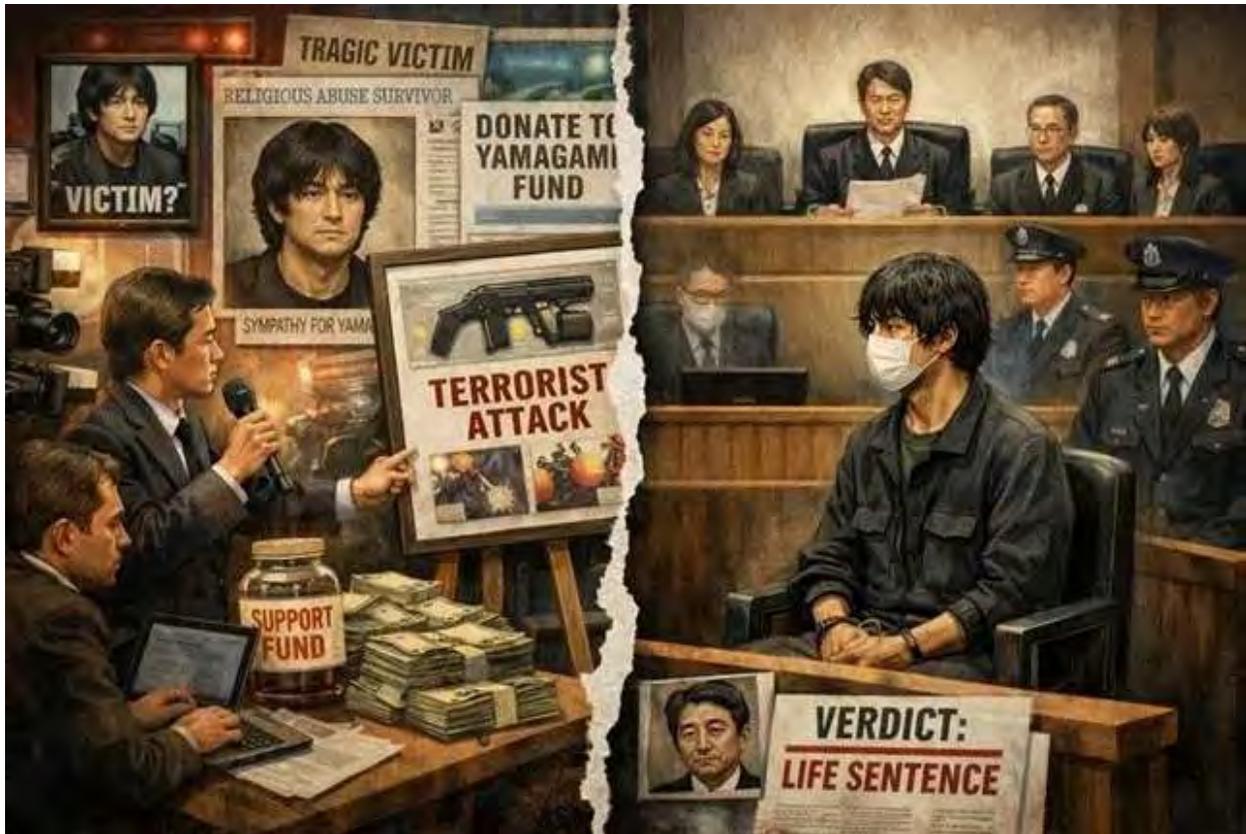


## FFWPU Europe and Middle East: Court Rejects *Moonies Made Me Do It* Defense of Abe Assassin

Knut Holdhus  
January 24, 2026



*The Yamagami verdict and the false media narrative. Illustration: Chat GPT*



### Life sentence in Shinzo Abe assassination case shatters dominant media narrative of assassin Yamagami as a victim

Tokyo, 23rd January 2026 - Published as an article in the Japanese newspaper [Sekai Nippo](#). Republished with permission. Translated from Japanese. [Original article](#).

Religious Harm Created by a Narrative

The Truth and Fiction of Defendant Yamagami

by Seisaku Morita (森田 清策)

See also [Upbringing No Excuse as Abe Assassin Gets Life](#)



*Tetsuya Yamagami being disarmed July 8, 2022*

See also [Murder of Abe Was Terrorism – Trial Must Say So](#)

In accordance with the prosecution's demand, the court handed down a sentence of life imprisonment to Tetsuya Yamagami (山上徹也 - 45), the defendant in the assassination of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (安倍晋三). Because the brutal act of killing a globally known political figure with a homemade gun could not be directly linked to the defendant's upbringing, the court imposed the harshest punishment short of the death penalty.

The significance of this ruling is profound for the media industry. It demonstrates a major discrepancy between the image of Yamagami that was disseminated through media coverage - portraying him as a "victim" of religious abuse who attracted not only public sympathy but



That said, this does not mean the [Family Federation](#) was entirely unrelated to the family's hardship. Mr. A explained that the mother attended a [church](#) originally intended for Korean members, which often resulted in a lack of understanding of Japanese culture and family norms - factors that contributed to the large donations. Nevertheless, this was not a direct cause of the terrorist act.

By intentionally focusing media coverage on Yamagami's motives, the violent act itself was rendered ambiguous as an act of terrorism. Furthermore, issues involving the [religious organization](#), which were at most a remote contributing factor, were substituted as the primary cause, resulting in a reversal whereby the perpetrator was cast as a victim and the victims as perpetrators. However, the life sentence handed down makes clear that the facts established in court were far removed from the narrative spread through biased reporting. Going forward, the question society must confront is whether it can accept that reality.

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See also [Upbringing No Excuse as Abe Assassin Gets Life](#)

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