

## The Unification Church center in Paris was bombed 40 years ago today

Klaus Schick  
January 22, 2015



Exactly 40 years ago today, the Unification church center in Paris was bombed by a Communist group after several negative articles in the French liberal media. Several Unificationists were seriously injured, and other centers were also targeted all over France at this time. Klaus Schick, who lived in Lyon at the time, recounts the events on and after January 22, 1976.



### Preview

On January 22, 1976, the Villa Aublet, a Unification church center in Paris, was bombed, leaving a young woman from Norway seriously injured. Persecution and bomb threats toward Unificationists in France began in 1975 and were fueled by the French media. During an intense time when France had signed the Schengen treaty that blocked True Parents from entering Europe for over three decades, the French media portrayed True Father satirically, as a monster and Nazi. This finally led to the bombing of the church center by a communist group. Other events followed, such as kidnappings and an increasing amount of bomb threats all across France, and the government did little to protect the persecuted Unificationists.



True Father gave Henri Blanchard, the national leader for the Unification church in France, instruction to organize a manifestation to protest the violence against the church. With the headline: “Accepterons–Nous la Violence et le Mensonge?” (“Are We Going to Accept Violence and Lies?”), Unificationists in France stood up for justice. The Paris City Hall was reluctant to give them a permit to protest, but in the end had no choice. The message of the protest was that the French people should not tolerate violence, and—as France prides itself in the words “freedom, equality and brotherhood”—these key values apply to Unificationists just like anyone else.



**Note:  
Klaus Schick**

Actually it happened 39 Years ago when I was “stationed” in Paris as a Witnessing-Team-Captain at the Villa Aublet. As such I was still up late at night writing letters sitting right at the window where the bomb was planted. Around 2:15 am I remembered that I still had to finish my 21-day cold-shower condition and that it was already the 22nd of January. So I did my final shower and just as I got into my sleeping bag there was a loud Boom, everything vibrated and the lights went out.

Next we heard a sister scream downstairs. As we got there she was already standing outside on the street bleeding. We covered her with my blanket and soon the Police and Ambulance arrived. We were lucky that day as our Center leader also just shortly before the blast had left that room. But Sister Comedahl was badly injured with many puncture wounds on the right backside of her body caused by flying debris, her right arm remained paralyzed.

A German Brother a few days later also died in an accident returning from Lyon after dropping off work shop guests there. Bob Exler was part of the work shop staff at the work shop center in Lyon. Next day as some of us testified at the police station. They told us that bombings in Paris were a daily occurrence, as many extremist groups had their offices in the City. What was a routine for them became an extraordinary experience for us as we found ourselves so suddenly on the frontline in the crossfire of God’s Providence.