

December 2nd, 2020

Japan Educational Research Association for the Social Studies (JERASS)

Japanese Academic Societies Unite to Release a Joint Statement to Protect the Independence of the Science Council of Japan

Japanese scholars have met the Prime Minister Suga's decision to reject the candidacy of six humanities and social sciences scholars for the Science Council of Japan with grave concern. 226 academic societies in the humanities and social sciences in Japan issued a Joint Statement on November 6th. Since then, the number of co-signers has reached 310. On December 2nd, they issued the same statement in English, gave a press interview and appealed to scholars and citizens worldwide for support and cooperation.

The Science Council of Japan, which is a national academy and not a federation of academic societies, does not directly represent the interests of the societies. Nevertheless, the societies are deeply concerned with the issue as the Prime Minister's rejection of appointment not only violates the independence of the Science Council of Japan but also further threatens academic freedom, autonomy and democracy in Japan.

See the interview video on the Joint Statement: <https://youtu.be/47unG8Y0-JQ>

As one of the societies that have co-signed the Joint Statement, hereby JERASS also releases it.

Please send your supportive message to:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdG8c42G4jnqvV3WygBNktttEAzIeB-UiHMCOMhtE-INn0z3w/viewform?usp=sf_link