

Testimony Sugino Nobuko

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Ms. SUGINO Nobuko

Hiroshima Survivor (exposed to a-bomb at age 1)

Ms Sugino was exposed to the atomic bomb at her house, 1.3 km from the hypocenter. Although she and her mother were trapped under the collapsed house, a neighbor helped them and they survived. Her elder brother, who was drafted into the military as a student, died in an explosion near the hypocenter. Her elder sister also passed away 20 days after the bombing due to severe burns. Ms. Sugino was too young to have a clear memory of the bombing; however, she is a member of an organization of atomic bomb sufferers in Tokyo who record testimonies given by other survivors. In 2012, she started giving testimony herself with the help of her mother's memories.

My name is Nobuko Sugino. I was a year and 6months old when the atomic bomb dropped in Hiroshima. Of course, I do not have the memories around those time. After I grew up, I asked my mother one day. I thought I need to hear from her before she is gone or else, I will know nothing about that day. The story I am going to tell you is what my mother had shared. 1分12
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On the morning of August 6th 1945, my mother and I were 1.3km away from the hypo-center. We were caught under the collapsed house and our neighbors helped us to get out. My brother was 13 years old that time. All students including my brother were doing labor work for the country near the hypo-center. The students and the teacher all died from the bomb. No bodies were found.

My older sister was 8 years old, 2nd grade in elementary school. She went to school that day a little before 8am.

After the a-bomb was dropped, people ran towards the mountains to escape from the heat. As we ran, my mother and I bumped into a friend. She was with two girls. In one hand, she was holding her daughter's hand and on the other, she was holding my sister's hand. We were so lucky to meet them by chance. We were truely lucky. My mother was carrying me, so my sister grabbed my mothers skirt as we evacuated into an elementary school in the suburbs.

In the classroom, my mother and my sister both sat in exhaustion. Several people who were sitting eventually died. All night long, my mother saw them gradually die. My sister had a severe burn and could not even talk a word.

The next day, we took a train to leave Hiroshima to evacuate to my grandmother's house. At her house, my sister who had a severe burn tried to recover, but passed