

FFWPU USA: Making Faith Itself Illegal

Demian Dunkley
May 27, 2026



FAMILY FEDERATION

The Newsletter

May 27, 2026

Hello family. Quick Connect update. International Human Rights lawyer take on dissolution decision. Biased Supreme Court judge: Bitter Winter article, Press conference.

News

Quick Connect: Making Faith Itself Illegal



The dissolution order is an attempt at making faith itself illegal, and further criticism of the judge handling the Supreme Court case, on today's Quick Connect.

[watch here](#)

International Human Rights Lawyer's Paper on Dissolution Decision



According to a paper by Patricia Duval, an international human rights lawyer, this is "religious purging in a modern democratic state." The Zenkoku Benren (National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales) was established by lawyers close to the Communist Party, and in 1987, it also collaborated with a group of Protestant pastors who viewed the Unification Church as a rival.

[read more](#)

Bitter Winter Article on Biased Supreme Court Judge

A judge who once attacked the religious organization at an anti-cult seminar is not impartial and should be recused.

[read more](#)

Press Conference on Recusal Motion Against Judge



Unlike in criminal cases, civil judgments can vary depending on the judge or lawyer involved. In March 2024, Attorney Seizuki Goji of the Japan Federation of Bar Associations lost a civil lawsuit in which the Family Federation was the defendant. Four months later, in July, Justice Okino gave the keynote speech at a Japan Federation of Bar Associations seminar in his capacity as a professor at the time.

[watch here](#)





Support religious freedom

Your generosity is helping us promote religious freedom in South Korea, Japan and domestically. From rallies to high level meetings, your donation is making a difference.

[support here](#)



Daily Hoon Dok Hwe

Let God's word be heard with a daily reading of scripture right to your phone. Download the Godible app to listen to hundreds of episodes of Hoon Dok Hwe.

[download Godible](#)

Follow Us



Did a friend forward this to you? [Subscribe](#) to The Newsletter.

- X
- Home
- Explore
- Notifications
- Follow
- Chat
- Grok
- Bookmarks
- Creator Studio
- Premium 50% off
- Profile
- More

Post

Gary Fleisher @gary_fleisher

← Post

The Monarch Report @monarchreport25

Translated from Japanese [Show original](#)
 According to a paper by Patricia Duval, an international human rights lawyer, this is "religious purging in a modern democratic state."

The Zenkoku Benren (National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales) was established by lawyers close to the Communist Party, and in 1987, it also collaborated with a group of Protestant pastors who viewed the Unification Church as a rival.

Immediately after the Tokyo High Court's dissolution order, this Zenkoku Benren issued a statement saying, "This is not enough."

It called for legal amendments to also prohibit fundraising for donations by individual believers or voluntary groups.

Duval, the lawyer, criticizes this as "an attempt to make the practice of faith itself illegal."

Moreover, this movement does not stop at Japan↓

Rate this translation: 👍 👎



3:06 AM · May 25, 2026 · 5,487 Views

25 523 720 22

Post your reply Reply

The Monarch Report @monarchreport25 · May 25

Translated from Japanese [Show original](#)
 In January 2025, the National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Abuses (Zenkoku Benren) signed an agreement with South Korea's "Heretical Counseling Center Association."

Association Chairman Pastor Jin Young-sik made this appeal—
 "I want to draw on the wisdom that all of



7 100 129 2.2K

ハルモニ @xGfmaJMCHf54344 · May 26

全国弁連には、異常さしか感じられないです。対象をターゲットとして徹底的に潰しにかかり、関係者から搾取して搾り上げ、利益は全部、自分のものにする。こんな団体の言うこと聞いて、国益になるのか!?

Abenaki @AbenakiTcham · May 25

There is nothing fair in this high court dissolution and MEXT, knowing that they acted with the Zenkoku Benren (National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales) was established by lawyers close to the Communist Party, and in 1987, also collaborated with a group of Protestant

shiso @sq0853 · May 26

An English statement submitted to the Supreme Court by Japanese constitutional scholar Manabu Ishizaki opposing the dissolution order against the Unification Church. I hope you'll read it and share it with legal scholars and lawyers you know.

石崎学 @ishizakiyoon · May 25

Translated from Japanese
 #Please Share Widely

Q Search

Relevant people

The Monarch Report @monarchreport25 Follow
 Korea's Real Story in English. Protecting God-given rights through investigative truth sharing.

What's happening

- Gaming · Trending **Steam Deck**
- Politics · Trending **Republicans**
- Trending in United States **#zerosevoted**

Terms of Service | Privacy Policy | Cookie Policy | Accessibility | Ads info | More ... © 2026 X Corp.

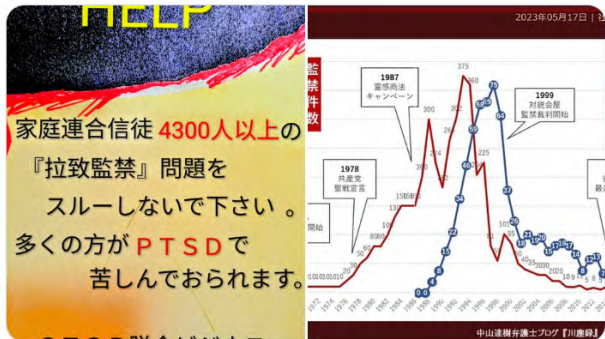
Parts 1 through 5 of the 6-part English translation of the opinion I submitted to the Supreme Court in the special appeal hearing for the Family Federation dissolution order case have been published on the website of "Bitter Winter A magazine on religious

1 3 4 66

Hachiプロ @6mRAAtIAH313294 · May 25
今の日本や日本の司法は宗教をあまりにも軽んじている。宗教=金集め集団とも思っているのだろう。特に家庭連合に対して初めからそう決めつけている様だ。信教の自由も無い家庭連合信者の人権も無い。国際的にも問題ではないだろうか。

10 17 110

飛鳥 @2ol2MYpJUK44518 · May 25
#全国弁連発足の動機はスパイ防止法潰し・家庭連合潰し
#安倍元首相暗殺テロ以降、パトリシアデュバル国際弁護士は #家庭連合解散命令は違法 と継承を鳴らし続けています。
#全国弁連は、家庭連合信徒の #拉致監禁 にも #踏み絵裁判 を通して深く関与している団体です。



4 12 107

hanahana @hanahan79057004 · May 26
全国弁連の正体を殆どの日本人は知りません。長年にわたり共産党と共に家庭連合潰しに奔走してきた過去を表面化する時ではないでしょうか。

3 4 27

Ulrich Ganz @ganz_ulrich · May 26
Dissolving a religious organization is one of the most extreme forms of state intervention and should not be driven by politically motivated anti-religious activists. #ReligiousFreedom

1 3 46

檸檬 @makkungenkidesu · May 26
リポートに感謝！共産主義者、左翼思想家たちは全国弁連、マスメディアを使って国民を洗脳しました。残念なことに日本国民はこの異常な裁判に危機感を覚えることも無く他人事として通り過ぎようとしています。日本の共産化を防ぎ民主主義を守る為には世界の助けが必要です！急務です！

4 7 41

スリオン @mikkurin0210 · May 26
献金の見方に、すでに偏見が入っているから平行線。神社のお布施にも色々言い出すのでは。見方がすでに偏っているのは、どっちなの？
#全国弁連

3 4 39

Assaa(あっさー) @tobira_mukou · May 25
この動きに日本政府や裁判所までもが加担しているというから恐ろしい

4 9 93

マロケン @God_Bless_JPN13 · May 25
日本の歴史的な根本的な膿ができましたね。ここでしっかり出し切って、治療しなければいけません！

2 5 57

Giuseppe @Giuseppe0488 · May 26
Religious cleansing in a modern democratic state is probably the perverse thing about the constitutional state. Accordingly, it should be called state-right.

1 1 15

さくら @sakula148 · May 27
Exactly. Japan is trying to become a model case of communization, transitioning from one of the advanced liberal democratic countries. The Japanese judiciary has gone mad. Please, by all means, appeal to the Japanese government 🙏🙏

The Monarch Report @monarchreport25 · May 23
【A Serious Problem in Japan's Courts】
What does it mean when a Supreme Court justice has already condemned the defendant—before the case begins?
...

2 3 19

ルミノ @shino15278 · May 26
御投稿に感謝致します。🌸！本当に全く酷い状況としか言え無いですね...！🌸

1 2 18

ハイビスカス @7CtBw04tWt23293 · May 25

You are here: [Home](#) » [From the World](#) » [Op-eds Global](#)

Japan's Justice Okino: Will a True Believer in Brainwashing Judge the Unification Church Case?

by Massimo Introvigne | May 26, 2026 | [Op-eds Global](#)

A judge who once attacked the religious organization at an anti-cult seminar is not impartial and should be recused.

by Massimo Introvigne



Justice Masami Okino.

The unfolding situation surrounding Justice Masami Okino of Japan's Supreme Court has become one of the most curious—and troubling—episodes in the long saga of the government's campaign against the Unification Church, now known as the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU). On May 21, 2026, the Church's lawyers filed a formal application for her recusal from the Third Petty Bench, which is handling the special appeal against the Tokyo High Court's dissolution order. The motion is based on Justice Okino's own recorded words, delivered at a 2024 Japan Federation of Bar Associations seminar that functioned, in substance, as an anti Unification Church event. At that time, she was a university professor, not yet a Justice.

She argued at the seminar that even legitimate religious activities—specifically, the teaching of doctrine—can place believers in a state in which they are deprived of their free will. She added that while the act of teaching may not be illegal in itself, exploiting such a state to obtain donations is unlawful, and she asserted that this is precisely what the Unification Church does. She went further, claiming that the the most striking lines attributed to her, she stated: “In the case of the Unification Church, the other party [i.e., the Church member soliciting donations] actively drives the person into that situation [where free will is impaired], so culpability is higher.”

These are the words of someone who appears to embrace the long discredited theory of “brainwashing,” a concept rejected by courts in democratic countries and by scholars of religion for decades. Justice Okino's theory, if applied consistently, would place nearly every religion under suspicion. Many traditions teach doctrines that encourage self sacrifice, generosity, or the belief that spiritual merit can be gained through giving. If teaching such doctrines can be construed as creating a state of diminished free will, then the line between religious persuasion and fraud disappears entirely. Okino's theory is universal in its implications and dangerous in its application.

The seminar where Justice Okino spoke was not an academic colloquium. The Japan Federation of Bar Associations, an organization notorious for its anti-cult positions, organized it. It featured two core members of the National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales as keynote speakers, a group known for its adversarial stance toward the Unification Church. One of them, attorney Masaki Goro, has argued that merely possessing faith in the Unification Church constitutes an infringement on religious freedom and has defended abduction and confinement for forced deconversion. The entire event proceeded from the premise that the Church is inherently malicious and that all believers are victims of “mind control.” Okino's remarks aligned seamlessly with this narrative.

International human rights law leaves no ambiguity about the consequences of such conduct. Article 14(1) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights requires that tribunals be “competent, independent and impartial,” and the Human Rights Committee has repeatedly held that impartiality includes both subjective neutrality and the objective appearance of neutrality. Judges who have expressed views suggesting bias toward a party must be recused to preserve public confidence in the administration of justice.

The problem is not that a legal scholar once expressed an opinion. The problem is that she is now sitting in judgment on the very organization she publicly condemned. Japan's own Non-Contentious Cases Procedure Act, Article 12(1)

 Search

NEWSLETTER

Email address:

 Your email address


Sign up

SUPPORT BITTER WINTER

Donate



MOST READ



Japan's Justice Okino: Will a True Believer in Brainwashing Judge the Unification Church Case?



When the Camera Turns Away: Carol Guzy and Amsterdam's Lonely Uyghur



“Magnifica Humanitas” and Xi Jinping's Thought on AI: Same Problem, Different Solutions



Yayang Church Reduced to Rubble in Wenzhou



沖野判事: 洗脳理論を真に信じる人物が統一教会事件を裁くのか?



Constitutional Issues in the Unification Church Dissolution Case. 3. The Influence of French Law

LEGAL

[Privacy Policy](#)

concerned. Japan's own Non-Contentious Cases Procedures Act, Article 12(1), provides that a judge shall be recused when her participation could "impair the fairness of the trial." The Unification Church's lawyers argue that this threshold is clearly met. It is difficult to disagree. When a justice has already suggested that the appellant's core religious activities are inherently harmful and that its believers are incapable of exercising free will, the appearance of impartiality is obliterated.

The broader context makes the situation even more troubling. Scholars and international observers have already criticized the dissolution case for relying on vague notions of "social appropriateness" and adopting a doctrinally intrusive approach that is inconsistent with global standards on freedom of religion. Now, the Supreme Court's handling of the appeal risks compounding the problem. Assigning the case to a bench that includes the Justice most publicly associated with anti Unification Church rhetoric raises questions that extend beyond a single lawsuit. It raises questions about the integrity of Japan's judicial process.

Japan now faces a moment of institutional self reflection. The dissolution of a religious corporation is one of the gravest actions a democratic state can take. It demands a judiciary that is not only fair but visibly fair. Allowing a justice who has publicly endorsed anti Unification Church theories to adjudicate the Church's final appeal risks transforming a constitutional process into a political one. It also risks sending a message that, in cases involving unpopular religions, the ordinary safeguards of impartial justice no longer apply.

For a country that prides itself on the rule of law, this is a dangerous message indeed.

[Anti-Cult](#), [Brainwashing](#), [Japan](#), [Religious Liberty](#), [Unification Church](#)



Massimo Introvigne

Massimo Introvigne (born June 14, 1955 in Rome) is an Italian sociologist of religions. He is the founder and managing director of the Center for Studies on New Religions ([CESNUR](#)), an international network of scholars who study new religious movements. Introvigne is the author of some 70 books and more than 100 articles in the field of sociology of religion. He was the main author of the [Enciclopedia delle religioni in Italia](#) (Encyclopedia of Religions in Italy). He is a member of the editorial board for the [Interdisciplinary Journal of Research on Religion](#) and of the executive board of University of California Press' [Nova Religio](#). From January 5 to December 31, 2011, he has served as the "Representative on combating racism, xenophobia and discrimination, with a special focus on discrimination against Christians and members of other religions" of the [Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe](#) (OSCE). From 2012 to 2015 he served as chairperson of the Observatory of Religious Liberty, instituted by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in order to monitor problems of religious liberty on a worldwide scale.

www.cesnur.org/



READ MORE



France TV's "Scientology, the Empire of Secrecy" (2026). 2. Mocking Belief and Silencing Believers

May 12, 2026



France TV's "Scientology, the Empire of Secrecy" (2026). 1. Apostates and Media Rituals

May 11, 2026



Not-So-Strange Bedfellows: The Southern Poverty Law Center and the Anti-Cult Movement

May 6, 2026

NEWSLETTER

Email address:

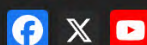
Your email address

Sign up

CESNUR

Via Confienza 19
10121 - Torino
Italy
info@bitterwinter.org

FOLLOW



SUPPORT BITTER WINTER

Donate

