

Tesimony Sugino Nobuko

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Ms. SUGINO Nobuko

Hiroshima Survivor (exposed to a-bomb at age 1)

Ms Sugino was exposed to the atomic bomb at her house, 1.3 km from the hypocenter. Although she and her mother were trapped under the collapsed house, a neighbor helped them and they survived. Her elder brother, who was drafted into the military as a student, died in an explosion near the hypocenter. Her elder sister also passed away 20 days after the bombing due to severe burns. Ms. Sugino was too young to have a clear memory of the bombing; however, she is a member of an organization of atomic bomb sufferers in Tokyo who record testimonies given by other survivors. In 2012, she started giving testimony herself with the help of her mother's memories.

My name is Nobuko Sugino. I was a year and 6months old when the atomic bomb dropped in Hiroshima. Of course, I do not have the memories around those time. After I grew up, I asked my mother one day. I thought I need to hear from her before she is gone or else, I will know nothing about that day. The story I am going to tell you is what my mother had shared.

On the morning of August 6th 1945, my mother and I were 1.3km away from the hypo-center. We were caught under the collapsed house and our neighbors helped us to get out. My brother was 13 years old that time. All students including my brother were doing labor work for the country near the hypo-center. The students and the teacher all died from the bomb. No bodies were found.

My older sister was 8 years old, 2nd grade in elementary school. She went to school that day a little before 8am.

After the a-bomb was dropped, people ran towards the mountains to escape from the heat. As we ran, my mother and I bumped into a friend. She was with two girls. In one hand, she was holding her daughter's hand and on the other, she was holding my sister's hand. We were so lucky to meet them by chance. We were truely lucky. My mother was carrying me, so my sister grabbed my mothers skirt as we evacuated into an elementary school in the suburbs.

In the classroom, my mother and my sister both sat in exhaustion. Several people who were sitting eventually died. All night long, my mother saw them gradually die. My sister had a severe burn and could not even talk a word.

The next day, we took a train to leave Hiroshima to evacuate to my grandmother's house. At her house, my sister who had a severe burn tried to recover, but passed away on August 26th. That was 3 weeks after the bombing. She died peacefully surrounded by her mother and grandmother. Thinking of many parents losing their

children without seeing them again, and thinking of those who died in nowhere, my sister was lucky enough to die in a bed with her family members around.

For a while, my mother will call out, "Hisashi is back!" when the doors or the windows jarred when the strong wind blew. She will jump up from her bed saying that "Hisashi came home." "Hisashi" is my missing brother's name. We do not know how my brother died. I think all mothers who lost their children were continuously worried thinking of how they died. They were concerned whether their child died on the midst of getting home calling out their mother's names. I can never imagine the emotional pain my mother went through losing her own two children.

Radiation cannot be seen and it has no smell nor color. It is said that exposure to radiation raises the possibility to have cancer. When I was in junior high school, I heard that a girl who went to a neighboring school got leukemia. I also heard that it was caused by radiation and that fact made me scared. I was also exposed to radiation, therefore, whenever my nose started bleeding, I was frightened that I also got leukemia.

Ever since that day, I was always worried to have cancer someday. When I was 40 years old, I got breast cancer. My mind went blank, but at the same time, I was in shock because I knew it was going to come. Fortunately, I was able to cure it and I have been actively giving out testimonies about the a-bomb attack on the best of my abilities.

Because of the establishment of Israel, you needed to leave your country. You must have had a hard time. I cannot imagine what it is like not to be able to return home to your own country.

We experienced the atomic bomb and we also cannot run away from the aftereffects of radiation. Both the Palestinians and the hibakushas are victims of war.

We hope peace comes to Palestine (Middle East). We will work towards a peaceful world, free from nuclear weapons through sharing our testimonies of the atomic bomb.

私は、杉野信子です。私は広島に原子爆弾が投下された時、1歳半でした。もちろん、何の記憶もありません。私が成長したある日、母が亡くなったら私はあの日の事、何も知らないことになると思い、母に聞きだしました。今から話すことは、母が話してくれたことです。

1945年、8月6日の朝、母と私は、爆心地から、1.3kmの自宅の下敷きになり、隣人に助けられました。兄は13歳でした。中学一年生で学徒動員として爆心地近くで作業中、先生はじめクラス全員が亡くなりました。しかし、先生はじめ、兄のクラス全員、見つかりませんでした。

姉は8歳、小学校2年生でした。その日学校があり、8時少し前に出かけました。

原爆が落ちてから、わたしたちの周りでは、爆弾の熱から逃げて、人々がわーっと山の方に、逃げていました。母と私は、同じクラスのお友達のお母さんが、自分の子と、姉の手をつないで、三人で逃げている、そこに、偶然出会い、それは幸運でした。ほんとに幸運でした。そして、母はわたしをだっこしているので、姉は母のスカートを持って郊外の小学校に避難しました。

教室で母と姉はぐったり座り込んでいたそうです。母はそれまで座っていた人が何人か亡くなっていくのを一晩中眺めていたそうです。姉は火傷がひどかったのでしゃべることもなく座っていました。

次の日、郊外に行く列車があり、母の実家に避難しました。そこで姉はやけどがひどく、三週間後の8月26日に亡くなりました。一応、母と祖母に看取られながら。原爆で親を亡くした子どもたちや、外で死んでいった子どもたちを思えば、布団の上で姉が看取られたことは、一応幸運なことだったかもしれません。

母はしばらくの間、風の強い日とか、雨の日に、ドアとか窓の がたがたという音で、「ひさし」が帰ってきた、「ひさし」だと、飛び起きていたそうです。ひさしというのは亡くなった兄の名前です。兄がどのような亡くなり方をしたのか、当時の子どもを亡くした母親は、みんな同じように思ったと思いますが、自分の子が、少しは生きて、家に向かって、「お母さんー。お母さんー。」と呼びながら、力尽き、息絶えたのか、いつも心の中で思っていたのだと思います。母は原爆で二人の子どもを失い、どんなにか辛かったです。

最後に、放射能は目に見えず、においも色もないのです。一度身体に入るとガンになる確率がとても高いと言われていています。私は中学生の時、隣の中学校の女の子が白血病になり、それは放射能の影響ということを知り、とても怖くなりました。私も原爆を受けているので、ちょっと鼻血が出ただけで、「もう私は白血病だ」ととても怖くなりました。その時からいつか私もガンになるのではと、心のすみに、いつも思っていました。40歳の時、乳がんの宣告を受けたときは、頭が真っ白になり「やっぱり来たー」と思い、ショックでした。しかし早く完治し、現在まで元気で微力ながら証言活動を行っています。

もともと自分の国だったのにイスラエル建国にあたり、自分の国から出ることになり、さぞ辛いことでしょう。自分の国に帰れないことなど、私たちには想像も出来ません。

私たちも原子爆弾を受け放射能の恐怖から逃げることは出来ません。パレスチナの人々も私たち被爆者も、お互い戦争の被害者です。

パレスチナ(中東)へ平和が来ますように。

私たちも核兵器のない、戦争のない世界を目指して証言活動を続けていきます。