

I am a third generation atomic bomb victim. My grandparents were exposed to radiation in Nagasaki on August 9, 1945.

My grandmother was 22 years old at that time. She was working 15 km away from ground zero. Although she escaped death, her foot was badly injured when a machine fell on it. Later, she married my grandfather and they had five children. However, her health was never really good and she passed away from stomach cancer at the age of 53.

With one bomb, many people's happiness was taken away and their lives were negatively affected. As if that wasn't bad enough, atomic bomb survivors have been discriminated against due to people's ignorance about radiation.

As a result, some survivors were refused employment. Others couldn't get married because of this bias. In order to escape this terrible situation, some survivors hid the fact that they were indeed survivors.

Some continue to blame themselves for being alive while their family members and friends lost their lives. The psychological pain which A-bomb survivors suffer is unthinkable. The mental damage remains even after sixty-eight years have passed. Although A-bomb survivors are not forgotten, they themselves would like to forget. Even if there are no immediate visible effects at the time of exposure, the effects are sure to come out in future years in the form of illness. This condition has not yet been medically resolved. The victim is always uneasy, waiting for the effects to surface, and unable to guess in what form. After the effects of radiation are felt in the form of sickness, it can have other effects in the future by way of other sicknesses. Even victims' children are told to hide the fact that their parents are survivors so that they can get on with their lives and grow up normally.

The children of Nagasaki are taught about the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and that they must never commit the same mistake. Peace studies have been carried out from the time I was a young child. August 9 falls during the summer vacation. But, students come to school to study and be reminded about the atomic bomb, its effects, and what should be done for the future. On that day, students have the privilege of hearing directly from surviving victims about their

experiences. A siren resounds all over Nagasaki at 11:02 and the whole city is wrapped in silent prayer.

When I was a junior high school student , I was told that I am a third-generation atomic bomb victim. I was so shocked to hear that then. But if my grandparents didn't survive, I wouldn't be here now. I am very grateful to them and to all the survivors for their strong spirit. In spite of their tragic experience, they struggled to revive both Nagasaki and Hiroshima. I truly admire their determination. In order for the deaths of the victims not to be in vain, I believe I have the duty to tell the world the truth about the atomic bomb.

I joined 「The 10,000 High School Students Signatures Campaign」 when I entered senior high school . The aim of this activity is to make the world a safe and peaceful place through the abolition of nuclear weapons. We collect signatures to realize this goal. Our slogan is 「Our efforts are humble, But Not Powerless!!」. This activity has been going on for 14 years. We collect signatures in the streets every Sunday. The signatures are delivered to the United Nations in Geneva by Nagasaki Peace Messengers. The signatures are officially recognized and displayed with data of the atomic bomb. The total numbers of signatures is more than 1 million.

The survivors' one wish is to never again have any atomic bomb victims. Only they know the real fear of nuclear weapons. They continue to hope and offer prayers for this dream. My mission as a third generation victim is to carry on the survivors' wish for peace by appealing for a world free of nuclear weapons.