

Faslane 365 was a one year continuous peaceful blockade of the Trident base at Faslane from 1st October 2006, ending with a [Big Blockade on 1st October 2007](#). Faslane 365 involved a wide range of local, national and international groups from all sections of civil society coming to Faslane committed to making their visions for a just and peaceful future visible. Look at the [Blockading Rota](#) section to explore the individual actions over the year or go to the [Photos](#) section to see some of the images.

Faslane 365

by [Angie Zelter](#)

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Bamboo and Crane Blockade

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When I was told about Faslane 365 by Angie Zelter in the autumn of 2005, I was delighted that we could have an opportunity to take part in such an efficient and interesting activity to abolish nuclear weapons. After an unsuccessful effort to persuade major anti-nuke organizations in Japan to take part in it, I personally organised a committee to gather people to go to Scotland.

Thanks to the work by Rebecca Johnson at the anti-nuclear rally in Nagasaki in October 2006,²⁸ several hibakushas (survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki) in Nagasaki offered to go. Finally 12 people came to Scotland: three former school teachers, a former director of the Peace Promotion Office of Nagasaki City, a young man who specialised in physical anthropology, a woman who runs a small language school, a housewife, a fashion designer,

²⁸ The 3rd Nagasaki Global Citizens' Assembly for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. October 21-23, 2006, in Nagasaki City.

two professors, a retired professor, and a graduate student. The first four are from Nagasaki and are all Hibakushas. Rebecca, Anna-Linnea and Adam, of the Faslane 365 steering group, joined us in Scotland to make it all possible. We arrived at the North Gate about 10am on 25 July 2007 and began our series of actions by displaying pictures of the aftermath of the A-bombing on the perimeter barriers of Faslane Naval Base. Prof. Miyoshi, who brought these picture panels all the way with him, spoke about them to a policeman who listened seriously to his explanation. Meanwhile a ceremony was improvised by Moriguchi Mitsugi, from Nagasaki, where drops of 'water of peace' were poured on the hands of all the people gathered there. The water had been bottled by him at the Peace Fountain near 'ground zero' at Nagasaki.

We began the blockade by putting paper cranes²⁹ on the entrance to the gate. Four women and a young man then sat behind them, singing a song 'We will never allow another atom bomb to fall'³⁰. While the police were taking care of the cranes, another five people, separated in two groups, dashed into the gate entrance with three bamboo tubes under their arms. The first group successfully locked their hands through the bamboo and the police then had to work at cutting the bamboo and arresting the blockaders.

It was a weekday afternoon and the traffic through the gate was quite busy. We blocked the gate for some tens of minutes. Four Japanese and Anna-Linnea were taken to a Strathclyde Police Station. Since we had been well briefed about the friendliness of the police, we were almost relaxed and enjoyed the arrest experience. Ueyama Kohei, a graduate student from Hiroshima, asked a young policeman which soccer team he liked. I personally enjoyed a silent and peaceful night in the police cell.

Most of us risked arrest on this action. We believed that it is essential in order to highlight the illegality of nuclear weapons. We had to pose the question to everyone: which is illegal, the WMD, or blockading the WMD?

Bringing bamboo tubes was somewhat bothersome but fully rewarded by getting the appellation 'Bamboo Block'. In addition, Sadako's cranes have grown from cranes for prayer to cranes of action. The presence of many local Quaker people not only encouraged us but also were an indispensable human shield to hide our bamboos from the police. All of us enjoyed the action very much and were also empowered by the action.

²⁹ Paper crane folding originated from Sadako, a young girl who made hundreds of paper cranes in her hospital bed to pray for her recovery from the A-bomb illness.

³⁰ <http://unionsong.com/u236.html>