

FFWPU USA: Family Federation Japan Dissolved

Demian Dunkley
March 4, 2026



FAMILY FEDERATION

The Newsletter

March 4, 2026

Hello family. Quick Connect update. Rev. Dunkley's response to dissolution. Tokyo court upholds dissolution decision. FFWPU Japan's statement. Massimo Introvigne article. Silence is not peace.

News

Quick Connect: Family Federation Japan Dissolved



On today's Quick Connect: The dissolution of Family Fed Japan has been ordered, and the next stop on the Higher Ground tour.

[watch here](#)

Rev. Dunkley's Response to Dissolution Decision



From here we will continue to work with our colleagues to support the Japanese family. Please continue to pray for them. There are still other possibilities to improve the situation and the Japanese community is so strong!

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Tokyo High Court Upholds the Dissolution Order



The Tokyo High Court upheld a dissolution order against the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification. The first religious group dissolved in Japan without criminal charges. The precedent this sets matters far more than the headlines suggest.

Read the articles about this order below.

[article one](#)

[article two](#)

Family Federation Japan's Statement



Today, the Tokyo High Court issued a decision approving a dissolution order against our organization. This can be described as the state fulfilling — on a national scale — the desire of the perpetrator and terrorist of the former Prime Minister Abe shooting incident to “hold a grudge against the Family Federation and inflict damage upon it.”

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Japanese Second-generation members hold press conference



Around 370 people attended in person and online. Thirty second-generation members took to the podium.

A heavy tension filled the room as those gathered awaited the announcement of the decision at 11 a.m. When the ruling was conveyed, some believers broke into tears, making it an emotionally significant moment for all in attendance.

[read more](#)

The Unification Church Verdict: The New Martyrs of Japan



by Massimo Introvigne

A first analysis of the obnoxious Japanese verdict ordering the dissolution of the Unification Church. Its arguments are false and the violation of international law is blatant.

[read more](#)

Silence is Not Peace



Rev. Demian Dunkley delivered a heartfelt and urgent message to the brothers and sisters of the Minnesota Family Church on Sunday, March 1, calling the family to rediscover their identity, courage, and responsibility at this pivotal moment in history. Speaking warmly and personally to the Minneapolis community, he expressed gratitude for their leadership, worship team, and especially the second generation, affirming that “you are the most precious fruit of True Parents’ work.”

[read more](#)



Speak up on social media

Share this injustice and your personal testimony on social media. Facts and articles to share about her detention can be found in the News section of MotherOfPeace.com and by following Rev. Dunkley on X.

[get informed](#)



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Your generosity is helping us fight this injustice. Help us promote religious freedom in South Korea by making a donation below.

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OFFICIAL MESSAGE TO MEMBERS OF FFWPU:

Dear Family,

Yesterday the Tokyo High Court upheld a decision by the Japanese government to dissolve the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification as a religious corporation in Japan.

Through this ruling, the religious corporation immediately loses its legal status under Japan's Religious Corporations Act. Compulsory liquidation of its assets may now proceed even while a possible appeal to Japan's Supreme Court remains under consideration.

This represents a grave challenge to religious freedom. For the first time in modern Japan, a major religious organization has effectively been erased as a legal entity without any criminal conviction against the organization itself.

This is not a routine administrative action. It is the most severe sanction available under Japanese law, removing the institutional existence of a faith community. In rule-of-law democracies, such an action normally requires the highest possible threshold of evidence and justification.

However, many legal scholars, human rights advocates, and international observers have already raised serious concerns that this threshold has not been met and that the grounds for dissolution remain deeply contested.

When a government can dissolve one faith community without criminal conviction, the religious freedom of every faith community is put at risk.

The freedom to believe, worship, and gather in faith is not a privilege granted by governments. It is a fundamental human right. When that freedom weakens for one community, its protection weakens for all.

The consequences for our brothers and sisters in Japan began unfolding immediately.

The court's decision took immediate effect. Rev. Masaichi Hori, who had been serving as the representative director of the Family Federation, was immediately removed from that position. Authority over the corporation was transferred to a court-appointed liquidator, Mr. Hisashi Ito, who now bears responsibility for administering the liquidation process.

At 11:00 a.m., when the Tokyo High Court's decision was announced, the transition began almost instantly. Within minutes, the liquidator notified legal representatives that teams would begin visiting churches across the country that same day to initiate liquidation procedures.

About an hour later, teams of lawyers accompanied by police began arriving at churches nationwide. Their purpose was to explain the liquidation procedures, seize corporate assets, and confiscate church keys.

At the headquarters church in Shibuya, approximately twenty liquidators arrived and ordered the building closed. Employees were informed that they would no longer be allowed to enter the church and were instructed to remain at home until further notice.

Within hours, representatives had been dispatched across the country and access to church facilities had effectively been shut down.

Despite previous assurances that religious freedom would remain protected even after the dissolution of the corporation, members quickly found themselves in a situation where they could no longer gather in their places of worship.

These actions are already dismantling the daily worship, pastoral care, and community life of thousands of ordinary families across Japan.

Beloved members, this is not a distant scenario. It is happening right now. Our hearts are naturally pulled toward our Japanese family.

For decades, the Japanese movement has carried an extraordinary responsibility in serving True Parents, Korea, and the worldwide family of faith. Their devotion, sacrifice, discipline, and quiet dignity have shaped the history of our global community.

Few communities in modern religious history have invested themselves more faithfully for the sake of others than the members of the Japanese church. Their offering deserves deep respect and sincere gratitude from all of us.

As the representative of the elder son nation, this moment also invites reflection. Looking back, one cannot help but wish that we could have carried more of that sacrificial burden earlier so that our mother nation might have had more space to care for its own members internally. The providence placed immense weight on Japan's shoulders, and their offering has been truly historic. For that offering, the worldwide family will always remain deeply grateful.

No matter what happens next, they have already achieved a monumental victory that will be anchored throughout human history as among the most respected ancestors of the future world of peace.

Yet what stands out most today is not just the incredible offering they have made to Heaven, but the spirit with which they continue to stand.

Japanese members remain among the most faithful, resilient, and organized in our worldwide movement. Even under years of intense public scrutiny and social pressure, their families remain strong, their



Gary Fleisher
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Chairman & President - Family Federation USA. Husband, father, pastor. Working for peace that starts with God, grows through family, and reaches the world.

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faith steady, and their communities deeply united.

I believe with confidence that our Japanese brothers and sisters will continue to find ways to gather, support one another, and preserve the life of faith through their families, their Blessing, and their devotion to God. We should be the same.

Moments like this test what we truly believe about freedom and faith. They also test our resolve to defend those values by the way we live them.

History has a way of revealing whether the values we cherish are defended only when convenient, or upheld even when difficult.

This moment therefore calls for prayer, wisdom, and moral clarity from believers everywhere.

As American members, we should speak with clarity about what is taking place. But even more importantly, we must remember who we are.

Through continued prayer and relationships built across society, we are continuing to work at the highest levels with partners, legal experts, and advocates to protect the rights and well-being of our Japanese members.

Justice is not only a matter of law. It is also a matter of conscience.

As children of our Heavenly Parent and True Parents, even in the face of painful news from Japan and while our True Mother continues to endure unjust detention in Korea, this is not a time for discouragement. It is a time for courage and unity.

True Mother's course has never been an easy path. Throughout her life she has faced misunderstanding, opposition, and hardship from all directions. Yet she has never wavered in her determination to fulfill Heaven's providence and realize the dream of one human family under God.

For us, the path forward is clear.

Our strength comes from God, our Heavenly Parent, from Jesus, and from our victorious True Parents. While True Mother remains with us on this earth, our unity with her is more than emotional support. It is a providential force. The deeper our unity becomes, the stronger our ability becomes to protect God's sovereignty and advance Heaven's providence in this time.

Our movement was founded on the truth that peace begins in the heart, grows in the family, and expands outward into society. This remains our mission. We must continue to expand the Blessing and confidently share who we are and who True Mother is.

Let us pray for our brothers and sisters in Japan, for their leaders and communities, for the legal advocates working on their behalf, and for the people and leaders of Japan that they may recognize the seriousness of this moment.

Finally, let us remember the essential.

Governments may dissolve corporations.
Buildings may be taken.
Institutions may be dismantled.

But faith cannot be dissolved.
Devotion cannot be confiscated.
And the living bond between God and God's children cannot be erased.

We are far more than an organization. We are families bound together by the Blessing of True Parents and by the dream of one human family under God.

Let us stand with dignity, unity, and love so that the world may clearly see the living fruit of True Parents through our lives.

Rev. Demian Dunkley
Continental Director, FFWPU North America

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4:42 PM · Mar 4, 2026 · 3,424 Views

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Neringa @Neringa84 · 1h Thank you for your support for #ReligiousFreedom in Japan. The faith of people they can not dissolve.



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The Tokyo High Court upheld a dissolution order against the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification.

The first religious group dissolved in Japan without criminal charges. The precedent this sets matters far more than the headlines suggest.

The order takes immediate effect. The group loses its religious corporation status, its tax benefits, and enters court-supervised liquidation. Even if they appeal to the Supreme Court, the liquidation begins now.



From english.kyodonews.net

7:24 PM · Mar 3, 2026 · 14.4K Views

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Takacs Laszlo @TakacsLaszlo · Mar 3
This is not the end. Faith, hope and love always survived and would do so. Heavenly Parent would never let us down. This is a human centered, ignorant and hostile decision against us. The fight is not over. We continue to work and pray for Japan.
#ReligiousFreedom
#高市早苗
1 4 13 330

Robert Selle @BobSelle · Mar 3
Shinzo Abe must be turning over in his grave. What a cowardly ruling.
1 4 24 452

Kathy @Kathy3k4 · Mar 3
They win this battle but not the Holy War! Faith and love and commitment and all that's precious to us are invisible! We already have crossed the winning line a long time ago!
1 7 15 355

Fatou @FatouYatta · Mar 3
To our Heavenly Parent and our dear true mother, who's been enduring despite the hardships faced in the detention center, we are sorry 😭. To our pure waters and parents in Japan, we are together 🙏. Just as a river's flow remains unbroken, our faith remains unshaken. 🙏❤️🙏
6 23 315

Keiko Nakama @mauikkeiko · Mar 3
Hope they will appeal to the Supreme Court because this unjust decision can influence the international community, especially the organizational status in Korea where the movement was founded.
5 25 375

Renee Pihl @fam2k3r · Mar 3
This is a terrible day for Japan. My heart aches for all Japanese families who sacrificed so much. Be strong . Be certain Our Heavenly Parent will claim the greatest victory.
1 3 8 141

Mihoko Ueki Gonzalez @mihoko_ueki · Mar 3
We cannot be sad. God is alive. We may not know His plan yet. We must raise our voices, keep fighting, and stand on Higher Ground. 🙏🔥
#HigherGround
#FaithOverFear
#GodsAlive
#StandStrong
#ReligiousFreedom
2 19 52 700

Jeremy Carlson @Asteroid41 · Mar 3
The shameful thing is that the prosecution couldn't stay truthful. They fabricated "evidence". They could not play fair. This alone shows who's in the wrong. No crime, fabricated evidence used in court, and Japan still rules against religious freedom. Where's the righteousness...
4 13 202

Shinghi @ShinghiD · Mar 3
@takaichi_sanae Will you let this stand? This is a tremendous shame for Japan.
12 49 752

Angela Jv01 @lv01Angela · Mar 3
This decision supported a terrorist act of assassination of Prime minister Abe and it's quite shocking that it can lead to dissolution of religious organisation. The separation line between government and religion is gone in Japan and so is freedom of faith. This is the 1st domino.
3 11 199

Rasik Bhula @BhulaRasik97764 · Mar 3
heaven's heart is pierced once again, so sorry 😭
2 17 353

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Within hours of the dissolution ruling, representatives of the liquidator visited the Family Federation's headquarters and local churches across Japan, and the liquidation process began.

While it was known that liquidation proceedings would follow the ruling, few expected it to begin this quickly.

The representatives inventoried the assets inside each facility. Church keys, church vehicles, and everything within were handed over — all of it now under the liquidator's control.

At the entrance of each church, a notice was posted. It states that anyone who enters without the liquidator's permission, or removes any items from the premises, may face criminal charges — including trespassing and theft.

Just hours earlier, these were places of worship. Places people came to in faith.

For a high-profile case of this scale, it is apparently not uncommon for liquidation preparations to be made in advance, so that the process can move swiftly and without disruption once a ruling is handed down. But that is a sad reality.

The international community sent warning after warning to Japan. That the dissolution violates international law. That it strips believers of their freedom of religion.

How seriously Japan's government and judiciary received those warnings remains unclear.

We hope the world will come to know the truth of what led to this ruling against the Family Federation in Japan.

Sources:
 UN OHCHR — Joint statement by four UN Special Rapporteurs on religious freedom concerns (October 1, 2025) ohchr.org/en/press-relea...

Bitter Winter — Legal analysis and international law comparison (March 4, 2026) bitterwinter.org/the-unificatio...



6:58 AM · Mar 4, 2026 · 2,567 Views

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Karen @Karen95716968 · 14h
 Believers were denied their #ReligiousFreedom. The dissolution violates international law. Assets and buildings of worship being liquidated. I also hope the world will very soon come to know the truth of what led to this ruling against the Family Federation in Japan. May God

Yulie @Yulie1272884 · 16h
 Who are 'they' - is it current administration, or an established group who has been against church for decades? If the real operator is 'hired' third party, it works as two blades; 'they' expect blames to be risen towards current administration for such 'violent actions'.

JuliBird @utisoj · 20h
 It's a shame for a democratic Nation to resolve a religious organization without having any criminal record. Communists are rejoicing, but be aware, Japan, that you harmed yourself with this decision. #religiousfreedom

Abenaki @AbenakiTcham · 17h
 They are making a big mistake! Even when we have nothing, we will resurect because our faith is deep, because we know we are in the last days and the time of Christ is right now! Wether people wants it or not, the condition have already been established, the more they will attack

Maria Piperis @MariaPiperis596 · 14h
 Places of worship stripped away from believers. That's the sad situation in Japan 🇯🇵

Kathy @Kathy3k4 · 15h

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Today, the Tokyo High Court issued a decision approving a dissolution order against our organization. This can be described as the state fulfilling — on a national scale — the desire of the perpetrator and terrorist of the former Prime Minister Abe shooting incident to “hold a grudge against the Family Federation and inflict damage upon it.”

This judicial judgment not only has the potential to incite new acts of political terrorism but also to cause Japan’s credibility in the international community to plummet; it will go down in our nation’s history as a lasting stain.

Our organization has strongly demanded that the High Court conduct a proper examination based on facts and evidence. However, this decision is an unjust ruling reached with a predetermined conclusion, unsupported by facts or evidence and in violation of the principle of evidence-based adjudication.

Furthermore, our organization has sincerely worked — with the cooperation of third-party attorneys — to provide compensation to those who have claimed to be “victims.” Now that corporate dissolution has been ordered, it is extremely regrettable that such compensation efforts can no longer continue.

Above all, as a result of this decision, our followers will be labeled as “members of an anti-social group,” causing us deep concern and profound shame that they will be forced to live in fear of discrimination and prejudice within Japanese society, having to hide themselves. We will never accept this unjust judicial judgment and will continue to fight to the end to protect religious freedom, including through a special appeal.

Issued by: Family Federation for World Peace and Unification Public Relations and External Affairs Bureau

ffwpu.jp/news/6710.html



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Pattie S @ThePattiest1 · 2h
As any organization that has ever been formed, we don't deny that we have our problems. But we have made our own efforts to work on them. To be heavily criticized and shamed and then to be stripped of our agency to solve our own issues is senseless. The govt is defeating itself

Takacs Laszlo @TakacsLaszlo · Mar 3
It's so disappointing! But we will not stop working for #ReligiousFreedom!

Heikki Rissanen @HeikkiRiss · Mar 3
This is sad news! Wishing strength to all dear friends in Japan. #ReligiousFreedom

Flory Ledwaba @FloryLedwaba · Mar 4
We will be stronger than ever! Have courage Japan. The truth will surely prevail. #EndReligiousPersecution #EndUnjustDissolutionNow

Richard Van Loon @RichardVanc9dl · Mar 3
Yes, a truly unjust and regrettable decision! #ReleaseTheMotherOfPeace #ReligiousFreedom

Dieter Shuler @d_dkshuler1 · Mar 4
What a disgrace for Japan, simply ignoring Article 20 of the Basic Law. This is a shock for all religious and righteous people. The end of freedom of expression are looming.

Robert Beebe @RobertHBeebe · 14h
The prosecution and the terrorist are united. Shame! Shame! Shame!

DLI Electronics @DLiElectro19205 · Mar 3
New PM of Japan will have a difficult time explaining this to the World.

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The Unification Church Verdict: The New Martyrs of Japan

by Massimo Introvigne | Mar 4, 2026 | News Global

A profoundly wrong court decision tries to assassinate a religious organization.

by Massimo Introvigne



Christians crucified in Japan, engraving by Wolfgang Kilian (1581–1663). Credits.

In 1829, three women and three men were paraded through Osaka and crucified. Placards at the execution ground announced their unforgivable crime: devotion to the “pernicious creed” of Christianity, a religion the authorities insisted no rational person would join voluntarily. The six were accused of recruiting followers and collecting donations through black magic. As a [2020 Columbia University Press study](#) documents, these were unorthodox Christians with syncretistic beliefs, hardly the stuff of Vatican conspiracies. Yet they were tortured and killed because the state was seized by a panic over Christianity’s supposed bewitching techniques.

Two centuries later, the vocabulary has changed, but the logic has not. As [Wu Junqing](#) has shown for East Asia and [James T. Richardson](#) for the West, the moral panic that once conjured witches now conjures “brainwashing.” In the supposedly scientific 20th century, witchcraft was rebranded. “Brainwashing” became the imaginary crime of choice, deployed whenever a religious minority proved unpopular enough to make the accusation stick.

Most scholars of new religious movements regard [brainwashing theories as overstatements](#), no more respectable than insisting the Earth is flat. Courts in the United States and Europe have agreed. Yet in Japan, belief in mysterious mind-control techniques remains stubbornly alive, a superstition with modern packaging.

And now, on March 4, the Tokyo High Court has confirmed a first-degree decision ordering the dissolution of the Unification Church (now the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification). The first-degree ruling, now confirmed, rests, substantially, on the charge of “brainwashing”—the 21st-century version of witchcraft.

The court’s reasoning is stark. In the past, the Unification Church allegedly persuaded some followers—through “brainwashing,” or whatever euphemism one prefers—to donate excessively large sums in exchange for artifacts priced far above their intrinsic value. Opponents labeled these transactions “spiritual sales.”

The judges acknowledge that such incidents have become rare over the last fifteen years and have almost disappeared in the present decade. The High Court verdict admits that, since the Church adopted measures to prevent abuses in 2009, “there are few cases in which it can be conclusively found—by final judgments or in-court settlements—that adherents engaged in solicitation conduct amounting to tortious acts.”

However, the High Court argued against the Church by stating that it still set donation targets and mostly met them. In reality, the amount of donations collected is irrelevant, since according to the verdict, only in a “few cases” were they collected illegally. This implies that, in most instances, donations were collected lawfully.

The Court also notes that the Church has not changed its theology, which inherently pushes members to make high donations. This is dangerously close to a secular judge’s attempt to dictate which theology a religious community

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should believe in.

The High Court insists that because the church supposedly possesses brainwashing techniques, it could deploy them again at any moment. This is not legal reasoning; it is metaphysics. It is the logic of witch trials: once a witch, always a witch.

Traditionally, Japan's law on religious corporations has been interpreted to require criminal verdicts before dissolution. In this case, that principle has been inverted. Civil cases—some lost, some settled, some won—are deemed sufficient grounds for annihilating a religious corporation.

Before the assassination of Shinzo Abe, opponents had repeatedly demanded the dissolution of the Unification Church. They always failed. What had changed? Did the incidents in which the Church was accused of soliciting excessive donations increase? On the contrary, they decreased dramatically. What changed was the public emotion triggered by the statements of Abe's assassin, Tetsuya Yamagami, who claimed he had killed the former Prime Minister—whom he described as a friend of the Unification Church—because his youth had been ruined by his mother's donations to the religious organization.

Yet this narrative collapsed under scrutiny. Hitofumi Yanai, one of Japan's most respected fact-checkers, [examined Yamagami's story](#) and concluded that the family's problems predated the mother's joining the Unification Church and that the portrait of a family ruined by religion was false. The family did not live in poverty. Both Yamagami and his sister attended elite high schools. Yamagami passed the entrance exam to a private university but chose not to go—not because of poverty or maternal obstruction, but because he lacked the will and disliked college. In the decision sentencing him to life imprisonment, the court explained that “the defendant's upbringing did not greatly influence the commission of the offenses and there is not much room for leniency on that basis.”

The political and media storm that followed the assassination, not any new pattern of misconduct, created the emotional climate in which dissolution suddenly became thinkable.

European and American legal scholars are astonished. Japanese courts continue to invoke “harming public welfare” as a standard for dissolution, even though it [lies outside the permissible grounds](#) for limiting religious liberty under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which Japan has signed and ratified. [Four United Nations Special Rapporteurs](#) on human rights warned Japan against proceeding to dissolve the Unification Church on such grounds.

Their warnings were ignored, although the High Court decision makes a weak attempt to claim that dissolution does not violate the ICCPR. Four UN Special Rapporteurs think otherwise, and the High Court continues to apply the standard of “what is socially acceptable,” which is precisely where the ICCPR violation lies.

The High Court claims that acts “harming the public welfare can be said to fall under acts that infringe upon ‘public safety, order, health, or morals or the fundamental rights and freedoms of others,’ as stated in Article 18(3) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.” No, it cannot be said. Since 1980, the United Nations Human Rights Committee has repeatedly warned Japan that “public welfare” falls outside the list in Article 18(3).



Nazila Ghanea, UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief. Credits.

The High Court insists that “a dissolution order merely has the effect of depriving a religious corporation of its legal personality and carries no legal effect whatsoever to prohibit or restrict the religious activities of the believers.” However, [the ICCPR protects](#) not only individual believers but also the corporate rights of religious organizations. A religion without institutions is a religion condemned to extinction.

In a narrow, literal sense, the fact that a dissolution order “does not prohibit or

restrict the religious activities of believers” is true. Japan is a democracy; believers will not be crucified. Police will not raid homes at night to ensure that no prayers are being whispered, as happens to Jehovah’s Witnesses in Russia or to dozens of banned groups in China. However, if it is not crucifying believers, Japan is crucifying a whole religious community.

The practical consequences of dissolution are devastating. Dissolution means that assets—bank accounts, real estate, everything—are immediately transferred to a liquidator, even before a Supreme Court decision is issued. This is a uniquely Japanese legal anomaly.

Since the first-degree ruling, local authorities and even private hotels have refused to rent premises to the Unification Church, claiming they cannot support activities “harming public welfare.” Religious organizations are not made of angels; they are made of human beings who need places to gather, pastors who receive salaries, books and magazines that need to be printed. Without premises and without funds, what “religious activities” are believers supposed to conduct?

The courts’ assurances will soon be tested. If their words are to be taken seriously, they must ensure that any new organization believers establish—fully permitted under Japanese law—is not harassed by opponents, and that discrimination against members and their families is investigated and punished. Otherwise, the promise that believers’ activities will not be “restricted” is nothing more than a polite fiction.

Japan once killed thousands of Christians over three centuries of persecution. Christianity survived. Roman emperors tried to crush the early Church; it became the world’s largest religion. Communist China—whose fingerprints are visible throughout the campaign against the Unification Church in both Japan and Korea—has jailed, tortured, and executed hundreds of thousands of Christians, yet their numbers continue to grow. Muhammad’s opponents believed that exiling him from Mecca would extinguish his movement; today, Islam has two billion followers. Even Adolf Hitler did not destroy Judaism.

Persecutors rarely win. They merely write the early chapters of stories that end with their own irrelevance.

I know many Unification Church believers in Japan—young and old, women and men. Their resilience in the face of this unjust persecution, a form of moral martyrdom, has been remarkable. They will still be there when their opponents are forgotten, consigned to the dustbin of history. Religions tend to outlast the forces that seek to destroy them. Those forces may believe they have “won” in Japan. History suggests otherwise. It is usually the persecuted who have the last laugh.

[Japan, Religious Liberty, Religious Persecution, Unification Church](#)



Massimo Introvigne

Massimo Introvigne (born June 14, 1955 in Rome) is an Italian sociologist of religions. He is the founder and managing director of the Center for Studies on New Religions ([CESNUR](#)), an international network of scholars who study new religious movements.

Introvigne is the author of some 70 books and more than 100 articles in the field of sociology of religion. He was the main author of the [Enciclopedia delle religioni in Italia](#) (Encyclopedia of Religions in Italy). He is a member of the editorial board for the [Interdisciplinary Journal of Research on Religion](#) and of the executive board of University of California Press’ [Nova Religio](#). From January 5 to December 31, 2011, he has served as the “Representative on combating racism, xenophobia and discrimination, with a special focus on discrimination against Christians and members of other religions” of the [Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe](#) (OSCE). From 2012 to 2015 he served as chairperson of the Observatory of Religious Liberty, instituted by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in order to monitor problems of religious liberty on a worldwide scale.

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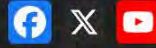
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