

# Non-combatant Immunity

Names: Jinyu Hu and Jack Gorman  
Advisor: Kelly Johnson

## Question

- Was the US dropping atomic bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 in line with the Catholic teaching of non-combatant immunity?



## Non-Combatant Immunity In Japan

Many civilians died in the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

- 70,000-135,000 died in Hiroshima
- 60,000-80,000 died in Nagasaki

## Complexities/Questions

Who counts as a noncombatant?

*Combatant*

*Non-Combatant*

Soldier

Local barber

?

Farmer who sells food to military

“There are large numbers of people even in the condition of modern warfare who are clearly to be classified as innocent non-combatants.”

John C. Ford

## Background

### ***Non-combatant immunity:***

“civilians may not be the object of direct attack, and military personnel must take due care to avoid and minimize indirect harm to civilians.”

According to USCCB statement “The Harvest of Justice is Sown in Peace”

## Conclusion

The US violated the Catholic teaching of non-combatant immunity because the residents of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, most of whom were non-combatants, were the “object of direct attack” in the bombings.

### References:

- <https://www.usccb.org/resources/harvest-justice-sown-peace>
- [https://files.ecatholic.com/17613/documents/2022/1/22/0111\\_ABW\\_Pastoral\\_Letter\\_LivingintheLightofChristsPeace\\_Official\\_Reduced.pdf?t=1641922875000](https://files.ecatholic.com/17613/documents/2022/1/22/0111_ABW_Pastoral_Letter_LivingintheLightofChristsPeace_Official_Reduced.pdf?t=1641922875000)
- <https://theahi.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Ford-Morality-of-Obliteration-Bombing.pdf>