The Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan expresses its dismay at the taking of two Japanese citizens as hostages by the group known as Islamic State, and it calls for their immediate and unconditional release.

We note that one of the two reported hostages, Kenji Goto, is a journalist whose career has been dedicated to highlighting humanitarian themes such as the promotion of peace, aid for refugees, and an end to poverty. His very presence in that region is testament to the fact that he is a special kind of Japanese whose sincerity and bravery must be respected. Whatever grievances Islamic State may hold, any act of punishment against Mr. Goto would be a terrible injustice.

Both Japanese citizens should be released unharmed.

Board of Directors
The Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan