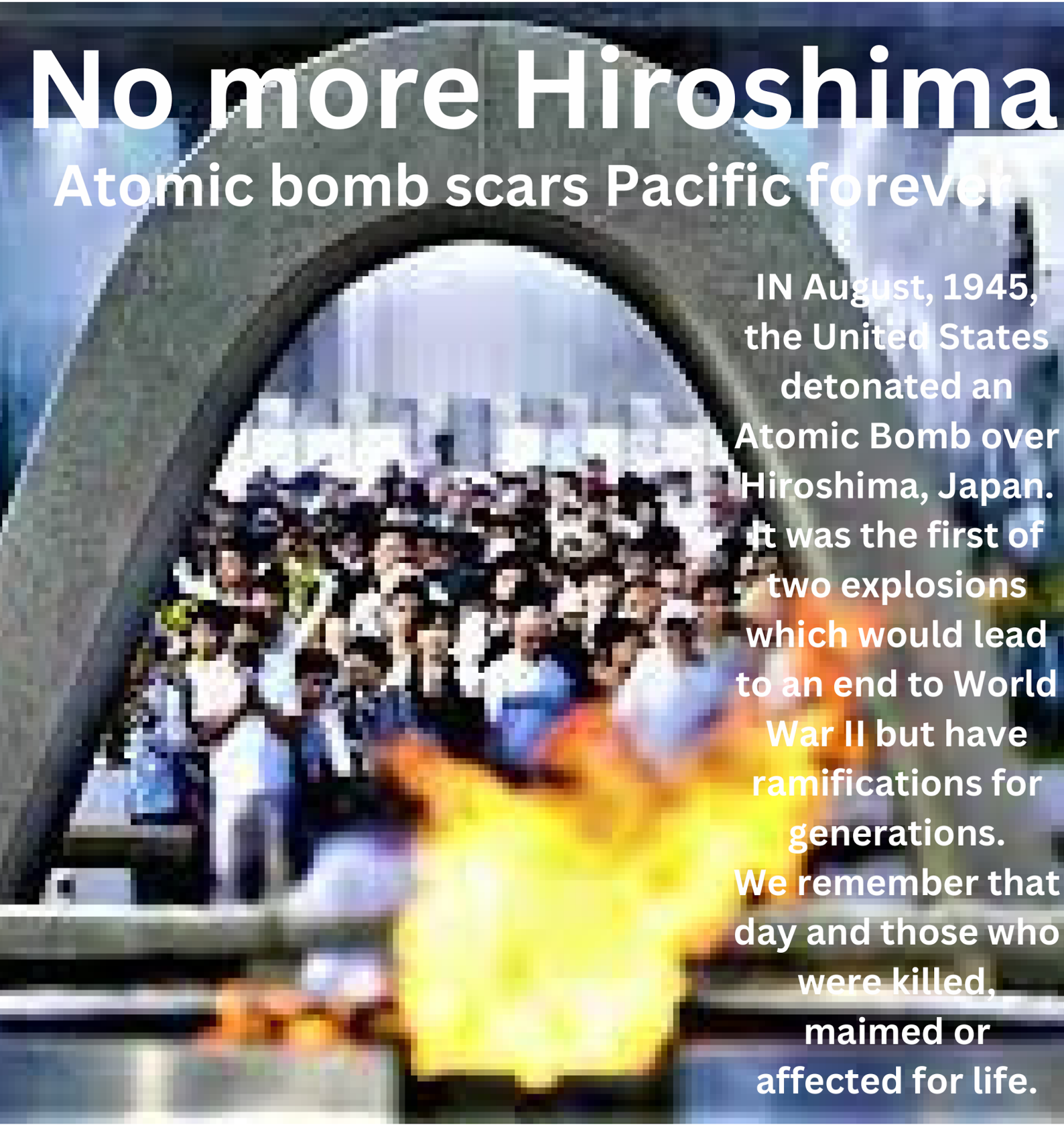


TALANOA TOKTOK

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No more Hiroshima

Atomic bomb scars Pacific forever



IN August, 1945, the United States detonated an Atomic Bomb over Hiroshima, Japan. It was the first of two explosions which would lead to an end to World War II but have ramifications for generations. We remember that day and those who were killed, maimed or affected for life.



Broken dreams ... mother and child in the aftermath of Hiroshima

Lessons of the past

STANDING at the Hiroshima Peace Monument, it's difficult to imagine the devastation caused by the atomic bomb explosion on August 6, 1945.

The beautiful gardens and broad pavement, an eternal flame and the hollow sound of a Japanese gong give a sense of serenity. Only the skeleton of the municipal building and its dome give an indication of what might have taken place here.

It is estimated that 126,000 civilians and 20,000 troops perished in the bombing.

Countless thousands were affected by radiation and trauma for the rest of their lives. Nowhere is the impact of the bomb more real than in the nearby museum which houses

realistic wax displays of women and children running through the ruins of a fiery city, hair falling out, skin peeling off.

The display shows the effect of the world's first weapon of mass destruction.

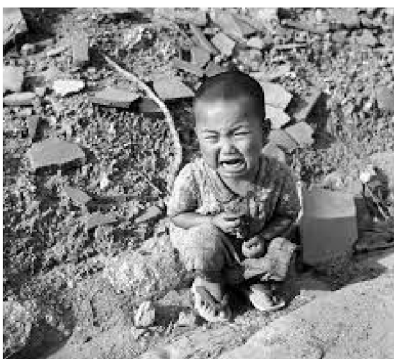
Yet despite the deaths and damage caused by the atomic bomb, the world's superpowers continued to create stronger weapons.

No expense was spared and the people of the Pacific were used as guinea pigs in these dangerous experiments.

From Bikini Atoll in the North Pacific to Kiritimati Island in the Central area and Mururoa in the East, thousands of Pacific people and their lands have been affected.

We remember the legacy.

Churches and the nuclear issue

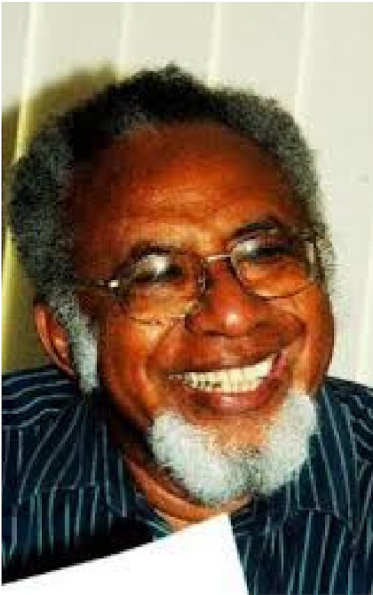


THE Student Christian Movement played a defining role in the lives of many emerging young Pacific leaders in the 1960s.

Suliana Siwatibau and Reverend Akuila Yabaki of Fiji emerged from this movement into a world in which young people in Europe and the US were fighting against nuclear weapons.

They would be joined by (Professor) Vijay Naidu, Claire Slatter and other individuals from the local university.

The PCC - through then General Secretary Lorine Tevi - became active in the area of nuclear non-proliferation and has remained engaged for more than 60 years.



Stand up, now Baton passes to new leaders

AS the 80th Anniversary of the first nuclear bomb approaches, the Pacific continues to fight for justice and recognition.

There is a continued call for justice which was first heard in the early 1970s through university and civil society organisations.

The leaders of those movements continue to speak on the issue, but a new generation has emerged.

Younger Pacific representatives, emerging leaders, have taken up the challenge to seek nuclear justice and reparations for damage and loss of livelihood.

Marshallese poet, Kathy Jitnil-Kijiner has emerged as an advocate at the global level, speaking powerfully to world leaders at the United Nations.

Maohi church leader, Reverend Francois Pihaatae, has led delegations to Paris and the UN to demand justice for victims and their descendants.

And Bedi Racule - Pacific Conference of Churches specialist - uses her Marshallese heritage to teach the church the lessons of the past to ensure that the harm and hurt is never repeated/.





Fukushima dump outrage

DESPITE its first hand experience of the damage caused by nuclear weapons, Japan has started to dump waste water from an atomic energy plant in the Pacific Ocean.

The Pacific Conference of Churches joined civil society and concerned members of the public in a protest march through Fiji's capital, Suva.

Over a million tonnes of wastewater from the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant have been dumped in the Pacific.

The move has been supported by the International Atomic Energy Agency which declared the water safe, despite civil society protests.

Talanoa Toktok