



**31.8.2015 - In Japan earlier this month, I had the privilege to meet Makoto Takahara, who was 17 when the nuclear bomb detonated over his home city Hiroshima. Hearing his first-hand account of the horrors he witnessed then once again put into sharp focus for me the threat posed by nuclear weapons. I am proud to support the Hibakusha, as the survivors are known, in calling on the world: No more Hiroshima; no more Nagasaki.**

The more than 2,000 nuclear tests conducted during the Cold War paved the way for the development of weapons that dwarf the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombs in explosive power. Populations downwind from the test sites paid with their health and often their lives.

One of the most affected areas was Semipalatinsk in Kazakhstan. August 29 marks the day of the first nuclear test at Semipalatinsk, as well as the site's closure in 1991 by the newly independent Kazakhstan. At the country's initiative, the date has been commemorated since 2010 as the International Day against Nuclear Tests.



[DataCamp: Nuclear tests 1945-1994](#) - This infographic shows the number of nuclear tests conducted by Canada, United Kingdom, France, Soviet Union, and the United States. The Soviet Union conducted the most tests, followed by the United States.