

**Statement by Kengo Sakurada, Chairman of Keizai Doyukai
on Shooting Attack on Japan's Former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe**

1. I was just stunned by the sudden, tragic news that former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was shot. I send my heartfelt prayer for him to come back to consciousness.
2. The brutality of violating the dignity of an individual with force, for unilateral self-assertion, is totally intolerable. The international community is now joining forces to enhance democratic values, and continuing unwavering efforts to disseminate their importance around the world. Against that background, today's tragedy has happened and indeed, in Japan. It is absolutely outrageous and has made me deeply embittered.
3. As a citizen who believes in democratic values, I keenly renew my awareness of responsibility to play an active role in democracy, and will call for public sympathy thereof.

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