on behalf of the ICAN last December. Dr. Helfand is a member of the ICAN International Steering Group and co-President of the IPPNW

With thundering taiko drums and the enchanting flutist Ron Korb to open the program, Thurlow told us about ICAN's work and the Nuclear Ban Treaty process, challenging us to get Canada to sign the treaty. She criticized the Canadian government for refusing to ratify the Treaty and outlined a new organizing strategy of convincing city governments across Canada to endorse the Treaty. Her article "Two Minutes to Midnight" was published in the Toronto Star, Canada's largest circulation newspaper.

Dr. Helfand's presentation highlighted the horrific dangers of nuclear weapons and the nuclear famine that would result if only 1% of the 15,000 nuclear weapons still in existence were detonated in large cities.

City Councillor Joe Mihevc, before reading the Mayor's Hiroshima and Nagasaki Day Proclamation,



had also spoken about the April Board of Health hearing, requested by the HNDC, on emergency response to a nuclear explosion in the Toronto region and the resulting unanimous call to the Government of Canada by the Board, City Council, and Mayor to sign the Ban Treaty. We also had the Pax Christi Chorale singing beautiful anthems, and the Raging Grannies belting out cheeky ditties. Our evening ended at dusk with crowds watching the lighted lanterns drifting across the pool in front of City Hall. The Consul General of Japan, Ms Ito, who had attended, later observed that she had not expected such a big event organized by the citizens of Toronto for "our common cause, a nuclear free world," a goal she says the Japanese Government shares. She noted that "carrying a torch for this ultimate goal, especially to the younger generation, is so important."

NHK, the Japanese national TV network, took video that was shown live on newscasts all over Japan and across North America. Could this kind of citizen activity help get the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons signed and ratified? For more information, see: www.hiroshimadaycoalition.ca









EVENTS FROM OUR YOUTH NETWORK

Challenges and Positive Approaches to Peace

We are pleased to officially invite you to "Challenges and Positive Approaches to Peace", a public event and NGO working meeting taking place on the 21-23 September, for the UN International Day of Peace The event is organised by IPBYN and IPB, and supported by Natwiss.

It will start at 5.30pm on Friday 21 September

This year's International Day of Peace may be conducted in one of the most challenging times of the 21st century. We see the powers striving for the rise of old conflicts and rivalries, nationalisms as well as massive armament paired with growing injustices in the world At the same time we see the further developing of peacebuilding, civil conflict resolution and a strengthening of the United Nations and other peaceful and democratic structures.

The IPB Youth Network and IPB are organising together with NatWiss a public event on the challenges to peace, as well as a working meeting with several NGOs and stakeholders active in peace in the forthcoming of the organisation of a 2019 Peace Congress.

We would like to ask you to register to either event at info@ipb-youthnetwork.org

Please share with your networks.

Public Event

The objective of this public event is to highlight and analyse challenges for peace in the world, as well as discuss and strengthen alternatives and ways to create a positive living for future generations.

Friday, 21 September 2018

Venue: Humbolt University, Main Building

Unter den Linden 6, 10099 Berlin

Room: Hörsaal 1072

17:30 - Welcome and Introduction by IPBYN and IPB

17:50 - Greetings by IPBYN South-America

Greetings by the German Society for the UN

18:10 - Climate and Conflict Prof. Dr. Jürgen Scheffran, University of Hamburg

18:35 - Insight on the Korean conflict

19:00 - Nuclear disarmament, Anne Balzer, ICAN Germany

19:25 Break

19:45 - Insight on the Iran conflict Prof. em. Dr. Mohssen Masserrat, University of Osnabrück

20:05 - Positive Approaches to Peace, Agata Stajer, Youth Peace Ambassadors Network; Alive Peace

20:30 - Steps towards a peaceful world, World Café with the speakers

21:15 - End

Dr. Mohssen Masserrat will talk in German, we will try to organise translation upon request.



International Working Meeting

The IPBYN is offering a floor for open discussions, in the framework of topics close to the network (e.g. related to youth, peace and security) and to the organisation of the 2019 World Youth Congress on Peacebuilding.

Through a participatory process, the objective is to come up with meaningful and innovative ideas for each participant to use in their actions and work, and to share with their networks.

Venue: IPB Office, Marienstrasse 19/20, 10117 Berlin

Saturday, 22 September 2018

9:30 - Greetings

Exchange of knowledge and experiences & Choice of topics

12:30 - Lunch

14:00 - Discussion on chosen topics & Sharing outcomes

18:00 - End

19:30 - Common dinner

Location: PA 58, Prinzenallee 58, 13359 Berlin

Sunday, 23 September 2018

10:00 - Political sight-seeing tour of the city (tbc)







David McReynolds has left us by Colin Archer



Older members of the IPB family will have vivid memories of David McReynolds, who died on Aug.17th in New York City at the age of was David committed pacifist and socialist, as well as an accomplished photographer. He was on the War Resisters League staff from 1960 to 1999 and was chair of the War Resisters'

International. He was also a long time member of the US Socialist Party, running for President of the USA in 1980 and 2000 — the first openly gay candidate for President — and for the U.S. Senate from New York in 2004 on the Green Party ticket. His very moving photos reveal (among much else) a lifelong engagement with campaigns against war and oppression; and in favour of disarmament and human rights. He traveled extensively, many times to wartorn countries, once getting arrested in Red Square during an anti-nuclear protest in 1978. David was appointed a consultant to the IPB in the 1990s, and was a reliable source of support in all kinds of ways over the years. Many colleagues have expressed great sadness at his passing. David was an outstanding activist who was both resolute and gentle, never afraid to take a bold stand. He was a radical political thinker and writer, a movement organiser, and especially in his later years, a global networker. His family and friends will be planning a memorial service in the weeks to come. See also New York Times obituary.

We mourn the death of Samir Amin

World acclaimed Egyptian economist and thinker, Samir Amin, has died in Paris. He was 86. His ability to observe and explain the dangers of our world but also its possibilities was exceptional.

For the past 40 years, Amin was based in Dakar (Senegal), where he led the Third World Forum.

In his most important book, Accumulation on a World Scale (1970), which propelled him into the front ranks of dependency theory, Amin showed how resources flowed from the countries of the periphery to enrich the countries of the core through a process that he called 'imperialist rent'.

We are happy and proud to had the chance to have him as a speaker at our World Congress in 2016. His speech can be seen here. Soon it will be published in a book too.

