

Speech at the Commemoration of the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Atomic Bombing  
6 August 2025

His Excellency Minister Torsten Schack Pedersen;  
Mr. Jesper Greth, Mayor of Rebild Kommune;  
Mr. Per Bach Laursen, Mayor of Vesthimmerlands Kommune;  
Ms. Lise Bech, Mr. Mohammad Rona, Members of the Folketinget;  
Mr. Per Lyngby, Chair of Nordjyske Museer,  
Dr. Lars Christian Nørbach, Director of Nordjyske Museer,  
Distinguished guests;  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a profound honor for me, as Ambassador of Japan to the Kingdom of Denmark, to participate in this ceremony marking the 80th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima here in North Jutland. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Cold War Museum REGAN Vest for taking the initiative of holding this meaningful event. I am grateful to share this day with you all, to reflect on its significance quietly and deeply.

Exactly eighty years ago, at 8:15 AM, an atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. Hundreds of thousands of precious lives were lost instantly, 70,000 houses were engulfed in flames and blast, and the city was reduced to ruins. Three days later, another atomic bomb devastated Nagasaki. Survivors endured invisible suffering, illness, disabilities, and immeasurable hardships.

Ladies and gentlemen,

On the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War I bow my head deeply before the souls of all those who perished both in Europe and the Asia-Pacific region, offering my eternal, sincere condolences.

During the war, Japan lost more than 3 million citizens. The atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the air raids on Tokyo and other cities across Japan, and the ground battles in Okinawa, among others, took a heavy toll among ordinary citizens.

In China, Southeast Asia, the Pacific Islands, and elsewhere that became the battlefields between the Japanese military and the Allied forces, numerous innocent people suffered and fell victims to battles and

hardships such as severe food deprivation.

I find myself speechless when I contemplate the fact that Japan inflicted immeasurable damage and suffering on innocent people. Every one of them had a life, dreams, and a beloved family. After the war, with deep repentance, Japan made the pledge never to repeat again the devastation of war, built a free and democratic nation upholding the rule of law, and has walked the path as a peace-loving nation. Bearing in mind the feelings of those who perished in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, as the only nation to have suffered atomic bombings, Japan has shouldered the heavy responsibility and mission of conveying the suffering of the atomic bombings to future generations and people around the world, and have worked towards the realization of a world without nuclear weapons.

Today in the uncertain and unstable world, confrontation and division are deepening. Russia's brutal war of aggression against Ukraine and conflicts in the Middle East are undermining the very foundation of the rules-based international order. We often feel helpless, witnessing continued mass killings and immense suffering of civilians in Ukraine and Gaza. However, we, democratic like-minded countries should not give up efforts to achieve a just and lasting peace and to bring Putin and other aggressors and war criminals to justice. And we would never tolerate nuclear threats by Russia and other autocratic states. The devastation and human suffering inflicted upon Hiroshima and Nagasaki 80 years ago must never be repeated.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Japan and Denmark are strategic partners bound by a long and deep friendship. We share universal values such as freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. In 2023, the leaders of both countries issued a "Joint Leaders' Statement" and a "Joint Strategic Work Plan," strengthening our cooperative relationship in a wide range of areas, including security, clean energy, science and innovation, and cultural and people-to-people exchanges.

In April this year, His Majesty King Frederik made his first visit to Asia after his accession to the throne, and Japan was his first destination. I accompanied His Majesty's delegation. He visited the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park and Museum and witnessed the devastation of the atomic

bombing firsthand. I was deeply moved by His Majesty's act of folding origami cranes with children, conveying his wishes for peace. His Majesty's visit to Hiroshima on the 80th anniversary of the atomic bombing was a symbol of the friendship between Japan and Denmark as well as a peace message to the world. Japan and Denmark stand together towards achieving our ultimate goal: a world free of nuclear weapons.

On the occasion of today's ceremony, we are going to open the "Hiroshima and Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Photo Poster Exhibition", thanks to the generosity of the Cold War Museum REGAN Vest and the cooperation of the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation. This exhibition, comprised of thirty posters, vividly portrays the devastation immediately following the bombings, the indescribable suffering endured by the "hibakusha" – atomic bomb survivors, and the arduous journey of restoration of the two cities from the ruins. These images serve as a stark reminder of the tragedy that befell Hiroshima and Nagasaki, a tragedy we are determined never to repeat. I sincerely hope that the suffering of the hibakusha and their unwavering pursuit of peace will resonate deeply within each of you.

Finally, to honor the memory of the victims of the atomic bombings and to reaffirm our commitment to enduring peace, I invite you all to join me in a moment of silence.

(Moment of silence)

Thank you very much. With this I conclude my speech.