

FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: Press Release About Media Attacks

Knut Holdhus
October 7, 2023



Press conference in Tokyo 4th October 2023, featuring Toru Goto (center)

In response to recent media attacks by activist journalist, the Family Federation issued press release



The [Family Federation](#) of Japan issued a press release on 5th October 2023, concerning many recent media attacks by anti-religious activist journalist Eito Suzuki. He appears to spearhead a media campaign to paint a black picture of the [Family Federation](#) and its members.

Here is an English translation of the press release,



Toru Goto in 2008 after being held in forcible detention by deprogrammers for more than 12 years, barely able to move

"Toru Goto, who was abducted and confined for 12 years and 5 months, files suit against Eito Suzuki for defamation.

[Family Federation](#) of Japan press release 5th October 2023

On 4th October 2023, Toru Goto, president of the [Japanese Victims' Association against Religious Kidnapping and Forced Conversion](#), filed a suit in Tokyo District Court against journalist Eito Suzuki, seeking 11 million yen in damages and other compensation for defamation caused by his comments and defamatory statements.

Goto was forcibly detained in an apartment in Tokyo for 12 years and 5 months (11th September 1995 to 10th February 2008). He was forced to rescind his membership, but kept his faith until the end. After being released from confinement, a lawsuit was filed against the 'professional deprogrammer' and Goto's family for damages. On 13th November 2014, Tokyo High Court confirmed that the confinement had in fact taken place, and ordered the 'professional deprogrammer' to pay a total of 22 million yen in damages. The

Supreme Court confirmed this sentence on 29th September 2015, confirming that Toru Goto had won the case.



Eito Suzuki, born as Kiyofumi Tanaka

Despite the above facts, Eito Suzuki wrote on his blog Yaya Nikkan Cult Newspaper and described Goto as 'a male believer who stays in his flat and has become a NEET [Not in Education, Employment, or Training] after recuperation, turning into a mere recluse.'

Suzuki repeatedly made defamatory remarks, such as commenting on Yomiuri TV's information program Jouho Live Miyaneya that Goto was a 'recluse' (引きこもり - hiki komori). Goto is asking Suzuki to delete the article from his blog and pay 11 million yen as compensation.

At a media briefing held after the press conference in Tokyo, Goto said, 'There are women who committed suicide during abduction and confinement, and women who were raped. Eito Suzuki's comments are dangerous words and actions that will encourage the recurrence of abduction and confinement and create a real crisis.'

Besides, Attorney Shinichi Tokunaga, representing the plaintiff, pointed out, 'It will be difficult for Eito Suzuki to win with his statement of recluse (hiki komori), unless the Supreme Court overturns its own previous verdicts.'

Attorney Tatsuki Nakayama, another representative of the plaintiff, said, 'Victims of abduction and confinement are not a thing of the past. I hope that from this trial the Japanese society will start to broadly realize the fact that 4300 members of the [Family Federation](#) (the former Unification Church) became victims of abduction and confinement.'"

Japanese Victims' Association against Religious Kidnapping and Forced Conversion

**Kidnapping, confinement
and forced conversion
a modern-day
'Holocaust'!**

From [one of the pages](#) the website of the [Japanese Victims' Association against Religious Kidnapping and Forced Conversion](#)

On the website of [Japanese Victims' Association against Religious Kidnapping and Forced Conversion](#), founded in 2010, it is described how ruse, violence and coercion were used against the victims during the kidnapping. They had their communication with the outside world cut off, while so-called deprogrammers worked intensely to break down the victims' faith and kept them confined until they eventually would renounce their faith.

The renowned British sociologist

Eileen Barker writes,



Dr. Eileen Barker, OBE, in 1997

"Numerous testimonies by those who were subjected to a deprogramming describe how they were threatened with a gun, beaten, denied sleep and food and / or sexually assaulted." (Watching for Violence, paper by Eileen Barker, 2001)

The majority of the victims in Japan are followers of the [Unification Church](#), a total of over 4,300. The main perpetrators include Christian pastors, who saw the [Unification Church](#) / [Family Federation](#) as a "heretical" faith, and lawyers and journalists who are hostile to the [Family Federation](#) and the Victory over Communism movement.

The kidnapers have profited grossly from painting a black picture of new religious movements and portraying them as dangerous. Groups that have resorted to kidnapping and forced conversion were at the same time very successful in getting the

mass media on their side.

In the media world there is a scandal press, which is mainly concerned with making money, not necessarily telling the truth. There are many self-proclaimed "experts" on new religious movements, who

know that there is money to be made by portraying such movements as bad as possible.



Some of the scandal press - British tabloids 5th July 2011

The so-called "experts" know that there are countless journalists with little insight into the great diversity in the religious world. Then it is easy to lump everyone together and make wild claims such as: "All cult leaders are interested in three things - power, money and sex." As if this is what all new faith movements are after. The spiritual message is not interesting at all, because it's all about power, money and sex. This is of course a perfect message for the scandal press.

This is of course also a perfect message for groups that oppose new religious movements. Such movements are made into as big a problem as possible. It is absolutely necessary for the group that opposes them to make money. It lives by spreading disinformation and false claims about new religious movements. The truth is constantly twisted, so that it suits the interests of the group as much as possible.

According to Toru Goto, many of the victims suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). It is even difficult for them to talk about the kidnapping, forcible detention and forced conversion they experienced. That is why the [association for victims](#) was established.

"Press Release About Media Attacks" - text: Knut Holdhus

More about media attacks: [Pure Activism in Japanese Media](#)

Even more about media attacks: [Japan: Threat to Religious Freedom](#)

More media attacks: [Kidnapping Victim Sues Activist Journalist](#)

A call to the Japanese government to eradicate abduction cases!



We appeal to eradicate religious kidnapping and forced conversion against believers of the Unification Church

*Some English pages are still working on translation

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I Voices of Victims



Toru Goto



Mitsuko Antol

I Recommended Reading

Our unpleasant neighbors



Mr. Kazuhiro Yonemoto, a reporter, documents the truth about PTSD victims as a result of kidnapping and confinement.

[▶Chapter 6 excerpts](#)

Escape from kidnapers



This book reveals the cruel actions of lawyers, pastors, and media people, in their real names.

[▶Book review](#)

The Japanese Concentration Camp Islands



This book is a compilation of booklets, pamphlets and information uploaded on websites.

[▶Book review](#)

[◀ List of Books ▶](#)

I Access to the mobile

URL link

<http://kidnapping.jp/m/>

QR code



What is kidnapping, confinement and forced conversion?

It is an act of kidnapping people by violent, forcible, and deceitful means, cutting off communications with the outside world while attempting to break their faith and confining them until they renounce their beliefs. The majority of victims are followers of the Unification Church, totaling over 4,300. The main perpetrators include Christian ministers who regard the Unification Church members as "heretics", and lawyers and journalists who are hostile to the Unification movement and the Victory Over Communism movement. They stir up the parents' heart, making them insecure, and demand large sums of money in reward for assisting them "rescue" their children.



[Watch the animation](#)

[Read PDF version](#)

Videos

Videos of Unification Church Victims of Kidnapping and Confinement

Other Videos

Trampled Human Rights

Korean SBS Documentary

Rally to "Protect human rights and freedom of faith in Japan"

Who took her life?
[Look at list of videos](#)

New Information

[RSS](#) | [List](#)

- ▶ 2012/12/01
December issue of "Zaikai Nippon"/ Academic staff of Hiroshima University leaks personal information of faith to parents of CARP students [More ▶](#)
- ▶ 2012/11/02
Another side of Stalker Case exposed: Weekly Jitsuwa [More ▶](#)
- ▶ 2012/11/01
Cycle of Kidnapping and Confinement (Part VI) Interview with Religious Journalist, Mr. Tadashi Murou (Second Part)
- ▶ 2012/10/15
Just published: 'Religious Persecution raging in Campuses' [More ▶](#)
- ▶ 2012/10/15
Monthly 'Zaikai Nippon' wrote on HRWF report on Japan's human rights abuse [More ▶](#)
- ▶ 2012/10/15
Monthly 'Zaikai Nippon' (March edition) follows 'Stalker Trial' [More ▶](#)
- ▶ 2012/10/15
'Mind Control' frenzy over Comedian Nakajima [More ▶](#)
- ▶ 2012/10/15
HRWF's report now available in Japanese [More ▶](#)
- ▶ 2012/10/15
Unificationists and Friends Challenge Faith Breaking in Japan at Pace University [More ▶](#)
- ▶ 2012/08/27
Monthly 'Zaikai NIPPON' (February edition) [More ▶](#)



Voices of knowledgeable people requesting solution to kidnapping and confinement cases

former diplomat and writer Yu Sato



It is wrong for some Christians to attack Unification members at the sight of one. It is important to understand the difference between traditional Christianity and the Unification Church, and to respect one another's faith. [..Read more](#)

Former Congressman Member of the Japan Medical Association Hitoshi Hinokida



In the last year's International Human Rights Report of the U.S. Department of State, it was reported that in Japan, the police do not offer any help towards organized kidnapping and confinement cases, including those inflicting injuries on the victims. [..Read more](#)

[Look at the list of voices of knowledgeable people](#)

We are a private organization consisting of members of the Unification Church who were victims of religious kidnapping, confinement and forced conversion. We are spreading information, exposing the criminal acts of anti-Unification Church activists, and giving support to the victims, in order to put an end to this serious violation of human rights that has been continuing for over 43 years

>> Helpline

If you are a believer of the Unification Church and are afraid you may be in danger of being kidnapped, or if you have unfortunately already been kidnapped and confined and are suffering from after-effects such as PTSD, or if you are suffering because you cannot maintain a decent life of faith or proper human relationships because of the activities of anti-Unification Church activists, contact us. [Click here for Helpline](#)

Japanese Victims Association
against Religious Kidnapping
and Forced Conversion
Information
TEL: 03-6326-7436
[Download form here](#)

Verify Information

- voices of victims
- booklets, brochures, books
- newspaper, media information
- voices (knowledgeable people)
- videos

Take action

- send direct message to the Department of Justice
- Follow religiousrights Twitter
- register for e-newsletters

Links

- Eradication of Religious Kidnapping and Confinement Group
- Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity
- Brush off the sparks of fire Mr. Kazuhiro Yonemoto's Blog
- Familyfed
- The court case records of religious kidnapping and confinement by Miyamura
- Human Rights Violations in Japan by Yoshi
- Exposing the deceptions of "brainwashing" and "mind-control"