

## Tesimony Nakamura Motoko

20140407\_on Board



**Ms. NAKAMURA Motoko**

*Hiroshima Survivor (exposed to a-bomb at age 11 months)*

Ms. Nakamura was exposed to the atomic bomb at her house, 2.3 km from the hypocenter. While she was in junior high school, Ms. Nakamura started to become concerned about the influence of radiation exposure when she learned that her mother carried her on her back when she returned to the city centre to look for missing family members. To date she continues to fear the inter-generational effects of radiation, as her eldest daughter suffers from a thyroid gland disorder. Her experience of giving testimonies so far is limited, but she is active in other ways. For example, Ms. Nakamura visited New York to submit a petition calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons to the United Nations in 2011 upon request of Hiroshima City.

My name is Motoko Nakamura. I've been studying about the hibaku experience through this project.

I was only 11 months old when I was exposed to the atomic bomb at my home 2.3 km from the hypocenter. I was the only one in my family without any injuries thanks to a family friend who put the comforter on top of me. My oldest sister had burns on head and limbs, and the second sister suffered the cuts from broken glasses.

We managed to survive the bombing since we evacuated out of the city center just a week earlier. My mother told me she walked around the hypocenter all day with me on her back looking for her sister. I was in junior high school when she told me about this. I still remember that I was very scared to learn that I was exposed to radiation.

My mother's sister was never found and her ashes never made it home. My mother's brother also dies of the bombing. My mother didn't like talking about the bombing. She would tell me if I ask, but I still regret that I didn't hear the whole story back then.

I'm very worried about my children and second generation a-bomb survivors since many of them appeared with the thyroid diseases when they grow older than 20 years old. One of them had the operation for the thyroid cancer. Other two are still taking medication for the thyroid diseases. The cause of the disease is still unknown. Although the doctor was never be able to define the cause, I'm pretty sure it is from the bombing as a line of my family were all healthy to begin with. My younger brother who were born after the bombing also went through an operation for the colon cancer. Many of my friends fought cancer when they were still young. I have researched the impact on the second generation a-bomb survivors and the effect of

the radiation, but there were no clear data that says we need to monitor the condition very closely.

The population of the second generation a-bomb survivor was estimated to be 300,000 to 500,000, but there is no definite data. Since 1979, the country is providing a health exam for the second generation survivors. Yet, it is not widely advertised and seems little number of people are taking the examination. It doesn't even cover the cancer testing. I came to find out that a group for the second generation survivor were organized since 1973. They are working to receive the aid. This is a very important movement and I want to continue to monitor it.

We as a survivor knows the horror of radiation damages. The Fukushima disaster three years ago had created many radiation victims. Atomic energy is thought to be a peaceful use of the nuclear technology, but causes the same severe impact as a nuclear weapon.

I hope the younger generation will never have to go through the pain we had experienced. All human beings are one family living on the earth. Nuclear weapon destroys the planet and allows no life to survive. We the survivors are responsible for stopping the nuclear disasters. Peace cannot be created without everyone's involvement. I would like to continue to fight for the nuclear free world.

中村元子と申します。この度おりづるプロジェクトに参加させて頂き、私なりに少しずつですが、被爆の事を勉強させて頂いています。

私は生後11か月の時、ヒロシマの爆心地から2.3キロの自宅で被爆致しました。ちょうど居合わせた人が咄嗟に布団をかけて下さり、家族で私だけが、無傷でしたが、一番上の姉は頭や手足を火傷し、二番目の姉はガラスで額を傷つけ苦しみました。

実は原爆の一週間前までヒロシマの爆心地に住んでいたのですが、建物疎開により転居して幸福にも命だけは助かりました。ただ数日後、母は私をおんぶして母の妹を捜すため、爆心地を一日中歩いたとのことですが、そのことを聞いたのは中学生の時でした。私は放射線を沢山浴びてしまったのだなぁと大変心配になったことを今でも思い出します。

母の妹は行方不明のまままだ遺骨も帰ってきておりません。母の兄も被爆死致しました。生前母はあまり原爆の事を話しませんでした。聞けば話してくれてはいましたが、今思えばその当時のことをしっかりと聞いておけばよかったと大変悔やんでおります。

私は子供たちの事、被爆二世の事がとても気になっています。それというのも、私の身近で被爆二世が20歳過ぎた頃から、甲状腺の病気が多発したからです。一人は甲状腺がんの手術をしました。他2人は甲状腺疾患(甲状腺機能低下症)になり薬を飲み続けています。その中の一人は私の長女ですが、いまだもって原因がわかりません。医師に因果関係の立証は出来なくても、健康的な我が家の家系から考えると、確立的影響として被害を深く実感しています。

また、被爆二世の弟も若くして大腸がんの手術をしています。知人にも若くしてガンを患う人が何人も出ています。被爆二世に関して、私も調べたのですが、はっきりとしたデータはなく、病状に関して注意深く今後の観察が必要と書かれた資料は見つかりませんでした。

二世の人口は30万から50万人と推定されながらも、はっきり把握されていません。1979年から国が希望者には被爆二世の健康診断を行っています。しかし、広報もいきわたってないので、ほとんどの人が受診をしていないようです。検診内容も簡単でガンの検診は含まれていません。

1973年から被爆二世の会が結成され活動していることを最近知りました。被爆二世も被爆者援護法が適用される様にと求めて運動しているようです。これは大切な運動なので、私も見守っていきたいと思います。

私達被爆者は放射能の被害の恐ろしさを身に染みて知っています。三年前、福島第一原発の事故が起こりました。原発も放射線を出して被爆者を作ります。核兵器も平和利用といわれた原子力発電も共に同じ様な被害を与えるのです。

私は、これからの若い人たちが二度と放射線の被害で苦しんでほしくはありません。人類は皆、同じ地球に暮らす家族です。核兵器は地球を破壊し、生物がすめない星にしてしまいます。

それを止めるのは私達現在生きている者に責任があります。平和はみんなが自ら作り出していかなければ得られないものなのです。これからも被爆者として核のない世界を求め訴えていきたいと思います。