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NEWS RELEASE

Archbishop John C. Wester on the Nobel Peace Prize Awarded to

Hibakusha Hihon Hidankyo

ALBUQUERQUE, NM – Monday, October 14, 2024 – IMMEDIATE RELEASE—Most Reverend John C. Wester, Archbishop of Santa Fe, New Mexico, has issued the following statement about the Nobel Peace Prize Awarded to hibakusha (atomic bomb survivor) Hihon Hidankyo:

What great news that the Nobel Peace Prize for 2024 has been awarded to Hihon Hidankyo! And how fitting that during this time of heightened geopolitical tension, the work of the hibakusha organizations represented by Nihon Hidankyo since 1956 is being spotlighted by this prestigious award. The survivors of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings continue to put a human face on the tragedy of war and, specifically, the tragedy and immorality of nuclear weapons, which have increased in number and lethal force as we witness a second nuclear arms race far more dangerous than the first. I pray this well-deserved recognition by the Nobel Foundation will amplify the voices of the hibakusha, whose numbers are diminishing as we are about to mark the 80th anniversary of the Japan atomic bombings. I hope this Peace Prize awarded to Nihon Hidankyo will get the attention of the nuclear states who have yet to sign the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Now, that would be a real prize for the Hibakusha and for all of us!

For more information on Archbishop Wester's pastoral letter, "Living in the Light of Christ's Peace: A Conversation Toward Nuclear Disarmament," [click here](#).

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