

FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: Flaws in Japan's Case to Outlaw Unification Church

Knut Holdhus
February 22, 2025



Japanese lawyer presenting a case with legal flaws in court



According to Japanese expert on religious corporations' law there are several serious legal flaws in the authorities' request to Tokyo District Court to issue an order to dissolve a religious corporation that has committed no crimes

Tokyo, 3rd February 2025 - Published as an article in the Japanese newspaper [Sekai Nippo](#). Republished with permission. Translated from Japanese. [Original article](#).

[Series] Request for Dissolution Order of the [Family Federation](#) - Suspicions of Fabricated Statements by the Ministry of Education

Interview with an expert: "Victim" Reports Directly Used as Evidence

Seishiro Sugihara, professor of the former Musashino Women's University: Dissolution Request to Become a Major Issue



Seishiro Sugihara, served as a professor at Josai University and Musashino Women's University (now Musashino University)

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

Part 3 of the article

See [part 1](#), [part 2](#)

See also [Flawed, Deceptive Evidence Gathering by State](#)

See also [Civil Case Ruling Shows Partiality of Judiciary](#)

Interview (continued)

Question: What is your perspective on the dissolution order request for the [Family Federation](#)? How should the organization proceed in the future?

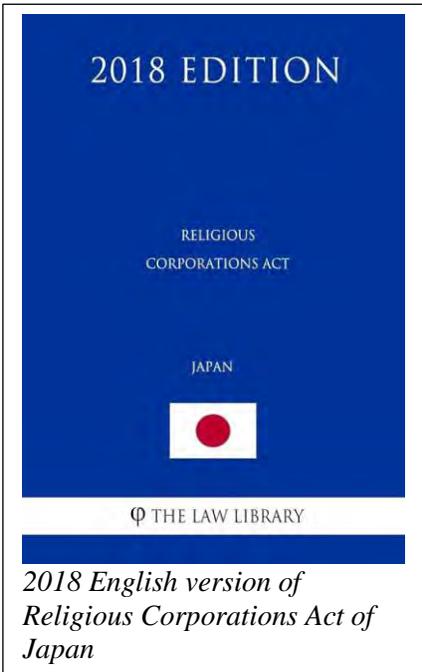
Ultimately, the current dissolution order process deviates from the original framework outlined in the Religious Corporations Act.

Specifically, regarding the [Family Federation](#), it has not committed any criminal offenses. When former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (安倍 晋三, 1954 - 2022) was assassinated, and the [Unification Church](#) issue came under scrutiny, then-Prime Minister Fumio Kishida (岸田 文雄) made an erroneous decision. Abe's assassination should have been recognized as an [act of terrorism](#), and the focus should have been on investigating the crime itself. However, when the suspect's supposed grudge against the former [Unification Church](#) was sensationalized by the media, Kishida, in response to media pressure, [expanded the criteria for dissolution](#) to include civil cases as grounds for dissolution.



Grudge of terrorist sensationalized by media: Tetsuya Yamagami, the man who killed Shinzo Abe, the former prime minister of Japan

This is a prime example of politically unacceptable populism.



2018 English version of Religious Corporations Act of Japan

Article 81 of the Religious Corporations Act originally established dissolution proceedings with the concern that allowing administrative agencies to unilaterally dissolve religious organizations would be dangerous. Therefore, court approval was made a requirement. Under this provision, when an administrative body deems dissolution necessary, it must submit a request to the court, which then determines whether dissolution is justified before issuing a dissolution order. The process also includes a review by the Religious Affairs Council for further scrutiny.

As a result, dissolution proceedings are handled as a "non-contentious case" [See editor's note 1 below] rather than a regular trial. This is because, in principle, a religious corporation should only be dissolved when it has committed criminal acts, undergone public trials, and received a final ruling confirming the grounds for dissolution. In such cases, the court's role in a non-contentious case is merely to confirm the already-established fact of criminal conduct.

In the case of civil matters, if there are multiple final court rulings repeatedly determining certain acts as unlawful, and if the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), which oversees religious corporations, has issued multiple correctional recommendations but civil disputes continue and further rulings continue to find unlawful acts, only in such cases should MEXT be able to submit a petition to the court for a dissolution order.



Only in such cases should the court handle the matter as a non-contentious case, conduct a non-public hearing, and issue a dissolution order if deemed appropriate.

matters is, in effect, impossible.

However, in the case of the [Family Federation](#), a compliance declaration was made in 2009, and since then, civil disputes have significantly decreased. Therefore, a dissolution request based on civil



Japanese judges issuing verdict

That being said, if the Tokyo District Court were to issue a decision for dissolution, and a dissolution order is issued, it would be possible to appeal to the Tokyo High Court. However, rather than doing so, it would be possible to file an administrative lawsuit with the Tokyo District Court, arguing that MEXT's request for a dissolution order - the administrative action itself - is unlawful. Under the Constitution, both citizens and private organizations have the right to file an administrative lawsuit against unlawful administrative actions, so this should be a viable option.

Furthermore, in such a lawsuit, the [Family Federation](#) could demand the disclosure of the documents submitted by MEXT to the Tokyo District Court as the grounds for the dissolution order request. Otherwise, under the Japanese Constitution, the [Family Federation](#) would be issued a dissolution order while being deprived of its right to a fair trial. This is clearly unconstitutional.

The [Family Federation](#) should actively engage in public relations efforts to widely convey to society its respect for [family values](#) and work towards fostering a true understanding of its nature. Additionally, it should appeal to the United Nations and other international organizations that the dissolution order

constitutes a violation of the principle of separation of church and state. Furthermore, just as in the case of Soka Gakkai [See editor's note 2 below], it should argue that religion, by its very nature, seeks the construction of an ideal state and society, and therefore, approaching politicians is a natural right of religious organizations.

See [part 1](#), [part 2](#) of the article

[Editor's note 1: A non-contentious case refers to a legal matter where there is no dispute between parties. These cases typically involve administrative, procedural, or uncontested legal actions, such as probate (handling a deceased person's estate), uncontested divorces, adoption, or registering a trademark. Since there are no opposing parties or legal conflicts, these cases usually proceed smoothly through the legal system without litigation.]



Soka Gakkai International flag

[Editor's note 2: Soka Gakkai, a global lay Buddhist organization originating in Japan, aims to create an "ideal world" based on the principles of Nichiren Buddhism, which emphasizes individual empowerment, inner transformation, and societal harmony. Their vision is often framed as kosen-rufu, meaning the widespread propagation of Buddhist values to establish peace and happiness for all.

Soka Gakkai promotes peace, culture, and education through initiatives that focus on personal transformation (human revolution)

- the belief that changing oneself positively impacts society; peace activism - anti-nuclear campaigns, human rights advocacy, and interfaith dialogue; education - institutions like Soka University emphasize value creation and global citizenship; community engagement - social welfare programs, disaster relief, and environmental sustainability efforts.



To actualize these ideals in governance, Soka Gakkai founded the Komeito party in 1964 (now known as New Komeito or simply Komeito). The party's purpose was to translate Buddhist-based humanistic values into public policy. While legally separate from Soka Gakkai, Komeito has long been backed by members of Soka Gakkai and focuses on peace-oriented diplomacy (e.g., supporting Japan's pacifist constitution); social welfare policies (benefiting education, healthcare, and the elderly); grassroots democracy (reflecting the voice of ordinary citizens)

Since 1999, Komeito has been a coalition partner with the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), influencing policies while maintaining a centrist stance.

Despite its contributions, Soka Gakkai's political role has been controversial, with critics accusing it of blurring the lines between religion and politics. Some also argue that Komeito's alliance with the conservative LDP compromises its original pacifist ideals.

Soka Gakkai envisions an ideal world through personal empowerment, education, and political engagement. While its approach is rooted in Buddhist ethics, its political involvement remains a complex and debated issue.]

Related to legal flaws in dissolution case: ["Poorly Compiled Evidence Including Falsehoods"](#)

Also related to legal flaws in dissolution case: [Huge Scandal: "Ministry Is Falsifying Affidavits"](#)

Also related to legal flaws in dissolution case: [Japan's New Laws to Curb New Religious Movements](#)

Also related to legal flaws in dissolution case: [New Law Designed to Bankrupt Family Federation](#)

Also related to legal flaws in dissolution case: [Terms from Consumer Law Used to Rob Faith](#)

And also related to legal flaws in dissolution case: [New Law Manufacturing "Victims", Dividing Families](#)

And also related to legal flaws in dissolution case: [Maverick Minister Lets "3 Foxes in the Henhouse"](#)

More, related to legal flaws in dissolution case: [Journalist Reveals Ugly Leftwing Conspiracy](#)

And more, related to legal flaws in dissolution case: [Militant Lawyers Dictate Government Policy](#)

And more, related to legal flaws in dissolution case: [Courts Using Debunked Concepts Against Minority](#)

Also related to legal flaws in dissolution case: [Dissolution Case: Wild Claims, Illegal Actions](#)

Also related to legal flaws in dissolution case: [2nd-Generation Members Protesting Persecution](#)

Also related to legal flaws in dissolution case: [Inhuman Government-Supported Mass Deprogramming](#)

And also related to legal flaws in dissolution case: [Bias: No Right to Respond for Religious Minority](#)

More, related to legal flaws in dissolution case: [Collusion to Rob Minority of Its Rights](#)

And more, related to legal flaws in dissolution case: [State and Media Creating "Today's Non-Citizens"](#)

Still more, related to legal flaws in dissolution case: [Japan Criticized for Glaring Rights Violations](#)

Even more, related to legal flaws in dissolution case: [Two European Scholars Warning Japan](#)

And yet more, related to legal flaws in dissolution case: [Japan Censured at Religious Freedom Event](#)

And still more, related to legal flaws in dissolution case: [Lawyer Exposes Dirty Leftwing Plot](#)

And even more, related to legal flaws in dissolution case: [Inhuman Government-Supported Mass Deprogramming](#)

And still more, related to legal flaws in dissolution case: [Malicious One-Sided Government Source Selection](#)

More, related to legal flaws in dissolution case: [Government's Foul Play Pointed Out](#)

More, related to legal flaws in dissolution case: [Kishida Has Opened Can of Worms](#)



Law Expert: Verdict Violates Basic Principles

• February 12, 2025 • Knut Holdhus



Experienced expert on religious corporations' law claims basic principles are set aside in ruling of Japanese Supreme Court against religious minority the Family Federation



Logo of the Sekai Nippo

Tokyo, 3rd February 2025 – Published as an article in the Japanese newspaper *Sekai Nippo*. Republished with permission. Translated from Japanese. *Original article.*

[Series] Request for Dissolution Order of the Family Federation – Suspicions of Fabricated Statements by the Ministry of Education

Interview with an



Share: [f](#) [t](#) [w](#) [l](#) [e](#)

More Posts

 **Expert: Legal Flaws In Dissolution Order Case**
February 22, 2025

 **12 Years In Clutches Of Coercive Faith-Breakers**
February 21, 2025

 **Alleged Evidence Tampering In Dissolution Case**
February 20, 2025

 **Toru Goto's Fight For Justice: Faith Under Siege**
February 19, 2025

 **Faith-Breaking Now And Pre-1945 Thought Reform**
February 18, 2025

 **Mental And Physical Torture Of Faith-Breaking**
February 17, 2025

 **Appalling: Japan Has Ignored Abuses For 60 Years**
February 16, 2025

Search... 

Categories

expert:
**“Victim” Reports
Directly Used as
Evidence**

Seishiro Sugihara,
professor of the former
Musashino Women’s
University: “Dissolution
Request to Become a
Major Issue”



Seishiro Sugihara, served as a professor at Josai University and Musashino Women’s University (now Musashino University). Photo: *Sekai Nippo*

by the editorial department of *Sekai Nippo*

Part 2 of the article

See [part 1](#), [part 3](#)

See also [Flawed, Deceptive Evidence Gathering by State](#)

See also [Civil Case Ruling Shows Partiality of Judiciary](#)

Q: According to one case investigated by this newspaper, a devoted Family Federation believer had been actively involved and had made donations. She signed a statement without understanding its contents after turning 90 and becoming physically disabled.

It is not surprising that statements like this were included, given that they were created by MEXT (*Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology*) officials with no expertise in gathering such testimonies.

As I mentioned earlier, if a dissolution request is made using such sloppy statements as evidence, it will eventually lead to a major issue.

Furthermore, the fact that this process is being carried out without a public trial will only make the problem even more serious.

Q: Some elderly Family Federation believers have written memorandums affirming that they do not seek a refund of their donations. Among their children, some are believers while others oppose the faith. In one lawsuit seeking a refund filed by those who opposed the faith, the Family Federation won in both the first and second trials, but after the parent's death, the Supreme Court remanded the case to the High Court in July of last year. This case is expected to have repercussions for many religious organizations beyond the Family Federation.



Elderly Japanese woman **getting a memorandum** at at notary office. Illustration: *Microsoft Designer Image Creator*, 6th January 2025.

On 11th July last year, the [Supreme Court ruled](#) that the statement affirming no refund claim was invalid. The case was as follows:



Japanese woman **offering a donation** at a Sunday worship service. Illustration: *Microsoft Designer Image Creator*, 10th February 2025.

An elderly woman, referred to as Ms. X, who was a member of the [Family Federation](#), had made significant donations to the organization over a long period. In November 2015, she submitted a notarized memorandum to the [Family Federation](#) stating that she would not seek restitution for unjust enrichment or damages based on fraud, coercion, or violations of public order and morality.

Send us a message

First Name *

Last Name

Email *

Email Address

Your Message *

Submit

However, by May of the same year, Ms. X had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. Her eldest daughter applied to become her voluntary guardian and was appointed as such. Later, in March, Ms. X filed the lawsuit seeking a refund, but she passed away in July 2021.

Before her death, her eldest daughter had Ms. X write a will stating that any refunded donations would be bequeathed entirely to her. The daughter then continued the lawsuit. The *Tokyo District Court* and *Tokyo High Court* both dismissed the lawsuit. However, the [Supreme Court overturned the High Court's ruling](#) in favor of the [Family Federation](#), declared the notarized memorandum invalid, and sent the case back to the *Tokyo High Court* for further review.

The problem with this [Supreme Court ruling](#) is that it invalidates the memorandum on the grounds that a person of faith cannot make rational decisions. Additionally, it justifies this ruling by citing the December 2022 "Act on Prevention of Unfair Solicitation of Donations by Corporations, etc.", which was legislated amid the heated controversy surrounding the [Family Federation](#) issue.

This violates the fundamental legal principle of non-retroactivity, which is a cornerstone of the rule of law and legal governance. How could the [Supreme Court trample on such a basic legal principle?](#)

Even if Ms. X had dementia, declaring her earlier statement invalid while recognizing the validity of a later lawsuit – filed at a time when her condition had likely worsened – along with a will that allowed her daughter to claim all refunded donations, is itself a ruling that runs counter to public order and morality.

Continued in [part 3](#).

See [part 1](#), [part 3](#)

See also [Flawed, Deceptive Evidence Gathering by State](#)

See also [Civil Case Ruling Shows Partiality of Judiciary](#)

Featured image above: Japanese judges issuing a verdict. Illustration: Microsoft Designer Image Creator, 2024.

Seishiro Sugihara, born in 1941 in Hiroshima Prefecture. Completed a master's degree in education at the University of Tokyo Graduate School in 1967. Served as a professor at Josai University and Musashino Women's University (now Musashino University). Notable publications include *The Ideal Separation of Religion and State and Constitutional Revision* (Jiyusha, 2015). Co-authored *The Disease Called Shigeru Yoshida* (Jiyusha, 2021).

Related to verdict violating basic principles: "Poorly Compiled Evidence Including Falsehoods"

Also related to verdict violating basic principles: [Huge Scandal: "Ministry Is Falsifying Affidavits"](#)

Also related to verdict violating basic principles: [Japan's New Laws to Curb New Religious Movements](#)

Also related to verdict violating basic principles: [New Law Designed to Bankrupt Family Federation](#)

Also related to verdict violating basic principles: [Terms from Consumer Law Used to Rob Faith](#)

And also related to verdict violating basic principles: [New Law Manufacturing "Victims", Dividing Families](#)

And also related to verdict violating basic principles: [Maverick Minister Lets "3 Foxes in the Henhouse"](#)

More, related to verdict violating basic principles: [Journalist Reveals Ugly Leftwing Conspiracy](#)

And more, related to verdict violating basic principles: [Militant Lawyers Dictate Government Policy](#)

And more, related to verdict violating basic principles: [Courts Using Debunked Concepts Against Minority](#)

Also related to verdict violating basic principles: [Dissolution Case: Wild Claims, Illegal Actions](#)

Also related to verdict violating basic principles: [2nd-Generation Members Protesting Persecution](#)

Also related to verdict violating basic principles: [Inhuman Government-Supported Mass Deprogramming](#)

And also related to verdict violating basic principles: [Bias: No Right to Respond for Religious Minority](#)

More, related to verdict violating basic principles: [Collusion to Rob Minority of Its Rights](#)

And more, related to verdict violating basic principles: [State and Media Creating "Today's Non-Citizens"](#)

Still more, related to verdict violating basic principles: [Japan Criticized for Glaring Rights Violations](#)

Even more, related to verdict violating basic principles: [Two European Scholars Warning Japan](#)

And yet more, related to verdict violating basic principles: [Japan Censured at Religious Freedom Event](#)

And still more, related to verdict violating basic principles: [Lawyer Exposes Dirty Leftwing Plot](#)

And even more, related to verdict violating basic principles: [Inhuman Government-Supported Mass Deprogramming](#)

And still more, related to verdict violating basic principles: [Malicious One-Sided Government Source Selection](#)

More, related to verdict violating basic principles: [Government's Foul Play Pointed Out](#)

More, related to verdict violating basic principles: [Kishida Has Opened Can of Worms](#)

« Previous | [New Book: 4,536 Days Locked...](#) | [25th Anniversary Of Big 30,000...](#) Next »



FAMILY FEDERATION
FOR WORLD PEACE AND UNIFICATION
EUROPE AND THE MIDDLE EAST

GET STARTED

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

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER

First Name

Last Name

Your Email Address

I consent to receive the newsletter and my address will be used for marketing purposes.

Follow us

