

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

May 4, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC, 20500

Dear President Biden,

We write to you today to urge you to use the upcoming May summit of Group of Seven (G7) leaders in Hiroshima to propose specific steps your administration is prepared to take to advance a new global nuclear disarmament dialogue.

We commend Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida for intentionally choosing the city of Hiroshima, the first target of a nuclear weapon in war, as the summit venue. We further welcome the meeting between the G7 leaders and the *hibakusha* - the people affected by the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki - to truly grapple with the long-lasting horrors of the use of nuclear weapons.

It is vitally important that the G7 leaders give the survivors a chance to tell their stories, as well as visit the exhibits in the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum so they can see for themselves how the survivors suffered as a consequence of the use of these weapons.

As Prime Minister Kishida said, the summit presents a unique opportunity “to deepen discussions so that we can release a strong message toward realizing a world free of nuclear weapons” and to “demonstrate a firm commitment to absolutely reject the threat or use of nuclear weapons.”

Against this backdrop, we urge you to use the G7 summit to center the world’s attention on the importance of nuclear arms control and disarmament and to demonstrate the U.S. commitment to nonproliferation efforts.

In your potential address, we encourage you to:

- acknowledge the tremendous, long-lasting human suffering that the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings inflicted on the *hibakusha*,

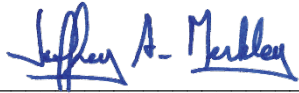
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- reiterate that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought, as well as emphasize that, as the G-20 agreed in November 2022, nuclear weapons use and threat of use are “inadmissible,”
- reaffirm the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons,
- announce and commit to concrete steps to prevent a new arms race, guard against nuclear weapons use, and advance nuclear disarmament, and
- reiterate your invitation to Russian President Vladimir Putin to hold serious talks aimed at restoring full implementation of New START and negotiating a new nuclear arms control framework to follow New START.

Throughout the years, U.S. Presidents, including Kennedy, Reagan, Obama, have spoken about the need to eliminate the threat of nuclear weapons, prevent arms racing, and avoid the ultimate catastrophe: nuclear war. Those calls have also been echoed by other world leaders, such as Nelson Mandela and Pope Francis, and countless nuclear activists worldwide.

At this time of growing nuclear dangers, we hope that during your visit to Hiroshima, you directly address how the United States is willing and ready to work with other states, including those with nuclear weapons and those that have forsworn them, to ensure that no country or city suffers the horrors of nuclear war ever again.

Sincerely,



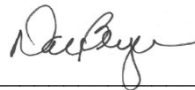
Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress