

Hiroshima mayor calls nuclear deterrence ‘folly’ as city marks 78th anniversary of atomic bombing



Visitors pay in front of the cenotaph dedicated to the victims of the atomic bombing at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima, western Japan Sunday, Aug. 6, 2023. Hiroshima marked the 78th anniversary of the world's first atomic bombing of the city. (Kyodo News via AP)

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BY MARI YAMAGUCHI

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TOKYO (AP) — Hiroshima officials criticized growing support for nuclear weapons as a deterrent resulting from uneasiness over Russia's war in Ukraine and tensions in the Koreas, commenting Sunday as the city remembered the atomic bombing of 78 years ago.

The observance came two months after Hiroshima hosted a summit of the Group of 7 major industrial nations, at which G7 leaders visited the city's peace park and a museum dedicated to those who died in the world's first atomic attack.

The leaders issued a joint statement calling for the continued non-use of nuclear weapons, but they also justified having such arms to "serve defensive purposes, deter aggression and prevent war and coercion."

Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui rejected that position in his peace address at the commemoration.