

Dear Kyoko,

May14,2016

Thank you so much for this report and for your continued work to end suffering and advocate for peace.

JFOR has been part of an effort through the Peace and Planet campaign to send messages to President Obama urging him not only to visit Hiroshima on his upcoming trip to Japan but also to take concrete steps for peace. The following is a copy of the text I sent to him after learning he would make a visit.

Much love to you and all of our friends in JFOR:

Dear President Obama,

I was pleased to see that you have decided to visit Hiroshima on your upcoming trip to Japan. Thank you for including this stop in your itinerary; it means so much to the Japanese and U.S. people. It is an important act in acknowledging the ways in which our fates and responsibilities for healing and peace are intertwined as a result of our bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

I hope you will go farther than just to visit, though. This is an important opportunity to announce concrete steps toward global nuclear disarmament, such as:

- calling for negotiations for complete elimination of nuclear weapons as required by Article VI of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT)

- announcing unilateral reductions in the U.S. nuclear arsenal, much as President George H.W. Bush did. This would be an important step toward revitalizing disarmament diplomacy

- canceling the \$1 trillion plan to build the next generation of nuclear weapons and their delivery systems.

Furthermore, I hope you will affirm the preciousness of Article 9 in the Japanese Constitution. Its recent reinterpretation is not consistent with its original intent for keeping Japan out of international disputes. Please take the opportunity of your visit to affirm your support of peaceful resolutions for international conflicts.

May your trip be filled with many blessings and opportunities to exhibit why you will forever carry the honor of being a Nobel Peace Prize winner.

Peace to you,

Rev. Kristin Stoneking
Executive Director
Fellowship of Reconciliation