

FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: Fury in Japan as Believers Slam State Over Unjust Ruling

Knut Holdhus
April 3, 2025



Demonstration in Fukuoka, Japan 30th March 2025. Photo: [Sekai Nippo](#)



Fury in Fukuoka as protesters demand justice for 600,000 believers in dissolution case

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

"Dissolution Order for Family Federation is Unjust"

400 Persons Protest in Fukuoka

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

On 30th March, approximately 400 members of the "Fukuoka Citizens' Association for the Protection of Fundamental Human Rights and Freedom of Religion" - led by Koji Takashima (高島幸司) - marched around the city hall area in Tenjin, Fukuoka City, protesting the Tokyo District Court's decision [ordering the dissolution](#) of the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#) (formerly the [Unification Church](#)). They appealed to many citizens along the route with slogans such as

"Crisis for Japan's Democracy! Unjust [Dissolution Order](#) - Firm Opposition!"



During the protest, participants also condemned the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) for [allegedly fabricating testimonies](#) from [Family Federation](#) believers and submitting them as evidence in court. They demanded the withdrawal of the [dissolution order](#), stating, "Rescind the [dissolution order](#) based on [false evidence](#)!"

Among the protesters, a woman in her 60s, who had also been involved in [Family Federation](#) activities in the U.S.A., passionately expressed,

"I pray that Japan will be reborn as a truly just nation. Justice does not prevail at all here now. I can no longer trust the Japanese government. In America, religion is valued, and it appeals to people's hearts."

A man in his 40s stated,

"If we continue to convey the real truth and raise public awareness, I firmly believe we will ultimately achieve victory."

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Japan's Dissolution Case Echoes China's Playbook

• April 2, 2025 • Knut Holdhus

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China's playbook? How Japan's media and courts follow a communist narrative in dissolution case

Tokyo, 1st April 2025 – Published as an article in the Japanese newspaper *Sekai Nippo*. Republished with permission. Translated from Japanese. *Original article.*

The Dissolution Order of the Family Federation Progresses as China Intended

Newspapers Have Been Reduced to Government Mouthpieces

by Kiyoshi Masu (増記代司)



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The Tokyo District Court has decided to [order the dissolution](#) of the former [Unification Church \(Family Federation for World Peace and Unification\)](#), a decision that seems to echo China’s triumphant laughter.

Religious freedom is one of the fundamental human rights in modern society. This is a universally accepted norm. Even the *Chinese Communist Party* claims in its constitution that “citizens have freedom of religious belief” (Article 36). However, the latter part of the article is the real issue. It goes on to state that “the state protects normal religious activities,” with the Communist regime, naturally, deciding what is considered “normal”.

Religious groups that are deemed “abnormal”, meaning those that do not align with the Communist Party’s interests, are labeled as “cults” and suppressed.

After the assassination of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (安倍 晋三), when Japanese media widely reported that the suspect, Tetsuya Yamagami (山上徹也), was motivated by resentment toward the [religious organization](#), China boasted that it had long ago recognized the [group](#) as an “evil cult” (邪教) and outlawed it.

The *Chinese Communist Party*-affiliated *Global Times* claimed that this demonstrated the correctness of China’s effort to eradicate cults, stating,

“If Yamagami had been living in China, the government would have helped him pursue justice and eliminate this [religious group](#).”

This was essentially China preaching to Japan, portraying the terrorist as a justified figure. (*Kyodo News / Mainichi Shimbun*, 30th July 2022, online edition).



One of the architects of new law targeting the [Family Federation](#) and advisor to the Japanese authorities: **Masaki Kito** (紀藤正樹), leading hostile lawyer of National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales (全国霊感商法被害対策弁連) and Nationwide Unification Church Damage Countermeasures Legal Team (全国統一教会被害対策弁護団). Photo: Screenshot / [Bitter Winter](#)

Since then, the issue surrounding the [religious group](#) has unfolded precisely as China has preached. When the *Consumer Affairs Agency* convened a review panel on fraudulent religious sales practices on 29th August 2022, attorney Masaki Kito (紀藤正樹) of the *National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales* brought a contact list of the “Christian Liaison Committee on Cult Issues” as material. He labeled the [group](#) a cult and called on the government to intervene (i.e., eradicate the [organization](#)). Kito’s stance essentially mirrored that of the Chinese government.

Media jumping to conclusions

Leftist media outlets also unilaterally labeled the [group](#) as a cult, [stirred sympathy for the terrorist](#), and waged a campaign against the [religious organization](#) that seemed to “help him pursue justice” by seeking its eradication. The [court’s order](#) to dissolve the [group](#) is merely a continuation of this narrative.

In a democratic society, the pursuit of truth is supposed to be the journalist’s mission. However, Japanese media have effectively abandoned this duty. Instead of investigating

the court’s decision, they merely reported it as it was stated, with almost no newspapers making an effort to uncover the truth. Such behavior is characteristic of government-controlled newspapers – essentially identical to those in China.

Seishiro Sugihara (杉原誠四郎), former professor at *Musashino Women’s University*, criticized the “[dissolution](#)



Justified by CCP? Tetsuya Yamagami, terrorist and assassin of Shinzo Abe, the former prime minister of Japan. Photo: Andrew2592009 / Wikimedia Commons. License: [CC ASA 4.0 Int](#). Cropped



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University, criticized the [dissolution order](#) as a non-transparent administrative act" (*Sankei Shimbun*, 26th March edition), pointing out,

"The testimonies submitted by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology from so-called victims are sloppy in content, lack evidential credibility, and should be examined in an open trial."

However, the media has completely ignored such perspectives.

Particularly, leftist newspapers, which usually champion the Constitution, have remained silent. Article 32 of the Constitution guarantees that "no person shall be denied the right to a trial," and Article 82 mandates that "court trials and judgments shall be conducted in public [...]" and cases involving fundamental rights under Chapter 3 of the Constitution must always be held publicly." Yet, no newspaper is discussing this issue. A trial without transparency – this is precisely China's specialty.



Seishiro Sugihara, served as a professor at Josai University and Musashino Women's University (now Musashino University). Photo: Photo: [Sekai Nippo](#)

Warning of deterioration of Japan-U.S. alliance



Goshi Hosono (細野豪志). Photo: 内閣官房内閣広報室 / Wikimedia Commons. License: [CC Attr 4.0 Int. Cropped](#)

In November 2022, when the Diet was debating new legislation to assist victims of fraudulent religious practices, *House of Representatives* member Goshi Hosono (細野豪志) remarked in an online *Sankei Shimbun* article (8th November 2022 edition):

"(Abe's assassination) has destroyed the democratic process of elections. Is it right to legislate based on the intentions of a terrorist? We must not allow the perpetrator to be regarded as a 'successful terrorist'."

The [dissolution order](#) is, in fact, an act that creates a "successful terrorist", following China's exact narrative. On 24th

March 2025, former U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich posted on X (formerly Twitter) that "the current attack on the [Family Federation](#) in Japan is an attempt to weaken the Japan-U.S. alliance and pave the way for reconciliation between the *Chinese Communist Party* and Japan." (*Sankei Shimbun*, 26th March edition). This view is not entirely off the mark.

Text: Kiyoshi Masu (増記代司)

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Featured image above: Japan being influenced by communist China. Illustration: Microsoft Designer Image Creator, April 2025.

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