

Ban development and use of nuclear weapons

IT has been 70 years since the atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan.

On Aug 6, 1945, the nature of global warfare changed forever when the first bomb was dropped over Hiroshima.

The attack was ordered by United States President Harry S. Truman who argued that the nuclear bomb was necessary to force Japan to surrender and end the atrocities perpetrated by the Japanese military in the Asian

countries they occupied. Though the exact number of people who died as a result of the bombs cannot be ascertained, the majority of the victims were innocent civilians.

Since then, there have been many debates on the justification for using a weapon of mass destruction especially on civilians.

Many critics say the US should never have dropped the bomb, and opinions are strongly divided till today.

To commemorate the 70th anniversary of the destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan will submit a new draft resolution to the United Nations on the elimination of nuclear weapons. The draft resolution will be submitted at the 70th session of the UN General Assembly in September, as stated by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony recently.

The resolution should be fully

supported by all nations including Malaysia. Currently, there are international conventions prohibiting the development and use of biological weapons, chemical weapons, land mines and cluster munitions but none for nuclear weapons even though they have the greatest destructive capacity compared to all other weapons of mass destruction.

A total ban on the development and use of nuclear weapons will make it illegal for nations to devel-

op, use or even possess nuclear weapons. The current Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and the creation of Non-Nuclear Zones in several areas have helped to prevent the use and limit the spread of nuclear weapons but more still needs to be done to put an end to the development and use of nuclear weapons.

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