Setsuko was thirteen years old the day the United States dropped an atomic bomb on her hometown, Hiroshima.

“How do you describe a Hell on Earth?” she asks. “Within that single flash of light, my beloved Hiroshima became a place of desolation, with heaps of rubble, skeletons and blackened corpses everywhere.”

Setsuko Thurlow, a Hibakusha (atomic bomb survivor), chose to make it her life’s mission to tell the story of what happened that day so that “…no human being should ever have to repeat our experience of the inhumane, immoral and cruel atomic bombing.” Today, as the Hibakusha get older and pass away, she feels an urgency to talk to the younger generation so that they will understand the horror of the Nuclear Age and take up the call for nuclear abolition.

Setsuko has received many honors for her lifelong efforts for peace. In 2013, she was named Peace Ambassador by the University for Peace, San Jose, Costa Rica. In 2014, she was named Hiroshima Peace Ambassador and was presented this award by Hiroshima Mayor, Kazumi Matsui. This year, Setsuko was nominated for the 2015 Nobel Peace Prize.

We are honored to have Setsuko as our 2015 Distinguished Peace Leader.