

Mr. Wolfgang Schlupp-Hauck and Mrs. Brigitte Schlupp-Wick
Klarenbergstr. 200
73525 Schwäbisch Gmünd
GERMANY

Dear Wolfgang and Brigitte,

It is a great honor to send this message to express my support for your cycling tour from Mutlangen via Vienna to Tehran this July. Yours is a meaningful and epoch-making effort to bind countries and defuse tensions by cycling through with a message of peace. I sincerely hope you will be safe and successful and that you will do your best to involve cities and Mayors for Peace along the way. Cities can play an important role in preventing international violence.

In the sixty five years since Hiroshima experienced the atomic bombing, our city has continuously appealed for the abolition of nuclear weapons and the realization of everlasting world peace to make sure that the heartfelt wish of our *hibakusha* that “No one else should suffer as we did.” would be honored. Now, our efforts are part of a groundswell that seems to move the world in the right direction.

At last month’s NPT Review Conference in New York City, a consensus for concrete action towards the abolition of nuclear weapons was reached among all NPT states parties, including nuclear weapon states, due to the combined efforts of world leaders such as Barack Obama and the exceptional leadership of U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. This meeting is further evidence of the groundswell and I am convinced that we are entering an era in which the process leading toward nuclear weapons abolition cannot be stopped.

The City of Hiroshima is currently working with thousands of Mayors for Peace member cities, their citizens and peace-related NGOs to realize our 2020 Vision, the total abolition of nuclear weapons by the year 2020. The reason the year 2020 is important is that we wish to enter a world without nuclear weapons with as many *hibakusha* as possible. Furthermore, if our generation fails to eliminate nuclear weapons, we will have failed to fulfill our minimum responsibility to those that follow.

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The essential ingredient for the abolition of nuclear weapons is political will among the heads of states around the world. Therefore, we are determined to make the existing global groundswell for nuclear abolition even bigger and stronger. Specifically, we will press for a new legal framework, such as a Nuclear Weapons Convention, and insist on timeframes compatible with our 2020 Vision.

Here in the 21st century, cities and citizens actually have the power to solve world problems. As seen in the anti-personnel landmine ban, liberation from poverty through the Grameen Bank, the prevention of global warming and other such movements, a true global democracy that respects majority will and solves problems through the power of the people, has begun to emerge. In this context, it is of great significance that your passion for peace has led to the cycling tour to address the global priority of nuclear weapons abolition. I hereby express my deepest respect for your commitment and endeavors.

Eliminating nuclear weapons from the world will be one of humanity's greatest achievements. To celebrate this achievement in 2020, the City of Hiroshima is exploring the feasibility of bidding for the 2020 Olympics, which we would make a "Festival of Peace." I sincerely hope that, with your support, we can make our two dreams—a nuclear weapon-free world and the Hiroshima Olympics—come true in the current decade.

I close with my best wishes for the success of your cycling tour from Mutlangen via Vienna to Tehran.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tad Akiba", written in a cursive style.

Tadatashi Akiba
Mayor
The City of Hiroshima