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Japanese atomic bomb survivors arrested during Faslane protest

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SURVIVORS of the Nagasaki atomic bomb attack were among those arrested at Faslane naval base yesterday during a protest at plans to renew the Trident nuclear weapon system.

The five men, two of whom are A-bomb survivors, linked themselves together with bamboo sticks and sat in the road in front of the base, near Helensburgh in Argyll.

A local woman who joined the protest was also arrested, police said. Five Japanese women were detained during the protest but freed later.

The protesters are part of a 12-strong group from Nagasaki, where 74,000 people died and 75,000 were injured after an atomic bomb was dropped on the city at the end of the Second World War.

They held a ceremony at the gates of the base, where they sprinkled water brought from the Peace Park in Nagasaki, the site where the bomb was dropped, and left origami cranes and other symbols of life and peace.

The group hopes their visit will remind politicians in Scotland and the rest of the UK about the dangers they see in renewing Trident.

Shinya Moriguchi, 30, said: "My relatives survived the bomb and against this background I cannot be indifferent to nuclear weapons.

"The UK stands at the crossroads of which way to go and I felt we should not miss this good opportunity to persuade the UK to go down the route of nuclear disarmament."

Noboru Tasaki, 63, who has worked all his life for world peace and nuclear disarmament, said: "Our people know and experienced nuclear weapons and we know they are terrible for all humanity.

"We hope that the UK government will change its decision and will go for disarmament of nuclear weapons. I hope that today's demonstration will contribute to nuclear disarmament."

He added that if Britain was to opt to scrap its nuclear arsenal, it would have a profound effect on the campaign for global disarmament.

There were also several professors, scientists and teachers among the delegation. Their protest is part of Faslane 365, a year-long peaceful blockade of the base which started last October.

A Faslane 365 spokesman said: "Today has been very powerful and special because of the number of bomb survivors here.



"It is part of a bigger effort to disrupt this horrible place and press for change and it is a necessary part of a very necessary change."

Strathclyde Police said that reports would be sent to the procurator-fiscal on the five arrests made.

Nagasaki was the target of the world's second atomic bomb attack at 11:02am on 9 August, 1945, when the north of the city was destroyed.

According to statistics kept at the Nagasaki Peace Park, the dead totalled 73,884, injured 74,909. Several hundred more also suffered diseases related to radiation from the bomb.

'A TERRIBLE SMELL OF BURNING'

MITSUGU Moriguchi, 70, a retired elementary school teacher, was only nine years old when Nagasaki was bombed: "Luckily, I had been evacuated to the countryside at the time, but I remember the bomb going off. I was playing outside with two of my brothers at the time when there was a massive sound, followed by a gale created by the blast wave and the mushroom cloud rising into the sky.

"We waited a week before returning to my original home in the city, which had been three kilometres from the blast centre.

"There are so many terrible images of the devastation that I remember, but one that sticks out was the sight of all the burned bodies scattered at the roadside. Some of them were still smouldering, but the sight was accompanied by a terrible smell of burning, not just from the human bodies, but all the buildings around. It's something I will never forget.

"A decade later, one of my four sisters died of cancer caused by the radiation, and the three other died shortly after, all from the effects of the bomb."

'WE WERE SO FORTUNATE'

NOBORU Tasaki, 63, a lecturer at Nagasaki University and a former director of the city's Office of Peace Promotion, was 14 months old at the time of the blast.

"Fortunately, the farm where my parents worked was five kilometres from the blast, so even though I had been outside when it happened, I was not hurt.

"My parents told me that I had been bathing in a river at the time, and that I had started crying because of the noise.

"Even though we were quite far from the centre of the city and sheltered from its effects by a hill, my home still suffered damage. My father thought the blast had hit us because tiles from the farm had been blown off.

"We were so fortunate, as my whole family escaped without fatalities, but it's impossible to calculate the impact the bomb had on Nagasaki, not just physically but spiritually and psychologically.

"Once I learned about the devastating effects atomic bombs have, I worked with the city's Office of Peace Promotion and its Atomic Bomb Museum, until my retirement three years ago."

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Comments

1. **The Fly Fifer**, fife / 1:26am 26 Jul 2007

tough when you break the law but the law is the law

2. **Jason**, Japan / 1:43am 26 Jul 2007

Publicity that money just could not buy. And the Keystones fell for it by arresting them. Hiroshima would have been better, but Nagasaki still gets journalists' attention. First they ignore them, then they harass them ...

3. **Comment Removed**

This comment has been removed by a moderator.

4. **Mcsnagpile**, S.E.A / 7:25am 26 Jul 2007

The atom bomb kills the soldier, the worker, the wife, the child, the unborn child and a new one the non conceived child. it corrupts the very fabric of life. The USA proved not once but twice that man can and will use all deterrents in his arsenal when he deems necessary. Having visited the Nagasaki museum it demonstrated to me that World war 11 will never end as each successive generation suffers from a new disease. Perhaps it also teaches that such a war entered into must be total to ultimate annihilation or Pyrrhic victory, a nuclear war gives few options.

5. **donald**, weegieland / 7:43am 26 Jul 2007

"Dis is for Hiroshima". The Glen of Weeping was "swarming with Nips", from hip flasks.

6. **Nick_Byrne**, Glasgow / 9:42am 26 Jul 2007

Damned protestors, has anyone ever told them they can make their point without blocking the roads.

People have to work, ambulances, nurses, doctor and carers need to sek their patients and children (although not at the moment) need to get to school.

But no, you block the roads so you can bring a tiny bit of press to a bunch of aging hippies living in their own filth for the last thirties as part of a failed campaign.

Trident will out live the peace camp.

7. **Comment Removed**

This comment has been removed by a moderator.

8. Allan(handofgod137) / 11:43am 26 Jul 2007

So we can comment on this but not on the previous story, what a disgrace!

9. Nell, The Preservation Hall / 1:15pm 26 Jul 2007

What about all the allied prisoners of war who were effectively terminated by the Japanese?

Also all the lives saved by not having to invade Japan to end the war.

10. Saoghal Beag / 1:54pm 26 Jul 2007

now where are those weapons of mass destruction???

11. true2cause, glesga / 2:42pm 26 Jul 2007

why cant i comment on the scottish lassies being raped by the non-indigenous citizens???
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12. Arrow, edinburgh / 3:25pm 26 Jul 2007

given that the Japs attacked the USA, Britain et al i am not sure what the were expecting. general views are that had the Allies invaded the home island of Japan the estimated casualties among the Allies would have been c.1 million dead. and please do not give me the guff that the Japs were defeated and that they were looking for an honourable way to surrender. the accepted view was that everyone would die for Hirohito and not enough did.

i wonder if the Japs and Germans had the use of the stomic bomb at the time would they have used them? Damn sure they would

i have no sympathy whatsoever with the Japanese (civilians or otherwise) due to the atrocities committed by the Empire of Japan on POW's and civilians in the occupied lands in the Far East. a clash of cultures perhaps but they wanted to die for their Emperor and their wish was granted. the islands should have been bombed back into the stone age.

if you fly with the crows you get shot with the crows.

13. scottish canuck, Canada / 9:00pm 26 Jul 2007

dammned it!! some got away!

14. wattie>x 1 / 9:48pm 26 Jul 2007

#12> Where did you pick up the garbage you spout about the estimated million dead? Those who served in the Far East and like myself who were fortunate to have survived and was waiting to return home, were only too well aware why the bombs were dropped at that particular time. The Japanese were already defeated and in the process off preparing for total surrender when the bombs were readily dropped by the US on innocent men women and children. Their inhuman act was meant as a warning threat to the then Soviet

Union who at the end of the conflict; emerged the stronger military power of the two. Unknown at the time to the US; the Soviets were also on the verge off possessing and producing the bomb which was to upset the political ambitions of the US wild men.

15. sandy,, USA land where Jesus has been reborn as G. W. Bush / 10:44pm 26 Jul 2007

The japs were about to become terroriststs thats why we nuked them.

16. Typical Japanese, England / 11:40pm 26 Jul 2007

First of all,please let me say we do apologize that those Japanese guys disturbed Navy. Actually,they are left wing and idealist who believe communism is the best and only way for people. A local police and navy don't have to make them free and arrest them as long as they want.

Please do not allow them to go back to Japan and enter U.K. Don't hesitate to send them to Iraq and show them the 'REAL'.

I was so surprised at this news. Sorry.

17. The Daleks / 5:42am 27 Jul 2007

Agreed #'s 8 and 11.

The country is going under faster than the Titanic, but we've all got to pretend nothing's amiss.

Orwell's Thought Police have come to pass.

18. Allan(handofgod137) / 4:03pm 27 Jul 2007

#'s 11 & 17 it's just the hootsmon jurno's showing their true colours(pink and yellow)so many of them seem to be closet leftists they can't bear us pointing out that the multicultural experiment has failed, and it's time to tell the guests to go home. PS if you read the print version yesterday you'll have noticed that there was no mention on the website of the 2 indian/pakistani men who recieved a derisory 6 years apiece for the racially motivated knifpoint rape of a prostitute, bet if the racial groupings had been reversed it would have appeared and commenting would have been allowed.

Commenting on this article has closed.