

We Oppose the State Funeral for Former Prime Minister An Appeal by the JCJ to the World

The Japan Congress of Journalists (JCJ) opposes the Japanese government's decision to hold a state funeral for former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. The JCJ was established in 1955 as an organization of journalists and citizens determined that media must never cooperate with any war effort.

The former prime minister had strong ties with the Unification Church, one of the antisocial organizations, presently known as the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification. Many citizens in Japan are strongly opposed to the idea of honoring him through the use of public money.

Listed below are four points we would like to convey to the world.

1. In Japan of the past a **State Funeral** had been held based on "the state funeral decree" issued by the emperor. In 1947, after the defeat in World War II the "state funeral decree" was declared null and void. Today no legal basis to conduct a state funeral exists.
2. The biggest problem of a state funeral is to oblige people to hold a sense of mourning for a specific individual. The people are to be forced to shoulder the tax burden as well.
3. The politics by former Prime Minister Abe for nine years had been to destroy the Japanese Constitution. He abandoned the road of peace diplomacy, legalized the right of collective self-defense through arbitrary legal interpretations, and altered Japan into "a nation which can fight a war" with America in Asia and the Middle East. We oppose the Kishida administration that praises and carries on such a dangerous desire through the holding of a **state funeral**.
4. Public opinion in Japan has been negative about a **state funeral** for Mr. Abe. According to the survey by Kyodo News Service, while 45.1% supported a state funeral, 53.3% were against it. The survey by The Mainichi Shimbun showed that 30% favored the state funeral while 53% said they were against it. The survey by The Yomiuri Shimbun found 56% of the respondents said it is not appropriate, exceeding the 38% who said it is appropriate. According to the NHK survey, 50% of respondents said they "do not appreciate" and 36% said they "appreciate." Public opinion does not support the implementation of a **state funeral**.

We sincerely hope people of the world will understand that the planned state funeral for Abe has such problems. We call on the governments of other nations to understand that the funeral violates the rules of democracy and ask them to make a wise judgement.

Sept. 12, 2022

Japan Congress of Journalists (JCJ)