

In memoriam

Recalling Shinzo Abe's devotion to public service

THE JAPAN TIMES AGENCY

Long-standing politician and former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's funeral was held on July 12 at Zojoji temple in central Tokyo. The wake, held the previous night, was attended by around 2,500 people. Japanese and foreign dignitaries gathered to pay their final respects to Abe, who was killed in an attack on July 8 in Nara. He was 67.

Around the globe, world leaders have paid tribute to Japan's longest-serving prime minister. The U.N. Security Council observed a moment of silence, and its current president, U.N. Ambassador Ronaldo Costa Filho, expressed the council's "sadness and shock at the senseless assassination."

U.S. Ambassador to Japan Rahm Emanuel noted he was "saddened and shocked by the shooting of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. Abe-san has been an outstanding leader of Japan and an unwavering ally of the United States."

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida has announced that the Japanese government will hold a state funeral to honor Abe on Sept. 27. This will be only the second state funeral for a former prime minister

in Japan's postwar history, after that of Shigeru Yoshida, who signed the Treaty of San Francisco in 1951. Abe was also posthumously awarded the Collar of the Supreme Order of the Chrysanthemum, the nation's highest decoration.

Abe was born in Tokyo in 1954, into a strongly political family. His grandfathers were former Prime Minister Nobusuke Kishi and House of Representatives member Kan Abe, and his father was former Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe. After graduating from Seikei University, he worked at Kobe Steel for a few years before entering the realm of politics with a number of roles connected to the Liberal Democratic Party.

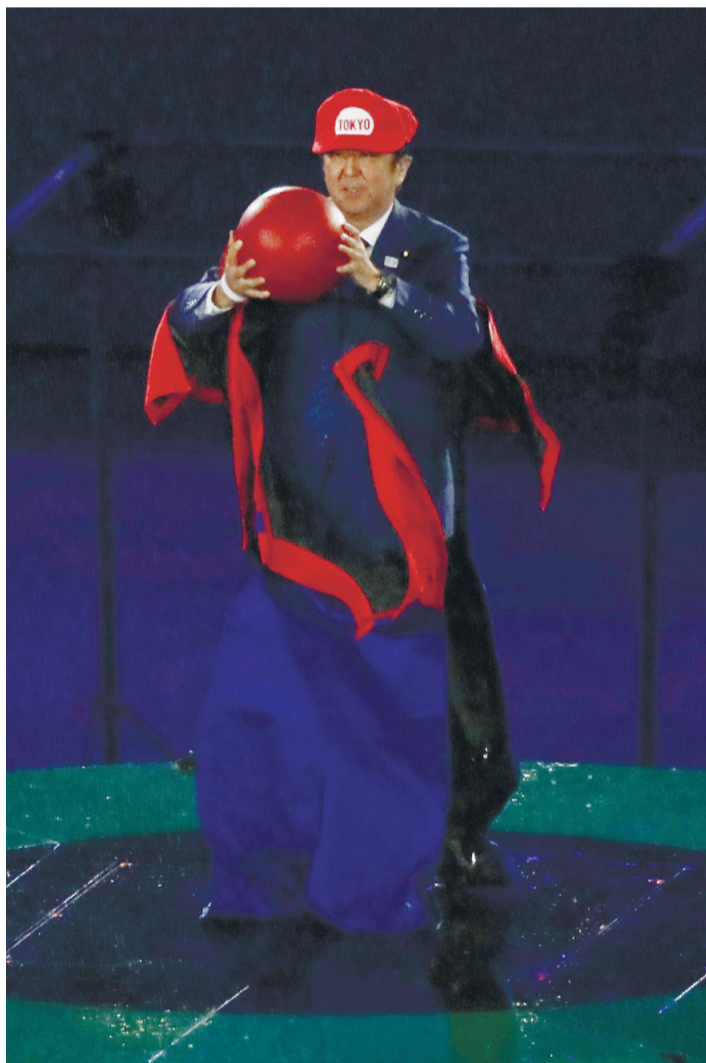
He was elected to the House of Representatives in 1993 and appointed director of the Social Affairs Division in 1999. He was deputy chief cabinet secretary for two Cabinets between 2000 and 2003, and later appointed the LDP's secretary-general. During this time, Abe garnered attention for his work to negotiate the return of Japanese abductees from North Korea, even going so far as to visit the country to conduct the negotiations along with then-Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi.

Abe began his first term as prime min-

ister in September 2006, but had to step down one year later due to ulcerative colitis. He was inaugurated for his second term in 2012, which was followed by two more terms that extended his run until 2020. As Japan's longest-serving prime minister, he spent nine years in office.

His historically long term as prime minister will be remembered for its strong focus on foreign policy, particularly in providing assistance to Southeast Asia and promoting cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. His 2012 program of Abenomics was a three-pronged plan to fix Japan's economic stagnation through monetary easing, fiscal spending and promises of structural reforms. He was also a firm supporter of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue grouping, bringing together the like-minded nations of Japan, India, Australia and the United States. Some may also remember him for his unexpected appearance dressed as Super Mario at the Rio Olympics closing ceremony, as a nod to the 2020 Tokyo Games.

Abe is survived by his wife of 35 years Akie, 60, elder brother Hironobu Abe, 70, and younger brother Nobuo Kishi, 63, Japan's current defense minister.



Above: Shinzo Abe on stage as Super Mario at the closing ceremony of Rio de Janeiro Olympics in August 2016. Above right: Sunao Tsuboi, an influential campaigner for nuclear disarmament who survived the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, speaks with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and then-U.S. President Barack Obama at Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park in May 2016. Tsuboi died in 2021. Bottom right: Abe and Obama observe a moment of silence in front of a wall bearing the names of the victims of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, at the USS Arizona Memorial in Oahu, Hawaii, in 2016. Abe was the first sitting Japanese leader to visit the memorial. KYODO



Above: Then-prime minister Shinzo Abe smiles during a TV interview in Tokyo, following the July 2016 Upper House election. Below: Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina welcomes Abe in Dhaka during a September 2014 visit. KYODO



INSIGHTS: TADASHI YANAI LOOKS TO ASIA
Fast Retailing CEO sees region as key for company's growth
PAGE 3

BUSINESS: RIGHT BY THE LOBBY, DAVE
Hotel adapts to staff shortage with robotic assistance
PAGE 4

IN TODAY'S MYF: AFTER BURIAL, AFGHAN POLICE OFFICER TURNED UP ALIVE
PAGE 3

TOP N. Korea official to visit South for Olympics
PAGE 4

ABE SAYS NO COMPROMISE ON ARTICLE 9
In interview, PM details his quest to amend charter, repeats 'open door' stance on Asia ties

Exclusive: PM Shinzo Abe has raised the stakes in his quest to amend Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution, emphasizing his commitment to the ambitious goal of changing the non-nuclear status of Japan.

PM Shinzo Abe also stressed the need to ensure the danger with South Korea and China.

PM Shinzo Abe also stressed the need to ensure the danger with South Korea and China.

PM Shinzo Abe also stressed the need to ensure the danger with South Korea and China.

The Japan Times conducted an exclusive interview with then-Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and published the article in the Feb. 6, 2018, issue. Abe talked candidly about his stances on diplomacy and the controversy surrounding war-renouncing Article 9 of the Constitution.

A message of condolence from BCCIJ on former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

We are deeply saddened to hear the news of the sudden and tragic death of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

Bangladesh has lost a true friend in Japan's cooperation for Bangladesh's development. In September 2014, he visited Bangladesh offering significant financial support, with more than 200 top Japanese investors. He was a one-of-a-kind leader in modern Japanese political history and contributed to elevating the bilateral relationship between Bangladesh and Japan.

We strongly resolve that Abe shall not have died in vain. Now it is the time that we need to pursue a genuine fraternity for world peace. We wish to convey our deepest sympathy and condolences to his family.



Sakura Saber
President of BCCIJ

Shahidur Rahman
Vice President

Kajol Rocky
General Secretary

Then-Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Japan-Bangladesh Summit Meeting in 2014

BANGLADESH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY IN JAPAN
The Authority on Global Business in Japan and Bangladesh
在バングラデッシュ商工会議所
website: www.bccijjapan.com

Our Heartfelt Condolences on the Death of Former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

Artisanal Japanese Sake



Born

BORN Co., Ltd. KatouKichibee Shouten
1-11 Yoshie-cho, Sabae-shi, Fukui Pref. 916-0001 Japan Tel +81-778-51-1507 Fax +81-778-53-1406
<https://www.born.co.jp/>

Don't drink and drive. Drink only after the age of 20. Please drink responsibly.



In memoriam



Shinzo and Akie Abe wave at Haneda airport in Tokyo before flying to the G7 summit in Biarritz, France, in August 2019. Below: The Abes tour Madain Salih, a U.N. World Heritage Site in Saudi Arabia, in January 2020. Left: Abe meets a quake and landslide victim in Abira, Hokkaido, in September 2018. Top left: Abe poses with the parents of abductee Megumi Yokota at an exhibition in June 2014. KYODO



Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visits the Grand Shrines of Ise in Mie Prefecture with the other Group of Seven leaders during the Ise-Shima G7 summit in May 2016. KYODO



Our Heartfelt Condolences on the Death of Former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe



Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan

H.E. Gursel Ismayilzade
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

Our Heartfelt Condolences on the Death of Former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe



Embassy of the Republic of Djibouti to Japan

H.E. Ibrahim Bileh Doualeh
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

Our Heartfelt Condolences on the Death of Former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe



Embassy of the Republic of Kenya

H.E. Tabu Irina
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

Our Heartfelt Condolences on the Death of Former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe



Embassy of the Republic of Madagascar

Randrianjafy Tsilavo Maherizo
Charge d'Affaires a.i.

Our Heartfelt Condolences on the Death of Former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe



Embassy of the Federated States of Micronesia

H.E. John Fritz
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary



Embassy of the Republic of Angola

I would like to express my sincere condolences to the family of Shinzo Abe and the people of Japan on behalf of the Embassy of the Republic of Angola. May his soul rest in eternal peace.



H.E. Rui Orlando Xavier
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

Our Heartfelt Condolences on the Death of Former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe



Embassy of the Republic of Mozambique

H.E. Jose Maria Morais
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

Our Heartfelt Condolences on the Death of Former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe



Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines

Robespiere L. Bolivar
Charge d'Affaires a.i.

Our Heartfelt Condolences on the Death of Former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe



Embassy of the United Republic of Tanzania

H.E. Baraka H. Luvanda
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

Our Heartfelt Condolences on the Death of Former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe



Royal Thai Embassy in Tokyo

H.E. Singtong Lapisatepun
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

Our Heartfelt Condolences on the Death of Former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe



Embassy of the United Arab Emirates

H.E. Shihab Ahmed Alfaheem
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

Our Heartfelt Condolences on the Death of Former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe



Embassy of the Republic of Zimbabwe

H.E. Titus M.J. Abu-Basutu
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary



Embassy of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire

The Embassy of Cote d'Ivoire and the Ivorian People would like to pay a vibrant tribute to former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. We will never forget this great friend of Cote d'Ivoire and his historic visit in 2014.



H.E. Jerome Kloh Weya
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary



Delegation of the European Union to Japan

Former Prime Minister Abe presented a vision of the European Union and Japan working together for the good of the world. We will remember him as a true friend of Europe.



Haitze Siemers
Charge d'Affaires a.i.



Embassy of the Republic of Liberia

Our dear friend, former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, you left without completing your task. The Republic of Liberia will remember you in a way that cannot be measured. Anyway, we understand; rest in Perfect Peace.



H.E. Blamoh Nelson
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary



Embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Our heartfelt condolences and sincere consolations to the family of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and to the friendly people of Japan



H.E. Nayef Alfahadi
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary