

No Flag Probe in Japan

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Japan refused on Thursday to open a case into last month's demonstration that desecrated a Russian flag to protest Russia's holding of the southern Kuril Islands seized from Japan in the waning days of World War II.

The Russian Foreign Ministry called in the Japanese charge d'affaires on Wednesday to demand an investigation into the protesters and "establishment of their guilt and proper punishment. If this is not done, the Russian authorities will have to take this circumstance into account in future steps regarding Japan," a ministry statement said.

(AP, MT)

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