

Thousands rally against nuclear power in Tokyo

2 June 2013



Abe, whose Liberal Democratic Party has close ties with the nation's powerful business circles, has repeatedly said he would allow reactor restarts if their safety could be ensured.

Japan turned off its 50 reactors for safety checks in the wake of the disaster but has restarted two of them, citing possible summertime power shortages.

Radiation from the plant, 220 kilometres (140 miles) northeast of Tokyo, spread over a wide area after the worst [nuclear accident](#) since the 1986 [Chernobyl disaster](#).

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A protester holds a placard at an anti-nuclear rally in Tokyo on Sunday. Thousands of anti-nuclear demonstrators rallied in the Japanese capital Tokyo on Sunday as conservative Prime Minister Shinzo Abe considers restarting reactors.

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Organisers said 7,500 people gathered at a park in the city centre, including disaster victims and celebrities such as Nobel literature laureate Kenzaburo Oe.

Protesters later marched through the capital, holding anti-nuclear banners including one which read: "No Nukes! Unevolved Apes Want Nukes!"

They also demonstrated outside the headquarters of [Tokyo Electric](#) Power Co, operator of the Fukushima Daiichi [nuclear power plant](#) which was crippled by meltdowns after the March 2011 tsunami.

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