



## HIROSHIMA – NEVER AGAIN

'The Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, the central international agreement guiding the elimination of nuclear weapons, is on the verge of collapse' the Mayor of Hiroshima, Mr Tadatoshi Akiba, said in the annual peace ceremony marking the 58<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

'The chief cause is US nuclear policy that, by openly declaring the possibility of a pre-emptive nuclear strike and calling for resumed research into mini-nukes and other so-called usable nuclear weapons, appears to worship nuclear weapons as God.'

'..We must somehow convey to them that nuclear weapons are utterly evil, inhumane and illegal under international law...' Mr Akiba said. He also called on US President Bush, North Korean leader Kim Jong Il and leaders of all the nuclear powers to visit Hiroshima and learn about the reality of atomic war.

The Prime Minister of Japan, Mr Junichiro Koizumi, attending the same ceremony, reiterated Japan's commitment to the elimination of nuclear weapons. He promised the government's maximum efforts towards the abolition of nuclear weapons by pressing forward with nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. He also pledged to set up efforts to urge other nations to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

**C.I.C.D.,**

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