

FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: Japan's Government Hides Key Documents

Knut Holdhus  
January 29, 2025



The national headquarters of the Agency for Cultural Affairs, located in Kyoto



**Agency for Cultural Affairs not able to produce key documents to come clean in face of allegations of fabricating evidence in dissolution case against religious minority the Family Federation**

Tokyo, 28th January 2025 - Published as an article in the Japanese newspaper [Sekai Nippo](#). Republished with permission. Translated from Japanese. [Original article](#).

**The Agency for Cultural Affairs Refuses to Submit Evidence in Response to Allegations of Fabrications in Court Documents**

by the editorial department of [Sekai Nippo](#)

**Senator Hamada's Inquiry**



The [report in Sekai Nippo](#) 21st January 2025 on alleged fabrications in controversial statements submitted by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) to Tokyo District Court

When the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) requested the Tokyo District Court to issue a dissolution order for the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#) (formerly the [Unification Church](#)), a controversy arose following a [report by this newspaper](#) that the ministry's submitted statements contained fabricated facts.

Reacting to this, on 22nd January, Satoshi Hamada (浜田聡), a member of the House of Councillors from the NHK Party, submitted a written inquiry to MEXT requesting the submission of supporting documents. On 27th January, the Agency for Cultural Affairs, which handles religious corporations, replied that they could not provide the documents.

Senator Hamada specifically requested the submission of documents among MEXT's court statements that were alleged to contain inaccuracies. He also inquired whether MEXT was aware of the media reports on this issue and asked for the ministry's stance on the claim that some statements were factually

incorrect.



The Agency for Cultural Affairs cited the closed nature of the court proceedings as the reason for not being able to submit the requested documents at this time. Furthermore, they stated that even after the trial concludes, since "the deliberations themselves will remain confidential, it is unclear whether the evidence documents can be provided." However, they acknowledged awareness of the media reports on the matter.

MEXT has based its request for the dissolution order on approximately 300 written statements. A [report published by this newspaper](#) on 21st January claimed that multiple cases exist where individuals purported to be victims did not write the statements themselves and that some contained false information.

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# "Worst Post-War Human Rights Violations In Japan"

• January 28, 2025 • Knut Holdhus



Protesting extremely biased media coverage and human rights violations that include abductions and forcible confinement up to 12 years of members of large religious minority



Logo of the Sekai Nippo

Tokyo, 27th January 2025 – Published as an article in the Japanese newspaper *Sekai Nippo*. Republished with permission. Translated from Japanese. *Original article.*

## "The Worst Human Rights Violations Since the War"

Illegal Detention and Forced Renunciation of Faith Condemned in Yokohama

by the editorial department of *Sekai Nippo*

A gathering was held on 26<sup>th</sup> January in Yokohama

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City protesting the illegal acts of abduction, confinement, and **forced renunciation of faith involving over 4,300 believers** of the **Family Federation for World Peace and Unification** (formerly the **Unification Church**). The event condemned the involvement of “faith-breakers” and Christian pastors in these actions. There were more than 100 participants, including Buddhist representatives.

The event was organized by the “Association of Residents of Kanazawa Ward, Yokohama for the Protection of Freedom of Religion and Human Rights”. Senator Satoshi Hamada (浜田聡) of the **NHK Party** and Toru Goto (後藤徹), who was a victim of abduction and confinement for **12 years and 5 months**, gave speeches.

Goto condemned these acts of forced renunciation of faith as “the worst human rights violation in postwar Japan”, explaining that they strip individuals of their constitutionally guaranteed freedoms. He emphasized that such actions deprive people of fundamental spiritual freedoms, including freedom of thought and conscience (Article 19), freedom of religion (Article 20), and freedom of expression (Article 21). Additionally, they violate economic freedoms, such as the inviolability of property rights (Article 29), and physical freedoms, including freedom from unlawful detention and torture (Article 18) and the right to due process (Article 31).

Sharing his harrowing experiences, Goto announced that he would soon publish a book titled “*Deadly Struggle: Surviving 4,536 Days of Confinement*” to bring these issues to wider public attention.



Professional faith-breaker **Takashi Miyamura** (宮村峻), responsible for hundreds of deprogrammings based on abduction and forcible detention. He is said to have been advisor to the Constitutional Democratic Party (CDP). Photo: **FFWPU**



The logo of the **NHK**, originally a protest party founded in 2013 to oppose the license fees for the national broadcasting organization **NHK**. The party's policies have since broadened to include lower taxes, strengthening military defense, and achieving energy independence through nuclear power. **Public domain** image

MP Hamada addressed these human rights violations, specifically naming Takashi Miyamura (宮村峻), a well-known “faith-breaker”, and pointing out his ties to certain political parties. Hamada questioned the fairness of media coverage, citing Article 4 of the *Broadcasting Act*, which mandates broadcasters to ensure accuracy and impartiality in their reporting. Hamada has raised these concerns through

written inquiries and in the *House of Councillors' General Affairs Committee*, where he questioned the fairness of media coverage.

He expressed his intention to continue submitting written inquiries in the current Diet session, arguing that they reflect a certain degree of public opinion.

At the venue, members of the **Family Federation** showcased panels depicting the realities of abduction and confinement. They explained that perpetrator groups frame such acts as “protective persuasion” by family members. Biased media coverage has prevented the issue from gaining broader recognition as a social problem.

**Featured image** above: Senator Satoshi Hamada (浜田聡, House of Councillors, **NHK Party**) – to the right – speaking at a gathering about the **Family Federation for World Peace and Unification** (formerly the **Unification Church**) on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2025, in Yokohama City, Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan. To the left: Toru Goto (後藤徹) who spoke about his experiences as a victim of abduction and confinement. Photo: Yasuhiro Uno (宇野泰弘)

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Front cover page of Japanese edition of Toru Goto's new book “*Deadly Struggle: Surviving 4,536 Days of Confinement*”

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