



ヒロシマの声 オバマ氏へ

被爆地広島は27日、原爆投下から71年の夏を前に、初めて投下国の現職大統領の訪問を受ける。今を生きてきた被爆者の思い、原爆で命を奪われた人たちの声なき声をオバマ大統領に届けたい。中国新聞社は今回、4ページにわたる特集を組んだ。

私たちは原爆の惨禍を体験した被爆地の新聞社として、戦後一貫して原爆・平和報道を続けてきた。「原爆は威力として知られたが、人間的悲慘さとして知られたか」。元論説主幹で、原爆報道の礎を築いたジャーナリスト金井利博氏（1914〜74年）は問うた。そして今も、その視点を引き継ぐ。

これまでの本紙記事から、社説（5日付朝刊）の英訳、シリーズ「被爆者からオバマ氏へ」（12月26日付朝刊）の一部と「遺影は語る」の総集編（2000年6月29日付朝刊）をそれぞれ日英両語で掲載した。「広島島の爆心地街並み復元図」（同）も載せた。ここ被爆地で、オバマ氏に原爆を人間的悲慘さとして受け止めてもらいたい。「核兵器なき世界」へ向け、さらなる一歩を踏み出すために。

（城戸収）

Special feature article: U.S. President Barack Obama Visits Hiroshima

by Osamu Kido, Staff Writer

On May 27, prior to the 71st anniversary of the atomic bombing this summer, the city of Hiroshima will be visited for the first time by a sitting president of the nation that dropped the atomic bombs. In a special four-page feature article on the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, the Chugoku Shimbun will convey the thoughts and feelings of the A-bomb survivors and the voiceless appeals of the A-bomb dead to U.S. President Barack Obama.

Since the end of World War II, the Chugoku Shimbun, based in the city that was devastated by the atomic bomb, has made it our mission to provide coverage of issues involving the atomic bombings and peace. Toshihiro Kanai (1914-1974), a former chief editorial writer for the newspaper and a journalist who built the foundation for reporting on the bombings, often asked, "Have the atomic bombs come to be known for their power, or for their human tragedy?" His outlook has long been alive in the minds of Chugoku Shimbun staff.

This special feature article includes articles that have previously run in the Chugoku Shimbun: an English translation of an editorial in the morning edition of May 25; articles from the series "From A-bomb Survivors to President Obama, carried in the morning edition from May 12 to 26; and a special edition of "Photographs of the Dead Speak" from the morning edition of June 29, 2000. The series and the special edition have been published in both Japanese and English. Also included is the article "Restored map of the townscape of the neighborhood which lay near the hypocenter" from the morning edition of June 29, 2000.

We hope, sincerely, that President Obama will truly grasp the "human tragedy" brought about by the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and take further steps toward advancing "a world without nuclear weapons."



児玉光雄さん(83)

＝広島市南区

広島一中（現国泰寺高、中区）1年の時、爆心地から約870㍍で被爆。3月に英文体験記を自費出版した

原爆の放射線は染色体を傷つけ、被爆者は生涯、健康影響に苦しむ。どれほど非人道的か。同じ校舎か、近くの動員現場にいた同級生300人余のうち、生き残ったのは19人。今健在なのは2人だ。その級友も戦後、放射線が影響する病気に次々と襲われた。核兵器は人類の悪だと世界に宣言し、ゼロへ向け行動してほしい。

Mitsuo Kodama, 83, resident of Minami Ward

Exposed to the atomic bombing at a location about 870 meters from the hypocenter as a first-year student of present-day Hiroshima Prefectural Hiroshima Kokutaiji High School. Published his A-bomb account in English in March 2016.

A-bomb radiation does damage to human chromosomes, and the survivors have suffered from the health effects of their radiation exposure throughout their lives. This is incredibly inhumane. Just over 300 schoolmates were in the same school building with me or were mobilized to work at a site near the building when the bomb exploded. Only 19 of us survived, and today only two of us are still alive. And this friend has suffered from radiation-related diseases, one after another, since the war. I hope that President Obama will declare to the world that nuclear weapons are evil to human beings and take action to advance a nuclear-free world.



阿部静子さん(89)

＝広島県海田町

結婚間もない18歳の時、爆心地から約1.5㍍で被爆。被爆者運動に尽くす

原爆の熱線を浴び、右半身に大やけどを負った。やけどが治っても顔は真っ赤。「赤鬼」とはやし立てられた。死のうとしたこともある。1964年に米国で面会したトルーマン大統領に「原爆投下は必要悪」と言われ失望した。原爆慰霊碑に刻むように「過ちは繰返しませぬから」と誓って。知ってほしいのは恨みでなく原爆によって起きる実情。被爆地でどんな心を示すか見届ける。

Shizuko Abe, 89, resident of Kaita-cho

Experienced the atomic bombing at a location about 1.5 kilometers from the hypocenter at the age of 18, soon after she got married. Devoted herself to the campaign to support A-bomb survivors.

I was hit by the bomb's heat rays and suffered severe burns to the right side of my body. Even after the burns healed, my face remained bright red. Children teased me, calling me "Red Ogre." I even tried to kill myself. When I had the chance to meet President Truman in the United States in 1964, I was distressed to hear him say that the atomic bombings were a necessary evil. I hope that President Obama will vow not to "repeat the evil" as inscribed on the Cenotaph for the A-bomb Victims. It isn't our bitterness that I want him to know, but the reality of the atomic bombing. I will watch closely to see what sort of message he delivers from the A-bombed city.

Editorial: May the voices of the A-bombed city be heard by President Obama

May 27 is a historic day. U.S. President Barack Obama will become the first sitting president to visit Hiroshima and gain a deeper idea of the devastation wrought by the atomic bombing.

As president of the United States, the nation which used nuclear weapons for the first time in human history, what will Mr. Obama feel, and what message will he convey from the A-bombed city? The Chugoku Shimbun is keenly covering this question.

Our newspaper's interest runs deeper than other media outlets because the Chugoku Shimbun experienced the horror of the atomic bombing first-hand, and struggled to overcome the hardships of this nuclear attack. When the city center was turned into a sea of fire on August 6, 1945, our headquarters at the time, which was located just 0.9 kilometers from the hypocenter, was completely decimated. In all, 114 company employees, about one-third of our workforce, lost their lives. Yet despite such devastating conditions, the surviving workers of the Chugoku Shimbun managed to resume producing the newspaper three days later.

Following Japan's defeat in the war, the Chugoku Shimbun has persistently appealed for the abolition of nuclear weapons and the realization of lasting peace in the world through our extensive reporting on the horror of the atomic bombing and the efforts made to revive the city of Hiroshima. We believe that nuclear arms can be eliminated from the earth; our policy for the coverage we pursue is based on this belief and has remained unchanged for the past 71 years. The Chugoku Shimbun has not only sounded an alarm over the world's nuclear arms race but has steadfastly sought stronger relief measures for the A-bomb survivors to address their suffering from the bomb's aftereffects.

To our disappointment, though, the leaders of the nuclear powers have not responded to the voices of the people of the A-bombed cities. The actions of the United States, the nuclear superpower, have been particularly egregious. During the Cuban Missile Crisis, the U.S. president even considered resorting to nuclear weapons. It cannot be denied that the United States has turned a deaf ear to protests over nuclear testing and has, instead, maintained the myth of nuclear deterrence in order to justify clinging to its nuclear arsenal.

Meanwhile, with the antinuclear movement growing rapidly, primarily in Europe, there is now a powerful trend toward nuclear disarmament. Today, there are about 15,000 nuclear weapons in the world, a significant decline from the more than 60,000 nuclear weapons that once existed. Nevertheless, such current conditions, where nations threaten one another with these weapons of mass destruction that are capable of annihilating humanity many times over, is clearly aberrant and abhorrent.

Under such circumstances, the Flame of Peace continues to burn in the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park, soon to receive the visit of the leader of the United States, the nation responsible for the nuclear attack. This flame, it is said, will be extinguished once nuclear abolition is finally realized. When Mr. Obama became the American president seven years ago, and advocated a world without nuclear weapons in the speech he made in Prague, the A-bomb survivors were hopeful that the Flame of Peace would be put out one day soon. But as the years have continued to pass, we can't help but feel disappointed at the reality that has since unfolded.

The current U.S. administration has persisted in conducting subcritical nuclear experiments and nuclear performance tests for new weapons while crafting a plan to update the nation's existing nuclear arsenal. About 1 trillion dollars (about 110 trillion yen) is the estimated cost of the project over the next 30 years. These facts sharply contradict the ideal of nuclear abolition that Mr. Obama has himself advocated.

Will President Obama view his visit to Hiroshima as a diplomatic achievement? And will he do so, seeking to strengthen the U.S.-Japan alliance, while overlooking the people of Okinawa who are now shaken with new outrage over the sexual assault and murder allegedly committed there by a former U.S. marine?

During his visit to Hiroshima, Mr. Obama should hold a number of things close to his heart, including the inhumane nature of nuclear weapons, which killed scores of innocent civilians and ravaged the lives of many more. Even if he is unable to stay in the city for long, we hope he will spend as much time as possible in the Peace Memorial Park.

The question of the U.S. president making an apology for the atomic bombings has become a focus of his visit to Hiroshima. From the perspective of the U.S. government, it seems this issue did not become a sticking point. The results of a survey of A-bomb survivors also indicate that many survivors are not insisting that the president apologize. It should be understood, however, that this result doesn't mean that the survivors have forgiven these acts by the United States and now view the atomic bombings as events of the past.

As for the speech Mr. Obama is expected to deliver in Hiroshima, what we hope to hear is not simply an addressed adorned with pretty words. Rather, we would like him to share his honest sentiments as a human being as he holds the inhumanity of nuclear weapons in mind, which he will surely recognize after touring the Peace Memorial Museum and meeting with A-bomb survivors. The people of Hiroshima will be watching the president closely, eyeing to what extent he is truly resolved to advance the abolition of nuclear arms.

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President Obama, Please Hear the Voices of Hiroshima.