

## FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: Persecutors May Be Held Criminally Liable

Knut Holdhus  
September 29, 2023



Christian leader and expert claims persecutors have to use cult label in order not to be held criminally liable



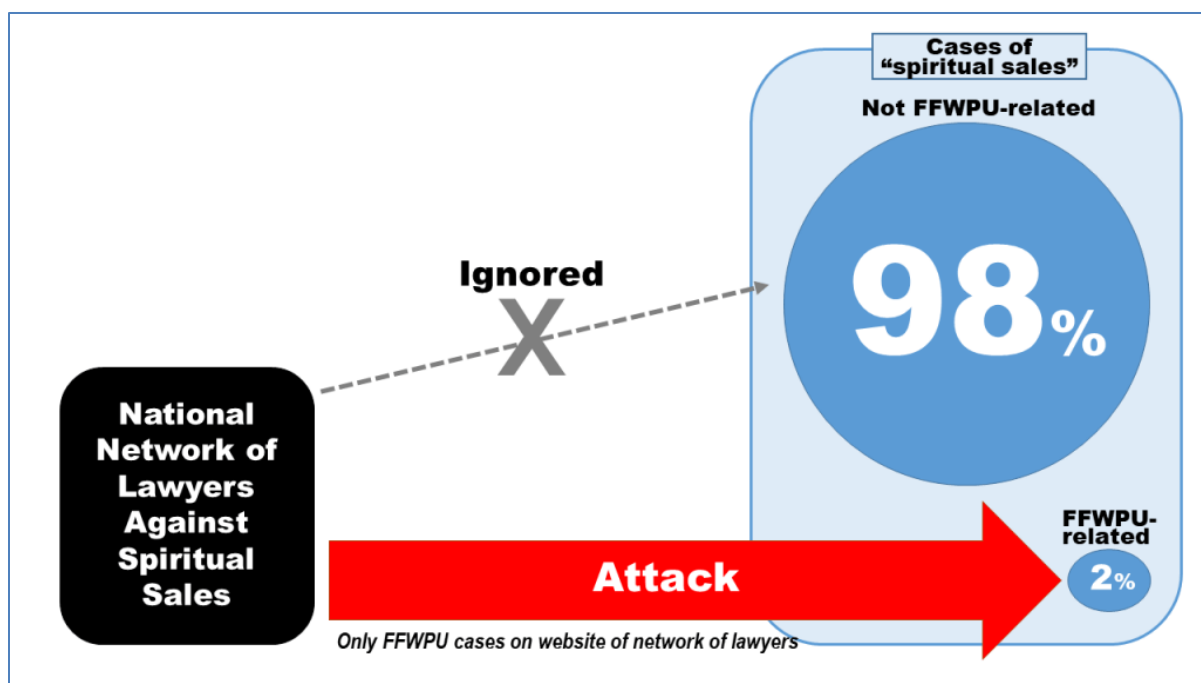
*Haruhisa Nakagawa*

3rd part of article by Haruhisa Nakagawa titled "After the assassination of former Prime Minister Abe due to misinformation, an unreasonable dissolution request will be made", originally published 22nd Sep. 2023 by [salty-japan.net](https://salty-japan.net). Republished with permission. Translated from Japanese. [Original article](#). See [1st part](#) See [2nd part](#)

Haruhisa Nakagawa is Executive Secretary of Tokyo Christian Theological Institute, President of Japan Christian Theological Institute, and SALTY Editorial Committee Member. SALTY is the Japanese Christian opinion website [salty-japan.net](https://salty-japan.net). He conducted an undercover investigation of the [Unification Church](#) in 2012.

The other half of the truth 2: The peculiar nature of the National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales

According to Consumer Affairs Agency data from 2021, cases related to the [Unification Church](#) account for only about 1.9% of all nationwide cases of spiritual sales (marketing), with over 98% having no connection to the [Unification Church](#).



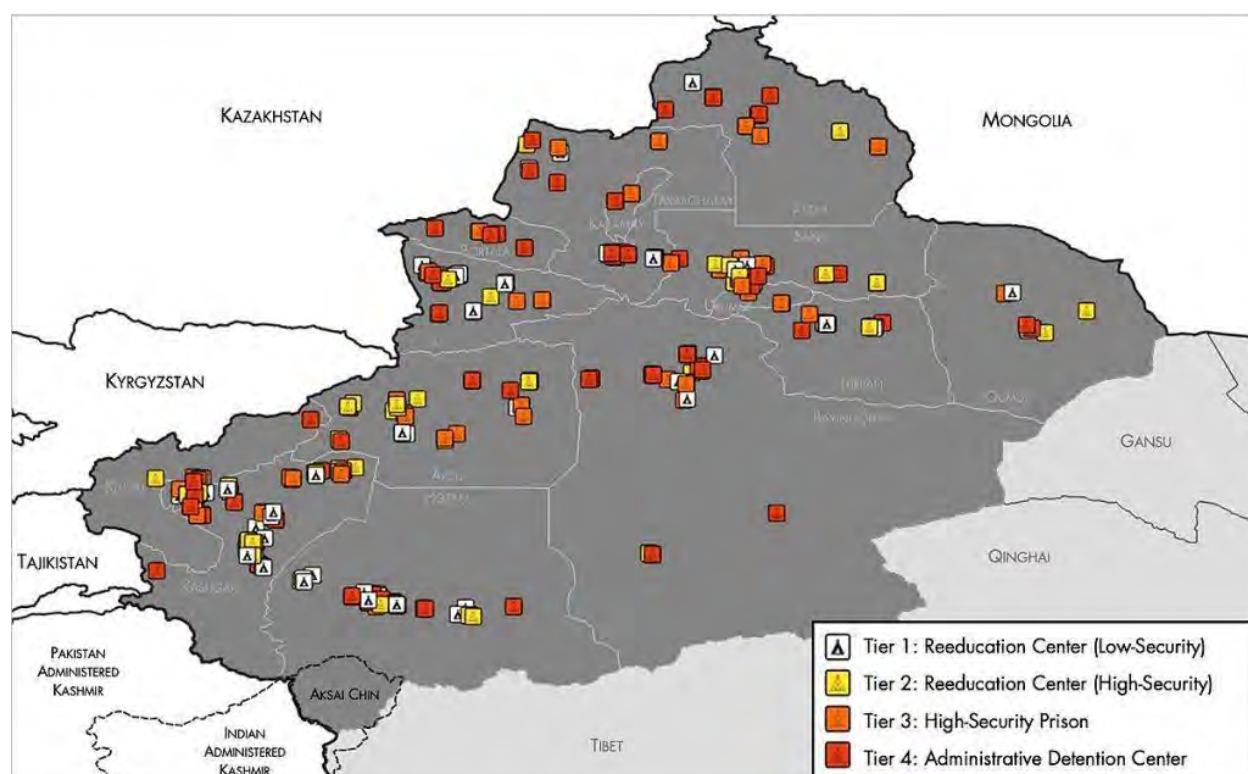
However, Attorney Tatsuki Nakayama points out that on the website of the National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales (NNLASS), all 128 cases listed are 100% related to the [Unification Church](#). The network of lawyers was 100% aimed at attacking the [Unification Church](#). In other words, 100% of their attacks were targeting less than 2% of the cases. For over 98% of the cases, they do nothing at all.

In response to my interviews, Attorney Tatsuki Nakayama stated,

"Almost all (98%) of the lawsuits over torts filed against the [Family Federation \(Unification Church\)](#) as defendants have had lawyers from the NNLASS serving as plaintiff representatives. If there have been victims of the [Family Federation \(Unification Church\)](#) all over Japan, it is strange that other lawyers have not served as plaintiff representatives."

To remain neutral concerning this issue, is the most reasonable approach. That seems apparent to anyone. And I am not the only one who thinks that there may be other motives within the NNLASS. The movement driven by animosity towards the [Unification Church](#) needs to a halt for a moment, and carefully consider the situation.

The other half of the truth 3-1: The problem of kidnapping and confinement in faith-breaking



Map of the Xinjiang Internment Camps created by the RAND Corporation based on data collected by the US National Geospatial Intelligence Agency and the Australian Strategic Policy Institute

Among the anti-[Unification Church](#) individuals, there are those who have to treat the [Unification Church](#) as a "cult". Otherwise they must not only carry the moral responsibility, but can also be held criminally



liable.

Such significant truths are being concealed, and many Christian pastors and others are involved in this matter. Therefore, I have to address this issue. This also serves as self-reflection on behalf of Japan's Christian community.

Many of those who are currently attempting to sway public opinion by labelling the [Unification Church](#) as a "cult", may have been well aware of the reality of kidnapping and confinement, or perhaps even deeply involved. That is why this issue must be approached with great caution, as it is indeed a horrifying matter. For those who harbor some kind of animosity towards the [Unification Church](#), there may be criticisms directed at me such as, "Are you defending a heretical form of Christianity?" However, this is a "more profound issue" that transcends such dimensions.

The method used for this kidnapping and confinement is referred to as "guarded persuasion". This is classified as so-called "ideological brainwashing". It is often closely related to the term "mind control". The general difference between "brainwashing" and "mind control" is the presence or absence of physical coercion as a means. When the Chinese Communist Party is said to be conducting "re-education" in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region, it involves "ideological brainwashing". In other words, individuals are educated while being detained and confined.



Arresting a "witch" in New England, USA

Now, what the members of the>NNLASS and their affiliates call "guarded persuasion" involves bringing the parents to the fore, suddenly restraining an adult with a group of individuals, and forcing him into a car, keeping him in a state of captivity until he renounces his beliefs.

They never release the believers until they give up their faith. In the longest case, this captivity lasted for as long as 12 years and 5 months. There are numerous outrageous instances of "guarded persuasion". It is truly horrifying.

This issue must be addressed separately in another article. The facts are further obscured by the request to dissolve the [Unification Church](#). There is as well this other "half-truth" to consider. If this "truth" is not discussed, and things progress, it would mean that this "half of a truth" will also remain "half of a lie".

The other half of the truth 3 -2: Forced faith-breaking based on kidnapping and confinement is today's witch trials

Article 38 of the Constitution specifically stipulates the prohibition of "detention" and "confinement". It should be included in the Penal Code, because globally, physical restraint is regarded as an outrageous violation of human rights. There is global consensus about this, based on historical lessons.

*Article 38.*

- 1. No person shall be compelled to testify against himself.*
- 2. Confession made under compulsion, torture or threat, or after prolonged detention or confinement shall not be admitted as evidence.*
- 3. No person shall be convicted or punished in cases where the only proof against him is his own confession.*

The early Christian Fathers of the Church, such as Origen, Irenaeus, and Augustine, engaged in "heresy refutation", never "forced faith-breaking based on abduction and confinement". The refutation of heresies contributed to the development of orthodox doctrines of Christianity.

However, forced faith-breaking based on abduction and confinement, on the other hand, bears more resemblance to witch hunts in the late Middle Ages. In this context, the idea of being "possessed by demons" has been replaced with "under mind control". The orthodox Christian Fathers' way of thinking was to eliminate heresy in order to protect the correct teachings. They did however not engage in detention and abduction for the purpose of faith-breaking. Especially in Western countries, there have

been historical reflections on the "witch trials", and lessons have been learnt from those failures.

What about Japan and the Japanese people?



## International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

"No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest or detention. No one shall be deprived of his liberty except on such grounds and in accordance with such procedure as are established by law."

[Editor's note: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, article 9, says: "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile."]

Japan also ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in 1979. Christians especially must not repeat that mistake again.

"Persecutors May Be Held Criminally Liable" - text:  
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[1st part](#) of the original article.

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# Deliberate Lies Caused Abe Assassination

September 25, 2023 • Knut Holdhus

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## Religious leader claims deliberate lies led to Abe assassination

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After the assassination of former Prime Minister Abe due to misinformation, an unreasonable dissolution request will be made.

by Haruhisa Nakaawa. Tokyo Christian Theological Institute

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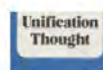
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Executive Secretary, President of Japan Christian Theological Institute, SALTY Editorial Committee Member. SALTY is the Japanese Christian opinion website salty-japan.net. He conducted an undercover investigation of the [Unification Church](#) in 2012.

### Introduction

The Japanese government is said to be submitting to the court as early as October a request for the dissolution of the [Unification Church](#) as a religious corporation.

I have been observing this organization from an anti-perspective for 25 years, and I have written several related articles about this organization. However, what constantly strikes me in the midst of this, is the gap between public perception and the actual situation.



Yoshifu Arita in 2014. Photo: [碧庵 / Wikimedia Commons](#). License: [CC ASA 3.0 Unp. Cropped](#)



Eito Suzuki, born as Kiyofumi Tanaka. Photo: [Mikkabie / Wikimedia Commons](#). License: [CC ASA 4.0 Int. Cropped](#)



Masaki Kito from National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales. Photo: [Screenshot / Bitter Winter](#)

Initially, individuals like Yoshifu Arita, Eito Suzuki, and Professor Kimiaki Nishida who are close friends of lawyer Masaki Kito [leading activist lawyer], appeared on television and discussed this issue. To me, it seemed like one of different groups was merely expressing its own opinions, and I expected that discussions from different angles would eventually emerge. However, it appears that there hasn't been any sign of brakes being applied, and the conversation swiftly moved in one direction before anyone could stop it.

I could understand the intention of the *National Network of Lawyers against Spiritual Sales* (NNLASS) to influence public opinion and push the government to file a dissolution request. However, usually there should be discussions involving both sides and opposing views with room for direction adjustments and corrections. However, the information circulating publicly seems to excessively emphasize one particular perspective. To me it appears as if the opinion of one group dominates the entire discourse.



Hans Küng (1928-2021). Photo (2011): [UNED / Wikimedia Commons](#). License: [CC Attr 2.0 Gen. Cropped](#)

To borrow the words of theologian Hans Küng from the *Second Vatican Council*, "Half a truth is also half a lie."

Especially in matters of religion, we must not allow it to result in the same kind of sensationalism as scandals involving celebrities or politicians that stir up public opinion. We should act more carefully. This issue, in particular, has escalated since the assassination of former Prime Minister Abe, but until that time, a significant amount of misinformation had already accumulated. Therefore, it should be viewed as a deeper-seated issue than what is currently being considered.

### Misinformation and its source led to the death of former Prime Minister Abe.

There had been a narrative suggesting that former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe had a "deep relation" with the [Unification Church](#), which led an individual who believed in



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an individual, who believed in it, to take extreme actions and ultimately resulted in the assassination of Prime Minister Abe.



*Shinzo Abe in 2017. Photo: Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff / Wikimedia Commons. License: CC Attr 2.0 Gen. Cropped*

In my opinion, the term "relation" itself is broad and may include various types of relation such as "neighborly relationships", "friendship", "acquaintance", and even "conflict", "hostility", and "a relationship with others".

Therefore, I deliberately wrote three articles with the strong title "Mr. Abe had no relation with the [Unification Church](#)." Now, one year has passed since that tragic shooting incident, and I believe everyone can see that what I was saying was correct.

So, it is important to look at who was speaking the truth and who was spreading falsehoods about this issue and consider changing our sources of information. False information and unreliable sources have led to irreversible consequences. The tragedy that has already occurred cannot be undone, but we can change false information and information sources. If we don't even do that, then that is "below standard human morality".

#### ① **Video message by former Prime Minister Abe sent to UPF (Universal Peace Federation)**

There were individuals who have propagated the idea that former Prime Minister Abe had deep involvement with [Unification Church](#)-related organizations based on the fact that he sent a video message to UPF gatherings. However, it's important to note that UPF stands for *Universal Peace Federation*, an international NGO with consultative status at the *United Nations Economic and Social Council*.

Prominent figures from around the world, including former President Trump and other leaders of major countries, have sent messages to UPF events. Figures like Vice President Pence and Secretary Pompeo of the *U.S. Republican Party* have even attended UPF events in South Korea. In this context, we must recognize that this was considered acceptable on a global scale. Thinking of the situation, we may say that Abe's sending a video indicates comparably nothing special relation. In other words, the attempt to sensationalize and present Abe's video message as a special relationship has been exaggerated and should be corrected.

#### ② **Full text of the video message sent to UPF**

When you look at the full text of the video message, it neither praises the [Unification Church](#) nor venerates Mrs. [Hak Ja Han](#). Only a part of the polite expression directed towards UPF, "I pay my respects to President [Hak Ja Han](#) and everyone who has worked tirelessly for the peaceful reunification of the Korean peninsula," was isolated and became widely known. In fact, I have never seen a Japanese person who doesn't include polite words when giving greetings. It's perfectly normal to use polite expressions, and it is a mistake to claim that "Abe had a relationship with the [Unification Church](#)" based solely on this video message.

#### ③ **The story that former Prime Minister Abe received 50 million yen as payment from UPF**

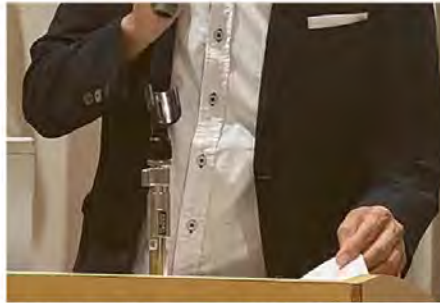
Eito Suzuki has claimed that former Prime Minister Abe received 50 million yen as appearance fee from UPF, but there is no evidence to support this claim whatsoever. Despite mentioning "inside information".





no substantiation for the appearance fee has emerged. UPF has also denied this allegation.

Nevertheless, false information continues to be disseminated by individuals influenced by Eito Suzuki's statements, and this misinformation is still being believed by some.



*Eito Suzuki, born as Kiyofumi Tanaka. Photo: Mikkabie / Wikimedia Commons. License: CC ASA 4.0 Int. Cropped*

#### ④ Testimony by Eito Suzuki regarding former Prime Minister Abe's invitation of chairman Tokuno from the Unification Church to the Prime Minister's residence

Eito Suzuki, who claims to have inside information from the religious group, said, "In early June 2016, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe invited Mr. Eiji Tokuno, the President of the [Unification Church / Family Federation](#) for World Peace and Unification, along with the wife of the Chairman [Yong-cheon Song](#), to the Prime Minister's Residence"



*Eiji Tokuno in April 2023. Photo: FOREF*

However, the Prime Minister's daily schedule is meticulously recorded. When examining the Prime Minister's schedule for early June 2016, it appears highly unlikely on any day except the 3rd and the 8th of June, and even if Mr. Tokuno was invited to the Prime Minister's Residence on either of those days, the meeting would have lasted only 20 minutes. It would be difficult to imagine that a close and deep relationship could develop in just 20 minutes. Furthermore, Mr. Tokuno himself has stated that he was not invited to the Prime Minister's Residence.

Amidst the proliferation of such rumors, former Prime Minister Abe met his tragic end. However, the erroneous information and its sources have remained unchanged and uncorrected, frequently causing a sensation whenever these rumors are associated with the [Unification Church](#). In reality, there should be a stern call for, "Enough!"

However, there doesn't seem to be any such consideration concerning the [Unification Church](#) issue, and it appears to be continuing just like before. Of course, as someone who upholds an orthodox Christian doctrine, I have been observing the [Unification Church](#) from an anti-position. However, the current situation is drastically different from what I know, and it has left me astonished.

There have been situations in the past where the public outcry led the government to take action, and this is not something new. However, this time, it involves a "religious" issue. In the cases of the Recruit scandal [insider trading and corruption scandal] and the Moritomo Gakuen [Japanese private school operator] issue, when time passed, and the public forgot, the only thing that remained was the media frenzy when the lid was finally lifted.

However, this time, it is not permitted. In terms of the gravity of the matter, this should be completely different from the past matters where the government was involved and influenced by the sensation caused by media. The level of significance is distinct between the government initiating the dissolution of a religious corporation, and a private organization requesting a dissolution. This is the first religious persecution in the post-war history, and it could also severely undermine the system under the constitution.

*Continued in a [part 2](#) and [part 3](#).*

*Featured image above: Haruhisa Nakagawa, Tokyo Christian Theological Institute Executive Secretary, President of Japan*



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