

His Excellency Prime Minister Shinzo Abe,

Declaration of Objection against  
The Worship of the Prime Minister at Yasukuni (War) Shrine

On the first anniversary of the second administration of Prime Minister Abe, December 26<sup>th</sup>, you went to Yasukuni Shrine to worship. We, Japan Holiness Church, strongly express our objection to this activity.

It is undoubtedly a violation of Article 20 of The Constitution of Japan that says, "The State and its organs shall refrain from ...any religious activity", namely from the Prime Minister of Japan worshipping at Yasukuni Shrine. We, Japan Holiness Church as a religious corporation of Christianity that was oppressed under the National Shinto System during the Second World War, will never ever condone it.

You mentioned, "I do not have any intention of hurting any people in China or Korea" in the recent press conference. But your worship at Yasukuni as Prime Minister of Japan deeply hurt the people in the surrounding countries who suffered in the War of aggression upon them by Japan. You also spoke about "your determination to make a new era that the people never suffer from war horrors". If that is the true determination from your heart, you should immediately stop such activity which continues to hurt the hearts of those who suffered from the War.

You also said that China and Korea's criticism of your worship at Yasukuni was based on their incomprehension. However, your response to them itself reflects your incomprehension. It is undeniable that has exposed your incomprehension of the history. Yasukuni Shrine, that deifies the soldiers who have died during wars for the Emperor, was the center of National Shintoism before the War, and it was the spiritual backbone at that time to urge the nation to advance the War of aggression. Your activity to glorify the people who were not hesitant for self-sacrifice for the nation will undermine your statement of "the oath against war", especially when combined with your policies of the force of the Act on Protection of Specified Secrets, the approval of the right of collective self-defense, the reconsideration

of the three principles of arms exports (the prohibition of exportation of weapons), the challenge toward constitutional reform, and so on. The basis of the problem is that Yasukuni Shrine is not an appropriate location for the promotion of peace and renunciation of war. It is more than merely a place where A-class war criminals have been enshrined.

If you respect the wishes of those who lost precious loved ones in the war of “No more war”, you must fulfill your mission as Prime Minister to remember the pain given to people in the surrounding countries. Those nations, represented by China and Korea, suffered from the domination and aggression of Japan. This respect of the wishes of others and the remembrance of their pain is necessary to realize reconciliation and peace in international relationships.”

We strongly express this objection against your worship at Yasukuni Shrine, and demand that you examine yourself and repent of your wrong-doings, express your apology to the public, and serve as an example for improving the relationships with the surrounding countries.

December 31, 2013

Japan Holiness Church

Masahiro Nakanishi  
Superintendent,

Japan Holiness Church

Shinji Hirano  
Chair of Gospel Reconciliation Commission,