

Thank you. I am Terumi Tanaka, a survivor of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki 68 years ago, and I am here as a member of Japanese official delegation.

When the atomic bomb was dropped, I was upstairs in my house, 3.2 kilometers from the hypocenter. Suddenly I saw a huge flash. I ran downstairs, and as soon as I laid on the floor, I became unconscious. When I woke up, I found myself under glass doors blown by the blast. Miraculously, the glass was not broken, and I did not suffer any major injuries.

Three days later, I entered ground zero to find my relatives. Some had burned to death where their house used to be. Others survived but soon died with heavy burns or fever from radiation. Altogether, five of my family were killed. Everywhere, many victims with heavy injuries and hundreds of dead bodies were left unattended. It was literally hell. The horrible situation still stays in my memory.

Under the mushroom cloud of Hiroshima or Nagasaki that you often see in pictures, was a blazing inferno, where countless people suffered. When you next see such a photo, I urge you to imagine the tragic scene with human pictures. The number of A-bomb deaths, several hundreds of thousands, is not just a number. It is the deaths of many individual human beings, whose survival and dignity should have been secured. Nothing but the testimony and drawings of the A-bomb survivors can tell the real situation. Please listen to our stories, use your imagination when you look at the pictures drawn by the Hibakusha, and remember the consequences of these human acts.

Such inhumane, immoral human acts must never be allowed. It is unacceptable to use nuclear weapons in the name of "national security." No state is safe if a nuclear weapon is used, even to protect a state's survival. Nuclear deterrence, which allows the existence of nuclear weapons by assuming their possible use, runs totally counter to humanity. The Hibakusha's experience must be the departure point when we discuss the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons.

Thank you for this opportunity and your kind attention.