

Abe Death Stuns Political World



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Joining us now is our senior political commentator Masuda Tsuyoshi. So, Tsuyoshi, people are utterly stunned by the sudden death of the former Prime Minister, especially those in the realm of politics.

Abe is the leader of the largest faction in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party and wields great influence. He had been very politically active after his retirement as Prime Minister. He often commented on political issues such as national security and economic policy. Recently, he mentioned the possibility of a Taiwan contingency, the need to strengthen Japan's defense capabilities, and the need to discuss so-called nuclear sharing. So, the incident has sent shockwaves through the political world. Many members of the ruling and opposition parties say that violence is absolutely unforgivable and that they feel great indignation.

And certainly Tsuyoshi, Japanese politicians are not the only ones who have reacted to the news.

Right, former US President Donald Trump posted on social media that it was absolutely devastating news that Abe Shinzo a truly great man and leader has been shot. He continued, he was a true friend of mine and much more importantly, America. This is a tremendous blow to the wonderful people of Japan who love and admire him so much. US Ambassador to Japan Rahm Emanuel posted a message on social media saying he was saddened and shocked by the shooting. He said, Abe-san has been an outstanding leader of Japan and an unwavering ally of the US. Japanese voters will also go the polls on Sunday for the Upper House election.

Thank you for your insights, Tsuyoshi.

Source: (NHK World News)

Now discuss the questions with a partner.

1. Where were you when you heard the news of Abe's assassination? What was your reaction?
2. Do you think the Japanese government needs to change something to make sure another shooting like this never occurs again? What can they do?
3. What do you think of the killer's motive? Have you heard anything about the Unification Church before?
4. Some have criticized the bodyguards and police. How do you feel about their response?
5. What do you think was a highlight and low point of Abe's political career?