

FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: Japanese Senator - Dissolution Verdict Against FFWPU Is Unconstitutional

Knut Holdhus
March 31, 2025



Senator Satoshi Hamada giving a speech at a gathering March 28, 2025, Niihama City, Ehime Prefecture, Japan



Senator Hamada claims declining judge quality and predicts Supreme Court reversal as he maintains dissolution verdict is unconstitutional

Tokyo, 31st March 2025 - Published as an article in the Japanese newspaper [Sekai Nippo](#). Republished with permission. Translated from Japanese. [Original article](#).

Order to Dissolve Family Federation "Will Be Overturned by Supreme Court"

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

Senator Hamada Cites "Unconstitutionality"



NHK party election car July 6, 2024

Regarding the Tokyo District Court's decision to [order the dissolution](#) of the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#) (formerly the Unification Church), NHK Party Senator Satoshi Hamada (浜田聡参) stated on 29th March that the quality of district court judges has declined in recent years. He expressed his view that "the decision will likely be overturned by the Supreme Court on the grounds of unconstitutionality." He made these remarks at an event primarily attended by [Family Federation](#) believers in Niihama City, Ehime Prefecture.

Hamada noted that media reports on the [Family Federation](#) often focus on former believers who

claim to have been victimized. He also pointed out that coverage of Hyogo Governor Motohiko Saito (齋藤元彦) mainly features people opposing him. He remarked, "The reporting on the [Family Federation](#) and the Hyogo governor share some similarities."

Addressing [Family Federation](#) believers, Hamada emphasized that "political battles must be fought strategically." He encouraged them to take actions such as following social media accounts that support the [organization](#) and purchasing shares in television networks.

[Editor's note: "NHK Party" is short for "The Party to Protect the People from NHK" (NHKから国民を守る党, NHK kara Kokumin wo Mamoru Tō, often abbreviated as N-Koku) is a minor political party in Japan. It was founded in 2013 by Takashi Tachibana, a former NHK employee, with the primary goal of opposing Japan's public broadcaster, NHK (Nippon Hōsō Kyōkai). The party criticizes NHK's mandatory subscription fees and has campaigned to allow people to avoid paying for NHK if they don't watch it.

Over time, the party has shifted its focus, rebranding multiple times and addressing broader issues, but its core stance remains opposition to NHK. It has gained attention for its unconventional campaigning methods and populist rhetoric but has had limited electoral success.]

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2nd-Gen Believers: The True Story Must Be Told

• March 30, 2025 • Knut Holdhus



Beyond the headlines: 2nd-gen believers push back against court's decision in dissolution case

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

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by Yasuhiro Uno (宇野 泰弘)

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Federation.”

- “The voices of active believers like us are not being heard at all.”

On 26th March, the day after the Tokyo District Court issued a [dissolution order](#) against the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#) (formerly the [Unification Church](#)), nine second-generation believers and their lawyer, Shinichi Tokunaga, held a press conference in Tokyo, expressing their earnest desire to have their voices heard.

The press conference was organized by the [Association to Protect the Human Rights of Believers' Children](#), led by Nozomi Kojima (小嶋希晶). Initially, four speakers were scheduled to attend, but as more people voiced their wish to participate, the number gradually increased. Among them was a male believer who traveled all the way from Osaka.

Kojima explained that, following the court's decision, they had prepared a petition to submit to the [Tokyo High Court](#) to make their voices heard. However, they are also exploring other ways to engage more effectively and directly.

One participant shared,

“I was extremely shocked by the court's decision. Under these criteria, even my religious group could be affected. Within our community, we are already feeling a sense of crisis. In today's Japan, it has become increasingly difficult for religious believers to live freely.”

He revealed that after the [dissolution order](#) was reported, a friend belonging to another religious group called to express concern.

Kana Imanaka (今中華奈), 29, who shares videos online about the lives of [Family Federation](#) believers, reflected on the situation, saying,

“We should have done more to convey how the [organization](#) has been changing through our compliance declaration.” [[See editor's note below](#)]

Her husband, Seima Imanaka (今中誠真), also 29, expressed his determination to continue sharing the reality of the [church](#) that the media does not cover.

The press conference lasted an hour, including a Q&A session. Many second-generation believers were also present among the reporters' seats. None of them looked down; instead, they spoke with confidence, facing forward with unwavering determination.

The previous day's press conference at the [religious organization's](#) headquarters had been tense, but the expressions of the second-generation believers made it clear that they were strengthening their resolve and unity in the face of the crisis.



Nozomi Kojima, representative of “The Second-Generation Association for Protecting the Human Rights of Believers”, speaking at a press conference on 26th March 2025 in Shibuya, Tokyo. Photo: Screenshot from video recording by FFWPU.



Attorney Shinichi Tokunaga speaking at a press conference on 26th March 2025 in Shibuya, Tokyo. Photo: Screenshot from video recording by FFWPU.

See also [Youth Fear State's Robbery of Places of Worship](#)

[Editor's note: The 2009 [compliance declaration](#) of the Unification Church of Japan (now the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#)) was a formal commitment by the organization to reform its practices in response to longstanding public criticism and legal challenges.

The [Unification Church](#) in Japan had faced numerous allegations related to recruitment tactics and donation solicitation, termed “spiritual sales” (靈感商法) by a [hostile network of activist lawyers](#) who had declared the [religious organization](#) an enemy. These issues led to multiple lawsuits orchestrated by the activist lawyers and significant media backlash. This prompted the [organization](#) to take measures to restore its reputation and demonstrate compliance with legal and ethical standards.

The [religious organization](#) pledged to stop possibly unethical donation practices, including what the [hostile network of lawyers](#) claimed amounted to “pressuring members into making large financial contributions under spiritual pretexts.”

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This was in response to accusations from the same activist lawyers that followers “were being manipulated into giving away substantial amounts of money or property.”

The Unification Church stated it would enhance internal oversight to ensure compliance with ethical and legal standards. Measures included better training for leaders and stricter guidelines for evangelization and solicitation of donations.

After this compliance declaration, there was a significant decrease in the number of lawsuits against the Unification Church – since 2015 called the Family Federation. The religious organization has used this as evidence that it has improved its practices and should not be subject to dissolution.]

Featured image above: A second-generation believer answers a reporter's question – 26th March 2025, Shibuya Ward, Tokyo. Photo: Yasuhiro Uno (宇野 泰弘)

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