

FFWPU Europe and Middle East: 6 Japanese Officials Sued For Evidence Forgery

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September 5, 2025



Hiroshi Ogasawara (second from left), who accused officials of fabricating statements, and his attorney, lawyer Shinichi Tokunaga (third from left), among others - September 5, 2025, Chiyoda Ward, Tokyo, Japan



Japan Education Ministry officials accused of faking testimony in Family Federation dissolution case as ex-members and members file criminal charges

Tokyo, 5th September 2025 - Published as an article in the Japanese newspaper [Sekai Nippo](#). Republished with permission. Translated from Japanese. [Original article](#).

Former and Current Family Federation Members File Criminal Complaints Against Ministry of Education Officials

Fabrication of Statements Called "Unprecedented"

by editorial staff of [Sekai Nippo](#)

See also [Former EU Envoy: Arbitrary Dissolution Order](#)



In connection with court proceedings over the request to dissolve the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#) ([Family Federation](#), formerly the [Unification Church](#)), former and current members filed criminal complaints and accusations on 5th September against six officials of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), claiming that statements submitted by the ministry had been fabricated.



Hiroshi Ogasawara (June 2025)

Those filing complaints included two former members of the [Family Federation](#). One of them, a woman living in the Chūbu region, cooperated with MEXT's interviews on the [Federation](#) but alleged that statements she never made were inserted into the written testimony. She has filed a complaint for the crime of falsification of a private document with a seal.

Those filing accusations included two current members, among them Hiroshi Ogasawara (小笠原裕). Speaking at a press briefing after filing the accusation, Ogasawara condemned the ministry staff's fabrication as "the greatest scandal since the war", adding:

"If dissolution is carried out on the basis of this, it would be intolerable."

According to their attorney, Shinichi Tokunaga (徳永信一), the fabrications came to light during last

year's court proceedings related to the dissolution request. Tokunaga sharply criticized the acts as "unprecedented," declaring: "The reliability of all the submitted materials has been undermined," and urged the High Court to hand down a strict judgment. [See editor's note below]



Attorney Shinichi Tokunaga

The issue of fabricated statements was [raised back in March this year](#) by then-Upper House lawmaker Satoshi Hamada (浜田聡) during a House of Councillors General Affairs Committee session. Agency for Cultural Affairs official Mariko Kobayashi (小林万里子) said she was "aware of the content" but did not deny the falsification of statements.

Since January this year, The Sekai Nippo has reported on multiple suspicions of fabricated statements, based on testimony from those involved.

See also ["Poorly Compiled Evidence Including Falsehoods"](#)

See also [Huge Scandal: "Ministry Is Falsifying Affidavits"](#)

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

See also [Alleged Evidence Tampering in Dissolution Case](#)

See also [Big Paper: State Accused of Altering Evidence](#)

[**Editor's note:** The complaints mention 有印私文書偽造罪 (forgery of a private document with a seal). However, since ministry officials are public servants preparing documents for court proceedings, prosecutors might pursue harsher charges such as:

公文書偽造罪 (forgery of official documents) under Japan's Penal Code, Articles 155 - 158.

If linked to a court case, it could also fall under 偽証罪 (perjury) or 証拠隠滅罪 (tampering with evidence) depending on circumstances.

Typical Sentences under the Penal Code:

Forgery of official documents (Article 156): up to 10 years imprisonment.

Forgery of private documents with a seal (Article 159): up to 5 years imprisonment or a fine.

Use of forged documents: similar penalties apply.

In practice, though, Japanese courts often hand down suspended sentences for first-time offenders unless the case involves large-scale corruption or clear public harm. If six ministry officials were involved in systematic fabrication affecting a high-profile court case, prosecutors might push for actual prison terms to set an example.]

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Concerns Over the Dissolution of the Family Federation

by Yosuke Yamazaki (山崎 洋介), the Washington office of the *Sekai Nippo*

Continued from part 1: [Former EU Envoy: Arbitrary Dissolution Order](#)

– If the dissolution of the *Family Federation for World Peace and Unification* (the Family Federation, formerly the Unification Church) is finalized, what kind of effects might that have on the treatment of other religious minorities and on human rights more broadly?



Likely to be impacted by dissolution order against the *Family Federation*: The Jehovah's Witnesses. Here, members outside the British Museum 30th May 2017. Photo: Philafrenzy / Wikimedia Commons. License: [CC ASA 4.0 Int](#). Cropped

If this is finalized, it will not only negatively affect Japan itself, its image, and its credibility as a democratic nation, but it could also pose a threat to communities such as small or new religions like *Jehovah's Witnesses*.

Japan must learn from how oppression around the world has triggered internal conflicts, and from the harms caused by governments enforcing ideological control. The state should recognize that it does not exist only for the majority or certain groups, but for all its people.

– You have pointed out that freedom of religion is a “litmus test” for all human rights.

Freedom of religion must be understood together with freedom of thought and freedom of conscience. This is why not only believers, but also the non-religious and atheists, have the right to have their personal convictions, beliefs, and conscience respected.



This “freedom of inner life” of human beings is guaranteed by Article 18 of the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* (ICCPR) and Article 18 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*.

If this inner freedom is not respected, then “freedoms of external expression” – such as speech, opinion, press, assembly, and association – will also be restricted or threatened.

It begins within the individual, and then can be outwardly expressed, for example, through religious practice. People naturally wish to form communities with like-minded individuals – at the family level, and even beyond.

Inner freedom is absolute, and the state, authorities, and institutions must respect it fully. By contrast, freedom of external expression can be limited, but only in ways that are legal, legitimate, and proportionate.

– You opposed the dissolution of the *Family Federation* from an early stage. Has international opposition to the dissolution grown?

I personally sent letters to Japan's prime minister and foreign minister, but I received no reply, neither formal nor informal. However, opposition has certainly been growing. Japan has long been respected as a moderate democratic nation, but its image is now suffering damage. I have also heard that both governments and civil society around the world are voicing concern, surprise, and protest over the dissolution of the *Family Federation*.

Japan must not repeat in the 21st century the failures of many countries in the 20th century – especially in Europe – where persecution of ethnic and religious minorities took place. The true test of a democracy's credibility lies not in how it treats the majority, but how it treats minorities.

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– What can the United Nations do on this issue?



Attorney Patricia Duval speaking at the United Nations Office in Geneva, Switzerland 16th June 2025. Photo: Screenshot from video recording by UPF.

Patricia Duval, a leading expert in legal matters at the intersection of religion, belief, and state regulation, submitted on 30th June a **shocking report to Special Rapporteurs** [See [editor's note below](#)]



Nazila Ghanea, one of the UN Special Rapporteurs [See [editor's note below](#)] who **received the alarming report from Patricia Duval**. Ghanea has **already sent formal UN request to Japan, but has so far received no reply**. Nazila Ghanea is UN Rapporteur on Religious Freedom since February 2023. Photo: GiovannaKa / Wikimedia Commons. License: [CC ASA 4.0 Int](#)

Through the UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief at the Human Rights Council, Nazila Ghanea, the UN should be able to lead dialogue with Japan.

Ms. Ghanea officially requested a visit to Japan in order to investigate possible violations of religious freedom affecting minority religions, but the Japanese government has not accepted. Japan should accept dialogue with the UN through her and engage actively.

– Considering the influence the United States has on Japan, what can the Trump administration do?

The United States, as the country with the greatest political and moral influence, bears the greatest responsibility on this issue. I expect the U.S. government to deal with the matter fairly and seriously, and to build a framework for high-level dialogue with Japan. The dignity of all people in all communities is far more important than money or business. President Trump and his administration can have a major influence and bring about positive change.

See part 1: [Former EU Envoy: Arbitrary Dissolution Order](#)

Featured image above: Jan Figel, former Slovak Deputy Prime Minister and former EU Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion. Photo: [Sekai Nippo](#)

[Editor's note: A **Special Rapporteur** (or Independent Expert) is an independent human rights expert appointed by the United Nations (UN) to provide reports or advice on human rights issues from either a thematic or country-specific perspective. These experts are selected by the UN Human Rights Council and operate independently of any government, playing a crucial role in monitoring the actions of sovereign nations and democratically elected governments.

Special Rapporteurs do not receive financial compensation from the United Nations for their work. However, they receive support from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and are often funded by charities and corporations. Annually, they convene in Geneva to discuss common issues, coordinate their efforts, and engage with various stakeholders, including states and civil society organizations.

These experts frequently conduct fact-finding missions to investigate human rights violation allegations in different countries. In addition to these missions, they regularly review complaints from alleged victims of human rights abuses. If a complaint is verified, they send an urgent letter or appeal to the concerned government. Even without a specific complaint, Special Rapporteurs can intervene on behalf of individuals or groups at their discretion.]

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