

NBC's *Today*

07/08/22

7:00:40 a.m. [TEASE]

8 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking News; Shinzo Abe Assassinated]

HODA KOTB: This morning, what we know about the motive and the investigation into how it happened in a country where gun violence is nearly unheard of.

(...)

7:03:59 a.m.

13 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking News; Former Japan PM Abe Killed in Gun Attack]

KOTB: Well, with gun violence front and center right here in the United States, we should point out incidents like this are extremely rare in Japan. There were only ten reported gun incidents last year. And that left just one person dead.

(...)

7:04:29 a.m.

9 seconds

JANIS MACKEY FRAYER: Japan's longest serving leader in history, his death is profoundly shocking for Japan, a country where gun violence is almost nonexistent.

(...)

7:05:13 a.m.

1 minute and 5 seconds

FRAYER: Doctors say they tried resuscitating but Abe passed away at 4:03 a.m. Eastern time, profoundly rocking a country unaccustomed to gun violence. The suspected gunman was tackled by Abe's secret service detail. Police named him as 41-year-old Tetsuya Yamagami and seized what they described as a homemade shotgun. Japanese media report the suspect told investigators he was not motivated by political beliefs, but a "dissatisfaction" he felt toward Abe. Gun violence is exceptionally rare in Japan. Its gun laws are the most stringent in the world. Though some guns are allowed for hunting, very few people go through the process of getting one. A person needs to pass through 12 steps, including a gun safety class, a written exam, doctor's sign-off, and extensive background check to buy and own a firearm. Abe is also a political giant. The longest serving leader in Japan's history with important ties to several U.S. presidents, he stepped down in 2020 citing health reasons.

(....)

7:06:56 a.m.

41 seconds

FRAYER: Shinzo Abe was a political giant, the country's longest serving prime minister and, in many ways, still prominent after stepping down. He was credited with invigorating the economy, also reinvigorating diplomacy, meeting with dozens of world leaders. He golfed five times with President Trump and took President Obama for that deeply symbolic visit to Hiroshima. As a politician, Hoda, his views may not have been widely popular, but as a figure. he was. And that Abe's death was by gun violence, that will deeply impact people in Japan. I don't think that point can be overstated.

(....)

8:02:46 a.m.

8 seconds

KOTB: He was shot by an assassin while he was giving a speech at a campaign event. It happened in a country where gun violence is extremely rare.

(....)

8:03:29 a.m.

39 seconds

FRAYER: And police seized what they described as a homemade shotgun. Now, the attack is deeply shocking for people in Japan. It's a country where gun violence is almost nonexistent because so few people have guns. For a person to own or buy a firearm, they need to pass through 12 steps, including a gun safety course and an extensive background check. Abe was also a political giant in Japan, still a prominent figure after stepping down in 2020 for health reasons. He is credited with propping up the economy and reviving diplomatic ties, meeting with dozens of world leaders, including many U.S. presidents.