

Two of the Fukushima mothers also spoke at a public meeting the following evening at The School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), where a film about Fukushima was also shown. This meeting was arranged by SOAS CND. David Polden.

Videos of speakers at the event, as recorded by Rik:

Intro: Caroline Lucas MP <https://youtu.be/135Irt07z4w> 8m 14s

1. Dr Ian Fairlie https://youtu.be/JFZ_IzNNFG4 8m 34s

2. Asami Yokota <https://youtu.be/PPw3vF4I7nA> 15m 52s

3. Akiko Morimatsu <https://youtu.be/-0y-g8db0Sg> 18m 41s

4. Ms Sonoda https://youtu.be/sPF_oXhkBEk 16m 14s

BUNNY SPEAKS TO JAPANESE PM

Bunny, now in his late 80s, for many years has been a regular participant in Kick Nuclear's weekly vigils outside the Japanese Embassy and TEPCO.

On March 29th at the monthly "read-out" through a loud-hailer outside the Embassy, Bunny got the chance to address the Japanese Prime Minister (in his absence! – Bunny's address had to be delivered to the Embassy to pass on.)

Bunny said: "Mr. Abe, I am Bunny Easton, here to tell you it is high time that you took steps to ensure that the nuclear material from Fukushima is prevented from entering the Pacific. It is high time that you ensured that no people are living in areas where there is a high level of nuclear radiation or risk of being affected by nuclear particles in the atmosphere.

No doubt, Mr. Abe, you will tell Bunny Easton to shut up because he is not a citizen of Japan; he has never even visited Japan and has no reason whatsoever to tell the PM what to do.

Mr. Abe, Japan is a member of the UN, so let me ask you to ascertain exactly what the UN specifies about safe levels of nuclear radiation, the environment in which it is unsafe for human beings to inhabit following a disaster such as that at Fukushima on the 11th March 2011. Perhaps you have already done this, so please let me know what you were told as the information reaching me is that guidance from that body is being decidedly disregarded in your country.

You can tell Bunny Easton to shut up, Mr. Abe, but nuclear material from Fukushima is still finding its way into the Pacific Ocean and there are reports that marine life on the West Coast of America has been adversely affected.

People in Japan suffering because they have been inadequately compensated for the appalling consequences and for lack of proper care following the Fukushima disaster

Yes, tell Bunny Easton to shut up, but listen to your own people who protest on Friday mornings against the unsatisfactory way you are dealing with the tragic situation.

Listen to your own people, Mr. Abe.

KICK NUCLEAR & NUCLEAR TRAINS

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REGULAR FRIDAY SOLIDARITY VIGILS

Every Friday (since August 2012): leafletting outside the Japanese Embassy, 101-104 Piccadilly (Green Park tube) from 10am-12.30pm; and then outside Tokyo Electric Power Co. offices, 14-18 Holborn (Chancery Lane tube) from 1-1.30pm. Held in solidarity with the anti-nuclear movement in Japan. Organised by: *Kick Nuclear* and *Japanese Against Nuclear UK* (JAN UK)

NEXT JOINT KN/NTAG PLANNING MEETINGS

Thursday April 18th, 7pm, at CND Office (Address above.)

OTHER ACTION

Saturday April 27th, near Preston: "Surround Springfields nuclear fuel production factory." Organised by Stop New Nuclear. Info: www.stopnewnuclear.org.uk

FUKUSHIMA'S 8th ANNIVERSARY

Since March 2012 Kick Nuclear and Japanese Against Nuclear UK have jointly organised annual events to mark anniversaries of the Fukushima disaster. The aim is to remind people of that disaster, that the plant is continuing to spew vast amounts of radioactive water into the Pacific, has produced vast piles of radioactive soil dumped over a large area and has led to thousands of Japanese being evacuated from their homes on a long-term basis.

We argue that this and previous nuclear disasters show that nuclear power production is dangerous and that the UK should scrap nuclear power for less dangerous and polluting ways of producing electricity such as such as renewable wind and solar power. These means of producing electricity are now much cheaper ways of doing than using nuclear power.

The events organised by Kick Nuclear, as in previous years, comprised a candle-lit vigil outside the Japanese Embassy in Piccadilly, a march from the Japanese Embassy to Parliament for a rally in Old Palace Yard, and a Public Meeting in Parliament.

The vigil was held on the anniversary of the disaster, March 11th, a rather cold, damp evening, with numbers down from previous years. We attached banners to the fence opposite the Embassy for passers-by, leafletted them and read out short speeches and poems. Two peace Buddhists, Rev. Nagase from Battersea Peace Pagoda and Sister Marta from the Milton Keynes one took part. Nagase spoke, following by chanting from both of them accompanied by drumming.

The march and rally, was held on the following Saturday. About 50 took part, but our colourful posters and banners and people in striking costumes must have caught the attention of the many passers-by. We stopped outside Lockheed-Martin offices in lower Regent Street to point out and deplored the company to marchers and passers-by – it has a major role as part-owner of Aldermaston and Burghfield, UK’s nuclear warhead factories



We then stopped outside Downing Street for photographs, such as the one shown alongside, and then continued to Old Palace Yard. Here, as usual, we used the plinth of the George V statue as our stage. Shigeo Kobayashi was introducing the event when two police came up to me on the plinth (I was compère) and told me we couldn’t use the microphone, as there was a law against using amplified equipment near Parliament; if we continued to use it we could be arrested and the equipment confiscated. I informed the rally – over the microphone! – that the police said we couldn’t use it and had suggested we moved

to an area we could use it in. The crowd was not enthused by this idea, and we continued without a microphone; everybody clustered around the plinth so they could hear the speakers and performers. This proved fairly satisfactory in the event as the rally was quite small. However it did constitute a serious restriction on our freedom of expression as of course it meant the views expressed by our speakers were prevented from being conveyed to passers-by outside the circle of our supporters.

We had a good line-up of speakers and performers. The speakers included Bruce Kent, Kate Hudson, three representatives of other anti-nuclear groups, Neil Crumpton of People Against Wylfa B, Roy Pumfrey of Stop Hinkley and Tim Richards of the Welsh Anti-Nuclear Alliance, and Japanese Against Nuclear UK member Kaori Mikata-Pralat reading a statement of support from Japan. Among performers Shigeo’s son Simon sang as did Paul Steele, who sang Dylan’s apposite “A hard rain’s gonna fall” and Kamura who, with a companion sang and played a Japanese song. Ann Garrett read her own poems about Fukushima. The rally ended with a group from the Red and Green Choir and Raised Voices singing peace songs.

The public meeting in Parliament focussed on the experiences and campaigning of Japanese refugees from the Fukushima area. Three Japanese mothers spoke, Asami Yokota, Akiko Morimatsu (shown in the middle speaking, flanked by interpreter Kaori, and by Caroline Lucas MP, who hosted and chaired the event) and Ms Sonoda, the first two of them in Japanese.



This didn’t prove a great problem, because of excellent interpreters, including Kaori and Shigeo, and because the speakers were able to express their feelings clearly in the way they spoke even to non-Japanese speakers. Two of the mothers had evacuated from the Fukushima area after the disaster and Asami’s 15-year old son had done son alone. They were followed by Dr. Ian Fairlie, who explained how the disaster had happened and the continuing dangers from the stricken plant. Altogether a very satisfactory and moving event.