

Hey Everybody, It's our Turn!

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Do you know Hotojima, a small island in Tsukumi city, was attacked by the US air force in 1945? I have learned about world war II since I was little. When I was in the 1st grade of elementary school, I learned that there were three air raids in Oita prefecture during the war, and the Hotojima air raid was among them. A fighter plane dropped three bombs on Hotojima, and one of them hit an elementary school during school hours. 124 children and 2 teachers were killed instantly, and 75 people were injured. I was horrified. I wondered why the US air force had to kill the children. They each had hopes and dreams but they were taken away from them in an instance. Why? Why should they die in such a terror? Isn't it a fundamental human right to live a long and happy life?

“Wars should never happen again”

This is the first thing that comes to my mind whenever I learn about tragic events in the past. At the same time, I wonder why we cannot be free from war. How can we stop war from happening? In Japan, 70 years have passed since the last war. The younger generations don't actually know what war is. The number of people who directly experienced war is decreasing. If we do not listen to their story now, we will miss the chance to pass on their hope for peace. Why don't we take action now?

The second thing I think of is “We should care more about the situation in the world”. Now we are living in ‘the Information Age’. We cannot be ignorant of what is going on in the world. Once we come to know the horrible truth of war, it should be our responsibility to take action to make the world a better place. Each of us should consider what we can do. I believe this is the first step to making a peaceful society.

The final thing to consider is this: “Vote for a person who is actively promoting peace”

The Japanese government is trying to revise its Constitution. The voting age was lowered from 20 to 18 years old. Getting involved in the election is important for young people because they can make their own decisions about the future. Now I'm seventeen. I will be able to vote next year. I'm happy to take part in the decision making process.

We should know about the tragic past events and learn from them. Think about the future and try to choose the best way possible. What we do now can make a big difference in our future, either in a happy way or in a tragic way. Our future is in OUR hands.