

BEYOND NUCLEAR PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Linda Gunter, Beyond Nuclear, 301.455.5655

Japanese Fukushima eye-witnesses to speak in New York about disaster aftermath Delegation calls for an end to nuclear power in Japan and globally

New York, NY, September 8, 2011 – A farming family from the now radioactively contaminated Fukushima region along with one American and three leading anti-nuclear campaigners from Japan, will be in New York City on September 21 and 22. The group will deliver eye-witness accounts about the health impacts and continued contamination produced by the Fukushima-Daiichi reactor units that suffered catastrophic damage on March 11, 2011 and the similar risk of a Fukushima-type nuclear accident in the US.

A public forum, open to the press, will be held on Thursday, September 22, from 12-2pm at the American Friends Service Committee's Meetinghouse at 15 Rutherford Place, between 15th and 16th Streets, and 2nd and 3rd Avenues in New York City.

The speakers will be available to the press from 11am-12pm for one-on-one interviews as well as during the presentations when they will take questions from the audience. Press not available then should contact Linda Gunter above for other openings for interviews.

“The immense suffering of people affected by the Fukushima-Daiichi disaster can only be given meaning if we now learn from this catastrophe and those that preceded it at Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Three Mile Island, Chernobyl and elsewhere”, said Kaori Izumi, director of Shut Tomari and one of the speakers. “We appeal to the world to put an end to the age of nuclear power in the wake of Fukushima. Otherwise it can happen again, at Fukushima, at Indian Point or anywhere that reactors are still operating.”

The group will also speak at a September 21 screening of the new documentary film, "Knocking on the Devil's Door: Our Deadly Nuclear Legacy," directed by Gary Null, which will be shown at 5pm at the Ethical Culture Society, 2 West 64th Street at Central Park West in New York City.

The delegation is appealing to the UN High Commission on Human Rights to recognize and address the plight of children in the Fukushima region, many of whom were not evacuated far enough – or at all – out of harm’s way from the radiation contamination due to the reactor meltdowns. The speakers are also asking that the Fukushima disaster becomes a new opportunity for the world to shut down all nuclear power plants.

Sachiko Sato, an organic farmer from Fukushima and a board member of “Fukushima Network for Saving Children from Radiation” and her 13- and 17-year old children, Mina and Yuuki, will talk about the disruption to their lives and livelihoods. Yukiko Anzai, who lives near the now re-started Tomari reactor, will talk about the fate of farmers after the meltdowns; Kaori Izumi, director of Shut Tomari, will discuss the unhealthy and corrupting relationship between government, business, the media and pro-nuclear intellectuals and the judiciary. Aileen Mioko Smith, Executive Director of Green Action and a veteran anti-nuclear campaigner in Japan will speak about the plight of Japan’s children and the petition she submitted on their behalf to the UN. Kevin Kamps of Beyond Nuclear will draw the US-Japan connections and describe the U.S. “Freeze our Fukushimas” campaign, a first step in shutting down 23 US reactors identical to those at Fukushima-Daiichi Units 1-4 as part of a goal to phase out operation at all 104 US reactors.

The presentations take place on the same day that UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon is hosting a high level meeting in response to the Fukushima catastrophe.

-30-

The event is co-sponsored by: Abolition 2000 NY Metro ■ American Friends Service Committee ■ Beyond Nuclear ■ Fukushima Network for Saving Children from Radiation ■ Granny Peace Brigade ■ Green Action ■ Nuclear Age Peace Foundation ■ Physicians for Social Responsibility, NY ■ Shut Down Indian Point Now ■ Shut Tomari ■ Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom

Beyond Nuclear aims to educate and activate the public about the connections between nuclear power and nuclear weapons and the need to abandon both to safeguard our future. Beyond Nuclear advocates for an energy future that is sustainable, benign and democratic. Beyond Nuclear: 6930 Carroll Avenue, Suite 400, Takoma Park, MD 20912. www.BeyondNuclear.org. Tel: 301.270.2209. Email: info@beyondnuclear.org.