

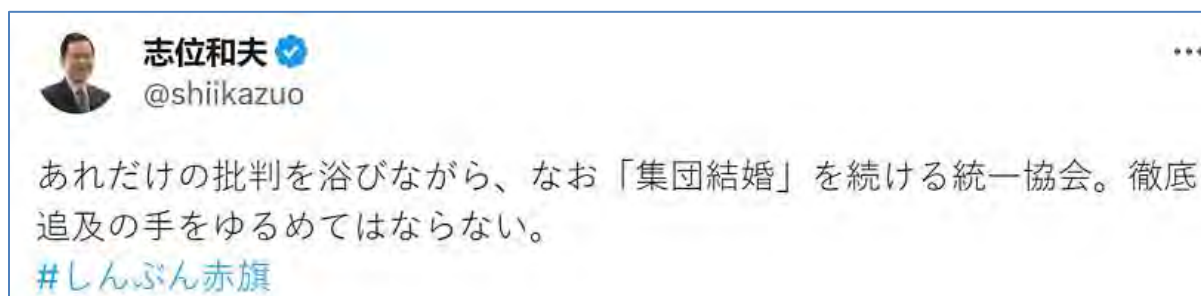
## FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: New Admission By Top Japanese Communist

Knut Holdhus  
September 7, 2023



### Chairman revealing intense fight to crush Family Federation in new admission

With its close to 300,000 members, the Japanese Communist Party (JCP) is one of the world's largest. Since the 1970's, the party has been fighting systematically to destroy the [Unification Church](#), regarded as a key player among the anti-communist forces.



*Kazuo Shii making a new admission on his X-account 4th Sep. 2023*

On 4th September 2023, Kazuo Shii, chairman of the Japanese Communist Party since 2000, made a new admission about their decades long campaign and wrote on his large Twitter / X account with more than 200,000 followers,

"Despite being criticized so much the [Unification Church](#) still continues its "mass weddings". We must not relax our thorough pursuit."

The "thorough pursuit" he mentioned in his new admission is part of the JCP's deliberate effort to eliminate anti-communists.



*The logo of the Shimbun Akahata (Red flag)*

In an interview in November 2022 with Shii, the Shimbun Akahata, the daily organ and official national newspaper of the Japanese Communist Party, it was made clear that the fierce campaign after the assassination of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe 8th July 2022 is the communists' "final war" against the [Unification Church](#) /

## [Family Federation.](#)

Shii said in the Akahata interview that the war had started already in 1978 at the elections of the governor of Kyoto. "This time", he said after the Abe assassination - making a new admission at the time - "we will fight thoroughly and completely until we win the struggle."

See also [The 'Japanese communists' final war' against the Unification Church](#)

Many times, communists prefer to work undercover, often through so-called front groups. One would rarely hear them admit publicly that they are behind a certain project or group. A good example is the National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales, the body through which they have been fighting the [Unification Church](#) since 1987.

Award-winning investigative journalist Masumi Fukuda explains,

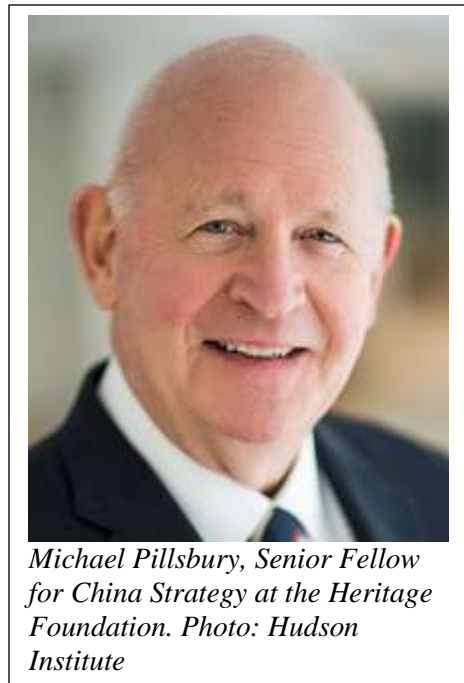


"Almost all of the lawyers in the Network were affiliated with the former Socialist Party and the Communist Party, [...] were connected with extremist groups and North Korea, and were ideologically leftists and self-styled atheists." ([The Truth About the National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales](#), article by Masumi Fukuda in the monthly magazine Hanada, republished in English in [Bitter Winter](#) 30th March 2023)

It has indeed been in line with a long-term communist strategy to weaken voices like the [Unification Church](#), that is highly critical of the God-denying, totalitarian society communists systematically work to create, the likes of which we see in China and North Korea.

At an international [conference in South Korea](#) on 17th December 2022, Michael Pillsbury, author and prominent authority on China, said that it is not only the Japanese

Communist Party that exploits the assassination of Shinzo Abe. Also Chinese President Xi Jinping believes he may use the assassination - and the alleged grievances of Tetsuya Yamagami, the terrorist behind the murder, towards the [Unification Church](#) - to stain the reputation of the church and the legacy of Abe and undermine freedom of religion in Japan and other countries.



Pillsbury served from 2014 to January 2023 as director of the Center on Chinese Strategy at the Hudson Institute, a prestigious Washington, D.C think tank. In addition, he has been an adviser to most American presidents since Richard Nixon. He now works for the Heritage Foundation, one of the top 10 think tanks in the world, as Senior Fellow for China Strategy.

Pillsbury added,

"It's obvious to me why China also wants to undermine the memory of Abe. He was the most anti-Chinese Communist Party Prime Minister in Japanese history. The Japanese Communist Party not only attacks the Abe wing of the LDP, but also the work of the [Unification Church](#) in Japan and around the world. China attacks the [Unification Church](#). At the same time, it attacks everything Abe worked for."

See also [Communists of China Exploiting Assassination](#)

# the japan times

In an article titled "Don't Allow the Attack on Kishida to Become a Trend" 16th April this year by columnist Gearoid Reidy, The Japan times commented that the assassination of Abe "was exploited for political gain."



Logo of the Japanese magazine Monthly Hanada

In a series of articles in the monthly magazine Hanada, above-mentioned journalist Masumi Fukuda explains precisely how that was done. She revealed how a leftwing group of activist lawyers managed to sell a totally fabricated story to the media that it was the [Unification Church](#) that was the real perpetrator. Read [the story!](#)

Fukuda explains where the activist lawyers' network - National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales - comes from,

In addition, the award-winning journalist exposes that the network of lawyers for more than 20 years had been extensively involved in the abduction and forcible confinement of members of the [Unification Church](#),



Eito Suzuki, born as Kiyofumi Tanaka



Yoshifu Arita



Masaki Kito from National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales

"There were lawyers who became rich through these cases, as did deprogrammers and Christian pastors involved in the abductions, who received substantial amounts of money from the relatives of the believers they deprogrammed.

When the lawyers were consulted by the believers' parents, they first introduced them to the deprogrammers. If and when deprogramming was successful, the lawyers took over from the deprogrammers as 'handlers' of the former believers, made them plaintiffs, and filed lawsuits. The anti-[Unification Church](#) group, including Attorney Kito and journalists Yoshifu Arita, and Eito Suzuki, still defends deprogramming to this very day, and claims it was performed to 'protect' the former members of the [Unification Church](#)." (Hanada / [Bitter Winter](#))

Fukuda explains how thousands of members of the [Unification Church](#) were kidnapped, forcibly confined and deprogrammed. Not only were they forced to denounce their belief. They also had to prove that they had separated themselves from the church by asserting they had been "victims of spiritual sales". The network of lawyers made them go to court against the [Unification Church](#) demanding to retrieve the money they once had donated.

See also [Lawyers Manipulating, Coercing, Lying](#)

More than 4,300 members were kidnapped and deprogrammed in this way. With so many forced by leftwing lawyers to sue the [Unification Church](#), this communist-inspired activist network managed to inflate figures immensely and portray the [Unification Church](#) as a group "detrimental to public welfare".

Fukuda reveals how for decades, the leftwing lawyers in the aforementioned network have used tactics like coercing ex-members to join their lawsuits against the [Unification Church](#), making up evidence, and extorting money from a perfectly legitimate religious movement, that is constantly being attacked and painted black by those lawyers. Masumi Fukuda calls those lawsuits fraudulent. She says,



In fact, there are many cases in which relatives consulted with the Network on how to force the donors-believers to sue." ([The Plot to Destroy the Unification Church in Japan. 3. Fraudulent Lawsuits](#), written by Masumi Fukuda, published in [Bitter](#)

[Winter](#) 26th June 2023.)

The network was actually organised in order to put an end to the [Unification Church](#), now called the [Family Federation](#). In her articles the Japanese journalist exposes how the activist lawyers, many of them



hard-core communists, used trumped-up charges against a new religious movement, while the "crime" it has committed, is to be against communism.

In this way the communists wage their "final war" against the [Family Federation](#), by pushing for its dissolution order.

It is hard to think of a more dishonest, immoral and sly way to attack one's enemy.

Featured image above to illustrate "New Admission by Top Japanese Communist": Kazuo Shii 30th March 2023. Photo: Attribution: [首相官邸ホームページ](#) / Wikimedia Commons. License: [CC Attr 4.0 Int](#). Cropped

"New Admission by Top Japanese Communist" - text: Knut Holdhus. Published 7th Sep 2023 at 9:51 am, updated 2:14 pm same day.

See also [Call to End Witch Hunt](#),

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## Lawyers Manipulating, Coercing, Lying

June 28, 2023 • Knut Holdhus

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### Activist lawyers manipulating clients, evidence, legal system

Japanese award-winning author Masumi Fukuda, known for her investigative journalism, exposes in the July 2023 issue of the magazine Monthly Hanada, an extreme network of leftwing lawyers manipulating the legal system



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in Japan, the media and the public opinion. For decades, activist lawyers in the network have been using tactics like coercing former members to join their lawsuits against the [Unification Church](#), fabricating evidence, and extorting money from a perfectly legitimate religious movement, that is constantly being persecuted and slandered by those lawyers.



From July 2023 issue of *Hanada*. Photo: [Bitter Winter](#)

The network was in fact established in order to destroy the [Unification Church](#), now called the [Family Federation](#). What the Japanese journalist is unmasking, essentially boils down to the activist lawyers, many of them communists, using trumped-up charges against a new religious movement, while the “crime” it has committed, is to be against communism.

[Bitter Winter](#), an online magazine on religious freedom and human rights, published Fukuda’s findings in a series of four articles in English. The first one appeared 23<sup>rd</sup> June, the fourth and last 27<sup>th</sup> June.



From front page of July 2023 issue of *Hanada*

The first article describes the legal battle between the [Unification Church](#) in Japan and a group of anti-cult lawyers who want to dissolve the [church](#). Fukuda argues that the [church](#) is not a “cult”, but a

legitimate religious organization, that has been persecuted and slandered by the lawyers and the media. The article also exposes the hidden motives and connections of the lawyers, who have been profiting from lawsuits against the [church](#) and collaborating with former members and other anti-cult groups. The investigative journalist claims that the request to dissolve the [church](#) is unreasonable and unjust, and that it violates the freedom of religion and human rights of the [church](#) members.

Fukuda points out that although the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) has been petitioned many times by the activist lawyers’ network to dissolve the [Unification Church](#) / [Family Federation](#), the ministry has no case to do so. The investigative reporter states,

“Although the MEXT has now exercised its right to ask questions for five times, it has not ‘collected enough evidence’. In fact, it has not found a single piece of evidence. This is the best proof that the religious organization is innocent.” (*The Plot to Destroy the Unification Church in Japan. 1. Why the Church Should Not Be Dissolved*, written by Masumi Fukuda, published in *Bitter Winter* 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2023.)



The second article [Bitter Winter](#) published, details the devious tactics of the anti-cult lawyers, who have been suing the [Unification Church](#) in Japan for decades. It is revealed how the lawyers have been manipulating the legal system, the media, and the public opinion to create highly image-tarnishing lawsuits against the [church](#). The article also exposes how the lawyers have been coercing former members to join their lawsuits, fabricating evidence, and extorting money from the church. Fukuda claims that the lawyers have been violating the law, the ethics, and the human rights of the church members.

In the third article, Masumi Fukuda makes shocking revelations about the fraudulent lawsuits that the



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anti-cult lawyers have filed against the [Unification Church](#) in Japan. The article shows how the lawyers have used false or exaggerated claims to accuse the [church](#) of brainwashing, extortion, and other abusive methods. Fukuda shows how the courts have been biased and unfair towards the church, and how some judges have ignored or dismissed the evidence presented by the church. The third Bitter Winter article claims that the lawsuits have been unjust and unlawful, and that they have caused



Activist lawyers caused great damage and suffering to [Unification Church](#) members. Here Toru Goto after 12 years of forcible detention. Photo: [FFWPU](#)



Key member of activist lawyers' network – Hiroshi Watanabe. Photo: Screenshot / [Bitter Winter](#)

great damage and suffering to the church members.

The final article in the series, brings to light the

real “anti-social” group, the anti-cult lawyers who try to destroy the [Unification Church](#) / [Family Federation](#) in Japan. This article exposes the systematic lies and disreputable tactics of the lawyers who have been spreading false information and propaganda about the [church](#). We get insights into the hidden agenda and interests of the lawyers, who have been collaborating with anti-cult groups, former members, and media outlets to discredit and harass the [church](#). The writer claims that the lawyers are the ones who are violating the social norms and values, and that they should be held accountable for their actions.

Here is an example of the fabricated evidence that Fukuda mentions,

“The plaintiff also submitted as evidence several notebooks and passbooks in which she had noted each time she made a donation or other contribution. However, when the defendants analyzed these notes, they found that some of them had not been written at the time of the donations, but later, in order to fabricate favorable evidence for the trial.”

(From [The Plot to Destroy the Unification Church in Japan. 4. The Real “Anti-Social” Group, the Anti-Cult Lawyers](#), written by Masumi Fukuda, published in Bitter Winter 27<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

Fukuda writes,

“For almost all religions, including the former [Unification Church](#), donations, endowments, and charitable gifts are expressions of piety and are offered willingly to [God](#). For example, not a few overseas Christians donated vast tracts of land or even their entire wealth before the end of their lives and died penniless. Will their relatives sue the religious corporations for depriving them of the inheritance they expected to inherit?

It is not unusual for other religious corporations to receive donations of hundreds of millions of yen. It is problematic to unilaterally criticize only large donations made for the altruistic reason of ‘promoting world peace’ or ‘the good of humanity’.



Head of the activist lawyers network – Hiroshi Yamaguchi. Photo: Screenshot / [Bitter Winter](#)

Unfortunately, however, even if the donors are convinced at the time of the donation that they are donating freely, as time goes by, their faith may wane. Their relatives may rush to the National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales to recover the donation.

The donors may be persuaded by lawyers from the Communist Party of Japan or the former Socialist Party that they have been 'deceived', and a lawsuit against the religious organization for the return of the donation may follow. In fact, there are many cases in which relatives consulted with the Network on how to force the donors-believers to sue." ([The Plot to Destroy the Unification Church in Japan. 3. Fraudulent Lawsuits](#), written by Masumi Fukuda, published in [Bitter Winter](#) 26<sup>th</sup> June 2023.)

Featured image above: Masumi Fukuda, april 2023. Photo: [FOREF](#)

"Lawyers Manipulating, Coercing, Lying" – text: Knut Holdhus

Read more about lawyers manipulating in [Illegalities of Activist Lawyers Exposed](#)

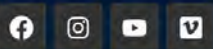
Read even more about lawyers manipulating in [Japan Times: Warning Of Terror](#)

Also [Bitter Winter](#) has more articles on Japanese leftwing activist lawyers manipulating the country's legal system.

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# Illegalities Of Activist Lawyers Exposed

April 1, 2023 • Knut Holdhus

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## Network of leftwing activist lawyers behind smear-campaign

Japanese award-winning journalist Masumi Fukuda is well known for her investigative journalism. And it looks like she may well have unearthed another scandal, involving leftwing activist lawyers.



In a series of articles in the monthly magazine Hanada, she has gone against

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the country's mainstream media and become the first journalist to ask serious questions about who and what are behind the ongoing smear-campaign against the **Family Federation**, formerly the **Unification Church**.

As internationally known author and scholar of sociology of religion Massimo Introvigne pointed out already in August 2022,

"After the crime, media took at face value the statements of anti-**Unification-Church** lawyers. Nobody cared to investigate them and their past." (The Abe Assassination. Lawyers "Against Spiritual Sales"—or Against Religious Liberty?, article by Dr. Introvigne in Bitter Winter, a magazine on religious liberty and human rights, 29<sup>th</sup> Aug. 2022)

The crime he is referring to here, is of course the assassination of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. A leftwing group of activist lawyers succeeded in selling their story to the media that it was the **Unification Church** that was the actual perpetrator.

Journalist Masumi Fukuda appears to be first to dig up the shady background and motives of that group of lawyers. In the January 2023 issue of Hanada, she writes,

"After reflecting about the controversies, I decided to first investigate whether the National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales is really an organization that is purely concerned with consumer issues, and to trace back the reasons for its establishment. The July 12 press conference by the Network, as well as the statements by Attorney Masaki Kito, showed that they hold an unusual hatred toward the former **Unification Church**. I felt there was something beyond mere consumer issues." (The Truth About the National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales, article by Masumi Fukuda in the monthly magazine Hanada, republished in English in Bitter Winter 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023)

Fukuda clearly reveals the origin of the activist lawyers' network,

"Almost all of the lawyers in the Network were affiliated with the former Socialist Party and the Communist Party, who strongly opposed the enactment of the Anti-Espionage Law, were connected with extremist groups and North Korea, and were ideologically leftists and self-styled atheists. In contrast, the former **Unification Church** is an anti-communist and conservative organization that opposes atheism. It is clear that this was an ideological battle between the two camps. Attorney Hiroshi Yamaguchi also clearly stated, 'We want to make a big public announcement [about 'spiritual sales'] because it will be good for containing right-wing activities, especially for preventing the passing of the Anti-Espionage Law.'" (Hanada)



The investigative journalist also points out that the network of lawyers for decades was heavily involved in the abduction and confinement of members of the **Unification Church**,

"There were lawyers who became rich through these cases, as did deprogrammers and Christian pastors involved in the abductions, who received substantial amounts of money from the relatives of the believers they deprogrammed. When the lawyers were consulted by the believers' parents, they first introduced them to the deprogrammers. If and when deprogramming was successful, the lawyers took over from the deprogrammers as 'handlers' of the former believers, made them plaintiffs, and filed

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lawsuits. The anti-**Unification-Church** group, including Attorney Kito and journalists Yoshifu Arita, and Eito Suzuki, still defends deprogramming to this very day, and claims it was performed to 'protect' the former members of the **Unification Church**." (Hanada)

Fukuda writes that a huge number of members of the **Unification Church** were kidnapped, confined and deprogrammed. They were not only forced to denounce their belief, but had to prove that they had left the church by claiming they had been "victims of spiritual sales". The network of lawyers made them file lawsuits against the **Unification Church** demanding to get back the money they once had donated.

The Japanese journalist concludes her article by saying,

"I wrote about the details of the abduction and confinement process in the December 2022 issue of 'Monthly Hanada', but when I asked Attorney Kito for an interview about deprogramming, he was completely unwilling to respond. The Network has often called the former **Unification Church** an 'anti-social organization' and a 'cult', but I believe that these labels may be more appropriately used for an organization deeply involved in deprogramming and in illegal practices of abduction and confinement." (Hanada)



*Text: Knut Holdhus*

*Featured image above: The front page of the January 2023 issue of the Japanese magazine Monthly Hanada.*

Read [full article](#) of Fukuda in Bitter Winter

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## Leftwing Smear Campaign In Japan

February 4, 2023 • Knut Holdhus

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### Leftwing smear campaign exploits Abe assassination to attack Unificaton Church

Religious freedom is being attacked all over the world, especially in totalitarian states like China. But there is another worrying trend. In democratic nations, we see leftwing smear campaigns against religious minorities. Groups well to the left of the political spectrum are campaigning to curb the rights of religious organisations.

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We see this clearly in Japan. There, an activist group founded by members of the Communist and Socialist Parties and aided by left-leaning journalists and editors, have managed to gain broad support in their decades-long fight to stop the amazing growth of the **Family Federation**, formerly the **Unification Church**. This has happened especially after the assassination of former prime minister Shinzo Abe on 8<sup>th</sup> July last year.



Japan. License: CC ASA 3.0 Unp. Cropped

*The Washington Times* writes,



“The

assassination’s aftermath has emboldened fringe Japanese communists to try to smear and discredit Abe’s long-ruling Liberal Democratic Party over its links to the **Unification Church**, said former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, who warned this week that Tokyo now finds itself in a ‘political fight about an ideology of communism, which wants to destroy its major competitor’ to ‘get control of Japan.’

‘This is a huge problem,’ Mr. Gingrich told an audience at the International Religious Freedom Summit 2023, referring to the pressure campaign in Japan against members of the **Unification Church**. **Unification Church** officials and members say they have faced death threats and other forms of harassment in the wake of Abe’s death.” (“Religious Freedom under threat; summit highlights actions by China, developments in Japan”, web edition 1<sup>st</sup> Feb. 2023)

Gingrich called the leftwing smear campaign against the **Family Federation** “a political fight with huge ramifications for communist China”.

Sam Brownback, former U.S. ambassador-at-large for international religious freedom, who co-chaired this year’s International Religious Freedom Summit, remarked,



“When a government can take out one church, it can take out every church, every religious institution [...]. It’s about a common human right and about preventing a government from stomping on it – even a democracy as well-formed and with as strong a constitution as Japan has.”

The Washington newspaper writes that the Japanese parliament, the Diet, voted last December for a law that makes it a lot harder for religious groups to raise funds. The law blocks the sale of items such as books of great spiritual significance at substantially higher prices than ordinary books. The new legislation also grants extensive rights to donors to religious organisations to claim their money back.

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According to the paper, critics of the law maintain that it mainly targets the **Family Federation**, formerly the **Unification Church**, and that the legislation was introduced after a long leftwing smear campaign, orchestrated by the Japanese Communist Party. Other critics of the law say that curtailing religious liberty and activities could very well backfire on the politicians responsible for such legislation. But there is a high risk that the new laws might spell trouble for many more and larger religious organisations in Japan.

*Text: Knut Holdhus*

*Featured image above: Newt Gingrich speaking at a dinner sponsored by The Washington Times Foundation and the Universal Peace Federation on 1st Feb. 2023, at the International Religious Freedom Summit 2023. Photo: P. Zöhner / IMAP.*

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# Japanese Communists' Final War

January 4, 2023 • Knut Holdhus

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## The 'Japanese communists' final war' Against the Unification Church

Communist parties in democratic countries have a devious way to attack religions. The 'Japanese communists' final war' is just the most recent chapter of a long story.

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by Dr. Massimo Introvigne

Dr. Massimo Introvigne, Italian sociologist of religion and head of Center for Studies of New Religions (CESNUR), presented this paper at "Second Conference of Hope for Universal Human Rights and Religious Freedom to Overcome Threats to Freedom of Thought, Conscience and Belief", Gapyeong, South Korea, 17th December 2022.

Wherever Communism has been in power, from the Soviet Union to North Korea and China, it has arrested, kept in jail, tortured, raped, and killed millions of believers of all religions.

But what of the countries where Communism has not been in power? Much less known than the brutal physical killing of believers in the Soviet Union and China is their spiritual killing in countries with large Communist parties such as Italy or Japan.

Jesus said in Matthew 10:27, "Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul." In democratic countries, Communists could not kill bodies but they tried to kill souls.

I come from a country, Italy, which had for almost fifty years the largest Communist Party of the West. The main leader of that Party, Palmiro Togliatti, developed a strategy to deal with religion that had the full blessing of the Soviet Union. Togliatti was regarded as so loyal to the Soviets that when he died in 1964 a large Russian city, Stavropol, was renamed after him as "Tolyatti." Courtesy of Vladimir Putin, it keeps the name to this very day.



The Italian Communist strategy for religion was based on three principles. First, do not attack religion in public and find some believers who would become members of the Party and act as "useful idiots," claiming in public that Communism and religion are perfectly compatible. Second, at the same time continue to spread atheistic propaganda discreetly within the Party. While publicly proclaiming his respect for religion, Togliatti put Marxist scholar and Communist senator Ambrogio Donini in charge of a vast work aimed at propagating scientific atheism, whose effects can still be perceived in Italy today.

Third, while smiling at believers who are either friendly with or "soft" on Communism, attack mercilessly the religious organizations that fight Marxism openly and ideologically, be they Catholic or non-Catholic.



published my first book on [Reverend Moon](#) and the [Unification Church](#), in Italian, in 1987. I collected hundreds of press clippings and clearly detected that a campaign labeling the [Unification Church](#) as a "cult" had been carried out in Italy by the Communist and leftist press, which was disturbed by its anti-communist activities. Just the same had happened in France with the Communist daily newspaper "L'Humanité."

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Outside of Japan, not many know that the Japanese Communist Party has been for many years among the largest non-ruling Communist parties in the world, and may well be today the second largest after its Indian comrades.

In 1951, following instructions from the Soviet Union and China, the Japanese Communist Party adopted the "1951 Program," which included the famous words "It is a mistake to think that Japan's liberation and democratic transformation can be achieved through peaceful means." The Program was adopted during the Korean war, as Stalin and Mao hoped that violence by the Communists in Japan would create a distraction for the United States. The Public Security Intelligence Agency, Japan's national intelligence agency, reported that following the "1951 Program" the Communist Party was responsible for "murders and disturbances in several cities."

The firm reaction of the Japanese authorities, police, and intelligence persuaded the Party to withdraw the "1951 Program."

One of the by-products of this withdrawal was that the Japanese Communists adopted an attitude that scholars have described as similar to the Italian Communist Party's on several issues, including religion. Party publications started insisting that Japanese Communists were not against religion. By 2007, the Party's official organ "Shimbun Akahata" was advertising that Party members included Buddhist "priests, priests' wives, Shinto priests, Christians, Tenrikyo devotees, and other religious people."



At the same time, Party members continued to be formed on the sacred texts of Marxism, which are intrinsically atheistic. Well after it had repudiated the "1951 Program," the Party kept in its Central Committee Bunkichi Okada (岡田文吉), who had been one of the founders of the Anti-Religious Struggle Alliance (反宗教闘争同盟) and the creator of the Japan Militant Atheist League (日本戦闘的無神論者同盟).

In the same year 2007 when it boasted it had religionists as members, the Japanese Communist Party also wrote that it wanted "the [Unification Church](#) to be dealt with as a criminal group."



IFVOC conference in 1972

In fact, the Communist Party's plans to destroy the [Unification Church](#) had started much earlier. In 1968, [Reverend Moon](#) founded the International Federation for Victory Over Communism (IFVOC). It played a key role in containing the Japanese Communist Party and its Socialist allies. As the Party leaders stated themselves, IFVOC was also instrumental in defeating the candidate supported by the Communists in the 1978 elections for governor of Kyoto, putting an end to 28 years of leftist rule there.



The following year, the top Soviet spy in Japan Stanislav Levchenko defected to the U.S. and testified that prominent Japanese Communist and Socialist politicians were paid Soviet agents. For decades, IFVOC had a prominent role in advocating for effective anti-espionage legislation.



Stanislav Levchenko.  
Photo: [Bitter Winter](#)

After the fall of the Soviet Union, documents in the Soviet archives confirmed that Levchenko's revelations were absolutely accurate. At the time, however, the Socialist Party claimed they were part of an IFVOC conspiracy, and was sued by IFVOC. To avoid a humiliating defeat, the lawyer for the Socialist Party had to persuade its clients to pay IFVOC two million yen and settle.

That lawyer never forgave IFVOC or the [Unification Church](#). His name was Hiroshi Yamaguchi. In 1987, writing in a Socialist publication, he called other leftist lawyers to join his efforts to establish an association against the so-called spiritual sales, i.e. the sales of certain objects at exorbitant prices the [Unification Church](#) was accused of. He wrote that "the money obtained from this is used to finance the [Unification Church](#) and IFVOC's campaign to enact the National Secrets Act."



Hiroshi Yamaguchi.  
Photo: [Bitter Winter](#)

This is the origin of the organization later called National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales, which organized the massive campaign of slander against the [Unification Church/Family Federation](#) after the assassination of Shinzo Abe. It was started to destroy IFVOC and its support for anti-espionage legislation.

Last month, November 2022, journalist Soichiro Tahara and Communist Party Chairperson Kazuo Shii discussed the [Unification Church/Family Federation](#) issue and presented the post-Abe-assassination campaign as the "final war against the [Unification Church](#)." Shii said that the war had started at least in 1978 with the elections for the governor of Kyoto. "This time, he said, we will fight thoroughly and completely until we win over the struggle."

Certainly, not all are Communists in the Japanese "final war against the [Unification Church](#)." But this is not the point. My story has, I hope, clarified, who started the war and why, and who leads the army.

We should, however, not miss an important point. Communism does not win all its wars. Even the mighty Soviet Union was not immortal. The Japanese Militant Atheist League proclaimed to be "at war with [God](#)." Wars against [God](#) have one defining feature. They cannot be won. In Japan, today, what they believe they are winning is a battle. But they will not win the war. Religions normally last more than anti-religious ideologies. And the last laugh is theirs.

Featured image above: Dr. Massimo Introvigne 17th Dec. 2022.  
Photo: Screenshot from live transmission via PeaceLink TV

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