



BULLETIN OF  
JAPAN COUNCIL  
AGAINST A & H BOMBS

# no more hiroshimas!

VOL. 29 No. 3 (ISSN 0029-0823)

JULY 1985

## HIBAKUSHA APPEAL ON 40TH YEAR SINCE THE BOMBING

Yuko Yamaguchi (Ms.)  
Representative Director  
- Survivor of Hiroshima -

On August the 7th, 1945, one day after the A-bombing I went into the city of Hiroshima to look for my parents. The ground was so hot that I thought the soles of my shoes would melt, but the fires had already burnt down. The sight of Hiroshima imprinted on my mind is of a wide stretch of burnt-out ruins. I could not help thinking that there could be no such horrifying sight, a sight that human beings should never see. From dead bodies, swollen like beer barrels, intestines protruding and babies changed into lumps of meat, covered with dust. I saw a dead horse, its legs stretched toward the sky, and buildings, or rather their steel skeletons pointing to the blue sky. A strange sickening smell was hung over the ruins for several days, and those who had survived fell one after another, vomiting blood.

On the day of the A-bombing, I was staying in a village about 10km from Hiroshima city. After spending the whole day watching the burning and the mushroom cloud, worrying about my parents who had not come back, I decided to go into Hiroshima city to look for them.

"Why can such a terrible thing happen in the human community" I asked myself when I found the bodies of my parents, torn to pieces and covered with blood. It was later that I learned that it was an atomic bomb, dropped by the American forces, the very first in history, that changed the city of Hiroshima into a nuclear battlefield. When I first thought about what I had seen in Hiroshima, I was sure that nuclear war, a stain that remains forever on human history, could never happen again.

But there are now 50,000 nuclear warheads stockpiled throughout the world, that cannot be compared with the bomb dropped on Hiroshima, either in power or numbers. Hiroshima 40 years ago is not just a dim memory from the remote past. Any human being, no matter where he or she is born and lives, cannot think of nuclear war but as a real threat hanging over humanity.