

[www.nomorebombs.org](http://www.nomorebombs.org)



## Information and Advocacy for Nuclear Disarmament

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**Newsletter number 25**

**June and July , 2020**

Greetings Dear Friends of a Livable World,

August 6 and 9 this year are historic 75th anniversaries of the first two atomic bombings, on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, in 1945. We devote most of this issue to describing our group's participation in commemoration activities to mourn the victims and honor the survivors of these most horrific attacks.

The rest is something of an essay, or rant, about the interconnection of issues of peace and justice that we cannot ignore any more.

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<https://www.hiroshimanagasaki75.org/> is the recently opened website for an extraordinary happening. We introduced this subject a couple months ago, and it is now up and running, and we at No More Bombs are participating. A coalition of Peace groups from all over the country, and really the world, are working together to produce a virtual memorial for the victims and survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. This event will stream online for as much as 8 hrs on each of the two days, August 6 and August 9. Some of it will be live events, some, including ours, will be recorded ahead of time. As many as 120 groups are contributing messages of mourning and hope to the production, which is being produced not by one organization, but collectively by several working in concert: Physicians for Social Responsibility, Bulletin of Atomic Scientists, Arms Control Association, Code Pink, Beyond the Bomb, Rethink Media, Nuclear Voices, and many more.

Our contribution is simple: a few comments by ordinary people making their own statements about the atomic bombings of 200,000 Japanese men, women, and children by our nation. Each in our own words, each lighting a candle of hope to honor the victims of those days, plus a special musical contribution by Holly Graham. Local videographer Zain Butler has filmed each participant separately, and then combined them into a virtual gathering that will stream on August 6, 12:45 to 1 PM, as our segment of this international memorial service. Several members of No More Bombs have been working on this, and we have just completed it. Having seen some of the other groups describing their segments, we recommend you watch as much of those two days as possible. This link <https://www.hiroshimanagasaki75.org/events> will explain how to view the virtual commemoration, and much more valuable information. Our website <https://www.nomorebombs.org/> will also feature a link to the program.

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We are also planning our own virtual gathering for **August 6**, which will be a Zoom meeting, from **7 to 8 PM**. We invite you all to attend, from the comfort of your own phone or laptop, and share your thoughts on this momentous anniversary. We will show the video we submitted to the bigger event, in case you don't get a chance to see it earlier in the day, and a short video featuring Setsuko Thurlow, a heroic survivor of the bombing of Hiroshima, speaking to the UN. Click <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/77259599496> at 7:00 PM to participate. Please join us. Speak from your hearts. We want to hear what you are thinking. Maybe together we can make some sense of these horrible tragedies, and help each other move forward in hope of preventing their repetition.

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As we get nearer to the 75th anniversaries of those most horrible atrocities against innocent Japanese people, we are reminded of some of the other horrors hid away in our nation's closet. Closely related to the bombings are the many crimes against our own citizens in the years running up to 1945, and long after. July 16 that year was Trinity, the first nuclear explosion, in New Mexico. On another July 16, in 1979, was the calamitous Church Rock Dam breaching, which dumped over 1100 tons of radioactive solid waste and 94 million gallons of radioactive water into the Rio Puerco, also in New Mexico. Both of these tragedies were paid for by the health and lives of uranium miners and their families, most of whom were, and are indigenous Americans, working for slave wages, deliberately exposed to extreme radioactive hazards with little or no protection, no health care, no reparations for poisoned lands, crops, and livestock. No acknowledgement of the severe genetic damage and diseases plaguing their descendants even today. Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, North and South Dakota, Montana, and yes Washington and Idaho. Indigenous homelands in all these states were devastated, as were the Marshall Islands, whose residents had no reasonable part to play in the manufacture and testing of nuclear weapons, except that they happened to live on the islands the US government captured during WWII, and which seemed a convenient place to test nuclear bombs. They became unknowing experimental medical subjects, studied but never treated, while their ancestral homes and way of life were cruelly destroyed.

And who was and is responsible for these crimes against humanity? Old white men, mostly. Guys just like me. Enjoying privilege and immunity we never earned, paying no heed to the suffering of everybody else. My deepest feelings on these anniversaries are relentless guilt, sorrow, a wish to atone, to apologize, to somehow make it right. To all the nuclear workers, their families, their lands, and all the innocent victims of the bombings, the testing, and their descendants, I can only bow my head in shame. I cannot make it right. I apologize for that too. And to the newest generations of peace workers, I apologize to you for the screwed up world I am leaving you. I truly hope you will treat each other and your common home better than we did.

If there is anything worth celebrating this year, it can only be a renewed scrutiny of the past follies of our nation. Our arrogance and greed are becoming exposed. Our selfishness and cruelty have been unmasked. So many crimes against humanity we blissfully ignored or deliberately denied and concealed are coming to light. Racial injustice, sexual abuse, exploitation of indigenous people and their lands all continue unabated. The military-industrial complex and military style policing grow unabated, as do the wealth of the corporations supplying the lethal hardware. Insofar as we tolerate these policies, we are complicit in them. We are Donald Trump. Now what are we going to do about that?

