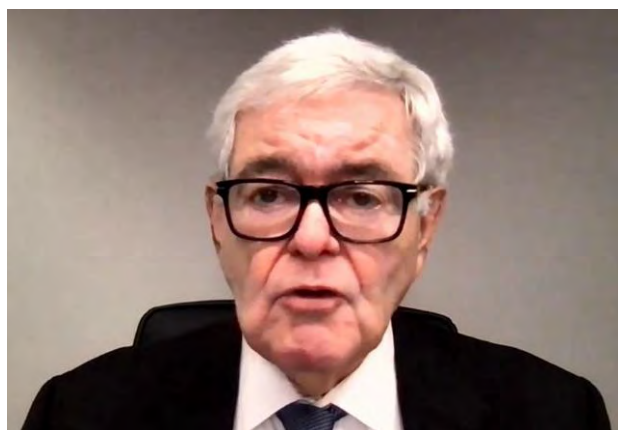


## FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: Gingrich: Kishida Joining Communist Campaign

Knut Holdhus  
February 2, 2024



*Newt Gingrich at the special luncheon 31st Jan. 2024 at the 4th International Religious Freedom Summit in Washington DC*

Former House Speaker shocked by Kishida administration being swayed by decades long vicious communist campaign



*Some of the speakers at the special luncheon on 31st Jan. 2024 at the International Religious Freedom Summit in Washington DC*

Extract from a special pre-recorded message presented 31st January at the International Religious Freedom Summit 2024 in Washington DC, by senior American politician Newt Gingrich, former Speaker of the US House of Representatives. He delivered his presentation during a conference luncheon sponsored by The Washington Times Foundation and the Universal Peace Federation on the last day of the summit.

I can't tell you how important I think it is that we recognize the threat all around the world to religious liberty as we see people killed in places, in Africa, in India, as we see repression in China. But particularly today, this special luncheon helping Japan overcome its religious freedom crisis is very timely and very important.

I've been working a great deal on the issue of what's happening in Japan, and it's really very shocking and very surprising. The Japanese had had a long tradition since World War II of honoring religious liberty, of enforcing the rule of law, and of respecting the conscience of individuals.

And yet now there's a real effort to dissolve the [Family Federation](#) [...] The government now has spent over a year in deep investigations, and after that year of investigations, they've not found a single crime that justifies going after the [Family Federation](#).

But the political pressures and the dishonesty of the Communist Party of Japan and the dishonesty of the lawyers who made a living out of some 20 years of attacking the [Unification Church](#), and then the [Family Federation](#), all of those risk overriding the rule of law.



*Prime Minister Fumio Kishida swayed by communist campaign. Here, 16th April 2023*

When the Prime Minister announced on 18th October 2022 that the [Unification Church](#) could not be dissolved because there's no breaking of a criminal law, I sort of began to relax. Yet the very next day, he said maybe we can use civil settlement cases to try to dissolve them.

Now, there's no provision for civil settlement to be a cause for dissolving. It has to be criminal. And the Prime Minister himself has admitted that there is no such criminal case.

My team did a lot of research on this, and we take it very seriously. As many of you know, my wife Callista was ambassador to the Vatican. She's taken on religious liberty around the world as one of her major projects.

What we discovered was that the dissolution effort was really started by the Japanese Communist Party, which as early as 1978 began attacking the [Unification Church](#) because the [Church's](#) [God](#)-affirming message was directly contrary to the atheistic beliefs of the Japanese Communist Party to end free speech and to end freedom of religion.

Unfortunately, some elements of the media have joined in and at times have been I think very, very biased, something we also understand here in the United States.



*Katrina Lantos Swett*

*Left: USCIRF Chair Dr. Katrina Lantos Swett in Oslo 8th Nov. 2014 - Right: Suzan Johnson Cook in July 2023*



*Suzan Johnson Cook*

But there was a [brilliant article](#) in RealClearPolitics [independent, non-partisan American media company] that Ambassador Suzan Johnson Cook and Dr. Katrina Lantos Swett wrote that explain that this is a very alarming moment for all of us who believe in religious liberty, because Japan is one of our greatest allies.

It's been a bulwark in the Far East of standing for freedom, for the rule of law, and for constitutional behavior. And that's why I think so many of us are now engaged in real concern for the future of Japan.

Everything that Callista and I have done, working with the [Family Federation](#) and its various associates, working with the Universal Peace Federation and working with The Washington Times, have been aimed at promoting the value of faith for all communities.

I've been astonished to be in meetings where literally people from over 100 countries representing virtually every religion on the planet come together peacefully to share their mutual right to approach [God](#) on their own terms. I believe this is central to the whole cause of freedom, the core value of being able to approach [God](#) without interference, it really underlies all freedom.

A government which can block you from approaching [God](#) can block you from anything.

I'm calling an ambassador Rashad Hussein, the IRF ambassador at large, to continue the good attention he's already given this issue to alert Secretary of State Anthony Blinken and to shine a very bright light on

Japan.



*Rashad Hussain 15th May 2023*

We have to make sure that the Japanese government understands that this is a key test of the future of Japan, a key test of the future of religious liberty.

And that to close down an organization as a deliberately political act of retribution is a profound undermining of the very basis of freedom.

And I so much appreciate all of you being involved in this important 'cause.

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Still more about communist campaign: [State and Media Creating "Today's Non-Citizens"](#)





**In a Nutshell**

**The Unification Church**

**Name:** Unification Church

**Founded:** 1954 in Seoul, South Korea

**Founder:** Sun Myung Moon (1920-2012)

**Faith:** The Unification Principles, a series of revelations Father Moon received from 1935 to 1944.

See: [Brief about the teachings](#). See: [In a nutshell](#)

**Goal:** A Kingdom of Heaven on Earth, a harmonious world family, where everyone can experience peace, security, freedom and love.

**Distribution:** Largest in South Korea and Japan, but widespread throughout the free, democratic world. Representatives to 120 countries already in 1975

**Europe:** First representative here in 1965.

**Discontinued:** 1997. The Family Federation for World Peace and Unification took over many of the tasks of the Unifications Church.

**Frequently asked questions:** See: [Faq](#)

**History:**

The Unification Church was founded by Sun Myung Moon (1920-2012) and a handful of followers in 1954 in Seoul as the "Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity".

It was established based on Sun Myung Moon's vision of creating a big global family under God, where all people become like brothers and sisters in a world of freedom, peace, happiness and love.

The Unification Church was dissolved 43 years later, in 1997. The Family Federation for World Peace and Unification took over many of the Unification Church's functions.

Father Moon first turned to the Christian world, which he believed should have a central role in the work to realize such a vision. Large parts of Christian teachings coincide with his own message. At that time, he explained what he was teaching, by frequent use of Bible quotations. Many Christians then also began to follow Father Moon.



The Unification Church logo



Sun Myung Moon with early followers in 1954

The movement began to be called the "Unification Church", which is far easier to say than the original long name. Sun Myung Moon himself also began to use this name, although he

never intended to establish any church.

Those who opposed him, eventually began to call the movement a sect. However, a narrow-minded, introverted sect that believes it has a monopoly on the truth, is about as far from his vision as you can get.

Because the leaders of the Christian world in Korea were not open to his message and did not cooperate with him, he decided to create his own organization.

The Unification Church was the first of several organizations that came into being





as the movement grew and became what we call the Unification Movement, of which the Unification Church was the central part.



Korean peninsula. License: CC ASA 3.0 Unp



First meeting place in Seoul

However, the Unification Church was discontinued in 1997. Then **Father Moon** declared that it had served its purpose. He claimed that the age of the different religions was over, and that we therefore no longer needed a

movement that had been founded for the unification of world christianity.

The required foundation had been laid for a much larger and universal movement more in line with his original **vision**. Therefore, from the end of the 90s, he started to set up many peace organizations. The **Family Federation for World Peace and Unification** took over many of the tasks of the Unification Church. In many countries, e.g. in the USA and Japan, people continued, often for purely practical reasons, to use the name Unification Church long after 1997.

The **Family Federation** sees the family as the key to world peace. If there is harmony in the family, there can also be harmony in society and the world in general.

So the name, and also the times we live in, have changed, but the goal is still the same: to create a big global family under **God**, where all people become like brothers and sisters in a world of freedom, peace, happiness and love.

[More about the Unification Church](#)



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