

PM Abe vows to tackle growing child abuse in Japan

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Saturday **vowed** to crack down on the increasing number of **child abuse** cases in Japan after the death of a 10-year-old girl, allegedly killed by her abusive father, shocked the country.

vow 发誓

child abuse 虐童

Mia Kurihara was found dead in the bathroom of her home in Chiba near Tokyo last month after authorities failed to respond to her repeated pleas for help. Her parents have been arrested on suspicion of assaulting their daughter after her father reportedly abused her regularly and refused to allow her to go to school.

Police have found a video on her father's mobile phone showing him hitting her, local media said, adding that she cried in the **footage** saying: "Dad, I'm sorry."

The **high-profile** case has drawn huge media attention, prompting the government to take action amid growing public awareness over child abuse. Abe told members of his ruling Liberal Democratic Party that his government had ordered child welfare centers across the nation to confirm within a month the safety of all children suspected to have been abused. Abe also said the government would raise the number of child welfare workers by some 1,000 for the next fiscal year starting in April from the current 3,200.

footage 连续镜头

high-profile 高调的; 备受瞩目的

Police reported the suspected abuse of a record-high 80,104 minors to child welfare authorities in Japan in 2018, Kyodo News said.