

Joint Questionnaire for Japan's Liberal Democratic Party's presidential election candidates regarding the introduction of the "Human Rights Violation Sanctions Law"

Candidate's name	Q1. Do you support a "human rights violation sanction law" in Japan? If you were elected to be the LDP president, would you commit to introduce a "human rights violation sanction law" in Japan?	Q2. Please lay out any other policies you plan to introduce to promote human rights around the world.
Taro Kono	<p>Human rights violations shall not be tolerated. Nevertheless, as a candidate running for the head of the executive branch, I would refrain from commenting on matters that should be discussed in the National Diet, the legislative branch.</p>	<p>It is one of the most important pillars of Japan's diplomacy to actively collaborate with states that cherish shared values such as liberty, democracy, respect for fundamental human rights, and rule of law, in order to stand against states that are attempting to strengthen dictatorship and surveillance.</p>
Seiko Noda	<p>I support the law. Nevertheless, as a matter of principle, I prioritize "resolution through conversation" over "resolution by force." Coordinating with other G7 nations which have already adopted Human Rights Violation Sanctions Law, I will protest that human rights violation is intolerable, and strongly request to share values and principles regarding human rights.</p>	<p>Even though there is the term "human rights diplomacy," the reality is that even the G7 countries have various human rights issues domestically which sometimes cause big problems. The situation now is that states are pointing fingers at others while not acting on those domestic issues. It is the same in our country. To avoid being criticized for holding double standards, the first thing to do is proactively solve human rights issues within Japan.</p>
Fumio Kishida	<p>Yes. It is important to deal strictly with violations of human rights. It is to my knowledge that the discussion is ongoing on non-partisan basis, as it is considered important to have a wide non-partisan understanding on the issue. I would like to closely follow the non-partisan discussion, including the specific contents of the bill.</p>	<p>As stated on page six of my policy handbook for this election, I will be "strengthening responses to human rights issues, including through the establishment of a new post (special advisor to prime minister) who is specifically in charge of human rights issues."</p>
Sanae Takaichi	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>I currently serve as the chairman of the Parliamentary Group in Support of Southern Mongolia, which is made up of members of parliament belonging to the Liberal Democratic Party. I do all that I can to ensure that a resolution condemning human rights violations by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) in, among others, Southern Mongolia and Xinjiang is adopted by the Japanese Diet. The CCP routinely brushes aside any criticisms regarding its human rights record by labeling them an interference in its domestic affairs. However, human rights are an international issue. I consider it Japan's obligation as a sovereign state to contribute to the creation of an international order that is based on liberty, human rights, democracy, and the rule of law, and to the safety of people both within and outside its borders.</p>

(honorifics omitted, in order of response, translated into English by HRW)

•Implementation period : September 17 - 22, 2021

•Implementer : Human Rights Watch/Youth Democracy Promotion Agency/IPAC: Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China/Yuki Kitazumi, Journalist/

Akira Igata (Economic Security Advisor, Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China)/Ai Kihara-Hunt/Kenji Isezaki (Professor, Institute of Global Studies, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies)