



## **Hiroshima and Nagasaki**

### **The only atomic bomb attacks in history**

The atomic bombing attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki are one of the hugest atrocities of the 20th century. In the month of August, during an interval of three days, atomic bombs were dropped on both these cities. It was the first time in history that this type of weapon was used and caused a massive and indiscriminate killing of the population. At that time it was calculated that around 210.000 people died in the act, but the consequences and impact of the bombs has taken a toll on the same amount of deaths since. Even to this day, besides the fact that almost seven decades have passed since the United States bombarded Japan, there continue to be deaths, physical and psychological suffering within the community of survivors and their decedents. However, these war crimes have gone unpunished.

**FROM JULY 2 TO AUGUST 31**

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## **The International Organization In The Face of Nuclear Weapons**

Nuclear weapons are the most deadly weapons that have been created by humans and not only because of their capacity for massive and indiscriminate destruction, but also for their long-term effects on human well-being across generations. The United Nations, from the beginning has wanted to control them, but they have not yet succeeded.

In 1968, the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council signed the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The United States, United Kingdom, France, Russia and China who were the only countries that had conducted nuclear tests – intending to maintain the monopoly over nuclear weapons, but move towards disarmament. Almost 50 years afterwards there are now more countries that possess these weapons, which have become stronger and even more deadly than before.

A great number of international agreements configure a labyrinth in which it is easy to get lost. For example the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) for the complete prohibition of nuclear tests stands out, which complements the NPT, and its mission to stall the evolution of nuclear weapons, but not its prohibition and elimination.

Although the treaty was drafted in 1996, the CTBT has not yet entered into force. The signature and ratification of the 44 states mentioned is required and three still have not signed: North Korea, India and Pakistan. Eight states still need to ratify: China, North Korea, Egypt, India, Iran, Israel, Pakistan and the United States. On one hand it is positive that a large number of states that do not have nuclear weapons have joined the treaty (it has been signed and ratified by 153 countries), but on the other hand it is discouraging to witness how slowly the process is taking so that it enters into force.

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## **The International Organization In The Face of Nuclear Weapons**

The mayor of Hiroshima, Takeshi Araki, in 1982 proposed to the UN a program to unite forces between cities that would join in solidarity to press states with the aim of eradicating nuclear weapons. In May 1990 Mayors for Peace was registered as a NGO of the United Nations. Currently, it groups 5,813 cities from 158 countries. Their fight is for an alternative supra-state voice in face of governments of states, joint work- force for peace and the abolishment of nuclear weapons. In Mallorca the towns; Felanitx, Petra, Porreras amongst others are part of this organization. Neither Palma nor Manacor are members of NGO.

Since the second half of the 20th century, the pacifist movement has been demanding the abolishment of nuclear weapons. In 2007, the demand became concrete with the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). This project brings together more than 400 civil society organizations from around the world, including FundiPau. It focuses on the serious humanitarian consequences of atomic weapons and claims the banning of these weapons with an international treaty. Since 2013 three international diplomatic conferences have been celebrated in countries favorable to the abolishment: Oslo (Norway), in March 2013; Nayarit (Mexico), in February 2014 and Vienna (Austria), in December 2014. In the latter, Austria presented a document that has already received the support of 117 countries and calls for moving towards a prohibition treaty

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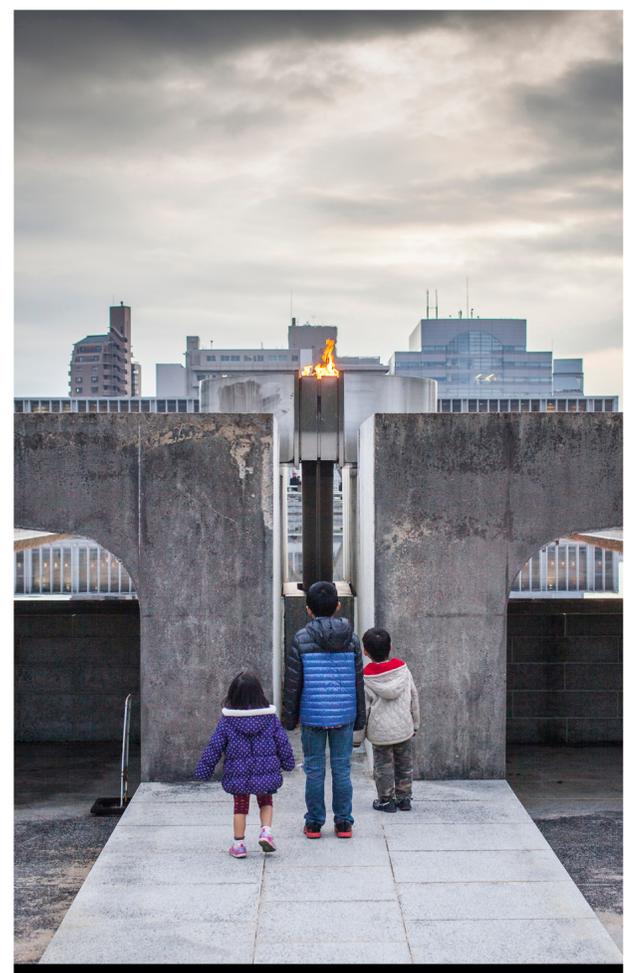
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## Effects of the Atomic Bombs

The atomic bombs are weapons of massive destruction, which liberate great quantities of energy in the form of heat and radiation.

### Explosion

When a nuclear bomb explodes it generates a brutal, expansive blast wave. In the case of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, at 1, 8 km distance from the center of explosion, all constructed wooden houses were completely destroyed, and only a few concrete structures remained standing. People who found themselves in that radius died immediately. Further away from the center of explosion, survivors suffered internal and external injuries of a greater or lesser degree. Injuries were also caused by falling debris, flying glass, objects and collapsing buildings. Objects turned into shrapnel were hurled by the impact of the explosion, causing many injuries. In addition, it must be taken into account that in Hiroshima, at a distance of 3.6 km, all the windows of the houses were shattered.



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# Effects of the Atomic Bombs

## Heat

The thermal radiation of both bombs was so intense that almost everything close to the explosion's center evaporated, and in a radius of 1, 4 km fires broke out at the moment of the explosion. In Hiroshima, 13 km<sup>2</sup> were reduced to ashes and in Nagasaki around 6, 7 km<sup>2</sup> suffered the same consequences, but due to their different orography and the type of construction material the effects were slightly different. People who lived in a radius of 1, 2 km suffered from burned skin and the subcutaneous tissues too. Those living 3 km distance and whose parts of the body were not covered facing the center of the explosion also suffered first-degree burns. Keloid scars are common among survivors (an abnormal scar from burns, which provokes physical and emotional pain).

## Radiation

The atomic bomb sends forth a radiation that causes highly devastating injuries to human beings, causing the chromosomes to no longer divide themselves, which causes the immune system to fail. In Hiroshima and Nagasaki the radioactivity spread out in all directions with a radius of 3 km. At a distance of 1 km from the center of explosion the dose was lethal: those who survived at first, died quickly after with symptoms of fever, nausea, diarrhea, hemorrhages, hair loss and general fatigue. Some people who seemed uninjured died weeks or months afterwards with the same symptoms. People participating in rescue committees were also seriously contaminated.

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Through time, the survivors have suffered many different illnesses depending on the dose of radioactivity absorbed. Leukemia augmented notably after 6 years and a decade later thyroid cancers increased, and many other types of cancer: breast, lung, stomach, colon and multiple myeloma. Pregnant women who had been affected by the radiation had children with cognitive problems or were born with smaller brains than normal; they had growing problems and a greater risk of suffering cancer. The additional problems related to the effects of nuclear radiation increased during the survivors' lives and are persistent to our day.

## Today

Currently, Hiroshima and Nagasaki are two modern cities that live their present-day without forgetting their past. Humanity has become numb and forgetful to these two stigmatized cities. Here we present you with a series of images that show the everyday life in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The aim is to deeply understand and stimulate our consciousness in order to transcend these dramatic black and white images from 1945.



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