

FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: Media Authority Decries Japanese Human Rights Violations

Knut Holdhus
February 11, 2024



Sergio Redo in February 2024



Brazilian media authority and human rights lawyer: "Some of the worst human rights violations of the century."

Tokyo, 10th February 2024 - Published as an article in the Japanese newspaper Sekai Nippo. Republished with permission. Translated from Japanese. [Original article](#)

"The largest human rights violations of the 20th century" - the abduction and confinement of members of the Family Federation.

Interview with Sergio Redo, President of the São Paulo State Press Association (Part 1).

by Satoru Ayamura (綾村 悟), Sao Paulo

In response to the coverage of the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#) (formerly the [Unification Church](#)) in Japan, voices from overseas are beginning to call for information to be publicly disclosed to the international community from the perspective of the believers of the [religious organisation](#) having suffered human rights violations.



Forcibly sent to psychiatric hospital in Tokyo: Illustration of Hideo Mima's forced hospitalization. He is a Japanese member of the [Family Federation](#)

Sergio Redo is the President of the São Paulo State Press Association (API), a veteran figure in the Brazilian press and a lawyer long involved in issues of freedom and human rights. We interviewed him about his views on religious believers being abducted and confined in order to coerce them to leave their faith, and also asked him about his recommendations for the Japanese society regarding religious freedom. (Interviewer: Satoru Ayamura, Sao Paulo)

- More than 4,300 members of the [Family Federation](#) have fallen victim to abduction, confinement, and forced de-conversion guided by deprogrammers and Christian pastors. However, this issue has hardly been reported by major Japanese media outlets.

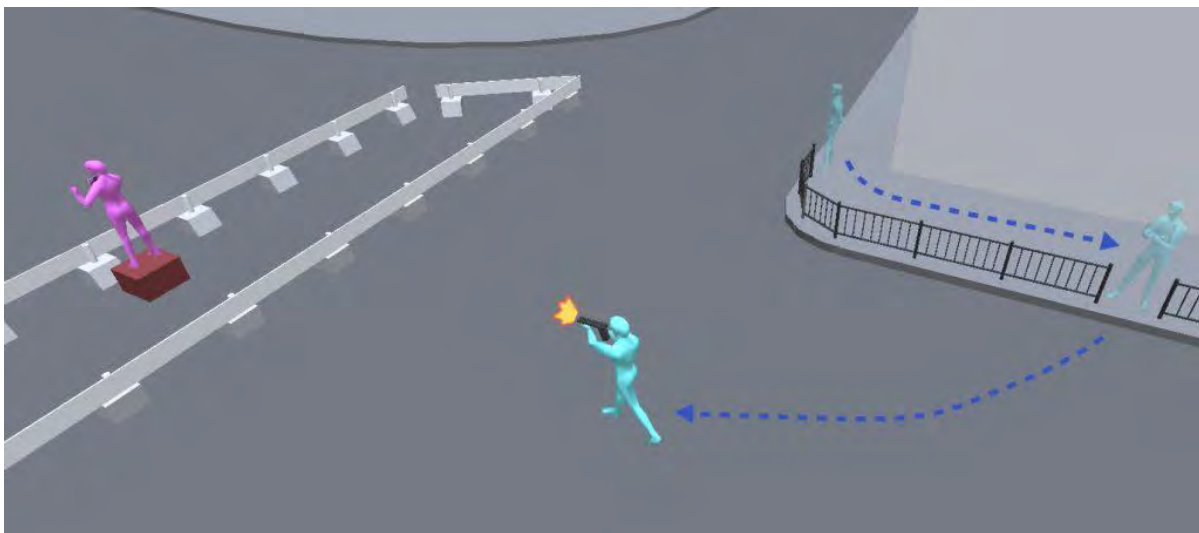
It started in the 1960s and has continued to the present day. I believe it is the worst and most significant human rights violations. In my opinion, it ranks as one of the largest human rights violations of the 20th century. Even in many wars and conflicts, including World War II, we have rarely seen such a level of human rights violations.

In Japan, a country that claims to be a liberal democracy, at least 4,300 members of the [Family Federation](#) have literally suffered abduction and confinement. They were held captive at specific locations, deprived of their freedom and beliefs. Some believers were [forcibly sent to psychiatric hospitals](#), while others, such as Toru Goto, endured over 12 years of captivity. When I saw a photograph of him immediately after his release from abduction and confinement, his emaciated state, with bones protruding due to malnutrition, it left me speechless. Journalists and lawyers should raise awareness about this egregious human rights violation and bring it to society's attention.

I have been involved in the world of journalism in Brazil for 40 years, but I had no knowledge whatsoever of the truly horrific human rights violations that have been committed in Japan. It's truly terrible. The world's major media outlets should take an interest in and expose the issue of abduction, confinement, and forced de-conversion perpetrated against members of the [Family Federation](#) in Japan.

As far as I can contribute, I am considering requesting through the Brazilian Press Association (ABI) some form of response from the United Nations Human Rights Commission regarding the issue of abduction and confinement of members of the [Family Federation](#) in Japan.

I would also like to suggest that all lawyers seeking social justice take an interest in this human rights issue. In addition to being abducted and confined, members of the [Family Federation](#) have faced numerous human rights violations, including being treated as 'second-class citizens'. I would like to ask the Brazilian Bar Association to see if there is anything that can be done to address the human rights violations, abductions and confinements, and violations of religious freedom experienced by members of the [Family Federation](#).



Positional relationship between Shinzo Abe and the shooter at Abe assassination

- Tetsuya Yamagami, the defendant, is believed to have assassinated former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe out of hatred for the [Family Federation](#), as Yamagami considered Abe to have a very close relationship with the organization. What are your thoughts on Tetsuya Yamagami's motive for assassinating former Prime Minister Abe?

From my experience as a lawyer, I believe that most of the motives for all crimes that occur around the world can be summarized in three things: power, love, and money.

I am concerned that Yamagami's motives may be based on "hatred" and "money." Think about it. Whatever you do in life, anything based on hatred will always have disastrous consequences for you and

those around you.

The assassination of Abe was sparked by Yamagami's hatred. His mother's substantial donation to the [Family Federation](#) caused him to lose the 'money that should have been available to him,' and planted the seeds of hatred in him. But that was decades ago.

Moreover, rather than directing his resentment directly towards the [Family Federation](#), he aimed it at Shinzo Abe. By doing so, he knew that it would attract more attention from the public towards himself. That's why he targeted Abe.

To be continued.

Sergio de Azevedo Redo is the President of the São Paulo State Press Association (API), Vice President of the Brazilian Press Federation (FENAI), former Chairman of the Legislative Council for Press-Related Bills (an organization within the Brazilian Bar Association), and a full member of the Brazilian Bar Association (OAB) and the National Federation of Law Scholars (FADESP). He holds a Doctorate in Law. From 1993 to 1997, he served as professor and dean of the Faculty of Business Law at United Metropolitan Colleges (FMU).

With a career spanning 40 years as author, journalist, and lawyer, he hosts the television program "The Newsroom". He has a wide network of relationships in the media and political spheres, including with former Brazilian President Michel Temer and the President of the Brazilian Press Association (ABI), Oliveira. He is 66 years old.

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Some of Fumio Kishida's administration, 13th Sep. 2023. Photo: 首相官邸ホームページ / Wikimedia Commons, License: CC BY 4.0 Int, Cropped

Extreme China-inspired leftwingers rejoicing as Kishida administration introduces laws for mass deprogramming tens of thousands with "wrong views"

In an article in Bitter Winter, the leading online magazine for human rights and



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Online magazine for human rights and religious freedom, Dr. Massimo Introvigne points out in an article 25th Jan. 2024 what extreme anti-religious measures the Kishida administration are introducing.

WINTER

The headline is "Is Japan Introducing State-Sponsored Deprogramming?"

Read the [whole Bitter Winter article](#).

Kishida and his government ministers have apparently bought the anti-religious narrative of a network of radical leftwing lawyers, *National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales*.

The background to the proposed government-supported faith-breaking is a cabinet meeting on 19th January, where suggestions were put forth to encourage current members of the [Unification Church](#) to leave the group, aided by individuals who have left the organization, known as apostates.



Dr. Massimo Introvigne, april 2023. Photo: FOREF

The Italian sociologist of religion explains how such extreme plans stem from events starting on 8th July 2022, when former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was assassinated. The assassin's motivation was attributed to his mother's involvement with the [Unification Church](#), leading to her financial ruin due to excessive donations to the group. This incident sparked a media frenzy against the [Unification Church](#), supported by anti-cult organizations.

Subsequently, the Japanese government sought legal action to dissolve the [Unification Church](#) and passed laws targeting "cults", including measures to recover donations and prevent the indoctrination of minors. Introvigne emphasizes that these efforts are fueled by a belief in the discredited theory of brainwashing.

He mentions how the laws represent a serious infringement on religious freedom and aim to not just control the [Unification Church](#), but also other religions. Introvigne spells out how one of the laws,

"ordered religious groups not to 'indoctrinate' minors, with provisions clearly targeting not only the [Unification Church](#) but also the Jehovah's Witnesses and conservative Christian groups. A third law offered assistance to 'victims' of 'cults'. Recent draft guidelines proposed a very extensive notion of 'victim', also including those who deny having been victimized – again, because of 'brainwashing'. In practice, every member of the [Family Federation](#) is a 'victim', including those who say they are perfectly happy to remain in the movement."

Despite deprogramming being declared illegal by the *Japanese Supreme Court* in 2015, recent proposals suggest reintroducing a form of state-sponsored deprogramming. This proposal is based on the idea that all members of the [Unification Church](#) are victims of brainwashing and need rescuing through deprogramming.

Introvigne describes the reasoning behind the extreme measures,

"Now, however, Japan is considering re-introducing a state-sponsored form of deprogramming. This is a logical consequence of the broad notion of 'victim' being proposed and of the Japanese government's support of the pseudo-scientific theory of brainwashing. If all Japanese [Unification Church](#) members are 'victims' who do not realize they are 'victims' because they are under the effect of 'brainwashing', the only way to 'rescue' them is deprogramming."

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This approach mirrors practices in authoritarian states like China and Russia, where state-sponsored



Artistic rendering created by AI Image generator of Chinese communist party indoctrination.

deprogramming is common. Japan's plan involves collaborating with apostate ex-members to train counselors who will provide support to current members, including approaching second-generation members in schools. Additionally, there are proposals to establish "shelter homes" for second-generation members, purportedly to assist those in poverty but likely aimed at isolating them from their families and facilitating deprogramming efforts.

These measures draw parallels to China's "Love Homes", where individuals are subjected to Communist Party indoctrination.

Introvigne writes,

"The 'shelter homes' are very similar to the 'Love Homes' where the Chinese Communist Party deprograms 'cultists' and their children, teaching them to repudiate the 'cult' and learn to 'firmly believe in the Communist Party, love the Party and follow the Party!'"

The Japanese Communist Party has expressed support for actions against the [Unification Church](#), suggesting a concerning trend towards government intervention in religious affairs reminiscent of authoritarian regimes.

The Italian scholar makes plain the connection to the Japanese Communist Party,

"In fact, we learn from the official website of the Japanese Communist Party that on October 16, 2023, the 'Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Masahito Moriyama visited the office of Akira Koike, Secretary General of the Japanese Communist Party, at the House of Councilors, and reported that he had requested the Tokyo District Court to order the dissolution of the



For mass deprogramming: Akira Koike, 30th March 2023. Photo: [首相官邸ホームページ / Wikimedia Commons](#). License: [CC Attr 4.0 Int](#). Cropped



[Unification Church \(Family Federation for World Peace and Unification\)](#). Koike demanded that the government and the ruling party take responsibility for the care of active believers.'

What this 'care' is all about


For mass
deprogramming:
Masahito Moriyama, 8th
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can be easily guessed.
Perhaps Koike shared with
the Minister the good
example of China's 'Love
Homes!'"
Massimo Introvigne is an
Italian sociologist of religions
and founder and managing
director of Center for Studies

on New Religions (**CESNUR**), an international network of
scholars who study new religious movements. Introvigne is
also author of some 70 books and hundreds of articles in the
field of sociology of religion.

Featured image above: Some of Fumio Kishida's cabinet 13th
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