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SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS OF NUCLEAR TERROR

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Motion Text

On August 6 and 9, 1945, the American army dropped atomic bombs on the Japanese towns of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, killing more than 100,000 Japanese, most of them civilians. Countless people perished from diseases caused by the radiation absorbed during the attacks, and both cities were reduced to rubble in seconds. This massacre marks the beginning of the current nuclear age.

The political and social context of the early post-war years and the upsurge of the Cold War (1947-1991) meant that, sadly, our societies learned to live with such a bloody reality and at least nine countries have since retained nuclear weapons.

According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, there are still some 14.465 nuclear weapons in the world. The development of this arsenal has required nuclear tests that can be counted in the thousands (only between the two main nuclear powers, the United States and the Soviet Union, some two thousand experimental detonations have been carried out).

These terribly destructive tests, although internationally banned since 1996, had an incalculable environmental impact whose consequences we can still see. As the levels of radioactivity recorded in points of the Marshall Islands (specifically in the atolls: Enewetak; Rongelap; Utirik and Bikini) attest. To all this we must add the human impact of these tests, for which the forced displacement of populations was often necessary.

Since 1970, the International Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons has been in force, an international instrument that has proven to be insufficient. We know that, following its international ratification, India, Pakistan and North Korea have developed nuclear weapons and at least Iran has tried to do so, although investigations have been halted since 2015, thanks in part to the mediation of the EU institutions. Back in Europe, Spain did not put an end to its nuclear programme until 1981.

The existing nuclear arsenals not only pose a threat to the very existence of our species, they also have a potential for contamination that would last for hundreds of years with the social and environmental consequences that this would entail.

For all these reasons, on the seventy-fifth anniversary of the nuclear attacks on Japan, the Green Youth of Europe asks the European Commission to take into consideration the following demands so that they can be implemented in the future by all the member countries of the Council of Europe:

- The end to uranium enrichment for war purposes;
- The ratification of the International Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons by all EU members;
- The dismantling of nuclear warheads, as South Africa did at the time;
- The expulsion from the European continent of weapons with nuclear potential belonging to foreign powers;

- Following nuclear disarmament in Europe, pressure from international economic and geopolitical partners to follow the European nations in the anti-nuclear endeavour;
- The creation of a fund whose objective is to restore to their original state the areas of the globe damaged during nuclear testing;
- The European Commission must work in within the Council of Europe for a world free of nuclear weapons.