



The Peace Alliance
Campaign to Establish a
U.S. Department of Peace

**REPORT OF THE U.S. DELEGATION TO THE THIRD GLOBAL
SUMMIT FOR MINISTRIES AND DEPARTMENTS OF PEACE
September 21 – October 3, 2007**

Prologue

In September 2007, the *Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace* held its third Global Summit. The overall purpose of the Global Summits is to build a global movement for ministries and departments of peace, including government-civil society partnerships for peacebuilding, by supporting existing country campaigns and inspiring new ones with information, updates, sharing experiences, and trainings.



The Global Alliance is a network of grassroots activists and government and civil society organizations in countries around the world who are working for the establishment of ministries and departments of peace that reflect and support a culture of peace.

The Global Alliance (www.mfp-dop.org) began in October 2005 in London, at the First People's Summit for Departments of Peace, which was attended by forty people from a dozen countries. The fledgling Global Alliance convened its Second People's Summit eight months later in Victoria, British Columbia. The Victoria Summit was attended by 60 people from 18 countries and concluded with an international panel of parliamentarians and series of workshops that it hosted at the First World Peace Forum in Vancouver.

The Japan Summit was hosted by Japan United for Ministry for Peace (JUMP) and took place in Kisarazu. Its program consisted of country reports, trainings, and organizational planning workshops, and a series of JUMP-organized press conferences, symposia, and other outreach activities in Tokyo, Kyoto, Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and Okinawa.

Summit Conference in Kisarazu, September 21-25

About 50 civil society activists and government officials from 21 countries and 6 continents – many from developing nations attending for the first time – traveled to Japan for the Summit. About half the delegates also participated in the public outreach tour to Tokyo, Kyoto, Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and Okinawa.

Summit delegates came from Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Costa Rica, India, Israel, Italy, Japan (host), Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Palestine, Philippines, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Uganda, United Kingdom, and the United States. Delegates from Cameroon, Ghana, Iraq, and Sierra Leone were denied visas by the Japanese government and thus were unable to attend.

1730 Rhode Island Ave. NW, Suite 712
Washington, DC 20036

Phone: 202-296-1187 • www.thepeacealliance.org • info@thepeacealliance.org

The U.S. delegation was composed of (left to right in the photo):

- Julia Simon-Mishel, Operations Director of the Student Peace Alliance
- Dot Maver, Executive Director of the Peace Alliance
- Anne Creter, New Jersey State Coordinator for the Department of Peace Campaign and Peace Alliance Foundation liaison to the United Nations
- Mike Abkin, Special Projects Coordinator of the Peace Alliance
- Aaron Voldman, National Director of the Student Peace Alliance
- Maggi Koren, Team Leader of the Department of Peace Campaign in California's Congressional District 1.



U.S. Delegation gives Country Report



Attendees at the Third Global Summit

Speaking with one voice while representing diverse cultures, nations, ages and languages, the Summit participants called on countries around the world to establish government structures to work hand-in-hand with private organizations to prevent and reduce violence the world over. The delegates also called upon existing governments to make violence prevention and nonviolent conflict resolution a national priority.

The Summit opened on September 21, the International Day of Peace, with a Celebration Concert that highlighted Japan's musical culture and its peace

constitution. In her opening remarks (attached), Dot Maver referred to Article 9 of Japan's Constitution when reminding the crowd that Japan is one of two countries with a peace constitution. Article 9 renounces war and disallows a Japanese standing army outside its borders. Maver further noted that, "Japan is one of only seven countries out of 192 since the end of WWII that has not gone to war. I wish every country had an Article 9."

The Summit featured inspirational speeches, reports from each country on the status of its campaign, and practical trainings in grassroots organizing, mobilizing youth, nonviolent communication, peacebuilding and Gandhian nonviolence, and the responsibilities and activities of a ministry or department of peace. And, of course, singing and dancing to open and close each day, with delegates teaching the group songs and dances from their home countries.



Taiko at Celebration Concert

Notable outcomes of the Summit included:

- The evolution of the structure of the Global Alliance to an organic, emergent, self-organizing, egalitarian network of individuals and organizations who support the establishment of ministries and departments of peace in countries around the world.
- The formation and launching of the African Alliance for Peace, whose vision is to support the creation of a culture of peace and nonviolence in all African countries, including calling for structures in government and civil society to support a culture of peace.
- The accelerated growth of the global youth movement for a culture of peace and ministries and departments of peace, both at the Summit in Kisarazu and in city after city during the Summit's public outreach tour.
- The expansion of the Global Alliance network to participants from over 30 countries.
- The decision to hold the Fourth Global Summit in Australia in 2008 and the Fifth Global Summit in Costa Rica in 2009.



Founders of African Alliance for Peace
L to R: Jean de Dieu Basabose (Rwanda), Hon. Otto Odonga (MP, Uganda), Karen Barendsché (South Africa), Hon. François Munyurangabo (MP, Rwanda), Peter Phillips Lukwiya (Uganda), Jacqueline Kolbe (South Africa)
Not in Photo: Amadou Coly Gomis (Senegal)

The final Communiqué of the Summit is attached.

Summit Outreach in Tokyo, September 26



Dot with Senator Kina

Following the Summit, the delegates attended a congressional briefing and press conference in Japan's Diet (Parliament). Six members of both the upper and lower houses of the Diet attended along with journalists from two Japanese news organizations. More than one of the legislators present expressed support for the concept of a ministry of peace for Japan. One of them was Senator Shokichi Kina of Okinawa, who told the U.S. delegation that, "The United States gave Japan peace, economy, and politics. Japan has returned economy and politics to the U.S. but not peace yet. It is time to return peace to the U.S. now."



Gershon and Zoughbi read Communiqué

A public symposium was held that evening at the Olympic Youth Center, where Summit delegates presented perspectives on the Global Alliance and the Summit's accomplishments. Delegates Gershon Baskin of Israel and Zoughbi Zoughbi of Palestine jointly read the Summit Communiqué, and U.S. delegates Aaron Voldman and Julia Simon-Mishel energized the youth present with their presentation about the global youth movement.



Julia and Aaron in Tokyo

Summit Outreach in Kyoto, September 27

From Tokyo, about half the Summit participants took the bullet train to participate in public outreach events organized by local activists in Kyoto, Hiroshima, and Nagasaki.



Youth at Kyoto Symposium

The visit to Kyoto featured a bus tour of the city, with stops at the Emperor's Palace and Golden Temple and winding up at the Kyoto Museum for World Peace at Ritsumeikan University. Following dinner at the campus student cafeteria, it was back to the museum for a symposium about the global movement for ministries and departments of peace, resulting in exchanges of contact information with the many youth in attendance for both the global youth movement and the U.S. Student Peace Alliance.

As was to become a "tradition" at Summit appearances along the way, the evening concluded with songs, dances, and circles of peace.



Homework on the Train

Summit Outreach in Hiroshima, September 28-29

The first visit in Hiroshima, right off the train, was a presentation by Toshié Uné, an 89-year-old hibakusha (atomic bomb survivor). She was 27 years old when the bomb was dropped. This tiny, expressive bundle of energy told her horrific story, including samples of the sorts of grasses and weeds they had to eat in the days and weeks following the bombing, and left everyone spellbound and emotionally drained. In response to a question from Aaron, whose family suffered in the Holocaust in Europe, she explained that she harbors no ill will or resentment toward Americans because we must have peace, and to have peace we must have reconciliation, and to have reconciliation we must have forgiveness in our hearts. Singing and dancing concluded the presentation.



The next day presented a kaleidoscope of profoundly sobering experiences:

- The Hall of Remembrance, where names and photographs of the 140,000 atomic bomb victims are enshrined along with a 360° panorama of the city and neighborhoods as viewed from the hypocenter of the blast
- Ringing the Peace Bell (photo at right)
- The Children's Monument, with its thousands of origami cranes of peace
- The Peace Dome, the relic of a domed building as it remained following the blast, 600 meters from the hypocenter



- The Eternal Flame, a monument perpetuating some of the flames that raged in the city following the blast (photo at right); a piece of that flame was in 2005 returned to Trinity, the test site near Alamogordo, New Mexico, where the first ever atomic bomb was exploded 60 years before
- The Peace Museum, with its memorabilia of letters and documents presaging and planning the atomic bomb drop and



relics of the Hiroshima bombing itself, including the tiny, charred tricycle of a three-year-old boy caught in the blast

- On the steps outside the museum, the 11-year-old American boy, who had just exited the exhibit, sobbing uncontrollably; when asked if he was hurting, he answered, “I feel so ashamed.”
- The Summit Symposium, where Hiroshima Mayor Tadatashi Akiba spoke and promised to consider endorsing the idea of ministries and departments of peace in national governments around the world; he is also President of Mayors for Peace, whose roster of members now stands at 1793 cities in 122 countries
- The dinner reception at the Aster Plaza Hiroshima Youth House, with:
 - A cornucopia of delicious home-cooked Japanese food provided by mothers of Hiroshima
 - Dot reading a very apt poem by British poet Edmund Blunden about Hiroshima that was posted on the wall outside the room (sidebar at left)
 - Everyone – visitors and hosts alike – having a chance to speak from the heart about the Hiroshima experience
 - The realization that our fathers and grandfathers fought one another and that our generation is now healing and working together for a culture of peace.

**Hiroshima:
A Song for August 6th, 1949**

*Out of the night that covered her
The stricken town began to stir.
Out of bewilderment extreme
The fierce vexation of a dream.
She raised herself in parching pain
And no man heard her once complain.*

*It seemed for what was gone forever
Speedily woke a new endeavor.
Out of darkness; out of fire
Sprang new radiance, new desire.
The stricken city rose to see
Not what has been but what will be.*

*Hiroshima! No finer pride
Did ever earthly city guide
Than yours - to be the happy nest
Where the glad dove of peace may rest
Where all may come from all the Earth
To glory in Mankind's rebirth.*

Edmund Blunden (1896-1974)

Summit Outreach in Nagasaki, September 30



A second atom bomb city, a second hibakusha. Sakué Shimohira, now 72, moved the Summit visitors to tears with her story of nuclear survival at age 10, and that of her sister who, try as she might to live for the sake of all those who had died, could no longer stand the pains of her many radiation-induced



wounds, ailments, and disfigurements and, a few years after that August 1945 morning, threw herself in front of a train.

Next was a tour of Nagasaki's hypocenter-located Peace Park and visit to the Atomic Bomb Museum, which opened in 1996 as a testament to the city's 74,000 atomic bomb victims and to peace.

That evening, another public Symposium, with the following sampling of images:

- Among the hundred or so attendees was an Iraqi physician from Basra, who has been spending time in Japan studying diagnosis and treatment of the effects of radiation – because of the epidemic of such cases in his city due to the United States' use of depleted uranium in the ordnance it has been exploding in his region of Iraq.
- The Symposium was covered by a television crew from NBC – the Nagasaki Broadcasting Company – who afterwards interviewed Dot extensively with some hard questions about U.S. policy and actions around the world.
- At the close of the Symposium, one young woman peace activist from the audience was inspired enough by reports of the U.S. grassroots Department of Peace Campaign to approach Maggi and Anne to find out more about it.

The Symposium was followed by dinner at a traditional Japanese restaurant. Several Japanese college youth in attendance at the dinner told of, and read a statement about, their on-going campaign, which they had begun in junior high school, to awaken the world and put a stop to the use of depleted uranium in battlefield weaponry. Aaron and Julia had returned home from Hiroshima (couldn't miss any more school!), but contact information from these youth was collected and passed on to them. Hibakusha Shimohira-san also attended the dinner and joined in the Summit group's by-now renowned singing and dancing of peace.



Nagasaki youth with DU campaign

Summit Outreach in Okinawa, October 1-3

Okinawa is Japan's Hawaii – a place for winter subtropical holidays at the beach. With the East China Sea on the west and the Pacific Ocean on the east, Okinawa is strategically located at a centroid of mainland Japan, Korea, China, Taiwan, and Philippines (see regional map attached). It is thus also “home” to over 40,000 U.S. troops, with Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps bases covering 20 percent of the island's land area.









Gershon, Yumi, Maggi, Dot, Anne, Prema, and Mike land in Naha

Upon landing that bright, clear, balmy Monday morning at the Naha airport after a one-hour flight from Nagasaki, the seven remaining intrepid Summiters (photo left) were immediately separated from their luggage by their Okinawa hosts. The suitcases were taken directly to the hotel, where they would stay

until meeting up with their owners late that night. The Summiteers, meanwhile, piled with their hosts into two vans to begin a two-and-a-half-day peace tour of the island.

The profound experiences of body, mind, heart, and soul over those days, including insights into the native Okinawan philosophy of life and peace, can best be recounted through a kaleidoscopic collage:

- First-day tour of the southern part of the island, with a stop in Itoman for lunch at a women’s cooperative restaurant, located next to a traditional open-air market (photos at right) and behind another restaurant named the “Peace Restaurant.” Joining the group for lunch was a junior high school boys’ badminton team trying out their English with Dot.
- Visit to one of the ancient *gusks* of the Ryukyu Islands, the chain of islands of which the Okinawa islands are part (photo at right). “Gusk” is translated as “castle” but is more like a secluded area encircled by walls of stone and containing a number of ancestral shrines built up of stone.
- Visit to a beach (photo right) where bones were found suggesting this as a site of landing by the first peoples to come to the Ryukyus 18,000 years ago.
 - Okinawans view the ocean as a connector uniting lands and people, contrary to the traditional Western view of oceans as separators and protectors from others
- Visit to the Peace Memorial Park and its Cornerstone of Peace, commemorating the 100-day Battle of Okinawa in spring of 1945.
 - The Cornerstone of Peace contains a central fountain (photo right) that surrounds a pillar holding an eternal Flame of Peace.
 - The fountain’s waters are envisioned as ripples of peace spilling over the sides and projecting in one direction over the cliffs and out across the sea to sites of other World War II battles and present and future conflicts
 - In the other direction (photo right), the ripples of peace flow across the plaza and over a semi-circular array of 116 granite monument walls on which are inscribed the names of all 240 thousand people who lost their lives in the Battle of Okinawa – 149 thousand Okinawan civilians, 77 thousand Japanese soldiers, and 14 thousand U.S. soldiers. Yes, the American lives lost are memorialized there, too.
- Winding up the first day at a fellowship dinner party with about 30 local JUMP members and other peace activists.

- A spread of traditional foods, eaten from leaves shaped into bowls and using chopsticks fashioned from bamboo twigs (photo right).



- The 100-year-old man dancing a vigorous traditional dance in full native costume (photos right), who:

- Declared Anne to be a mama-san
- Was joined by Mike in the dance
- Afterwards changed out of his costume, donned a helmet, and sped off on his motorbike.



- One-by-one everyone sharing introductions, what peace meant, and what it meant to be there together at that time.

- Learning two traditional Okinawan phrases that demonstrate their philosophy of life:

- *Nuchi do takara* (“Life is a treasure”)
- *Ichhari ba chode* (“Once we meet, we are friends, brothers and sisters”).

- Day 2 began with a three-hour drive to the northern end of Okinawa and visit to the last subtropical rainforest on the island, near the village of Takaé and its population of 140.

- For months, the people of Takaé have been taking shifts on a 24-hour watch at two outposts (photos right) that they have set up at gates to the U.S. Marine Corps jungle training area in the forest.



- Their intention (successfully so far) is to block construction equipment from entering to build several helipads planned for that area.
- The concern is not so much against the military per se but rather that these helipads and the associated increase in military activity will threaten the already endangered species resident in the forest – and the sanctity of an ecosystem they have been living in harmony with since ancient times.



- A Marine construction engineer drove up to the gate and was engaged in friendly conversation by the group of peace activists he unexpectedly found standing on the road. He expressed his pleasure at and best wishes for their cause for peace, saying he'd served in Iraq before coming to Okinawa and wanted to go home to his family.

- From an overlook with a panoramic view of the forest (photo right), it became clear why it was familiarly called by visitors “the broccoli forest.”



- Two-hour drive, on the way eating lunch provided in compostable bento boxes – to the Pacific coast town of Henoko and

yet another encampment of local citizens on yet another ecology preservation mission next to yet another U.S. Marine Corps air station.

- Marines plan to fill the bay for two new runways – right in the midst of the feeding grounds for the few remaining endangered *dugong* (manatee).
- The international Greenpeace ship Esperanza at anchor offshore, its crew there in support of the Greenpeace Japan activists and local citizens.
- Donned life vests and wettable clothing, and joined Greenpeace in rubber inflatable dinghies (photo right), bouncing across the bay in front of the USMC air station to a lighthouse island, and climbed to a peak to view the affected area.
- Marines claim the 1965 environmental impact statement is sufficient and allows them to proceed; local community and visitors feel a new one is called for and, in any case, all U.S. military construction projects overseas should adhere to U.S. environmental protection and impact assessment requirements.



Lighthouse view to proposed runway site

- Mad dash to Ryukyu University to change clothes in time to participate in a public Symposium:
 - Preceded by a taiko drumming concert (photo right)
 - Dot on the panel with Yumi and two Japanese peace and ecology experts (photo below right)
 - Three questions addressed: What does peace mean to you? What can each of us do to help bring it about? What kinds of cooperative relationships are necessary for peace? (Dot's prepared remarks attached)



- Followed by a fabulous food-filled fête and exhausted return to hotel
- Day 3 entailed loading luggage and one more visit before heading for the airport:
 - Kyoto Park, a memorial of peace to the Japanese soldiers from the Kyoto area who died in the Battle of Okinawa
 - From there, a panoramic view of Naha and the Marine Corps air station embedded in the heart of urban Naha
 - Airport farewells and gifts, including:



- Prepared speeches, in English, from two junior high school students about how the Summit visitors planted seeds of peace in their hearts and how they want to work for peace
- Summiteers recognized the students, in turn, as heroes and peacebuilders
- Their accompanying teacher in tears throughout.

Looking Ahead

The Japan Summit was a turning point for the Global Alliance, as participants realized the depth and breadth of possibility of our work internally as peacebuilders and externally as "lay" ministers and secretaries of peace. There is a momentum building that will undoubtedly lead to increased participation and visibility.

Further, it seems inevitable that we will continue to see more countries initiating ministries and departments of peace as we make the shift from living in a culture of violence to living in a culture of peace, and as we take action, each in our own way, to establish the conditions for a culture of peace.

SUMMIT OPENING REMARKS

Dot Maver

Executive Director, U.S. Peace Alliance

September 21, 2007

This is an historic occasion. For the first time in modern history we have Ministries of Peace in two countries and another pending, and their primary job is to provide choices to deal with conflict wisely and responsibly before it escalates to violence:

Solomon Islands – Ministry of National Unity, Reconciliation, and Peace

Nepal – Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction

Costa Rica – Ministry of Justice and Peace



*Dot Maver, speaker
Gen Morita, interpreter*

We are part of a social change movement, perhaps the largest social change movement in the history of humanity. All over the world individuals and groups are working to create the conditions that support Life itself. So many of you here tonight are helping to lay the foundation stones for a culture of peace in the work that you do in the world. Thank you. We are grateful to celebrate together the International Day of Peace.

We live in challenging times. The human family faces a crisis of epidemic proportion. And its name is violence.

And yet humanity is on the verge of taking a step no less significant than the one we took from the Dark Ages to the Renaissance as we shift from living in a culture of violence to living in a culture of peace.

We know how to deal with conflict wisely and responsibly and are doing it effectively in some places around the world. It is time to make peacebuilding our top priority and our first course of action when faced with conflict. In fact it is time to make violence history.

The Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace is honored to celebrate the United Nations International Day of Peace here in Japan – a country that actually already contains the seed for a culture of peace in its constitution – Article 9. I wish every country had an Article 9.

Japan is also one of the very few countries – out of 192 – who since WWII ended have not gone to war – Arigato. You are helping lead the way to the end of the beginning of all war.

And this is part of our work in the Global Alliance as we call for ministries and departments of peace. We are calling for a Fresh Approach – ministers and secretaries at the highest level of government whose job it is to offer nonviolent and peaceful means of resolving conflict. Applied peacebuilding as a leading political stance; government and civil society cooperation in the peace process; creating the conditions for a culture of peace.

We call on governments around the world to make it a top priority to provide coordination and funding to support the prevention of violence at the level of root cause – all kinds of violence – violence against women, school violence, ethnic violence, gang violence, prison violence, environmental violence, and, yes, war.

As we open our Global Alliance Summit and work together to create a world that works for everyone I cannot help but think that one day the International Day of Peace will fade into memory as every day will be an international day of peace.

Imagine a world where our children learn conflict resolution, mediation and peacebuilding skills at a young age; a world where we experience human security as supporting civil society infrastructure; a safe, sustainable world where conflict is welcome and as a matter of course we deal with it peacefully.

Imagine a world where our governments invest time and money in research, programs, practices, and dialogue for peace and nonviolence. It is the most practical thing we can do for our human security as a global family.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Nobel Laureate Betty Williams and so many more support this idea whose time has come. In fact, Walter Cronkite, a leading journalist said, “This Department of Peace is more than a piece of legislation. It is a philosophical revolution.”

Together we are helping to create the conditions for peace and nonviolence to be organizing principles of our society – the conditions for a culture of peace - the conditions for Life itself.

Thank you for celebrating with us!



COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE THIRD GLOBAL SUMMIT FOR MINISTRIES AND DEPARTMENTS OF PEACE

Summit Calls for Ministries and Departments of Peace in All Nations

The 3rd Global Summit for Ministries and Departments of Peace took place September 21-26 in Kisarazu and Tokyo, Japan. This extraordinary event began on the International Day of Peace and Global Ceasefire declared by the UN. It featured 21 country delegations¹, representing both civil society and parliamentarians, from all five continents, including Nepal, which became the second country after the Solomon Islands to form a Ministry of Peace, and Rwanda, a country that experienced genocide in 1994. The event was sponsored by the Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace numbering more than 25 countries and hosted by its Japanese member, Japan United for Ministry of Peace (JUMP).

Ministries and Departments of Peace are dedicated to creating a culture of peace within and between countries where the Ministers of Peace would meet to reduce violence and war through non-violent conflict resolution.

A principal purpose of this Summit in Japan was to support the peaceful nature of the Japanese Constitution, now under review, and to advocate that all countries create peace constitutions.

Over the four days of meeting, the Summit heard reports from each country, carried out a series of intensive training towards the formation of Ministries and Departments of Peace within their respective governments, and resolved to witness the creation at least two more ministries by the next Summit, with Costa Rica as the most likely to declare. “This summit empowered each one of the participants and gave the Global Alliance the power to go forward,” said Yumi Kikuchi, founder and chair of JUMP.

At the summit the Africa Alliance for Peace emerged, initiated by delegates from Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa and Uganda.

The Global Alliance calls for structures in governments and civil society that support a culture of peace, working together with all sectors in each country, especially youth, towards that goal.

Contact: Yumi Kikuchi of Japan United for Ministry of Peace (JUMP), a member of Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace (email: info@ministryofpeace.jp).

¹ Countries represented were: Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Costa Rica, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Palestine, the Philippines, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Uganda, UK and USA.

OKINAWA REGIONAL MAP



OKINAWA SYMPOSIUM REMARKS

Dot Maver

Executive Director, U.S. Peace Alliance

October 2, 2007

It is an honor and a joy to be in Okinawa, where the wave of peace ripples out from Peace Memorial Park, blessing and healing the world. We have visited many sacred sites – the Castle, Takaé, and today the shallow ocean at Henoko where the Dugong live – my life is changed forever – *arigato*.

I have three things to share with you today:

1. Why I think it is so important for us to work together for peace.
2. The exciting news about the Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace, and The Peace Alliance in the USA.
3. Action steps we can take and how we can cooperate to create the conditions for peace and nonviolence to be organizing principles in our lives.

To me, peace is not just the opposite of war or the absence of violence. Peace is the presence of Truth and the livingness of a healthy and sustainable environment. This means everyone's needs are met, including Mother Earth.

We are living in a time of great social change – the largest social change movement in our history. We are, as a human family, learning what Okinawans have always known: *Nuchi do takara* (Life is a treasure).

And the global family is finding its voice and speaking the truth – we are one people with one heartbeat and it is time to live in peace.

However, we face a great challenge together. We are in crisis. There is violence everywhere, including violence to our beloved Mother Earth.

How will we move from living in a culture of violence to a culture of peace? How will we learn to deal with conflict wisely and in nonviolent ways before it escalates into violence?

It is in response to this demand that a Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace was born just two years ago. We are calling on our governments in every country to establish a ministry or department of peace in order to make peacebuilding a priority.

It is time to invest time and resources – including money – in preventing violence and consciously educating ourselves, especially our children, in the ways of peace and sustainability. This is what will lead to true human security.

Thanks to Yumi-san and JUMP, we just held our 3rd Global Alliance Summit in Japan, where 50 people from 20 countries and six continents met to celebrate, learn from one another applied

peacebuilding skills, and discover how we can help one another in our campaigns and inspire and nurture new ones.

Perhaps the single most important thing any of us can do is choose to live peace in our own lives. And there is a critical role for government as well as other social/economic institutions to play in creating the conditions for peace.

In the words of the Hibakusha we met in Nagasaki...”No more Hiroshima; no more Nagasaki; no more nuclear bombs; no more war.”

I am happy to tell you that millions of people in the USA are working for peace. And I represent The Peace Alliance. We are a nationwide grassroots movement, and there is now a bill in the US Congress to establish a US Department of Peace and Nonviolence. It has support from 68 members of congress and there will be:

- a Secretary of Peace with both international and domestic responsibilities
- a National Peace Academy
- programs in our communities to prevent violence, offering peace education, conflict resolution and mediation training for all children, creating the conditions for a culture of peace

We need a new approach to human security. It is time to ask the question: ‘What are the conditions necessary for a culture of peace to grow?’

Here are some ideas:

1. Dialogue – a fresh approach is needed. For example, here in Okinawa 20% of the main island is US military bases. We must ask, “Is this a condition to grow a culture of peace? Is this really an effective path to human security?”

And I applaud the courage of over 100,000 Okinawans who took a united stand for keeping the truth in your history books. Again it is so important to dialogue and to ask: “Is changing history a condition to grow a culture of peace?”

And Japan already has a Peace Constitution – Article 9 which demonstrates conditions to grow a culture of peace. This is an effective path to human security.

2. You already have a peace movement right here in Okinawa. I encourage you to unify your efforts and meet with San Geen Gen Shokichi Kina. We met San Geen Gen Kina in Tokyo at the Diet and he said, “The United States brought Japan peace, economy, and politics. Japan returned economy and politics to the United States but not peace yet. It is time to return peace to the US now.”
3. And please work with Yumi-san and JUMP for a Minister of Peace in the Japanese Government. Let your politicians know that Japan is already a beacon of peace to the rest of the world. I wish every country had an Article 9.

It has been very healing to be here in Japan and to be so lovingly welcomed. From Pearl Harbor to Okinawa we share a painful past.

I am mindful of our visit to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial. As we left, there was a young American boy – no more than 11 years old. He was sitting on the curb crying/sobbing with his head in his hands. When asked, “Are you hurting?” he replied through tears, “I feel so ashamed.”

So now, as brothers and sisters who share a painful past, let us stand together for peace and teach our children to love.

Please share your Okinawan wisdom with us...ichari ba chode

Domo arigato.