

To Nikken Abe, High Priest of Nichiren Shoshu

We protest your planned destruction of the Grand Main Temple (Sho-Hondo), which was designed and built through the contributions of 8 million Soka Gakkai members worldwide. The Grand Main Temple is a religious edifice, like Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris or London's Westminster Abbey, that has served as the high sanctuary of Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism since 1972. It was intended for public use over hundreds of years, not to be claimed by a single man or group of men as private property.

You've stated that the Grand Main Temple was built by slanderers and therefore must fall. Using this skewed reasoning, you could slate for demolition any of the hundreds of other temples donated to Nichiren Shoshu by the SGI. Anything built by anyone you deem a slanderer must come down. Clearly, your reasoning is anything but reasonable and is based solely on your personal animosity toward the SGI.

Your destruction of this internationally acclaimed architectural landmark would be an unprecedented outrage and an insult to the human spirit. Because we know you may not listen to us, we urge your followers to stand up and not allow your demolition plans to continue, thus preserving this beautiful, inspired, finely crafted building for the sake of future generations — for all humanity.

— *Fred Zaitso, publisher,
and the editors and staff of the 'World Tribune'*

Grand Main Temple Facts

- Six major construction companies cooperated in building the Main Temple, setting new standards for reinforced concrete construction. A total of 118,000 tons of concrete were poured.
- The design of the building is striking, especially the semi-rigid suspension roof, weighing 20,000 metric tons and designed to simulate the shape of a crane in flight. The Main Temple's structure was engineered by Shigeru Aoki, one of Japan's leading authorities on structural engineering.
- The main auditorium seats 6,000. At the time of completion in 1972, it was the world's biggest one-floor auditorium.
- Meticulous care was taken during the construction to ensure that all materials used were of the highest quality, with stringent monitoring at all stages. The building was designed and constructed to last at least 500 years, and is fully reinforced to withstand earthquakes.
- Preparations for the Main Temple's destruction are now well under way. It has been estimated that the demolition will cost approximately \$35 million.
- All construction companies that participated in building the Main Temple have refused the priesthood's offers to demolish the building.
- Designers, architects and construction workers involved in the Main Temple's construction have protested the building's demolition.
- Architecture professionals around the world have protested the demolition of this masterpiece of engineering.

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Letter Writing Campaign

The SGI-USA is collecting all open letters of protest, petitions or group statements for an en masse submission to Nichiren Shoshu and for possible publication. Members wishing their letters to be considered for inclusion are asked to send them to: Sho Hondo Letters, c/o Ian McIlraith, SGI-USA, 525 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica, CA 90401; e-mail: shohondoletters@sgi-usa.org.

You may also send them directly to Japan to the following address:

**High Priest Nikken Abe
Nichiren Shoshu, Taiseki-ji 2057 Kamijo
Fujinomiya-shi, Shizuoka-ken, Japan**

**fax (dialing from the United States):
011-81-544-58-0838**

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