

Press Report
Salisbury Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament
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For Immediate Release

Hiroshima and Nagasaki Commemorative Candle Float
August 6th 2024

International co-operation is behind Salisbury CND's latest Candle Float

Close ties between Salisbury and Hiroshima were demonstrated on Tuesday evening as over two hundred candlelit lanterns drifted down the River Avon to commemorate the dropping of the first two atomic bombs, 79 years ago. Each lantern represented the loss of approximately 1000 lives.

Twenty lanterns had been decorated by pupils at Kyoso Junior High School in Hiroshima and joined lanterns from Salisbury Campaign for Nuclear disarmament. As dusk fell on a windless evening, the lanterns mingled and drifted downstream from Fisherton Bridge to Crane Bridge in the centre of Salisbury.

Salisbury CND is honoured to have received a letter from the Mayor of Hiroshima. In it, Mayor Matsui Kazumi says “ *No one else should ever suffer as we have. It is increasingly important for us policymakers to abandon nuclear deterrence in favour of a peaceful world that refuses to compromise individual dignity and security. As such, it could not be more meaningful that you have organised this event in which lanterns filled with wishes for peace from the citizens of Salisbury and the students of Hiroshima will be floated down the River Avon to remember the atomic bomb victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.*”

A spokesperson from Salisbury CND said “*The world has never been closer to a devastating nuclear war. Such a conflict would threaten humanity itself. We need to join together to call on our politicians to acknowledge that nuclear weapons offer us no real security and in fact provide just the opposite. The vast funds invested in these armaments could make our world so much better and so much more secure for us all.*

It is very special for us to share this event with the people of Hiroshima and to experience such co-operation which spans the generations.”

Salisbury is a member of Mayors for Peace.

All lanterns were recovered from the river as they approached Crane Bridge.



Photo Caption: *Lanterns from Hiroshima and Salisbury CND float downstream on the River Avon together* **Photos Roger Elliott**

