



**ROYAL VOW.** Japan's Crown Prince Naruhito speaks to the media during a press conference at Togu Palace in Tokyo. Prince Naruhito has pledged to tackle every task of an emperor with devotion and care, just like his father, when he assumes the Chrysanthemum Throne. Japan's parliament has passed a special law allowing current Emperor Akihito to abdicate within three years. (Kyodo News via AP)

## Japan crown prince vows to be devoted emperor like father

By Mari Yamaguchi  
The Associated Press

**T**OKYO — Japanese Crown Prince Naruhito has pledged to devote himself to the role of emperor, like his father, when he assumes the Chrysanthemum Throne.

"I will devote myself body and soul to every single duty," Naruhito said.

Japan's parliament has passed a special law allowing current Emperor Akihito to abdicate within three years.

Last August, Akihito indirectly expressed his wish to abdicate, saying his age and health might start limiting his ability to fulfill his duties.

No specific dates have been announced, but officials are reportedly eyeing an abdication at the end of 2018, when Akihito turns 85 and his reign is in its 30th year. Akihito would be the first emperor to abdicate in 200 years.

Naruhito said he understands and respects his father's feelings.

"While serving many years as a symbol of the people, the emperor has tackled his tasks extremely seriously, taking every one of them close to heart and sincerely seeking out how his ideal role should be," Naruhito said.

Naruhito, 57, the emperor's eldest son and first in line to the throne, made the comments to a group of journalists ahead of a trip to Denmark marking 150 years of diplomatic ties.

Akihito is the first emperor to ascend to the throne with his role defined as the symbol of the people under Japan's

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# Illegal Tiananmen Square liquor displayed in Hong Kong

By Kelvin Chan  
The Associated Press

**H**ONG KONG — A bottle of forbidden liquor produced last year by Chinese activists to mark the 1989 military crackdown on Beijing's Tiananmen Square has arrived in Hong Kong after a trip around the world.

Hong Kong pro-democracy leaders unveiled the bottle of Chinese *baijiu* marking the date June 4, 1989, when communist leaders sent tanks and troops to retake the square from student-led protesters, leaving hundreds if not thousands dead.

They called for the release of the four Chinese dissidents arrested last year for bottling the *baijiu* in a bid to raise awareness about the crackdown.

The bottle was smuggled from China and taken on a symbolic trip around the world. It was displayed at a Hong Kong museum dedicated to chronicling the bloodshed just days before the city marked the anniversary with a candlelight vigil.

The four dissidents, Fu Hailu, Chen Bing, Zhang Junyon, and Luo Fuyu, were arrested in the southwestern city of Chengdu and charged in March with "inciting subversion of state power." Their arrests are part of a broader crackdown on rights activists under President Xi Jinping.

"What is Xi Jinping afraid of?" said pro-democracy organizer Lee Cheuk-yan. "If he is afraid of this June 4, '89 liquor, then I believe he should be even more concerned about Hong Kong peoples' candlelight."



**HOT HOOTCH.** Pro-democracy activist Andrew To holds a bottle of *baijiu*, or sorghum wine, at a tiny museum in Hong Kong to mark the anniversary of China's 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown. The bottle travelled to Hong Kong after a clandestine trip around the world. (AP Photo/Kin Cheung)

Talk of the crackdown remains taboo in mainland China and many people are not aware of it, though it is freely discussed in Hong Kong, a special Chinese region with much autonomy.

The four dissidents dubbed the booze "Eight Liquor Six Four" and sold it for 89.64 yuan — shorthand for the crackdown date. In Chinese, the word for liquor sounds similar to the word for nine.

The bottle's label depicts a lone figure facing down a row of tanks, reminiscent of the famous "Tank Man" image from 1989, and boasts of being aged 27 years with 64 percent strength.

The bottle was carried by hand through countries in South Asia, the Middle East, and Europe, according

to the Hong Kong Alliance in Support of Patriotic Democratic Movements in China, which operates the museum. Neither the countries nor the couriers were identified.

It reportedly arrived in Paris, where it was mailed to an exiled Chinese activist, Yang Jianli, in Washington, who handed it off to Hong Kong activist Andrew To, who carried it on its final leg from the U.S. before he flew back home.

To said it was crucial to bring it back to Hong Kong to commemorate the event on June 4. "It's just a label, but it scares the Chinese government," he said.

The bottle was on view at the museum's temporary location through June 15. Organizers are looking to buy a permanent space.

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