

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe commemorates 'Schindler' in Lithuania

Culture

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Diplomat Chiune Sugihara gave visas to thousands of Jewish refugees after Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union invaded Poland in 1939. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said he was "really very proud of him."

From Deutsche Welle, Jan 14, 2018 Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visited Japan's former consulate in Lithuania on Sunday to honor Chiune Sugihara, a Japanese diplomat who defied orders and helped save an estimated 6,000 Jewish refugees during the Second World War. "The courageous humanitarian act of Mr. Sugihara is highly appreciated by the whole world," Abe said in Kaunas, Lithuania's former capital. "I am really very proud of him." The head of Lithuania's Jewish community, Faina Kukliansky, told AFP news agency, "Sugihara needed a lot of courage to do what he did, especially when we know that it was dangerous for him to defy the government's orders." [⋮] <http://p.dw.com/p/2qpVm>