

## Remembering Hiroshima

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August 6th, 1945

At around 8:15am local time, a US bomber plane dropped an atomic bomb over Hiroshima.

The resulting explosion flattened the city, killing 70,000 people instantly. The radius of total destruction was around 1.6km.

By December 1945, the death toll had risen to some 140,000, but this would reach an estimated 200,000 in the following years, with survivors of the initial blast dying from injuries, radiation sickness, and cancer.

*“The impact of the bomb was so terrific that practically all living things – human and animal – were literally seared to death by the tremendous heat and pressure set up by the blast...All the dead and injured were burned beyond recognition. Those outdoors were burned to death, while those indoors were killed by the indescribable pressure and heat.”*

**International news**

These images show just what the scale of the devastation was following the blast:



A 1934 postcard picture of the Hiroshima Prefectural Industrial Promotion Hall

The same building after the bombing - the ruins are still standing today and are now known as the “A-Bomb Dome”

World War II Multimedia Database  
[www.worldwar2database.com](http://www.worldwar2database.com)



## ***Hibakusha*** 被爆者

The Japanese term denoting the survivors of the atomic bombing, as well as those people who were (and are) affected by the exposure to the radiation. This includes people born to first-generation *hibakusha* who suffer with health conditions, along with those affected by the toxic “black rain” that fell in the wake of the explosion.

Besides the Japanese civilians affected, there were also large numbers of Korean and Chinese *hibakusha*, as they had been conscripted for forced labour to help the wartime effort of the Japanese state, as well as many American POWs being held there.

***By 1935 there were more than 600,000 Koreans residing permanently in Japan.***

***In all, approximately 750,000 Koreans were conscripted for work in Japan, 250,000 assigned to military-related labour in China or the South Pacific, and 85,000 drafted into the army.***

***The Association of Korean Atomic Bomb Victims estimates that there were over 50,000 Koreans living in the city of Hiroshima in 1945, with heavy concentrations in Fukushima-cho and Minami Kannon-cho, areas that were 2 and 3 kilometres from the bomb hypocentre, respectively.***

***Over 400,000 people-Japanese, Koreans, Chinese, and a handful of American prisoners-were directly or indirectly exposed to the blast and radioactive effects of the atomic explosion at Hiroshima on 6 August.***

## International news

Even today, *hibakusha* are still struggling for recognition which would entitle them to help with medical care and financial support, as the below articles and editorials from two major Japanese daily newspapers (*Mainichi Shimbun* and *Asahi Shimbun*) show:

Editorial: Hiroshima 'black rain' victims' legal victory should spur Japan to expand aid - The Mainichi <https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20200730/p2a/00m/0na/008000c>

Editorial: Japan gov't must provide full support following 'black rain' ruling - The Mainichi <https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20210727/p2a/00m/0op/021000c>

Nagasaki mayor furious as expanded 'black rain' aid proposals limited to Hiroshima - The Mainichi <https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20211229/p2a/00m/0na/022000c>

Editorial: Nagasaki atomic bombing victims need broader relief measures - The Mainichi <https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20220809/p2a/00m/0op/022000c>

Nagasaki 'black rain' survivors seeking gov't recognition call for end to 'discrimination' - The Mainichi <https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20221201/p2a/00m/0na/016000c>

1,940 'black rain' victims recognized as A-bomb survivors under new relief system: survey - The Mainichi <https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20221229/p2a/00m/0na/009000c>

Editorial: Japan gov't should promote support for second-generation A-bomb survivors - The Mainichi <https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20230221/p2a/00m/0op/017000c>

EDITORIAL: Nagasaki 'black rain' victims should be treated as hibakusha <https://www.asahi.com/sp/ajw/articles/14829906>

Hiroshima court rejects lawsuit filed by children of hibakusha <https://www.asahi.com/sp/ajw/articles/14833918>

Nagasaki 'black rain' map offers hope in fight to win state <https://www.asahi.com/sp/ajw/articles/14907667>