



Speaker: **Karipbek Kuyukov/ Atom Project, Kazakhstan**

Artist and honorary ambassador of the ATOM project

Karipbek Kuyukov is an artist and nuclear nonproliferation activist born without arms as a result of his parents exposure to radiation from nuclear weapons testing. He has devoted his life and art to making sure that no one else suffers the devastating effects of nuclear weapons testing. He was born in 1968 in the village of Yegindybulak, 100 km from the former Semipalatinsk test site. His parents were living witnesses of nuclear tests - his father worked as a driver and often traveled through the steppe into the territory of the test site, while his mother said that she saw a bright flash, after which it grew dark, as at night.

Before the birth of Karipbek Kuyukov, his family had two children, but they did not live to be 1 year old. When Karipbek was born, his mother experienced such a severe shock that she could not approach the child for three days. Then the doctors called his father and offered to give him an injection, but his father refused...

In 1989 he became an active participant in the anti-nuclear movement Nevada Semipalatinsk. Exhibitions of Karipbek Kuyukov's paintings have been held in Japan, the USA, Germany and Turkey.

In 2013, Karipbek Kuyukov became an honorary ambassador of the ATOM project.

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Hello Forum participants. I would like to greet all the participants and say thank you very much to the organizers of [the Forum](#) because nuclear tests are still relevant. And there are a lot of people on this planet who are naturally not indifferent to the fight against nuclear weapons.

I would like to introduce myself. My name is Karipbek Kuyukov. I was born in 1968, in the village of Yegindybulak. My village is literally 100 kilometers from the former Semipalatinsk nuclear test site. As you know, in the history of Kazakhstan, for 40 years we had a huge number of nuclear tests at the Semipalatinsk Test Site. The official figure for the victims of nuclear tests is somewhere around 2 million people, although in fact there are many more.

I would like to say a huge hello to all my friends from Japan. I have often been there. I personally know some of the victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. I was in Hiroshima back in 1990. On August 6, we participated in a rally dedicated to the 40th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. I think this story of friendship between Kazakhstan and Japan is a good example for other countries to follow. Generally speaking, it is believed that the two countries that suffered from nuclear weapons were Japan and Kazakhstan.

I would like to wish all the participants in today's Forum first of all good health because we need good health to continue the fight against nuclear weapons. At this moment I am an honorary ambassador of the Atom Project. There is an online petition on the Project Atom website, where each of you can enter and cast your vote against nuclear weapons.

I would also like to thank all of the organizers of this Forum, the organization we cooperated with, ICAN. I remember we held conferences together in Vienna and Ankara in Turkey. I think a great job was done and of course it was appreciated. I took part in the Nobel Peace Prize Award ceremony. I believe this prize is well deserved. So now we have to fight for the number, the more of us, the stronger we are.



Once again, a huge bow to everybody, a huge thank you, and good health to everybody. And I think that we will come to our common victory.

#### Disclaimer

This transcript is at the responsibility of Peace Boat and may not be completely the same as the original testimony. The original testimony was presented online at the World Nuclear Survivors Forum 2021 on December 2-3, where over 30 nuclear survivors from five continents around the world shared their voices with more than 1000 people. The Forum was hosted by Peace Boat in partnership with the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). The stories and panel discussions are all available for viewing on demand via Youtube or on our website here: <https://nuclearsurvivors.org>