

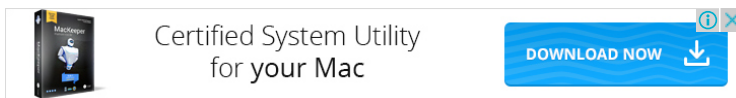
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HACKING GROUP SAYS IT CRASHED JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER SHINZO ABE'S OFFICIAL WEBSITE TO PROTEST JAPAN'S PLANS TO HUNT WHALES - @AP

DECEMBER 10, 2015 (HTTP://KALEINAR.COM/HACKING-GROUP-SAYS-IT-CRASHED-JAPANESE-PRIME-MINISTER-SHINZO-ABES-OFFICIAL-WEBSITE-TO-PROTEST-JAPANS-PLANS-TO-HUNT-WHALES-AP/) / LEAVE A COMMENT (HTTP://KALEINAR.COM/HACKING-GROUP-SAYS-IT-CRASHED-JAPANESE-PRIME-MINISTER-SHINZO-ABES-OFFICIAL-WEBSITE-TO-PROTEST-JAPANS-PLANS-TO-HUNT-WHALES-AP/#RESPOND)



TOKYO — A hacking group said Thursday it has crashed Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's official website to protest Japan's plans to hunt whales.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told reporters that one of Abe's websites has been inaccessible since early Thursday and police were investigating.

Suga acknowledged that the Anonymous hacker group has posted a twitter message claiming responsibility, but added authorities had not singled out the group as a prime suspect.

One of the group's twitter messages posted earlier Thursday criticized Japan over its whaling plans, and warned that Abe's website would be brought down.

"@AbeShinzo whaling is not cultural right! Your website is #TangoDown!" the messages said. The group has also retweeted anti-whaling messages and one urging Abe not to eat whale meat and go vegan.

The incident on Abe's site is the latest in a series of recent attacks on Japanese websites. The Anonymous group has said they were responsible for dozens of earlier attacks.

Japan, despite protests from anti-whaling groups, resumed its annual Antarctic whale hunt, which it says is done for research, last week under a revised plan after the International Court of Justice found its earlier program unscientific.

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