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*Abolish Nuclear Weapons*

The quotation by Beatrice Fihn is a reminder that the future is in our hands. I am lucky to be here today because my great grandmother survived the bombing of Hiroshima. She recently passed away at the age of 90, but I was able to hear first hand on how destructive a nuclear weapon can be. "The story of nuclear weapons will have an ending, and it is up to us what the ending will be. Will it be the end of the nuclear weapons, or will it be the end of us?"

I went to Japan in March 2014 with my family for 12 days. Part of my trip was to visit my family in Hiroshima. My parents took me to the Peace Museum. It was there where I could hear my great grandmother talk about the destruction the atomic bomb had caused. My great grandmother was 23 years old when the Atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan on August 6, 1945. When my great grandmother was home making lunch, she said she saw a flash of light. She was not in the direct blast of the atomic bomb. Her family was protected by a hill that caused the blast to deflect from where she was.

My great grandmother did not talk much about the aftermath except that she became a nurse that day and was seeing the river filled with blood. She later helped pick maggots out of people with chopsticks. She later suffered from thyroid cancer and was researched by Japan as a survivor until the day she passed.

Being able to see the beautiful city in which it was once annihilated by an atomic bomb has made me see that there should never be a reason to use such a force on innocent civilians. My great grandmother said that she could still smell the burning flesh in her dreams.

Although I was young when I visited Hiroshima, I will never forget how amazing and beautiful it is now. Nuclear weapons will be the end of us if we do nothing to stop it. Globally we must all unite and look at history and its horrors and never repeat them again.

I will never understand the fear, helplessness, and loss my great grandmother has felt, but I can tell you I can learn from her words and experiences. It's up to my generation to step up and globally speak up about getting rid of nuclear weapons, or one day it will be our undoing.