



MIDDLE POWERS INITIATIVE

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MPI Mourns the Tragic Death of Mayor Iccho Itoh

Dear Friends,

The Middle Powers Initiative is heartbroken at the death of Mayor Iccho Itoh of Nagasaki. Many of us, myself included, knew Mayor Itoh; we saw him in action, always caring about the devastating effects of nuclear weapons; we saw him at conferences; we saw him among his people in Nagasaki. I personally will always remember him leading the parade of NGOs through Manhattan at the 2005 NPT Review Conference. He always appeared to me to be a modest man, even humble yet recognizing that, in virtue of his office, he was a spokesman for the victims of atomic warfare.

To think that he was killed in a senseless act of violence compounds our grief. We wonder, at first, what is coming of our world when the Mayor of Nagasaki, of all places, is killed in violence. Then we remember the culture of violence and war that has infected the world and how nuclear weapons, and the willingness to actually use them, spares no one, not even the very symbol of the effects of nuclear madness. There is only one way we can, in retaining our sanity and paying our respects to Iccho Itoh, give meaning to our grief and that is to re-double our efforts to reduce violence and eliminate entirely the paramount instruments of violence: nuclear weapons. It is not enough to express our grief at the death of Mayor Itoh. We must pledge to Mayor Itoh and the people of Nagasaki and Hiroshima our unstoppable drive to eliminate all nuclear weapons.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Douglas Roche". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Hon. Douglas Roche, O.C.
Chairman, Middle Powers Initiative