

Dear Friends,

The Viennese Peace Movement and the Hiroshima Group Vienna with affiliated peace movement calling for the memorial day of the first atom bombs ever used against human lives.

This year marks the 71st anniversary of the only time nuclear warheads were dropped as an act of aggression at the end of the 2nd world war, the bombings of the Japanese cities Hiroshima and Nagasaki executed by the US Air Force on August 6th and August 9th 1945. The consequence of this inferno were the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people and victims suffering from resulting illnesses up today.

Instead of learning our lesson and banning these weapons, the great political powers took part in an unprecedented arms race of weapons of mass destruction and other countries illegally tried (and in some cases succeeded) to come into possession of military nuclear technology. Every war could escalate to the use of nuclear weapons. Article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), calling for swift and complete disarmament of nuclear weapons, has not yet been implemented by the Nuclear-Weapon-States.

We call for the total global elimination of all nuclear weapons. As an important step for total ban of all nuclear weapons we call for a nuclear weapon free zone Europe. We emphasise on Austrias neutrality and anti nuclear weapons strategy. It is due to the work of peace and environmental activists that a ban on nuclear weapons and nuclear power plants is part of the Austrian Constitution. Additionally, Austria pledged to work towards the elimination of nuclear weapons. This pledge is currently supported by 110 States.

As it has become tradition, the peace movement commemorates the victims of the nuclear attacks at Stephansplatz in Vienna. This year the Hiroshima Commemoration starts on Saturday, August 6th 2016 at 6 PM and ends at app. 20:30 PM with a lantern parade to the pond in front of Karlskirche. On Tuesday August 9th 2016 at 20:00 PM there is a ceremony at the Viennese Peace Pagoda.

Each year we collect messages of support from people with diverse backgrounds – hundreds of voices supporting the struggle against nuclear weapons, against war and against nuclear power plants. Please support this action with your own statement which will be exhibited at Stephansplatz and published on www.hiroshima.at

Please send the statements of support until July 31st 2016 to
Wiener Friedensbüro, Reinprechtsdorfer Straße 6/2, 1050 Wien, Austria
E-Mail: pax.vienna@chello.at

We, the Hiroshima Group Vienna, the Viennese Peace Movement and a number of other groups organizing this year's event want to thank you for supporting our common pursuit of a world free of nuclear weapons, nuclear power plants and war.

In peace and solidarity,

Andreas Pecha, Sonja Jamkojian-Huber, Helga Ungar