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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-0509

Congresswoman Barbara Lee
Japanese Peace Lantern Ceremony Statement
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It is my pleasure to welcome all of you to the Fifth Annual Japanese Peace Lantern Ceremony here in Berkeley.

This year marks the 61st anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombings of Hiroshima, a horrific event that killed at least 100,000 civilians outright and many more over time, and which was soon followed by the horrendous attack on Nagasaki.

Today we must come together to reflect upon the devastation caused by this atrocious act, and reaffirm our commitment not only to preventing the creation and use of nuclear weapons, but also to promoting peaceful and non-violent methods of conflict resolution here at home and around the world.

Events in the Middle East, North Korea, Iran and Iraq pose a renewed threat to peace and global security and the consequences of the administration's failed foreign policy are proving all too real.

As a member on the International Relations Committee in the U.S. House of Representatives, I have fought to uphold America's commitment to arms control, cooperative threat reduction, and also to establish a federal Department of Peace.

I have long been an outspoken critic of the Bush administration's belligerent approach to international relations, blatant disregard for the consequences of its reckless use of military force in Iraq and unilateral actions as a member of the international community.

Because of the hard work of organizations and people like you, the movement for worldwide peace and justice has remained strong and continues to grow.

I support the efforts of the Japanese Peace Lantern Project and other groups in their stand against violence, and your continued work toward to creating a peaceful future for all people.

Thank you all for being here tonight, and for your continued commitment to peace and security.

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