

## August 6th Hiroshima Grand Action Report

August 21, 2012

Steering Committee of 67th Anniversary of A-Bombing—August 6th Hiroshima Grand Action



Morning protest march against Prime Minister Noda

Under the theme of “Hiroshima and Nagasaki share a strong anger with Fukushima. Abolish all nuclear weapons and power plants in the world! Remembering A-bombing 67 years later August 6th Hiroshima Grand Action”, we held a full-day action. From early in the morning, 1,200 people gathered at Peace Memorial Park. The “Hiroshima Appeal Rally” was staged there to protest against Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda who attended the annual Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony held in the very same park at the exact time. Then we started for the demonstration under the hot summer sun of Hiroshima chanting, “No restart nuclear power plants!” In the afternoon, the annual rally “Hiroshima Grand Action” was held successfully with over 1,300 people from all over the country. After the rally, the participants again took to the street to march around downtown areas of Hiroshima.

Every Friday evening in Tokyo, hordes of anti-nuke demonstrators are gathering around the Prime Minister’s Office and the Parliament building

shouting “Shut down all nuclear power plants!” and “No to restart!” Noda administration’s policy to forcibly restart nuclear plants sparked massive anti-nuke movements throughout the country. Noda abandons the Hiroshima A-bomb victims by unfairly narrowing the “black rain area” and also threatens Fukushima people’s safety by continuously letting them live in the radioactive contaminated areas. In addition he pushes ahead the deployment of the U.S. Marines aircraft MV-22 Osprey. These are all no longer acceptable. In the midst of the rise of mass anti-nuclear movement, we have strived for successful “Hiroshima Grand Action” that would reveal Noda’s criminality and at the same time achieve strong solidarity with all people that rose up to protest. We earnestly wish to share anger with Fukushima people.

The “Hiroshima Appeal Rally” held in front of the A-Bomb Dome began at 7:30am. Inspiring speeches continued one after another—people from Fukushima, victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, delegation from Gorleben, Germany, activists from Okinawa and other



Delegation from Gorleben\*, Germany

places. At 8:15 on the morning of August 6th the Atomic Bomb “Little Boy” was dropped on Hiroshima 67 years ago. We offered a moment of silence to mourn the victims. Numerous nuclear victims have been killed since then—those of Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Bikini, the workers at nuclear plants, and now people of Fukushima!

At 8:26am, Noda began delivering his speech at the ceremony. We staged a protest demonstration against Prime Minister Noda. Ms. Sachiko Sato, a representative of Fukushima Network for Saving Children from Radiation, loudly protested against Noda’s speech— “While not trying to help Fukushima children, you have decided to restart nuclear power plants. We can never accept such a vicious act! Don’t trample on the feelings of Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Fukushima!” A rolling outrage surrounded the ceremony site. This was a historic rally of the people!

Through this “Hiroshima Grand Action”, we have challenged and successfully achieved two important things. This year we have had the Gorleben\* delegation, the leaders of anti-nuke struggles, from Germany. With the lead of the working class people, we have achieved the international solidarity to strive hard for our goal—nuke free world! The other important victory is that we have adhered to the issue of internal radiation exposure and achieved the unification of all nuclear victims by breaking down the past divisions.

The key to defeat 1% ruling class people who desperately need nuclear energy is to revitalize class struggle labor movement. Seiji Saito (a former member of Nuclear Plant Branch of All Japan Transport General Workers’ Union) said, “Every worker of all labor unions including temporary workers at nuclear plants should be united and fight together. This is the way to change Japanese society. Now is the time!” Indeed, we agree!

Now Doro-Chiba and its sister union Doro-Mito are striving hard to revitalize labor movement to carve out the future of working class people. Doro-Mito railroad workers wage [strikes](#) to protect workers and communities from exposure to radioactive dusts. Doro-Chiba railroad workers have been in a long struggle against privatization, casualization and outsourcing. Now they invest their energy to break down the JR outsourcing plan of inspection-repair work and yard operation scheduled on coming October 1st.

Time has come for workers to change the society!

Labor movement and anti-nuke movement should work as one to fight for the future!

Rise up together to break down the JR outsourcing plan on Oct.1!

Make our November 4 National Workers’ All-out Rally a massive success



Afternoon march through an arcade of downtown Hiroshima

## \*Gorleben Resistance

Website: [Citizens Initiative for Ecological Protection \(BI\)](http://www.citizens-initiative-for-ecological-protection.de/)

For more than 30 years the Lüchow-Dannenberg Citizens Initiative for Ecological Protection (BI) and anti-nuclear activists from all over Germany and abroad have opposed the nuclear industry in the Gorleben area. Welcome to our modernised site on the internet, where we have been since 1996. The site is to inform you about nuclear waste storage in Gorleben and an end to nuclear power production. You’ll find all the content of our previous site archived at <http://archiv.bi-luechow-dannenberg.de>.

<http://www.castor.de/12english.html>

Read also the Gorleben delegation’s Japan trip report on [their web site](#).

### *Hiroshima's dead remembered amid protest chants from Fukushima*

## **Hiroshima honors A-bomb dead; protesters chant**

The Japan Times: Aug. 7, 2012

HIROSHIMA — Inside Hiroshima's Peace Park, tens of thousands of survivors, relatives, government officials and diplomats observed the 67th anniversary Monday of the city's atomic bombing, while just outside others marked the occasion by

loudly protesting the decision to reactivate two nuclear reactors.

About 50,000 people, including Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda, Foreign Minister Koichiro Genba and the heads of the Lower and Upper houses, Takahiro Yokomichi and Kenji Hirata, took

part in the annual Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony, organizers said.

Noda told those on hand that the calamity 67 years ago must never be forgotten and vowed Japan would act to ensure a nuclear-free world. [read more](#)

## **Panel concludes hard to expand A-bomb 'black rain' area due to lack of data**

Mainichi shinbun : January 19, 2012

A government panel has concluded that it is scientifically difficult to expand the area that is eligible for medical benefits tied to "black rain" that fell on Hiroshima following the U.S. atomic bombing, as demanded by the municipal government, it has been learned.

This is despite the fact that some court rulings have indicated that the black rain fell in a broader area than was indicated by a study on which eligibility for radiation sickness was based.

A working group for an expert panel to the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare has drawn up a

report that states, "It is scientifically difficult to recognize an area claimed by the city of Hiroshima as where the black rain fell due to a lack of data." [read more](#)

## **Noda: Japan has no choice in Osprey deployment plan**

Japan Times, Kyodo: July 17, 2012

Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda said Monday the government has no choice but to accept Washington's plan to deploy the U.S. Marine Corps MV-22 Osprey in Okinawa later this year despite local safety concerns and

fierce residential opposition.

"The deployment itself is a plan by the US government" and Tokyo does not play a part in Washington's decisions, although Japan, for its part, will check the safety of the aircraft before the

trial flights scheduled for late July begin at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni in Yamaguchi Prefecture, Noda said on a television program. [read more](#)

## **Tepco liable for contract workers' safety in Fukushima**

The Japan Times: Aug. 21, 2012

By HIFUMI OKUNUKI

... On Dec. 16, Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda made his own "mission accomplished" statement, saying the "power plant accident has been brought under control." But we need to recognize that far from being "under control," the coming months and years will be crucial in terms of protecting the lives

and safety of workers at Fukushima No. 1.

Less than 10 percent of the work at this nuclear power plant is conducted by those directly employed by Tokyo Electric Power Co. (Tepco). Over 90 percent is done by employees of sub-contractors, sub-subcontractors and contractors several times

removed. These workers come from a wide range of backgrounds, including some who gave up jobs in local agriculture or fishing, farmers and fishermen who work at the plants during the off-season, day laborers and former coal miners. Some have complicated stories to tell, or not to tell. [read more](#)