



LIBRARY & MUSEUM INAUGURATED. Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama gives a talk last month after inaugurating a museum containing the archives of the institution of the Dalai Lama, in Dharmasala, India. Exile Tibetans also celebrated their spiritual leader's 87th birthday. (AP Photo/Ashwini Bhatia)

Dalai Lama marks 87th birthday by opening library and museum

By Ashwini Bhatia
The Associated Press

DHARMSALA, India — Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama marked his 87th birthday by inaugurating a library and museum in his hillside Indian headquarters.

He was cheered by a large number of followers, including American actor Richard Gere, a longtime disciple.

Hundreds of schoolchildren, monks, and local residents prayed for the Dalai Lama's health and life at Tsuglakhang Temple near his residence.

The Dalai Lama Library and Museum contains artifacts, his teachings, and books on his life and struggle for Tibetan autonomy and protection of its native Buddhist culture.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to the Dalai Lama by phone and wished him well on his birthday.

"Conveyed 87th birthday greetings to

Abe's killing haunts Japan with questions on handmade guns

By Yuri Kageyama
The Associated Press

TOKYO — The shooting sent shudders through low-crime, orderly Japan: A high-profile politician gets killed by a man emerging from a crowd, wielding a handmade firearm so roughly made it's wrapped up in tape.

The 16-inch firearm that was used to kill former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe as he campaigned for his ruling party in Nara, western Japan, looked crude, more like a propellant made of pipes taped together and filled with explosives.

A raid of the suspect's home, a one-room apartment in Nara, turned up several such guns, police said. Unlike standard weapons, handmade guns are practically impossible to trace, making an investigation difficult.

Such weapons are rarely used in Japan, where most attacks involve stabbings or dousing a place with gasoline and setting it ablaze, or running haywire on the street in a vehicle.

Strict gun control laws likely made the suspect choose a handcrafted weapon. The suspect, who was arrested on the spot, was a former member of Japan's navy, and knew how to handle and assemble weapons.

Crime experts say instructions on how to make guns are floating around on the internet, and guns can be made with a 3D printer.

Some analysts characterized the attack on Abe as "lone-wolf terrorism." In such cases, the perpetrator acts alone, often in sympathy with certain political views, making the crime very difficult to detect in advance.

The motive for Abe's assassination remains unclear. Japanese media reported that the suspect had developed hatred toward a religious group that his mother was obsessed about and that caused his

His Holiness the @DalaiLama over phone earlier today. We pray for his long life and good health," Modi said in a tweet.

This is the second time Modi has publicly confirmed speaking with the Dalai Lama since becoming prime minister in 2014. The acknowledgement is significant amid deteriorating ties between India and China, which doesn't recognize the self-proclaimed Tibetan government-in-exile and accuses the Dalai Lama of seeking to separate Tibet from China.

The Dalai Lama has made the hillside town of Dharmasala his headquarters since fleeing from Tibet after a failed uprising against Chinese rule in 1959. India considers Tibet to be part of China, though it hosts Tibetan exiles.

The Dalai Lama denies being a separatist and says he only advocates substantial autonomy and protection of Tibet's native Buddhist culture.

family financial problems. The reports did not specify the group.

Japan has seen attacks on politicians in the past. In 1960, Abe's grandfather, then-Prime Minister Nobusuke Kishi, was stabbed but survived. In 1975, when then-Prime Minister Takeo Miki was assaulted at the funeral for former Prime Minister Eisaku Sato, Abe's great-uncle, Japan set up a security team modelled after the American Secret Service.

Hideto Ted Osanai, chief executive at the International Bodyguard Association in Japan, and other experts believe that the Japanese may have merely learned superficial things like escort formation rather than the prevention mindset critical to security.

"Japanese are so used to leading peaceful lives, the security guards were caught asleep," says Yasuhiro Sasaki, president of Safety-Pro, a Tokyo-based security company.

Sasaki said he couldn't believe that no one moved to protect Abe in the seconds between the first and the second shot, a scene shown over and over on national TV.

Guards should have acted by physically pulling Abe away from danger, Sasaki said. More critically, he wondered why weren't they aware of a suspicious person approaching, drawing what could be a weapon from a bag?

Isao Itabashi, chief of the research division at the Council for Public Policy, which oversees such risks, said that providing security during an election campaign was challenging when the whole point is for politicians to get close to people.

Unlike the U.S., the use of bulletproof glass is relatively scant in Japan, and security officials rarely resort to shooting potential attackers.

"The presumption here is that people are not armed," Itabashi said.

Osanai worried that more people may

Continued on page 13



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