



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, JULY 18, 2022

**NYCAN, New York-based members of the 2017 Nobel Peace Laureate, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, CALLS ON MAYOR ADAMS OFFICE AND THE NYC OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TO REJECT FALSEHOODS OF NUCLEAR SURVIVABILITY AND IMPLEMENT INT 1621.**

**WHEN** Monday, July 18, 9:00 – 9:30 a.m.  
**WHERE** City Hall Park, NYC  
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**NYCAN rejects the falsehoods of nuclear survivability as propagated in NYC’s Office of Emergency Management’s PSA, issued on July 11 2022. “Get inside, stay inside and stay tuned” represents a total lack of understanding of what thermonuclear weapons mean and how a single modern nuclear weapon would instantaneously and radically destroy our beloved city, killing millions of New Yorkers in seconds, making any preparedness or rescue effort utterly impossible.** According to Dr. Lynn Eden writing in The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, if an 800-kiloton nuclear bomb exploded above the Empire State Building “about one half to three quarters of a mile from ground zero, light from the fireball would melt asphalt in the streets, burn paint off walls, and melt metal surfaces within a half second of the detonation. Roughly one second later, the blast wave and 750-mile-per-hour winds would arrive, flattening buildings and tossing burning cars into the air like leaves in a windstorm.”

**While the threat of nuclear weapons has again risen to prominence** as the war in Ukraine continues, and disarmament and defense experts believe we are closer to the brink of nuclear war than many want to admit or imagine, we need a sober and realistic view of what would happen in NYC if “the big one has hit.” Alarmingly an NYC issued PSA also states “don’t ask me how or why [a nuclear attack has occurred].” There are New Yorkers who personally understand the reality of nuclear war, such as NYCAN member and long-time NYC resident, Mitchie Takeuchi.

As a daughter of Hiroshima, from a family of atomic bomb survivors, I am shocked by the abject ignorance of the NYC Office of Emergency Management’s PSA on how to survive a nuclear bomb. My grandfather, Dr. Ken Takeuchi, was the Director of the Red Cross Hospital in Hiroshima on August 6, 1945. When he didn’t return home for a full three days, my mother, who was 18 years old at that time, walked 2 miles through the burned out, radiated city to the Red Cross Hospital where she found him critically injured. My mother stayed with my grandfather for several weeks while he worked from his sickbed to try and treat survivors, but there were too many people to save with no supplies or medicine and few remaining medical professionals. As my grandfather and my mother knew intimately, nuclear weapons do not target military installations but set entire cities on fire. There can

be no adequate response to a city on fire. The only adequate response is prevention, that is — **nuclear abolition**.

Setsuko Thurlow, who has visited NYC numerous times to share her testimony with tens of thousands of area high school students, also personally understands the reality of nuclear war, as she recalls her harrowing story of survival in testimony prepared for the New York City Council in January 2020.

As a 13-year-old schoolgirl, I witnessed my city of Hiroshima blinded by the flash, flattened by the hurricane like blast, burned in the heat of 4000 degrees Celsius and contaminated by the radiation of one atomic bomb. A bright summer morning turned to dark twilight with smoke and dust rising in the mushroom cloud, dead and injured covering the ground, begging desperately for water and receiving no medical care at all . . . grotesquely wounded people, whose clothes were tattered, or who were made naked by the blast. They were bleeding, burnt, blackened and swollen. Parts of their bodies were missing, flesh and skin hanging from their bones, some with their eyeballs hanging in their hands, and some with their stomachs burst open, with their intestines hanging out . . . Within that single flash of light, my beloved Hiroshima became a place of desolation, with heaps of rubble, skeletons and blackened corpses everywhere. Of a population of 360,000 — largely non-combatant women, children and elderly — most became victims of the indiscriminate massacre of the atomic bombing. Even today, nearly 75 years later, people are still dying from the delayed effects of one atomic bomb: considered crude by contemporary standards for mass destruction.

**We will gather Monday July 18 at 9 a.m. in City Hall Park** where decades ago two great New Yorkers, Bayard Rustin and Dorothy Day, refused to participate in nuclear weapons civil defense drills because they understood that nuclear war is not survivable and nuclear weapons manifest as instruments of genocide, racism and colonialism. We will call for:

1. the nuclear disarmament legislation City Council passed in December of 2021 to be implemented;
2. the Office of Emergency Management to delete the PSA from its website and issue an apology;
3. City Council to hold a government oversight hearing about how this happened, how much money it cost tax payers, how to remediate the damage this misinformation has caused, and to consider next steps such as the possible resignation of those responsible.

For an expert assessment of what happens when a nuclear bomb explodes over a dense urban area, see [this PSA](#) issued by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

New York City bears a powerful responsibility as home to the Manhattan Project that developed the world's first nuclear weapons. As we approach the 77th year since the United States utterly destroyed the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, we call upon Mayor Adams to honor the victims and survivors of those bombings and to honor the moral courage of generations of New Yorkers who have worked to abolish nuclear weapons. And especially in this year that we remember the 40th anniversary of the March and Rally for Nuclear Disarmament and Human Needs when one million people gathered in and around Central Park, NYC once again has the opportunity to send a message to the world that we prioritize human needs over nuclear violence.