

Death and Illness by Atomic Bombing

'Hibakusha'

The atomic explosion inflicted complex damages on human bodies—(1) burns from heat radiation (temperatures reaching up to 4,000 degrees C) and fire; (2) injuries from the blast wave (120 m/s at a spot 1.3 kilometers away from the epicenter); (3) atomic diseases from initial radiation, induced radiation and residual radiation.

37 years of Suffering and Struggle

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Mr. Senji Yamaguchi
(Survivor of Nagasaki, aged 51)

On the 9th of August, Senji Yamaguchi (then aged 14) was in the Mitsubishi Arms Manufacturing Works (1.2 kilometers from the epicenter) in the labor corps in Nagasaki. While he was working outside the building, the flash of the atomic bomb struck him, and he suffered severe burns in the right side of the upper part of his body. Burnt and festering, his body swarmed with maggots devouring the yellow pus that gave off a most offensive smell. The condition lasted for weeks. What awaited him on leaving hospital after seven months was the torture of living. At the sight of him neighboring children scurried away, shouting, "Here comes the Red Demon!" Plagued by one disease after another and discouraged at the unfavorable result of operations for keloids, Mr. Yamaguchi often tried to commit suicide, but the great upsurge of public demand for an end to A and H bombs encouraged him to live. Working now as one of the representatives of Hibakusha, Mr. Yamaguchi devotes all his energy to appealing to the world for a ban on nuclear weapons.

Miss Fujie Takagi
(Survivor of Hiroshima, aged 44)

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Fujie Takagi was aged 7 at the time of the nuclear bombing, at home in Fujishima-cho, 1.8 kilometers from the epicenter. Her home was reduced completely to ashes; her junior-high school brother was missing; her parents also suffered radiation. Fujie was trapped under the collapsed building, suffering injuries and burns.

A little later, her temperature rose, and she suffered from diarrhea and bleeding of the gums, and was compelled to stay in bed for six months. All through her primary and junior high school days, she had to endure precarious health, and of course had to be a mere looker-on during physical training.

Married at the age of twenty, she had a girl baby a year later, but again she began to suffer, attending hospital more frequently than ever. She had her second child, but became so seriously ill that she was not able to care for her children. She was divorced and had to leave her children, and went back to Hiroshima. But her kind parents had already gone, and she could not get work because of her poor health. She married again. But she had to enter the hospital so repeated-

ly that family life for her did not last long.
Divorced and alone, Miss Takagi still suffers from bronchial asthma, gastric ulcer, chronic hepatitis, rheumatism of the joints, high blood pressure and incurable 'general sclerosis'. Attending hospital is an everyday part of her life.

Often confined to bed with asthma, fever or general pains, she complains that the cold season is especially unbearable.

Victim of the bomb at the age of seven, Fujie Takagi says, "The happy moments of my whole life are but a year or so when I had my first child. Only for the atomic bombing, I could have enjoyed a happy family life like everyone else... Never let humanity suffer this same torture."

Her appeal is for the children she left; it is against her double torture of poor health and the hardships of living; it is for the uncertainty of her future; it is for No More Hiroshimas, No More Nagasakis, No More Hibakusha.