Photo Action in front of the Peace Palace
Wednesday October 5
Time: 9:00AM
Venue: Peace Palace, Carnegieplein 2, 2517 KJ, The Hague

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) has announced that it will read its judgments on whether it has jurisdiction in the Marshall Islands' nuclear disarmament cases against India, Pakistan and the United Kingdom. If it decides to proceed, it would be a historic moment for the World Court to be seized over the legal obligations concerning negotiations relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race and to nuclear disarmament.

Seizing this opportunity, a picture will be taken with Hibakusha and nuclear disarmament campaigners to highlight the fact we stand with the victims, highlight the humanitarian impact of these weapons and call for their abolition.

Present:
Ms Noriko Sakashita, Hibakusha
Ms Mariko Higashino, Second Generation Hibakusha
Akira Kawasaki, Peace Boat/ICAN
Selma van Oostwaard, PAX/ICAN
Peace and disarmament activists

International Court of Justice’s Delivery of Judgment in the Marshall Islands Case
Wednesday October 5
Time: 10:00AM
Venue: Peace Palace, Carnegieplein 2, 2517 KJ, The Hague
Link: ICJ Press Release

Hibakusha will attend the reading of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) judgments on whether it has jurisdiction in the Marshall Islands' nuclear disarmament cases against India, Pakistan and the United Kingdom. One of the Marshall Island's lead lawyers and Vice-President of the International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms, Phon van den Biesen, will greet them.

Present:
Ms Noriko Sakashita, Hibakusha
Ms Mariko Higashino, Second Generation Hibakusha
Ami Terachi, Peace Boat
Selma van Oostwaard, PAX/ICAN
Address at the Dutch Parliament (Foreign Affairs meeting)
Wednesday October 5
Time: 14:00AM
Venue: Plein 2, 2511 CR, The Hague

The Hibakusha will be welcomed at Parliament during a ‘special procedure’. PAX and the Hibakusha will give a testimony and call on MPs to urge the government to support the start of negotiations for a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons in 2017.

Present:
Ms Noriko Sakashita, Hibakusha
Ms Mariko Higashino, Second Generation Hibakusha
Ami Terachi, Peace Boat
Selma van Oostwaard, PAX/ICAN
Krista van Velzen, PAX/ICAN
Maaike Beenes, PAX

Meeting with Dutch Foreign Minister Bert Koenders
Wednesday October 6
Time: 16:00PM
Venue: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bezuidenhoutseweg 67, 2594 AC, The Hague

Mr Morikawa will speak about his experiences in Hiroshima and highlight the need and urgency for nuclear disarmament and a ban treaty. Together with PAX, he will ask the Foreign Minister to support the UN General Assembly resolution that will be submitted during UNGA First Committee, calling for the start of negotiations for a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons in 2017.

Present:
Takaaki Morikawa, Hibakusha
Akira Kawasaki, Peace Boat/ICAN
Krista van Velzen, PAX/ICAN
Selma van Oostwaard, PAX/ICAN

Public Event: The Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons Wednesday October 6
Time: 18:00PM
Venue: Pakhuis de Zwijger, Piet Heinkade 179, 1019 HC Amsterdam
Link to the event’s page

Ms. Tagawa, a first generation Nagasaki survivor will share her story and explain how the atomic bombing still affects her daily life. Together with several experts she will discuss today’s status of the nuclear disarmament debate. What is the international community doing? And why is 2017 an important year for nuclear disarmament?

Speakers:
Susi Snyder, PAX/ICAN
Akira Kawasaki, Peace Boat/ICAN
Toyoko Tagawa, Hibakusha, Hibakusha
Poulke Peters and Mirjam de Bruin, Netherlands Red Cross

Also present:
Global Voyage: Travelling around the world to spread a message
Peace Boat has been organizing the Global Hibakusha Project since 2008. Survivors from Hiroshima and Nagasaki choose to join this project because they are compelled to tell their own painful, experiences so that no one will ever suffer the same fate. There is a feeling among Hibakusha that time is running out for them to be able to make the world understand the reality of nuclear weapons and yet their message is more urgent than ever. Some of the survivors have never travelled outside Japan before and one survivor (Ms. Tagawa) applied for a passport for the first time in her life to join the voyage to be able to share her experiences and that of her family so that no one else should suffer in the same way.

International Context:
Wednesday 28 September, a group of states put forward a resolution at the United Nations General Assembly to start negotiations towards a new treaty that would prohibit nuclear weapons. The states leading this initiative are Mexico, Austria, Ireland, Brazil, Nigeria and South Africa. While a majority of states have expressed support for developing a treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons, fierce opposition to this resolution is expected from the nuclear-armed states. States will vote on the resolution during the period 24 October to 2 November. The Hibakusha taking part in the Global Voyage are holding meeting with number of governments officials (including in Malaysia, Greece, the United Kingdom and Belgium) and will visit the United Nations in New York on October 20-21.

Background in The Netherlands
PAX’ signature campaign: 45,608 Dutch citizens, VIPs and religious and political leaders have supported a national ban on nuclear weapons. Several motions were put forward by parliamentarians during the April debate on the signature campaign, and four received majority support during the voting session. The most important adopted motion said that the Dutch government must actively work on the start of negotiations on an international treaty banning nuclear weapons. In addition to supporting the start of negotiations, parliament also endorsed the proposal to disclose the secret treaties on the basis of which nuclear weapons were placed in the Netherlands. MPs also supported the request to use the unwanted modernization of nuclear weapons in Europe to boost global nuclear disarmament. Lastly, the House called on the Dutch government to cumulatively rejects its nuclear task in consultation with the United States. However, during the final during the UN Open-ended working group (OEWG) on nuclear disarmament, the Netherlands did not support the paragraph on the start of negotiations on a ban treaty in 2017, and abstained during the voting on the final OEWG report. PAX reminds the Parliaments that the motions are still pending, and that the most important one, join negotiations on a ban treaty, hasn’t been followed up yet. Parliament should call upon the government to support the resolution that will be submitted during UNGA First Committee, calling for the start of negotiations for a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons in 2017.