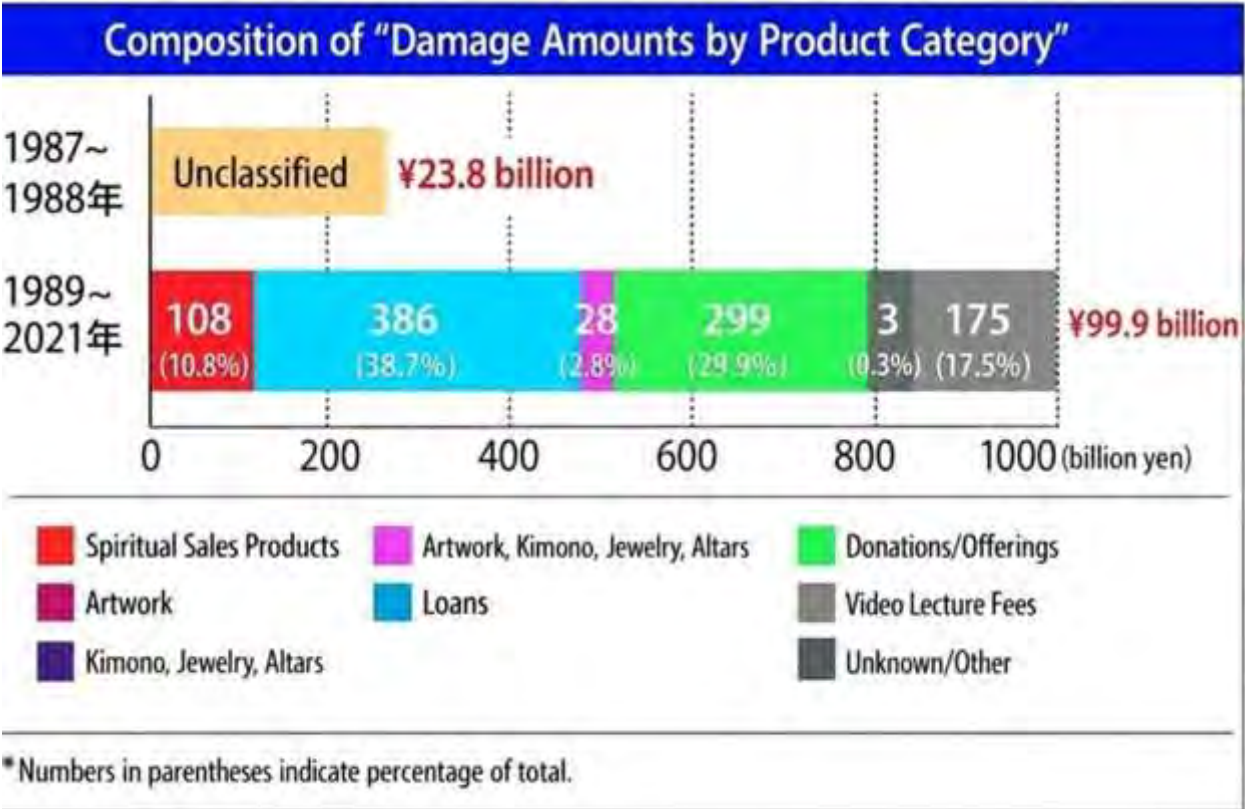


FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: Hate Lawyers Fake Damages to Fill Pockets

Knut Holdhus
February 24, 2026



"Damage Statistics by Product Category" on the website of the National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales, captured on 13th October 2022 (now deleted)



When 86% of "consumer damage claims" doesn't belong in statistics figures presented by activist lawyers' group to authorities in dissolution case against Family Federation in Japan

Tokyo, 21st February 2026 - Published as an article in the Japanese newspaper [Sekai Nippo](#). Republished with permission. Translated from Japanese. [Original article](#).

Part 1 of Special Report

National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales "Fabricated" Damage

Concealed Amounts and Inflated Case Numbers by "Product Category" - Even Donations and Loans Included

by the Religious Freedom Investigative Team of the editorial department of [Sekai Nippo](#)

National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales (Zenkoku Benren) removed the "Damage Statistics by Product Category" from its website the year before last, leaving only the "Damage Statistics by Consultation Window" listed as "Damage Statistics." At the time, proceedings were underway at the Tokyo District Court on a request for a dissolution order against the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#) (formerly the [Unification Church](#)), which Zenkoku Benren had identified as the principal perpetrator of spiritual sales. Why did the group delete the product-category statistics?



Shimbun Akahata, newspaper of the Japanese Communist Party (JCP)

Given that Zenkoku Benren defines its mission as "the eradication of spiritual sales damage caused by the former [Unification Church](#) and relief for victims," the damage statistics can be said to constitute the very basis for the group's existence. Moreover, since there are no other statistics limited specifically to damage from spiritual sales involving members of the [religious organization](#), and because the group carries the authority of a lawyers' association, it has provided information in a virtually monopolistic manner without undergoing external verification.

For example, immediately after the July 2022 shooting and killing of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (安倍晋三), Zenkoku Benren mounted a full-scale campaign asserting that "the suspect, Tetsuya

Yamagami (山上徹也) (as he was then), was a victim of the former [Unification Church](#)". In doing so, it promoted figures claiming that from 1987 to 2021 there had been 34,537 consultation cases and total damages of 123.7 billion yen from spiritual sales, describing this as "the largest consumer damage in constitutional history" (attorney Masaki Kito (紀藤正樹), Japanese Communist Party newspaper Shinbun Akahata, 27th July 2022, front page).



Persuaded the government: Masaki Kito, one of the hostile lawyers of National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales and Nationwide Unification Church Damage Countermeasures Legal Team. He worked in league with faith-breakers forcing believers into lawsuits and exploiting them to fit narrative: One of the architects of new law and advisor to the Japanese authorities.



Hiroshi Yamaguchi, activist leftwing lawyer and founder and leading member of National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales (NNLASS)

The basis for these claims was Zenkoku Benren's "Damage Statistics".

Looking at the current website, for each year from 1987 to 2023, it lists the "number of consultation cases" and "amount of damages (yen)" by consultation window - Zenkoku Benren (Tokyo), Zenkoku Benren (excluding Tokyo), and consumer centers - along with totals combining these three categories. When the annual totals are summed through 2021, they match the figures announced by Zenkoku Benren in 2022.

What, then, was the "Damage Statistics by Product Category" that was deleted the year before last? A copy of the relevant webpage made on 5th September 2022 shows that for each year from 1989 to 2021, the "number of damage cases" and "amount of damages" were displayed for 14 separate "products". The annual totals matched those in the consultation-window-based statistics (the current damage statistics).

Among these 14 "products", six items - seals, prayer beads (nenju), vases, Miroku statues, 多宝塔 (pagoda-type ornaments), and (Korean) ginseng extract - had been identified since 1987, when the issue became a social problem, as "products of spiritual sales" (Hiroshi Yamaguchi (山口廣) and Yasushi Tozawa (東澤靖), Indictment: Spiritual Sales and the Unification Church, published October 1987).

However, the list also included four other "products" (paintings/artworks, kimono, jewelry and furs, Buddhist altars and implements), as well as four items that can hardly be called "products" at all (donations/offerings, loans, video lecture fees, and unspecified/other).

If these 14 items are grouped into the following six categories and their total damage amounts are shown (rounded to the nearest 100 million yen, with composition ratios), the results are as follows:

- Six spiritual-sales products: approx. 10.8 billion yen (10.8%)
- Donations/offerings: approx. 38.6 billion yen (38.7%)
- Other four products: approx. 2.8 billion yen (2.8%)
- Loans: approx. 29.9 billion yen (29.9%)
- Video lecture fees, etc.: approx. 0.3 billion yen (0.3%)
- Breakdown unknown/other: approx. 17.5 billion yen (17.5%)

Thus, the combined total of categories (2) donations/offerings, (4) loans, and (6) unspecified/other - three categories that are either not "products" or cannot be proven to be products - amounts to approximately 86.1 billion yen, accounting for 86.1% of the overall total. By contrast, the six spiritual-sales products in category (1) represent only 10.8%.

Even if the damage amounts reported in 1987 and 1988 (approximately 23.8 billion yen), when the media widely covered high-priced spiritual-sales items, are all counted as category (1) damage, the total would be about 34.6 billion yen - still roughly 4 billion yen less than category (2) donations/offerings alone. Moreover, the combined total of categories (2), (4), and (6) would still account for 69.6% of the overall total.

In other words, Zenkoku Benren's "Damage Statistics by Product Category" reveal that the majority of what the group promoted as "spiritual sales damage" does not constitute consumer damage.

On 22nd July 2022, at a meeting of the Constitutional Democratic Party's Consumer Affairs Division Task Force on Damage Caused by the Former [Unification Church](#), attorney Kito stated:

"It is said that consumer damage is about one-tenth if consultation windows function well, and about one-hundredth if they do not... Even if we assume one-tenth, we can infer that the damage exceeds one trillion yen."

He emphasized that the aggregated figures represented "consumer damage", thereby vastly inflating the scale of the damage.

Kito and other attorneys of Zenkoku Benren must have known the product-category statistics better than anyone. Yet they intentionally avoided referring to these materials and engaged in impression management.

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Logo of the
Sekai Nippo

Organized Anti- Takaichi” Campaign

Nikkei Analyzes X, Links to Former Unification Church

by the editorial department of *Sekai Nippo*

On 22nd February,
*Nihon Keizai
Shimbun* (日本経済
新聞) [See editor's
note 1 below]

reported that during the recent *House of Representatives* general election, approximately 400 accounts believed to be China-affiliated carried out an organized “anti-Takaichi campaign” on X (formerly Twitter). The report has since become a topic of discussion on social media.

See also [Religious Freedom Threat: China-Led Alliance](#)

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Sanae Takaichi,
Prime Minister of
Japan since
October 2025.
Photo: 内閣広報室 /
Cabinet Public
Affairs Office.
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Int.](#) Cropped



According to the newspaper’s investigation, in mid-January, when reports of the dissolution of the Diet surfaced, posts were intensively made using AI-generated images with messages such as “Sanae Takaichi (高市早苗) must resign” and “Sanae Takaichi is a follower of a cult.” The campaign allegedly linked her to the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#) (formerly known as the [Unification Church](#)) and systematically spread a negative campaign aimed at undermining the Takaichi administration.

An analysis of the posts identified the accounts as China-affiliated influence-operation accounts. During the election period, the *Japanese Communist Party* and *Reiwa Shinsengumi* [See editor's note 2 below] reportedly amplified criticism of the

government in tandem with the campaign.

It was also found that some of the same accounts had previously promoted Okinawan independence [See editor's note 3 below].

Hidehiro Mitani (三谷英弘), *State Minister of Justice*, posted on his X account:

“This time it did not have a significant impact on the overall outcome, so in that sense we were fortunate. However, the era has already arrived in which foreign forces anonymously incite domestic political division and harm national interests. Countermeasures are urgently needed.”



Hidehiro Mitani,
State Minister of
Justice since 2025.
Photo: 法務省 –
Ministry of Justice,
Government of
Japan. License: [CC
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Satoshi Hamada,
here speaking on
his X channel 24th
October 2025.
Screenshot slightly
edited by ChatGPT.

Satoshi Hamada (浜田 聡), former member of the House of Councillors, commented that the core issue is a struggle between, on the one hand, the *International Federation for Victory over Communism* (an anti-communist organization of the former [Unification Church](#)), which earnestly seeks the enactment of an anti-espionage law, and, on the other, anti-Japan political parties such as the Communist Party, along with certain media organizations and the *Japan Federation of Bar Associations* [Zenkokū Benren (全国弁連)], also known as *Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales*, who seek to block such legislation. Having recognized this structure, he stated,

Federation of Bar Associations [Zenkokū Benren (全国弁連)], also known as *Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales*, who seek to block such legislation. Having recognized this structure, he stated,

“It is impossible for me to side with the latter (anti-Japan parties or the media) ”

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parties of the meeting.

See also [Politics Fueled Japan's Attack on Federation](#)

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Featured image below: Anti-Takaichi campaign and Chinese influence. Illustration: Chat GPT, 23rd February 2026.

[**Editor's note 1: Nihon Keizai Shimbun** is Japan's leading financial newspaper, commonly known as Nikkei. Founded in 1876, it provides authoritative coverage of business, markets, technology, and economic policy. Widely read by executives and policymakers, it shapes corporate discourse domestically and increasingly influences global financial journalism.]

[**Editor's note 2: Reiwa Shinsengumi** (れいわ新選組) is a left-wing populist political party in Japan, founded in 2019 by actor-turned-politician **Taro Yamamoto**. Reiwa Shinsengumi is a **minor party** in terms of seats but has gained visibility through a strong social media presence and high-profile campaign tactics.]

[**Editor's note 3: Okinawa** is Japan's southernmost prefecture, a subtropical archipelago. Once the Ryukyu Kingdom, it bears scars from World War II and hosts major U.S. military bases.]

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