Hello,

Despite our wish to establish a 21st century world free from nuclear weapons and wars, an endless nuclear arms race still continues.

In April 2003, at the talks held between the United States, North Korea, and China, North Korea admitted that it possesses nuclear weapons. North Korea's statement still has an adverse impact on the multi-party talks on nuclear issues.

If the United States permits North Korea to be the ninth nuclear state of the world, Taiwan as well as Japan will possibly throw away their principle of prohibiting nuclear weapons development, and it will also enable other countries to look for a nuclear development program.

The world will be at risk if the U.S. Bush Administration launches attacks against North Korea, as it did against Iraq, and makes the mistake of dropping an A-bomb, which was the worst tragedy of the 20th century.

In wars, both states and individuals lose their rational thinking. We cannot expect any different if such a war starts. If a nuclear war occurred in future, all of mankind would perish and the earth would reach its doomsday.

I was exposed to radiation in Hiroshima. Under Japan's cruel colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula, many Korean people left home for Japan, and some decided to live in Hiroshima or Nagasaki in search of a better life. I was one of these people. In addition, due to Japan's war of aggression, millions of young Korean people were forcibly brought to Japan to work in the Japanese Imperial Army, munitions factories, mines, and construction sites. Thus, we, the Koreans, were also exposed to radiation.

I was 12 years old at that time, in the sixth grade of primary school. Although more than half a century has passed since then, I still remember that hellish sight. Fourteen of my close relatives died in the explosion or went missing.

My older brother who was 19 at that time was exposed to radiation in front of Fukuya Department Store in Haccho-bori, just a short distance from the blast center. He died half a month later after suffering from burn injuries all over his body.

My father died three years later, and my mother died five years later. The recently deceased pilot of the B29 who dropped an A-bomb in Nagasaki, had long argued that A-bombings were inevitable. But, during a media interview in 1995, he strongly said, "The duty of dropping an A-bomb as I did must be that it never happens again." I think this was his sincere feeling based on his conscience.
A world without nuclear weapons is a common wish of all men and women. With the present nuclear nonproliferation system in which only handful of nations are allowed to possess nuclear weapons, we will never fulfill our common goal. As long as nuclear weapons exist on this earth, peace will never come to the world.

Here, from Hiroshima and Nagasaki, let's together call on the world to abolish nuclear weapons! Don't allow the creation of a second Hiroshima and Nagasaki anywhere on this planet! Don't allow repeating the same mistakes! I strongly call for the abolition of nuclear weapons and a total ban on such weapons.

Thank you.