



Mayors for Peace

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Hiroshima Mayor's Message to ZeitlosLauf

May 4, 2008

I am grateful for this opportunity to send a message to ZeitlosLauf in Wendisch Evern, a valued member of Mayors for Peace.

Hiroshima suffered the first atomic bombing in the history of humanity. With that experience we began our unwavering appeal for nuclear weapons abolition and the realization of lasting world peace. Despite our efforts, vast arsenals of nuclear weapons remain, and many are deployed. Proliferation is gaining momentum, and the human family still faces the peril of extinction.

Therefore, the City of Hiroshima, together with Mayors for Peace, which now has more than 2,000 member cities worldwide, including Wendisch Evern, has launched a series of recent initiatives. One such initiative is the 2020 Vision Campaign, with the goal of total nuclear weapons abolition by year 2020. This campaign led to our Good Faith Challenge to promote good-faith negotiations of nuclear disarmament with nuclear weapons states, and the Cities Are Not Targets project demanding that nuclear weapon states stop targeting cities for nuclear attack.

The 21st century is an age in which problems can and must be addressed through the efforts of citizens. That is why the ZeitlosLauf, your event commemorating the surrender on May 4, 1945, is of such great significance. I've learned that this year you are holding the 3rd repetition of this event, and an exhibition featuring Mayors for Peace and the 2020 Vision will be a part of this occasion. I hereby express my deepest respect for and gratitude to all involved. We stand at a critical crossroads. Will we eliminate nuclear weapons or allow them to spread and be used? We must do everything in our power to realize lasting world peace, eliminate all weapons of mass destruction, and avoid the myriad tragedies of war.

I hope you will all continue to work with us to achieve a genuinely peaceful, nuclear-weapon-free world.

I close with my best wishes for the success of ZeitlosLauf and continued good health for all involved.

Tadatoshi Akiba
Mayor of Hiroshima
President
Mayors for Peace