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## **JAPAN-RUSSIA SUMMIT MAY SKIP TALKS ON DISPUTED ISLANDS**

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Anadolu Agency (19 April 2019)

Japan has reportedly decided to drop a proposal which would seek an agreement with Russia over a number of disputed islands off the coast of northern Japan when President Vladimir Putin visits Tokyo in June.

According to daily Mainichi Shimbun, Japan was considering a proposal to "reach a broad agreement" with Russia over the four Russian-controlled islands, namely Kunashiri, Etorofu, Habomai, and Shikotan in Japan.

"Yet talks [over the disputed islands] between the two countries are bound to be drawn out," the daily said.

Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga on Wednesday told a press conference that Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Putin "share a firm determination to put an end to the territorial dispute during their tenure".

"Russia continues to maintain a hard-line stance over the issue," the daily added.

Abe and Putin had in last November agreed to accelerate negotiations based on the 1956 Japan-Soviet Joint Declaration.

The declaration requires that the islands of Habomai and Shikotan would be returned to Japanese sovereignty after a bilateral peace treaty had been signed.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/japan-russia-summit-may-skip-talks-on-disputed-islands/1456874>

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