

FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: Incendiary Hate Speech From Washington Post

Knut Holdhus
October 24, 2023



The Washington Post headquarters at 1150 15th St. NW, Washington DC

Religious minority demonized in incendiary hate speech article

The Washington Post

published by the Washington Post 13th October 2023, headlined "Japan's Media Has to Account for Its Own Failures, Too". Reidy has certainly displayed similar tendencies before. According to the media bias agency Biasly, he has received the score "poor" for low number of sources with different viewpoints.

Gearoid Reidy, opinion columnist covering Japan and the Koreas, exploits the fact that U.S. law does not limit hate speech, in an incendiary analysis

Hate speech



[The United Nations Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech](#) spells out hate speech as "any kind of communication in speech, writing or behaviour, that attacks or uses pejorative or discriminatory language with reference to a person or a group on the basis of who they are, in other words, based on their religion, ethnicity, nationality, race, colour, descent, gender or other identity factor."

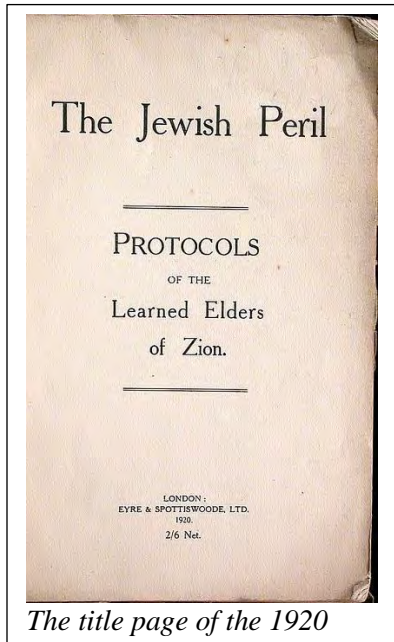
Reidy's use of the words "odious" and "noxious" to describe the [Family Federation](#), can only be said to be discriminatory, bigoted, intolerant, pejorative, contemptuous and demeaning.

Those kinds of words are more commonly found in the comments sections on social media platforms. An editor-controlled large media outlet like the Washington Post is meant to be trustworthy, providing reporting of high quality.

To depict a religious minority the way Reidy does, is more reminiscent of Nazi propaganda before and during World War II. Words like "odious" and "noxious" were constantly used to create the mob mentality necessary for Hitler's Final Solution to the Jewish Question - the mass murder of Europe's Jewish minority.

And just consider Muslims or Jews being depicted as odious and noxious. Anyone using such adjectives

would be called Islamophobic or antisemitic. There would have been an outcry.



The title page of the 1920 British publication of the anonymous edition of the Protocols of the Elders of Zion, an anti-semitic fraudulent publication describing an alleged Jewish conspiracy to take over the world.

Demonizing minority

The language Gearoid Reidy uses in the Washington Post article is an obvious attempt to demonize a religious minority. There have already been numerous reports of members of the [Family Federation](#) in Japan being harassed and receiving death threats. After media spreading disinformation and fake news like "The [Family Federation](#) killed Shinzo Abe", members started being mobbed at their workplace or school.

Dr. Massimo Introvigne, Italian sociologist of religion and leading expert on new religious movements, wrote soon after the terror attack on Abe,

"From Abe's assassination to August 20, the [Unification Church](#) in Japan had documented some 150 hate incidents. But they continue, and the number is probably higher, since insults and threats to individual [Church](#) members are not necessarily reported to the headquarters. [...]

On July 17, somebody posted in an electronic bulletin board ' Tomorrow morning I will come to your headquarters and kill all with a knife.' Death threats were received by [Unification Church](#) branches in Aichi, Hokkaido, and Osaka. In Nara, threats to kill the pastors reported to the police led to the precautionary closure of the local church.

In Tokyo, Nara, and Osaka, sound trucks cruised around the churches and shouted hostile slogans. Some were operated by right-wing extremists, who in Osaka on August 4 screamed ' Korean anti-Japanese group, go out of Japan!'



Dr. Massimo Introvigne, April 2023

In Aichi, on August 15, the church's mailbox was painted black, and graffiti hailing Abe's killer were spray-painted." ([The Abe Assassination and the Unification Church in Japan: How to Create a Mob](#), an article by Dr. Massimo Introvigne in [Bitter Winter](#) 1st September 2022)

Since then, there have been much more persecution of members and the movement itself, a lot of it caused by inflammatory media articles and TV programs of the kind that Reidy put together for the Washington Post.

Donations

He associates the [Family Federation](#) with the term "forced donations". That is a claim coined by and constantly used by a group of leftwing activist lawyers called National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales. The network was founded by communist and socialist lawyers in order to destroy the Unification Church, now called the [Family Federation](#).

Masumi Fukuda, award-winning investigative journalist wrote in June,

"For almost all religions, including the former [Unification Church](#), donations, endowments, and charitable gifts are expressions of piety and are offered willingly to [God](#). [...]

Unfortunately, however, even if the donors are convinced at the time of the donation that they are donating freely, as time goes by, their faith may wane. Their relatives may rush to the National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales to recover the donation.

The donors may be persuaded by lawyers from the Communist Party of Japan or the former Socialist Party that they have been 'deceived', and a lawsuit against the religious organization for the return of the donation may follow. In fact, there are many cases in which relatives consulted with the Network on how to force the donors-believers to sue." ([The Plot to Destroy the Unification Church in Japan. 3. Fraudulent Lawsuits](#), written by Masumi Fukuda, published in [Bitter Winter](#) 26th June 2023.)



Masumi Fukuda, Japanese investigative journalist

Deliberate use of derogatory terms

One derogatory word used by Reidy is "Moonies". It is deliberately utilized by leftwing and anti-religious activists to make fun of and belittle the [Unification Church](#), now called the [Family Federation](#), and its members.

The Oxford English Dictionary designates "Moonie" as a pejorative term, and major US media such as the New York Times and Chicago Tribune have foresworn use of the term for the same reason.



The large international news agency Reuters produced a handbook for its journalists, where it says: "'Moonie' is a pejorative term for members of the [Unification Church](#). We should not use it in

copy and avoid it when possible in direct quotations."

A totally unrelated scandal

For some reason, it may well be intentional, the piece by Reidy is also about a sexual abuse scandal that has surface in Japan fairly recently. It turns out that Johnny Kitagawa (1931-2019), founder of the J-pop agency Johnny and Associates Inc. over a period of more than 40 years have raped hundreds of boys who were part of his company. Reidy lumps the [Family Federation](#) and the J-pop agency together using the words "odious" and "noxious" about both. The [Family Federation](#) has no relationship whatsoever with sexual offender and known pedophile Johnny Kitagawa.

This kind of journalism belongs to the gutter press. It is interesting to note that the Washington Post is joining their ranks. Scandals related to sex, money and power rule the gutter press. And if you cannot find a sex scandal in the [Family Federation](#), then mention it in an article about sex abuse, even though it is completely unrelated. This is really foul play and a journalism devoid of fairness.

Links

Gearoid Reidy has written before about the post-Abe situation in Japan. One topic he has covered, is the alleged links between LDP politicians and the [Family Federation](#). In the Washington Post he wrote,



This print shows Fumi-e (踏み絵: fumi "stepping-on" + e "picture"); step on a picture with the likeness of e.g. the Cross of Jesus or the Virgin Mary.

"While some politicians indeed had a curiously close relationship to the religion, many who were tarred with having 'ties' did nothing more than send congratulatory telegrams or show up at meetings the church participated in - in other words, the type of glad-handing of prospective voters that every politician must engage in. Attending a meeting isn't an endorsement; many attend events organized by those they don't agree with [...]"

Politicians saving their own skin

This method was used to discover practicing Christians (Kirishitan) of the Catholic Church and sympathizers, which was banned by the Tokugawa Shogunate at that time. Originally, the method of discovery itself was called efumi (絵踏), but the method itself is often called fumi-e.

People who protested or were reluctant to step upon pictures of the Virgin Mary or Christ were identified as Christian. They were taken to Nagasaki and ordered to renounce their religion, if they refused they were tortured. If they kept refusing then they were executed including by burning at the stake.

The systematic persecution began in 1614 and carried out by regional governments. By the mid-17th century, the Shogunate demanded the expulsion of all European missionaries and the execution of all converts. The prosecution lasted for over 2 centuries. Photo and caption: Wikimedia Commons. [Public domain](#) image. Cropped

Reidy clearly points out the cynicism of the political world. LDP politicians attacked the [Family Federation](#) in order to save their own skins. He compares the process against the [Family Federation](#) to a practice in the Shogun era from 1603. Persons suspected to be Christians, were then forced to step on paintings of Jesus or Mary to prove they were not believers. The Washington Post writes,

"the LDP forced its members to cut ties [with the [Family Federation](#)] despite the constitutional rights to freedom of religion, association and assembly."

The paper also asks why the [Family Federation's](#) alleged influence on Japanese politics has become a big issue, when another religious organization, Soka Gakkai Buddhism, much more involved in politics, is not considered a problem. Through the Komeito party, the junior partner in the current government, the Soka Gakkai movement exercises considerable power and uses its influence for all its worth.

"Incendiary Hate Speech from Washington Post" - text: Knut Holdhus

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Just look at the headline used by the New York Times 12th

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Just look at the headline used by the New York Times in October 2023: Japan Seeks to Dissolve **Unification Church** After Abe Killing.

This is clearly tendentious reporting. The headline easily gives the impression that the **Unification Church** caused the terror attack on former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on 8th July 2022. The **Unification Church**, now called the **Family Federation**, was not involved at all in the gruesome murder in broad daylight in the city of Nara.

Several of the claims the New York Times is making, is based on the story told by activist leftwing lawyers out to destroy the **Unification Church**. Their narrative is riddled with lies and distorted claims.

The New York Times article asserts that the terrorist, Tetsuya Yamagami, "held a grievance against Mr. Abe for his perceived ties to the **Unification Church**."

This is at best a half-truth. Yamagami, sometimes describing himself as a revolutionary, may well have had other grievances against Shinzo Abe, who was known as an anti-communist and outspoken critic of Communist China.

週刊文春

The logo of the *Shukan Bunshun*.
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Most of the media world seems to have swallowed the activist leftwing lawyers' account of what happened.

But now and then a radically different story emerges, as when *Shukan Bunshun*, a weekly Japanese news magazine known for its investigative journalism, on 19th August 2023 published some confessions made by the relatives of Tetsuya Yamagami.

According to the narrative of the activist leftwing lawyers, Yamagami could not study at university because of a difficult economic situation created by the mother's large donations to the **Unification Church**. According to *Shukan Bunshun*,

"Tetsuya took entrance exams for various universities, but was only accepted at Nara Sangyo University, which was not the school of his choice, so he chose not to go to university."

And there were other problems in Yamagami's family. The father was a heavy drinker, who neglected his family and committed suicide in 1984 jumping off a building.



A logo used by the *Palladium Magazine*.

According to the San Francisco-based *Palladium Magazine*, the flagship publication of *American Governance Foundation* and funded by conservative activist Peter Thiel, Yamagami's father studied at the *Faculty of Engineering* at the elite *Kyoto University*. (Article 2nd Feb. 2023 headlined *Yamagami Tetsuya's Revenge*)

There, he became acquainted with revolutionary communism. According to an article by editor



Logo of the Japanese daily web magazine *Cyzo*.

Masahiko Motoki in the daily web magazine *Cyzo* 26th July 2022, he was a good friend of Yasuyuki Yasuda, who studied architecture and became a *Japanese Red Army* militant, shot dead while carrying out a terrorist attack at Lod Airport in Tel Aviv 30th May 1972. *Cyzo* wrote,

"During his [Yamagami's father] time at Kyoto University, he was a mahjong [Oriental tile game] friend with Yasuyuki Yasuda, who later died in the Tel Aviv airport shooting."

(More about the Japanese Red Army terror attack in *New York Times* 5th June 1972, page 3, article titled *Father Asks Death for Terrorist*)

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Judging by his actions, it certainly seems that Ietsuya Yamagami may well have inherited some of that revolutionary spirit.

Another former *Japanese Red Army* member Masao Adachi directed and produced rapidly a fictional-biographical film called *Revolution+1* about Yamagami, premiered in smaller theatres throughout Japan the day before Shinzo Abe's state funeral. In the film, Yamagami is described as a terrorist hero. Some theatres cancelled the screening after receiving many complaints about justification of terrorism. Yamagami himself had said before the assassination that he was starting a revolution. And he has been praised openly by many communists after his act of terror.

It has been claimed that Yamagami was not able to single-handedly construct the home-made gun he used to murder Abe. He must have received help. From whom? The obvious answer would be from some like-minded person.

In addition to all this, we know that the *Japanese Communist Party* is the largest communist party in the democratic world with its close to 300,000 members. For 50 years the party has been fighting systematically to destroy the [Unification Church](#).



Kazuo Shii in 2017. Photo: Attribution: 김영준 (Kim Youngjun) / Wikimedia Commons. License: [CC Attr 2.0 Korea](#). Cropped

In an



The logo of the *Shimbun Akahata*. [Public domain image](#)

interview in November 2022 with Kazuo Shii, the *Shimbun Akahata*, the daily organ and official national newspaper of the *Japanese Communist Party*, it was made clear that the fierce campaign after the assassination of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe 8th July 2022 is the communists' "final war" against the [Unification Church / Family](#)

[Federation](#).

Shii said in the *Akahata* interview that the war had started already in 1978 at the elections of the governor of Kyoto.

"This time", he said after the Abe assassination, "we will fight thoroughly and completely until we win the struggle."

See also [The 'Japanese communists' final war' against the Unification Church](#)

By getting Abe killed and the [Unification Church](#) blamed for the murder, two birds were killed with just one stone.

To avoid fingers been pointed at the leftwing camp, activists have been working very hard to portray the [Unification Church](#) as an antisocial body that does not deserve the right to exist. Even though the members of the [Unification Church](#), now called the [Family Federation](#), preach – and try their best to put it into practice – a moral life harmonious families, stable marriages and peace in the society and the world.

The *New York Times* in its 12th October article, claims that the [Unification Church](#) is manipulating its members inflicting psychological harm on them. This is a standard allegation of the so-called anti-cult movement and has been used consistently and methodically by the network of activist leftwing lawyers in Japan to portray the [Unification Church](#) in the worst light possible. It is reminiscent of the old allegations of brainwashing, a term that has been abandoned a long time ago by academics of Religious Studies as unscientific.

Regrettably, a political maverick in the current Kishida government, Taro Kono, brought one of the activist leftwing lawyers, fanatically opposed to



the [Unification Church](#), into an expert panel appointed to deal with the [Unification Church](#) issue. This has clearly led to government ministers adopting some of his anti-religious terminology, as shown in the statement by *Minister of education, culture, sports, science and technology*, Masahito Moriyama, whom *The New York Times* quotes.



Taro Kono during the Munich Security Conference 2019. Photo: Kuhlmann / MSC / Wikimedia Commons. License: CC Attr 3.0 Ger

Featured image above: The New York Times building in New York, NY across from the Port Authority, 23rd December 2007. Photo: Haxorjoe / Wikimedia Commons. License: CC ASA 3.0 Unp

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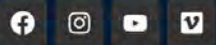
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