

Abe state funeral

Friends, leaders, dignitaries gather for PM's final farewell

THE JAPAN TIMES AGENCY

On Sept. 27, dignitaries from across Japan and the world will gather at the Nippon Budokan Hall to pay their final respects to former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, whose sudden demise on July 8 sent shockwaves through the country. Notable guests include U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris and former French President Nicolas Sarkozy. Abe was posthumously awarded the Collar of the Supreme Order of the Chrysanthemum, one of only four prime ministers to receive Japan's highest honor.

In his 67 years, he was among the major players in the Liberal Democratic Party, and retains the honor of having spent nine years in office as Japan's longest-serving prime minister. He served his first term in 2006, the youngest person to hold the office since World War II. After a break due to health issues, Abe returned for three more terms, from 2012 to 2020. Abe's long term as prime minister will be remembered for his strong push toward strengthening Japan's economy and a commitment to foreign policy and international exchange.

His 2012 three-pronged plan to fix Japan's economic stagnation, Abenomics, aimed at bringing about growth via a more flexible fiscal policy, expansionary monetary policy and deregulation. A secondary part of this effort to increase Japan's gross domestic product, "Womenomics," has achieved some of its goals, resulting in an increase of women's participation in the labor force of over 71%, higher than the U.S. and many European countries, as well as much-needed improvements in parental leave policies.

On the global stage the following year, he steered the government through Japan's entry into the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a trade agreement between the United



States and countries in the Asia-Pacific region. He stepped up to bring the other 10 members together to maintain the coalition in the form of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, after then-U.S. President Donald Trump's sudden withdrawal from the agreement in 2017.

Abe's aim to strengthen Japan's foreign policy was multisided, including a new focus on the country's soft power. He played a large role in promoting Tokyo as the destination for the 2020 Olympics and Paralympics, resulting in Japan winning the bid for Summer Games for the first time since 1964. Although the event was delayed for a year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, both the Olympics and the successful 2019 Rugby World Cup remain a legacy of his time in office.

On the global political stage, Abe's dedication to the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue group, a coalition formed of Japan, India, Australia and the United States, was one of the ongoing efforts closest to the former

prime minister's heart. Although it was put aside for a decade after Abe first formalized the partnership in 2007, it was brought back in 2017 to bring a greater focus on collaboration within the Indo-Pacific region. While the original membership still stands, the group has held discussions with representatives from South Korea, New Zealand and Vietnam, a positive step forward for future partnerships in the region.

He also pushed for improving global health in developing countries, leading Japan to become the fifth-largest public donor to the Global Fund, providing funds to help end AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria on an international level. Abe was also part of launching the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, a foundation that aims to accelerate the development of vaccines to prevent more global pandemics that counts Japan as one of its largest donors.

In addition to his having a lasting legacy on Japan and its policies, Abe will be missed by his wife Akie (60) and brothers Hironobu Abe (70) and Nobuo Kishi (63).



Then-Prime Minister Shinzo Abe addresses the media at his office in Tokyo's Nagata-cho district on March 14, 2020. Top left: Abe delivers a speech in support of gender equality and women's empowerment in Japan at the United Nations Women "HeForShe" reception in New York on Sept. 16, 2016. KYODO

My dear friend, His Excellency Shinzo Abe, was a great man. He was an outstanding leader, a caring husband, and most importantly, a true friend. Sadly, he left this world tragically and much too early, in Nara, on July 8, 2022. While his family, friends and many around the world are shocked by his death, we are all thankful for his life.

Abe-san took great pride in his career and he honorably and ably led his country through various difficult situations, both at home and internationally. During his tenure as prime minister, he played a major and integral role in the progress and continued advances of modern Japan. He was driven by an unwavering sense of duty and perseverance. He was also one of the most popular politicians worldwide, and a valuable member of the international community.

Abe-san believed that our world's progress and prosperity can only be achieved if we work together, and he contributed greatly to making Japan a global leader in development, working to enable other countries to make strides in their own development journeys. He believed that Japan stood to gain greatly by sharing the knowledge, expertise and innovations it pioneered throughout the decades with other friendly nations.

As a leader, Abe-san's dedication to diplomacy and dialogue brought Japan to the forefront of international peace and cooperation efforts. To many around the world, Japan has always been synonymous with peace, progress and partnership. Abe-san's legacy in cementing that image and building on it even further is a testament to his statesmanship, as well as his dedication and great love for Japan and its people.

Jordan remains immensely grateful for his leading role in expanding the friendship and partnership between our two countries and peoples.

On a personal level, I have known Abe-san to be a quiet soul who enjoyed spending his evenings with his wonderful wife Akie-san and his close friends, and relished the simple pleasures of life. He loved reading and writing, and last but not least, he thoroughly enjoyed a good barbecue!

I believe that all of us who have had the pleasure of knowing, and the honor of working with, Abe-san will sorely miss him. May his memory continue to be a blessing and an inspiration for generations to come.

King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein II

私の親愛なる友人である安倍晋三閣下は偉大な人物でした。傑出した指導者であり、思いやりのある夫であり、そして何よりも私の真の友人でした。悲しいことに、彼は悲劇的な、そしてあまりにも早い死を2022年7月8日に奈良で迎えました。彼の家族、友人、そして世界中の多くの人々が彼の訃報にショックを受けている一方で、私たちは彼の人生に感謝しています。

安倍さんは自らの仕事に大きな誇りを持ち、国内外のさまざまな困難な状況において、立派にかつ巧みに国をリードしてきました。総理大臣在任中は、現代日本の発展と継続的な進歩のために重要な役割を果たしました。彼は揺るぎない使命感と忍耐力を原動力としていました。また世界で最も人気のある政治家の一人であり、国際社会において貴重な存在でした。

安倍さんは「世界の進歩と繁栄は、私たち皆が力を合わせてこそ達成できる」と考え、日本が世界の発展を率いるリーダーとなるために大きく貢献し、他の国々がそれぞれの発展の道を歩むことができるよう尽力されました。彼は、日本がこれまで培ってきた知識、専門技術、イノベーションを友好国と共有することで大きな利益を得ることができると考えていました。

また安倍さんはリーダーとして外交と対話に献身的に取り組み、日本を国際平和協力活動の最前線に押し上げました。世界中の多くの人々にとって、日本は常に平和、発展、パートナーシップの代名詞でした。そのイメージを確固たるものにし、さらに発展させた安倍さんの偉大な功績は、彼の政治家としての資質に加え、日本と国民に対する献身的で大きな愛情の証しと言えるでしょう。

ヨルダンと日本および両国民の友好とパートナーシップの拡大に主導的な役割を果たされたことに、ヨルダンは深く感謝しています。私的な部分では、安倍さんは物静かな方で、素晴らしい奥様の昭恵さんと親しい友人たちと楽しく夜を過ごし、日常の小さな幸せを大事にしている方でした。そして読書と執筆を愛する方でした。パーベキューを心から楽しんでいただことも忘れ難い思い出です。

安倍さんと親交を結び、共に働いたことを光栄に思う私たちは、彼を失ったことを非常に寂しく思います。彼の思い出が、次の世代に祝福と激励を与え続けるものでありますように。

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Abe poses with other world leaders on the first day of the Group of Seven summit in Ise-Shima, Mie Prefecture, on May 26, 2016. KYODO



Left: Shoppers watch Abe explain the meaning of Japan's new era name Reiwa on a giant screen in Tokyo's Shinjuku Ward on April 1, 2019. KYODO



Left: Abe and other delegation members celebrate the announcement of the International Olympic Committee choosing Tokyo to host the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Buenos Aires in September 2013. Above: Abe shakes hands with Argentine President Mauricio Marci in Osaka on June 29, 2019, after the Group of 20 leaders issued a joint statement at the end of the two-day summit. KYODO



Left: Abe consoles a resident of Itoigawa, Niigata Prefecture, on Jan. 11, 2017, after a blaze destroyed more than 140 structures. Above: Abe and African leaders applaud at the end of the sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development in Nairobi, Kenya, in August 2016. KYODO

Major events related to former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

Sept. 21, 1954: Abe is born in Tokyo as the son of Shintaro Abe, who later becomes Japan's foreign minister, and grandson of Nobusuke Kishi, a former prime minister.
April 1979: Begins work at Kobe Steel Ltd.
November 1982: Begins working as a secretary for then-Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe.
June 1987: Marries Akie Matsuzaki.
July 1993: Elected to the House of Representatives for the first time.
October 2005: Becomes chief Cabinet secretary, leading negotiations under then-Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi to secure the return of Japanese citizens abducted by North Korea.
September 2006: Appointed Japan's 90th prime minister.
September 2007: Resigns citing health reasons.
2012: After again being elected president of the Liberal Democratic Party, Abe becomes Japan's 96th prime minister, later announcing his Abenomics policy to boost economic growth.
April 2014: Consumption tax raised from 5% to 8%.

December 2014: Appointed Japan's 97th prime minister.
May 2016: During the Group of Seven summit in Ise-Shima, Mie Prefecture, Abe visits Hiroshima with then-U.S. President Barack Obama.
November 2017: Appointed Japan's 98th prime minister.
April 2019: With Emperor Naruhito's ascension to the throne, the Cabinet Office announces Reiwa as the new era name.
June 2019: Japan hosts the Group of 20 summit in Osaka.
October 2019: Consumption tax raised to 10%.
March 2020: Announces the postponement of the Tokyo Olympics to 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic.
April 2020: Declares a nationwide state of emergency over the coronavirus pandemic.
Aug. 24, 2020: Becomes Japan's longest-serving prime minister.
Aug. 28, 2020: Announces resignation due to health reasons.
July 8, 2022: Fatally shot during a campaign event in Nara Prefecture.



In memory of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and prayers for his soul to rest in peace



Embassy of the Republic of Botswana

H.E. Gotsileene Morake
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

In memory of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and prayers for his soul to rest in peace



Embassy of the Republic of Kosovo

H.E. Sabri Kicmari
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

In memory of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and prayers for his soul to rest in peace



Embassy of the Kingdom of Lesotho

H.E. Palesa Mosetse
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

In memory of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and prayers for his soul to rest in peace



Embassy of the Republic of Mozambique

H.E. Jose Maria Morais
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

In memory of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and prayers for his soul to rest in peace



Royal Thai Embassy in Tokyo

H.E. Singtong Lapisatepun
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

In memory of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and prayers for his soul to rest in peace



Embassy of the Republic of Zimbabwe

Rutendo P. Matsangai
Charge d'Affaires a.i.



Embassy of the Republic of Angola

It is with great sadness that I learned of the passing of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. On behalf of the Embassy of the Republic of Angola, I send my deepest condolences to his family and the friendly people of Japan at this difficult time.



H.E. Rui Orlando Xavier
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary



Embassy of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

On behalf of the government of Nigeria, His Excellency President Muhammadu Buhari GCFR offers his condolences to the prime minister, government and people of Japan over the death of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.



H.E. Abubakar Moriki Husaini
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary



Embassy of the State of Qatar

On behalf of the people and government of Qatar, I convey my deepest condolences to the people and government of Japan on the death of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.



H.E. Hassan Bin Mohammed Rafei Al-Emadi
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



Embassy of the United Republic of Tanzania

The people and government of Tanzania offer deepest condolences to the government and people of Japan following the untimely demise of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. Although he is gone, his service to humanity lives on.



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



Embassy of the Republic of Uganda

The Embassy of the Republic of Uganda wishes to express its deepest condolences to the family of the late H.E. Shinzo Abe and people of Japan. May his soul rest in eternal peace.



H.E. Kaahwa Tophace
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary