

# FFWPU Europe and Middle East: Japan's Media Supports Terrorists Who Bomb

Knut Holdhus  
September 6, 2024



Sympathy for terrorists created by media's generous coverage of motive and background of assassins and would-be assassins

Tokyo, 5th September 2024 - Published as the 26th article in a series in the Japanese newspaper [Sekai Nippo](#). Republished with permission. Translated from Japanese. [Original article](#)

Series: **Freedom of Religion Under Threat - Part 4: Media Crossing the Line**

**Classic impression manipulation without remorse**

by the Religious Freedom Investigative Team of the editorial department of [Sekai Nippo](#)



[Sekai Nippo](#)

See [1st article](#), [2nd article](#), [3rd article](#), [4th article](#), [5th article](#), [6th article](#), [7th article](#), [8th article](#), [9th article](#), [10th article](#), [11th article](#), [12th article](#), [13th article](#), [14th article](#), [15th article](#), [16th article](#), [17th article](#), [18th article](#), [19th article](#), [20th article](#), [21st article](#), [22nd article](#), [23rd article](#), [24th article](#), [25th article](#)

On 15th April 2023, an explosive device was thrown near Prime Minister Fumio Kishida as he was giving a campaign speech for a House of Representatives by-election. This led to an unexpected debate regarding reporting about terrorism.

As previously reported, international political scientist Yuichi Hosoya (細谷雄一) pointed out on Twitter (now X) that the "general understanding in terrorism research" is that "the very attitude of trying to understand the background of terrorist crimes aids and abets terrorists in achieving their goals." However, this understanding is not common in Japan.



Goshi Hosono

After the incident, Goshi Hosono (細野豪志), a member of the House of Representatives from the Liberal Democratic Party, stated,

"Once someone commits terrorism, I don't give any consideration to their claims or background. From such things we can deduce no general way to deal with terror."

As the content of the perpetrator's tweets and other details began to be reported, Hosono argued,

"The media has begun a race to report on the man who attacked Prime Minister Kishida and his motives for the terror. I see no value in this reporting other than that they 'sell'."



Tokyo Shimbun - Chunichi Shimbun Co.

Similar opinions also spread online. In response, the section

Tokyo Shimbun's special report published an article titled "What's the Logic Behind 'Don't Report the Perpetrator's Motive'?" (posted online on 22nd April), where journalist Satoru Aoki (青木理) countered, saying,

"When politicians, regardless of party affiliation, start telling the media 'not to report on this', the very foundation of democracy collapses."

## The Asahi Shimbun

Asahi Shimbun Digital also addressed the issue in an article titled "The Debate on Restricting Reporting in Terror Incidents and the 'View of the Ignorant Public'" (published on 16th May), where former Hosei University professor Gen Inuzuka (犬塚元)

argued, "Such discussions are based on a 'view of the ignorant public' and could lead to the collapse of liberal democracy." Many other rebuttals were posted online.

Of course, in reporting on terrorist crimes, the motives and background are key themes. However, if this reporting is not handled with the utmost care, it could end up aiding the perpetrator's objectives. What is being called into question is how the media handled reporting on the bomb terrorist attack targeting a sitting prime minister, which could lead to the serious situation of inspiring copycat crimes. It is the media's responsibility to verify the reporting related to the assassin of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (安倍晋三).



On 18th July 2022, during the broadcast of Yomiuri TV's program "Information Live Miyane-ya", they not only displayed the full text of a letter sent by suspect Tetsuya Yamagami (山上徹也) - now a defendant - to journalist Kazuhiro Yonemoto (米本和弘) just before the crime, but also had a female announcer read it aloud without omitting a single word.



The letter contained self-defense statements such as,

"Since my mother joined [the [Unification Church](#)], my teenage years passed amid the waste of more than a billion yen, the collapse of my family, and bankruptcy. These experiences have distorted my entire life [...]"

It also included clear expressions of his grudge against the family of the founder of the [Unification Church](#) and Yamagami's clear intention to commit murder.

Seiji Miyane (宮根誠司), the host of the show, followed up on this letter, saying, "Of course, there are believers who suffer, but there are also many second-generation believers who endure great pain." The discussion progressed on the assumption that many followers of the [religious organization](#) and second-generation believers suffer, and that this leads to the breakdown of their families.



*Tetsuya Yamagami, the man who killed Shinzo Abe, the former prime minister of Japan*

In the process, three times Miyane showed excerpts from postings believed to be Yamagami's on Yonemoto's blog (from December 2020), and also four times excerpts from Yamagami's tweets and other postings (from May 2021, October 2019, August 2020, and June 2022). Each time the text was projected on the screen and read out by a female announcer.

This is a classic method of manipulation that simultaneously stimulates both the visual and the auditory senses. Reporting the perpetrator's claims so thoroughly on public airwaves just ten days after former Prime Minister Abe was shot and killed, cannot be

considered proper journalism. The motives and background behind Yamagami's act of terror were reported over and over again. This is reminiscent of some forms of indoctrination.

Despite this, to date there has been no proper investigation, reflection, or disciplinary action related to the coverage.

---

See [1st article](#), [2nd article](#), [3rd article](#), [4th article](#), [5th article](#), [6th article](#), [7th article](#), [8th article](#), [9th article](#), [10th article](#), [11th article](#), [12th article](#), [13th article](#), [14th article](#), [15th article](#), [16th article](#), [17th article](#), [18th article](#), [19th article](#), [20th article](#), [21st article](#), [22nd article](#), [23rd article](#), [24th article](#), [25th article](#)

Related to generating sympathy for terrorists: [Media Helping Terrorist Reach His Goal](#)

Related to generating sympathy for terrorists: [Kishida Administration Giving in to Terrorism](#)

Related to generating sympathy for terrorists: [Kishida Has Opened Can of Worms](#)

Related to generating sympathy for terrorists: [Bizarre Atlantic Report Condoning Terror](#)

Related to generating sympathy for terrorists: [Japan Times: Warning of Terror](#)

Related to generating sympathy for terrorists: [Did constant hate-mongering cause terror?](#)

Related to generating sympathy for terrorists: [Inhuman Government-Supported Mass Deprogramming](#)

More, related to generating sympathy for terrorists: [Collusion to Rob Minority of Its Rights](#)

And more, related to generating sympathy for terrorists: [State and Media Creating "Today's Non-Citizens"](#)

Still more, related to generating sympathy for terrorists: [Japan Criticized for Glaring Rights Violations](#)

Even more, related to generating sympathy for terrorists: [Japan Following the Way of China](#)

And still more, related to generating sympathy for terrorists: [12 Religious Freedom NGOs Denouncing Japan](#)

And even more, related to generating sympathy for terrorists: [Conference on Religious Freedom Violations](#)

Still more, related to generating sympathy for terrorists: [Japan: Threat to Religious Freedom](#)

Even more, related to generating sympathy for terrorists: [Call to End Witch Hunt](#)

More, related to generating sympathy for terrorists: [Government's Foul Play Pointed Out](#)

More, related to generating sympathy for terrorists: [Japan: 4300 Abductions and Forcible Detentions](#)

And more, related to generating sympathy for terrorists: [Illegalities of Activist Lawyers Exposed](#)

Yet more, related to generating sympathy for terrorists: [Lawyers Manipulating, Coercing, Lying](#)

Still more, related to generating sympathy for terrorists: [Biased Information from Leftwing Lawyers](#)

Even more, related to generating sympathy for terrorists: [Dangerous Precedent to Crush Religions](#)

Even more, related to generating sympathy for terrorists: [Kyodo News: 100s of Rights Violations Claimed](#)

Even more, related to generating sympathy for terrorists: [Fabricated Torts Part of Wily Strategy in Japan](#)





# NEWS AND INSIGHTS

HOME ABOUT ▾ TEACHINGS ▾ TOPICS ▾ GENERAL ▾ CONTACT US ▾

Saturday, September 7, 2024 15:00

HAK JA HAN ▾ JAPAN ▾ MEDIA ▾ RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ▾ COMMEMORATING ▾ VARIOUS ▾ REVIEWS ▾

## Broadcast Standards In Japan Grossly Violated

Share: Facebook Twitter WhatsApp LinkedIn Email

September 4, 2024 • Knut Holdhus



**Religious minority victim of media witch hunt where broadcast standards suffer gross violations**



Logo of the Sekai Nippo

Tokyo, 4th September 2024 – Published as the **25th article** in a series in the Japanese newspaper *Sekai Nippo*. Republished with permission. Translated from Japanese. [Original article](#)

Series: Freedom of Religion Under Threat – Part 4: **Media Crossing the Line**

### Lack of Fairness and Deviation from ‘Broadcast Standards’

by the Religious Freedom Investigative Team of the editorial department of *Sekai Nippo*

See [1st article](#), [2nd article](#), [3rd article](#), [4th article](#), [5th article](#), [6th article](#), [7th article](#), [8th article](#), [9th article](#), [10th article](#), [11th article](#), [12th article](#),

More Posts

- Japan: Special Appeal Filed To Supreme Court**  
September 7, 2024
- Media Generating Sympathy For Terrorists**  
September 6, 2024
- Media And Government Allowed Terror To Succeed**  
September 3, 2024
- Key Questions Ignored By Media Chasing Ratings**  
September 2, 2024
- Interreligious Unity For Korean Reunification**  
September 1, 2024
- Rite Uniting Christianity And Family Federation**  
August 31, 2024
- Completion of Providence: Mother Moon's Message**  
August 29, 2024

Search... 🔍

Categories



[13th article](#), [14th article](#), [15th article](#), [16th article](#), [17th article](#), [18th article](#), [19th article](#), [20th article](#), [21st article](#), [22nd article](#), [23rd article](#), [24th article](#), [26th article](#)

The Japan Commercial Broadcasters Association

(JBA – 日本民間放送連盟), an organization

comprising

private television and radio companies, has established a common set of rules known as the "Broadcast Standards" to serve as a reference when a company formulates its own "program standards". **These standards aim to prevent viewers and listeners from being hurt or offended by broadcasts.**

The standards define "responsible reporting" as follows:

**"When conducting interviews and editing, care must be taken to avoid bias that could mislead viewers."**

In the section on "religion", the standards state,

**"When dealing with matters related to religious doctrines or rituals, care must be taken not to damage the dignity of that religion. Special caution is required when using such matters without direct connection to religion."**

# TBS

The logo of TBS

On 27<sup>th</sup> August 2022, TBS (Tokyo Broadcasting System), a member of the JBA, aired an episode of its program "News Feature" (Hodo Tokushu) that included interviews with five former members of the

[Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#) (formerly the [Unification Church](#)), who had participated in its [mass wedding](#) ceremony around 30 years ago but later left the [organization](#) and divorced.

These women, who had married South Korean men, spoke in front of the camera about their harsh experiences, such as having to live in poverty in rural farming villages and suffering from their husbands' violence. Their stories appeared sincere and evoked sympathy from viewers.

When investigating issues with religious organizations, it is natural to hear from former members. If there are unreasonable matters, informing viewers about them is meaningful. However, caution is necessary.

**People have faith because they find salvation and peace of mind in the teachings of a religious organization.** However, if they leave, it is not uncommon for **former members to exaggerate the negative aspects they experienced during their time as believers in order to denounce the organization.** It is important to keep this in mind when listening to the stories of former members, especially those who actively oppose the organization.

Moreover, according to Toru Goto (後藤徹), a current member of the [Family Federation](#) and representative of the "[National Association of Victims of Abduction, Confinement, and Forced Conversion](#)", **one of the five women who appeared on the program was his sister-in-law, who was involved in confining him for 12 years and 5 months to force him to renounce his faith.** Because of this, Goto sent a letter of protest to TBS, accusing them of **featuring someone who committed "severe human rights violations"** and allowing her to make one-sided criticisms.

However, one of the program's hosts, Takako Zenba (膳場貴子), based on the former members' stories, criticized the [Mass Marriage Blessing](#) ceremony, saying, "The [organization](#) uses cult-like thought processes to make believers not feel the hardship, and then exposes them to physical and mental risks by marrying them to strangers," invoking the so-called "mind control" theory. She went further to condemn the ceremony, stating, "I believe the [Mass Marriage Blessing](#) ceremony is the ultimate form of human rights violations by this [organization](#)."

According to the website of the [Family Federation](#), the [Marriage Blessing Ceremony](#) is a

"wedding ceremony centered on God, where men and women from around the world come together to establish families centered on God, transcending barriers of religion.



## 日本民間放送連盟

The Japan Commercial Broadcasters Association

The logo of Japan Commercial Broadcasters Association. Author: Yusaku Kamekura. [Public domain image](#)

Send us a message

First Name \* Last Name

Email \*

Email Address

Your Message \*

Submit



Toru Goto, member of [Family Federation](#) held captive for 12 years and 5 months by his own family and professional faith-breakers who attempted to break his faith. Photo: [FOREF](#)



denomination, ideology, race, and nationality."

There are reportedly thousands of Japanese women in Korea who, like the former members interviewed, participated in this religious ceremony and built families with Korean men. The program mentioned this fact. However, from the perspective of neutrality and fairness, it **should have also introduced believers who have built happy families**. According to the [Family Federation's Public Relations Department](#), there was no inquiry from "News Feature" (Hodo Tokushu) regarding the [Marriage Blessing Ceremony](#).

Many families established by believers who participated in the [Marriage Blessing Ceremony](#) exist in Japan as well. **Zenba's comments not only violate the Broadcast Standards, which caution against damaging the dignity of religious rituals. Her words also hurt the feelings of the participants in the Blessing Ceremony and the children born into those families.** Criticizing human rights violations by the [religious organization](#) while simultaneously violating the human rights of its believers is a double standard and can be considered a representative **example of biased reporting** on the [Family Federation](#).

[See 1st article, 2nd article, 3rd article, 4th article, 5th article, 6th article, 7th article, 8th article, 9th article, 10th article, 11th article, 12th article, 13th article, 14th article, 15th article, 16th article, 17th article, 18th article, 19th article, 20th article, 21st article, 22nd article, 23rd article, 24th article, 26th article](#)

**Featured image** above: TBS Holdings HQ. Photo (2023): Akonnchiroll / Wikimedia Commons. License: [CC ASA 4.0 Int](#)

**Related to broadcast standards violated:** [State and Media Creating "Today's Non-Citizens"](#)

More, related to broadcast standards violated: [Collusion to Rob Minority of Its Rights](#)

Yet more, related to broadcast standards violated: [Inhuman Government-Supported Mass Deprogramming](#)

Still more, **related to broadcast standards violated:** [Japan Criticized for Glaring Rights Violations](#)

Even more, related to broadcast standards violated: [Japan Following the Way of China](#)

And still more, related to broadcast standards violated: [12 Religious Freedom NGOs Denouncing Japan](#)

And even more, related to broadcast standards violated: [Conference on Religious Freedom Violations](#)

Still more, related to broadcast standards violated: [Japan: Threat to Religious Freedom](#)

Even more, related to broadcast standards violated: [Call to End Witch Hunt](#)

More, related to broadcast standards violated: [Government's Foul Play Pointed Out](#)

More, related to broadcast standards violated: [Japan: 4300 Abductions and Forcible Detentions](#)

And more, related to broadcast standards violated: [Illegalities of Activist Lawyers Exposed](#)

Yet more, related to broadcast standards violated: [Lawyers Manipulating, Coercing, Lying](#)

Still more, related to broadcast standards violated: [Biased Information from Leftwing Lawyers](#)

Even more, related to broadcast standards violated: [Dangerous Precedent to Crush Religions](#)

Even more, related to broadcast standards violated: [Kyodo News: 100s of Rights Violations Claimed](#)

Even more, related to broadcast standards violated: [Fabricated Torts Part of Wily Strategy in Japan](#)



GET STARTED

[Home](#) [Privacy Policy](#)

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER

First Name

Last Name

Your Email Address

Follow us



I agree that I will receive news from the Family Federation concerning its activities and projects.