

## Statement Criticising Remarks Made by Deputy Prime Minister Aso Regarding the Nazi Regime

1. Comments made by Deputy Prime Minister Aso on July 29, referring to “learning from the methods” employed by the Nazi regime, are rooted in an entirely erroneous understanding that condones Nazism, and as such are abhorrent and inexcusable. These remarks have seriously damaged Japan’s standing in the international community. Deputy Prime Minister Aso, and Prime Minister Abe, who appointed him to his post, bear an extremely grave responsibility.
2. We declare to the international community that we, the members of the undersigned opposition parties, as well as the people of Japan as a whole, have not one iota of sympathy with the remarks made by Deputy Prime Minister Aso.
3. The government and the Liberal Democratic Party and New Komeito Party are treating the matter as “case closed” after Aso retracted his remarks and expressed regret, and have refused requests for him to testify to the Diet. This irresponsible behaviour by the ruling parties is outrageous and abdicates their accountability to the Japanese public. We call for intensive debate on this matter to be carried out in the House of Representatives Committee on Budget.
4. Deputy Prime Minister Aso’s future attendance at international gatherings as Japan’s representative will be detrimental to our national interest. Aso is no longer fit to serve as Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Minister of State for Financial Services, and he should immediately tender his resignation, or failing that Prime Minister Abe should dismiss him forthwith.

Banri Kaieda, the Democratic Party of Japan

Yoshimi Watanabe, Your Party

Kazuo Shii, Japanese Communist Party

Ichiro Ozawa, People’s Life Party

Seiji Matsuuchi, Social Democratic Party

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