

**SURVIVORS OF THE ATOMIC BOMB TO BE EXAMINED AND EVALUATED  
IN TORRANCE, FROM 11:30 A.M.- 2 P.M. ON JUNE 30**

**“I Don’t Want Anyone to Ever Go Through What I Went Through”**

**WHAT:** More than 60 years after the atomic bomb scorched the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the scars of health problems and traumatic memories of the event still linger for more than 150 Southern California residents who survived the devastation. This is the human side of the nuclear proliferation agenda addressed by President Obama during his speech this week.

“I have physical and emotional scars from the bomb that will never heal,” said Kaz Suyeishi of Torrance, president of the American Society of Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-Bomb Survivors. “It is important to me that others remember the devastation that myself and other survivors endured. I don’t want anyone to ever have to go through what I went through.”

The victims, termed “hibakusha” in Japan, will undergo extensive medical examinations and counseling by a team of physicians from Japan and the United States and experts in radiation-related disease and illness.

**The examinations will take place June 30 from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Providence Little Company of Mary Medical Institute, located at 21311 Madrona Avenue, Torrance.**

The mission to monitor and examine the health of the survivors began in 1977 and has occurred every other year. The efforts are supported by the Japanese government’s Ministry of Health and Welfare, the Radiation Effects Research Foundation, Hiroshima Prefectural and Providence Little Company of Mary Medical Center.

**WHO:** Fred Y. Sakurai, M.D., medical director of Ningen Dock and president of Japanese Community Health Inc. (JCHI)

Kaz Suyeishi, president, American Society of Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-bomb Survivors (ASA) and a spokesperson for the survivors.

More than 150 survivors and their families

**WHEN:** Media are also invited to interview survivors at the medical evaluations starting at 11:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. on June 30, 2007

**WHERE:** Examinations September 20 held at: Providence Little Company of Mary Medical Institute 21311 Madrona Avenue in Torrance

**WHY:** As the hibakusha have aged, medical knowledge of the effects of radiation and related illnesses has increased. While physicians are concerned with the heightened risk of cancer deaths among survivors, studies show the hibakusha also suffer from non-cancerous illnesses such as cardiovascular disease and benign uterine fibroids at a higher rate than people who were not exposed to the bomb’s radiation. Providence Little Company of Mary hopes to leverage what is learned about treating radiation poisoning and its long term effects to better respond and treat the South Bay community in the event of an emergency radiation incident in the area.

“This clinic is wonderful for the hibakusha. The physicians speak our language and understand the emotional and psychological scars we bear,” added survivor Suyeishi. “The studies of these Japanese physicians and the experience of the hibakusha have been invaluable in increasing what medical science knows about radiation and related illnesses. As the hibakusha age, their unique experiences and contributions are finally being appreciated.”

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