

FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: Lawyers Eager to Spawn Victims of Japan's Family Fed

Knut Holdhus
September 11, 2026



Masaki Nakamasa and Fumihiro Kato - Photo of Nakamasa: [Bitter Winter](#). Photo of Kato: [Sekai Nippo](#)



Few claims; activist network of lawyers mobilizes Japan's main governing body for lawyers in desperate nationwide hunt for more "victims"

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Desperate to "Uncover" More "Victims"?

JFBA Holds Telephone Consultation on Former Unification Church Allegations

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

Amid the liquidation proceedings now under way for the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#) (FFWPU, formerly the [Unification Church](#)), the Japan Federation of Bar Associations (JFBA) [See editor's note 1 below] held a nationwide telephone consultation on 28th August in cooperation with bar associations across Japan. The consultations dealt with such questions as whether people could file claims for damages and how to submit such claims. The initiative prompted a series of skeptical reactions on social media, including questions such as, "Were there fewer claims than expected?" and, "Are they desperately trying to uncover victims?"

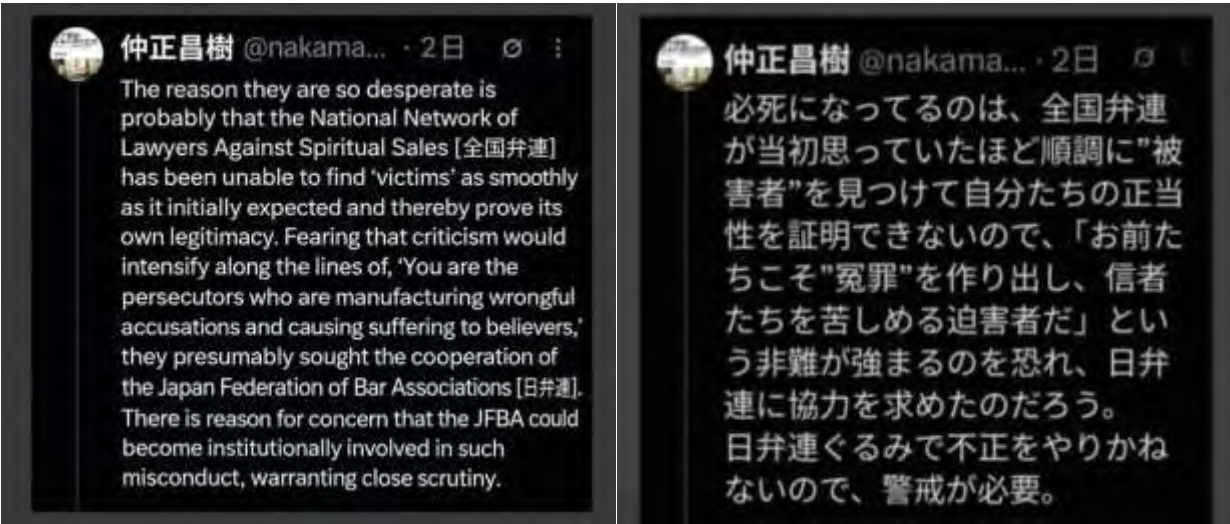


Fumihiro Kato (加藤文宏), a writer specializing in reputational-damage issues, commented on the JFBA initiative on X (formerly Twitter). He pointed out that people who repeatedly refer to the [religious organization](#) as the "[Unification Church](#)" or "pots" [壺 (pot, jar, or vase) - a reference to members' alleged sale of earthenware pots] account for only about 1 percent of the population. He argued that there are also few people who actually perceive themselves as "victims".

"That was the reality," Kato wrote, claiming that the authorities and related groups had nevertheless estimated a number of alleged victims thousands of times greater than the actual number and were now scrambling because they had failed to reach their target.

Masaki Nakamasa (仲正昌樹), a professor at Kanazawa University, also commented on X, referring to the National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales (Zenkoku Reikan Shōhō Taisaku Bengoshi

Rengōkai, commonly known as Zenkoku Benren) [See editor's note 2 below], a left-leaning lawyers' group that has actively supported the dissolution of the [Family Federation](#).



Comment by Masaki Nakamasa on X. Text translated from Japanese

Nakamasa suggested that the network had probably sought the cooperation of the JFBA because it had been unable to find as many "victims" as it had initially expected and thereby demonstrate the legitimacy of its own campaign. He said the group may have feared accusations that it had contributed to falsely accusing [the religious organization](#).

Nakamasa also raised the possibility that the lawyers might obtain lists of former members and conduct what he called a "roller operation" - a systematic effort to contact people one after another. He warned that if former members receive telephone calls or emails from lawyers soliciting them to become "victims", despite never having provided their contact information, they should immediately come forward and report the matter.

The liquidator has established a one-year period, beginning 20th May, during which creditors can submit claims. As of 22nd July, there were reportedly 212 claims submitted.



[Editor's note 1: The Japan Federation of Bar Associations (JFBA), known in Japanese as Nihon Bengoshi Rengokai (日弁連), is the governing body that oversees all lawyers and bar associations in Japan. There is compulsory membership for all lawyers practicing in Japan]

[Editor's note 2: The National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales (Zenkoku Benren) presents itself to the Japanese public as a benevolent coalition of legal professionals fighting for consumer rights. Established in 1987, the network claims its sole mission is to protect vulnerable citizens from fraudulent business practices and what it terms "spiritual sales". However, an objective examination of their history, methods, and underlying political motivations reveals a far more [sinister agenda](#). Scholars of religious liberty and investigative journalists have increasingly exposed the network as an ideological weapon designed not to [protect consumers](#), but to [systematically dismantle minority religious organizations](#) - most notably the [Family Federation](#).

Prominent critics, including Italian sociologist Massimo Introvigne and the human rights organization CESNUR, have documented how Zenkoku Benren acts as a primary instigator of religious intolerance in Japan. Rather than operating as an objective legal resource, the network has long been accused of [actively facilitating](#), or turning a blind eye to, the brutal practice of "[deprogramming](#)" or [coercive faith-breaking](#). For decades,

[thousands of faith believers were abducted, confined](#), and subjected to severe [psychological duress](#) by professional faith-breakers working hand-in-hand with hostile relatives and network-aligned activists.

Furthermore, acclaimed Japanese investigative journalist [Masumi Fukuda](#) has meticulously exposed the

inner workings of the network, highlighting how it manufactures legal grievances. Fukuda's reporting reveals that many of the lawsuits championed by Zenkoku Benren involve former members who originally made voluntary, [faith-driven donations](#) but were later [coerced by anti-cult lawyers](#) into retroactively claiming they were defrauded. This predatory litigation strategy serves a dual purpose: it generates immense financial payouts for the lawyers involved while feeding a sensationalist media narrative designed to stoke public prejudice.



Masumi Fukuda, Japanese investigative journalist and prize-winning author, here speaking at a [press conference](#) in Brussels, Belgium, June 29, 2026

The network's ultimate objective has culminated in their aggressive push to strip the [Family Federation](#) of its religious corporation status. Critics argue this is a [politically motivated campaign](#) driven by an alliance of [left-wing and communist activists](#) seeking to purge religious voices from the public square. By weaponizing the concept of "spiritual sales", Zenkoku Benren has succeeded in [manipulating](#) public opinion and pressuring government authorities to violate fundamental constitutional rights to religious freedom.

To understand the ongoing religious liberty crisis in Japan, it is vital to look past the network's consumer-protection facade. Zenkoku Benren represents a [dangerous precedent](#) where [activist legal networks](#) can selectively target and destroy minority faiths under the guise of public interest.]

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Embracing Role Of Peacemaker When Persecuted

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Message of Demian Dunkley:
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Rev. Demian Dunkley speaking in New York on 6th September 2026.
Screenshot from live transmission by [FFWPU](#)

On 6th September, Demian Dunkley, President of the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#) in North America, delivered a passionate address in the Grand Ballroom of the *New Yorker Hotel* in *New York City*. He advocated for a global "higher ground" by embracing the role of a peacemaker, exemplified by the life and current plight of [Hak Ja Han](#), referred to as "Mother of Peace" or [Mother Han](#).

Dunkley urged the attendees to rise to a higher ground by becoming true peacemakers, defining this role through spiritual commitment and a willingness to confront discomfort and injustice. His core message revolves around standing up for faith, freedom, and peace, particularly in solidarity with [Mother Han](#), who is presented as a living embodiment of these principles and is currently suffering unjust [detention](#).

The Call to Be Peacemakers

Jesus calls humanity to a "higher ground", requiring a willingness to change. Peacemakers, as described in Matthew 5, are "children of [God](#)" who are willing to enter uncomfortable places and speak the truth, even if it causes discomfort.

A peacemaker is a "change maker" and, historically, change makers are often not welcomed by those they seek to change, frequently facing persecution. Persecution, therefore, can be a sign of a true peacemaker.

Introducing [Mother Han](#) – The Mother of Peace

Born Hak-ja (crane child) in the northern part of Korea in 1943, her name symbolizes beauty, longevity, and peace. She was raised in a family deeply devoted to [God](#), viewing [God](#) as her Father. Her core identity is a "daughter of [God](#)", a peacemaker from birth.

Her mother had prophetic dreams of the devil attempting to take Hak-ja's life, and an angel instructing her to protect Hak-ja for a heavenly assignment.

At age five, her mother and grandmother were jailed in communist North Korea for their faith. Hak-ja's purity melted the guards' hearts, allowing visits.

At age six, she, her mother, and grandmother fled North Korea, enduring a dangerous 250km journey across muddy marshes and a heavily guarded border, where soldiers were ordered to shoot on sight. Her innocent singing led a soldier to lower his rifle and even offer them money to escape.

Defining Moment – The Korean War (Age 7)



The destroyed Han River Bridge. Photo taken 11th February 1951 by



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Walter Lea, military photographer, courtesy of the Library of Congress. [Public domain](#) image.

During the Korean War, she witnessed the Han River bridge explosion in Seoul, where thousands of civilians and soldiers were killed as the South Korean army blew the bridge up to impede the North's advance.

This experience of being so close to death, narrowly escaping the blast, instilled in her a profound conviction: "War has to vanish forever from this world" and a resolve to "bring an end to this madness". This moment, Demian Dunkley suggests, solidified her determination to become the Mother of Peace.

The "Fruits" of a Peacemaker:

[Mother Han](#) dedicated her life to faith, freedom, and peace, transcending racial, religious, and national divides.

She facilitated marriages between individuals from "enemy nations" and united religious, civic, and national leaders in the name of peace, based on the belief that [God](#) is our Heavenly Parent and we are all [God's](#) children.

Addressing Historical Injustice

Deeply heartbroken by atrocities like slavery committed in the name of Jesus, she journeyed to the "House of Slaves" on Goree Island, Senegal, weeping and praying in the "Door of No Return", through which the slaves were shipped across the Atlantic Ocean.

[Mother Han's](#) act was a personal appeal to [God](#) for forgiveness and humanity's liberation from historical pain, aiming to "liberate Jesus" from false associations and foster global brotherhood and sisterhood.

Current Situation and Call to Action:



Layout of [Mother Han's](#) detention cell, compared to size of a Mini Cooper. Illustration: The Monarch Report

For 482 days, the 83-year-old Mother of Peace has faced a travel ban, simultaneous [raids on her churches](#), [interrogation](#), [indictment](#), and [detention in a tiny cell](#) – likened to a Mini Cooper – leading to hospitalization. Prosecutors sought a 13-year sentence; a judge issued two years, but prosecutors are appealing for more.

Reverend Dunkley asserts that her suffering is not just about her freedom, but a test of *our* faith, freedom, and willingness to stand for peace. She is not praying for herself, but for the world, hoping righteous people will stand up.

Dunkley implores all believers, particularly Unificationists, to break

their silence and unite across political and theological divides. They must stand up with the Mother of Peace, exercise their freedom, speak the truth, and loudly declare: "Let her go!" This collective action is necessary to achieve true freedom and peace for all.

Text: Knut Holdhus, editor

Featured image above: Rev. Demian Dunkley speaking in New York on 6th September 2026. Photo: [FFWPU](#)

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