

July 10, 2015

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We urge you to go to Japan to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings. You would be the first sitting American president to visit these historic sites.

This visit would provide you an unprecedented opportunity to remind the world that nuclear weapons must never again be used. It would also allow you to follow up on your April 2009 Prague speech, in which you said the United States has a “moral responsibility to act” and to lead the nations of the world in ending Cold War thinking, reducing the role of nuclear weapons, and ultimately achieving the peace and security of a world free of nuclear weapons.

Therefore, we urge you to use your commemoration speech to announce concrete steps the United States will take before you leave office to reduce the risks that nuclear weapons continue to pose to humanity.

These steps could include taking U.S. land-based nuclear weapons off high alert and eliminating the option of launching these missiles on warning of an attack, declaring that the sole purpose of U.S. nuclear weapons is to deter a nuclear attack on the United States and its allies, or independently reducing U.S. deployed strategic nuclear forces to the 1,000-1,100 level described in your June 2013 Berlin speech.

Any of these steps would send a powerful signal to the rest of the world that you remain committed to the goals you laid out in Prague.

Mr. President, we are counting on you. Our children and your children are counting on you. The world is counting on you.

Sincerely,

Angela Canterbury, Executive Director
Council for a Livable World/Center for Arms Control & Nonproliferation

Jay Coghlan, Executive Director
Nuclear Watch New Mexico

Lisbeth Gronlund, Co-Director, Senior Scientist
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