

## FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: Media / Legal Expert - Communism Behind Japanese Persecution

Knut Holdhus  
February 12, 2024



*Sergio Redo, Chairman of the São Paulo State Press Association, posing for a photo in front of pictures of past chairmen*

### Expert points out: Communism behind persecution and Japanese dissolution case



*Sekai Nippo*

Tokyo, 12th February 2024 - Published as an article in the Japanese newspaper Sekai Nippo. Republished with permission. Translated from Japanese. [Original article](#)

#### Calmly Re-Examining the Abe assassination

Part 2 of interview with Sergio Redo, Chairman of the São Paulo State Press Association

Opposition to the dissolution of the [Family Federation](#).

by Satoru Ayamura (綾村 悟) in Sao Paulo

Read [part 1](#) of the interview

Could the Japanese government's request to the Tokyo District Court for a dissolution order against the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#) (formerly known as the [Unification Church](#)) be seen as acquiescing to the demands of the terrorist who assassinated former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe?



*Shinzo Abe in 2017*

The intense hatred directed at Shinzo Abe transformed into a surge of emotions that engulfed society and was directed towards the [Family Federation](#) and its followers. Japanese society reacted according to the intentions of the terrorist.

It is said that Abe sending a video message to an organization related to the [Family Federation](#) (formerly known as the [Unification Church](#)) evoked in people a feeling of him having a friendly relationship with the [religious organisation](#). However, even in Brazil, where the constitution mandates the separation of religion and state, it is common and legal for politicians to attend events of religious associations and deliver greetings. Isn't it contrary to the separation of church and state for the state to persecute a particular religion?

Is there solid evidence that can be verified, that Shinzo Abe was in a close enough relationship with the [Family Federation](#) to warrant severe criticism from the media and

public? Perhaps Japanese society needs to calmly reassess and reevaluate what the hatred of a terrorist has brought upon society as a whole.

Essentially, doesn't the media have a role to play in curbing the government's recklessness?



Some Japanese media outlets

The purpose of all media, including television, newspapers, radio, and online media, is to convey information. In addition, media professionals are required to have a professional ethic that conveys the truth to society, and as professionals take responsibility for the content of their reporting. I hope that taking such a responsibility will lead to "watchdog journalism" and a professional reporting that tells the truth.

In the Japanese parliament, the position of members of the [Family Federation](#) was ignored, and there was no criticism of the government's request for a dissolution order that would strip the believers of their places of worship and other sources of support. Some have even pointed that the situation is similar to the totalitarianism of pre-war times.

Just like in Japan, in Brazil as well, freedom of religion and its rights are guaranteed by the constitution. Suppressing what is naturally recognized as an individual's fundamental right would constitute a violation of constitutional rights.

I hope that Japan will not open the door to totalitarianism, akin to the neo-fascism that arose in Italy after World War II. I urge the Japanese government and the judiciary to listen carefully to opinions from active members of the [Family Federation](#) and explore possibilities other than issuing a dissolution order. The court's decision will also serve as a recommendation to Japanese society. Japan must never step into a 'dark age' where freedom is taken away.



In Nov. 2022 interview, Kazuo Shii, chairman of the Japanese Communist Party (JCP) said the party is fighting the "final war" against the [Family Federation](#) / [Unification Church](#). Here Shii on 30th March 2023.

As someone involved in journalism and the legal profession, I believe that opposing any possibility of dissolving the [Family Federation](#) is essential. Restricting and prohibiting fundamental rights such as freedom of religion, freedom of speech, and freedom of association would be unacceptable.

Does the infringement on religious freedom in Japan have the potential to spread from Japan to other countries?

Of course. Attacks on freedom of religion carried out by Japanese politicians would quickly spread

worldwide as a chain reaction. There is no doubt that Brazil would also become one of the countries affected by such an influence.

Japan is respected around the world, but Japan's current position of issuing an order to dissolve a religious organisation that have not been criminally punished, does not seem reasonable from a common sense and ethical point of view.

I also feel that there is an ideological aspect behind the movement to dissolve the [Family Federation](#). We must not forget that many instances of national division, conflict, and war have started from ideologies. Behind the persecution of the [Family Federation](#) lies the ideology of communism. It is particularly important for those who identify as conservatives to perceive this as a serious issue. Volunteers should gather and engage in democratic opposition activities against the dissolution of the [Family Federation](#). (Interviewer: Satoru Ayamura, São Paulo)

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Read [part 1](#) of the interview

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## New Admission By Top Japanese Communist

September 7, 2023 • Knut Holdhus

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### Chairman revealing intense fight to crush Family Federation in new admission

With its close to 300,000 members, the Japanese Communist Party (JPC) is one of the world's largest. Since the 1970's, the party has been fighting systematically to destroy the **Unification Church**, regarded as a key player among the anti-communist forces.

志位和夫

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@shiikazuo

あれだけの批判を浴びながら、なお「集団結婚」を続ける統一協会。徹底  
追及の手をゆるめてはならない。

#しんぶん赤旗

Kazuo Shii making a new admission on his X-account 4th Sep.  
2023.

On 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023, Kazuo Shii, chairman of the Japanese  
Communist Party since 2000, made a new admission about  
their decades long campaign and wrote on his large Twitter / X  
account with more than 200,000 followers,

“Despite being criticized so much the **Unification  
Church** still continues its “mass weddings”. We must  
not relax our thorough pursuit.”

The “thorough pursuit” he mentioned in his new admission is  
part of the JCP’s deliberate effort to eliminate anti-  
communists.

In an interview in  
November 2022  
with Shii, the  
Shimbun Akahata,  
the daily organ and  
official national  
newspaper of the  
Japanese



The logo of the Shimbun Akahata (Red  
flag)

Communist Party, it was made clear that the fierce campaign  
after the assassination of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe 8<sup>th</sup>  
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 – *making a new  
admission at the time* – “we will fight thoroughly and  
completely until we win the struggle.”

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

Many times, communists prefer to work undercover, often  
through so-called front groups. One would rarely hear them  
admit publicly that they are behind a certain project or group.  
A good example is the *National Network of Lawyers Against  
Spiritual Sales*, the body through which they have been  
fighting the **Unification Church** since 1987.

Award-winning investigative journalist Masumi Fukuda  
explains,

“Almost all of the  
lawyers in the Network  
were affiliated with the  
former Socialist Party  
and the Communist  
Party, [...] were  
connected with  
extremist groups and  
North Korea, and were  
ideologically leftists and  
self-styled atheists.”

[\(The Truth About the  
National Network of  
Lawyers Against](#)

[Spiritual Sales](#), article by Masumi Fukuda in the  
monthly magazine *Hanada*, republished in English  
in [Bitter Winter](#) 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023)



Masumi Fukuda in April  
2023. Photo: FOREF

It has indeed been in line with a long-term communist  
strategy to weaken voices like the **Unification Church**, that is  
highly critical of the God-denying, totalitarian society  
communists systematically work to create, the likes of which  
we see in China and North Korea.



At an international [conference in  
South Korea](#) on 17<sup>th</sup> December  
2022, Michael Pillsbury, author  
and prominent authority on  
China, said that it is not only the

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Michael Pillsbury, Senior Fellow for China Strategy at the Heritage Foundation. Photo: Hudson Institute / Wikimedia Commons. License: CC ASA 2.0 Gen. Cropped

China, said that it is not only the Japanese Communist Party that exploits the assassination of Shinzo Abe. Also Chinese President Xi Jinping believes he may use the assassination – and the alleged grievances of Tetsuya Yamagami, the terrorist behind the murder, towards the **Unification Church** – to stain the reputation of the church and the legacy of Abe and undermine freedom of religion in Japan and other countries.

Pillsbury served from 2014 to January 2023 as director of the *Center on Chinese Strategy* at the *Hudson Institute*, a prestigious Washington, D.C think tank. In addition, he has been an adviser to most American presidents since Richard Nixon. He now works for the *Heritage Foundation*, one of the top 10 think tanks in the world, as Senior Fellow for China Strategy.

Pillsbury added,

“It’s obvious to me why China also wants to undermine the memory of Abe. He was the most anti-Chinese Communist Party Prime Minister in Japanese history. The Japanese Communist Party not only attacks the Abe wing of the LDP, but also the work of the **Unification Church** in Japan and around the world. China attacks the **Unification Church**. At the same time, it attacks everything Abe worked for.”

See also [Communists of China Exploiting Assassination](#)

In an article titled “Don’t Allow the Attack on Kishida to Become a Trend” 16<sup>th</sup> April this year by columnist Gearoid



Reidy, The Japan times commented that the assassination of Abe “was exploited for political gain.”



Logo of the Japanese magazine Monthly Hanada.

In a series of articles in the monthly magazine Hanada, above-mentioned journalist Masumi Fukuda explains precisely how that was done. She revealed how a leftwing

group of activist lawyers managed to sell a totally fabricated story to the media that it was the **Unification Church** that was the real perpetrator. Read [the story!](#)

Fukuda explains where the activist lawyers' network – National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales – comes from,

In addition, the award-winning journalist exposes that the network of lawyers for more than 20 years had been extensively involved in the abduction and forcible confinement of members of the **Unification Church**,

“There were lawyers who became rich through these cases, as did



Yoshifu Arita. Photo: 碧庵 / Wikimedia Commons. License: CC ASA 3.0 Unp. Cropped



Eito Suzuki, born as Kiyofumi Tanaka. Photo: Mikkabie / Wikimedia Commons. License: CC ASA 4.0 Int. Cropped





Masaki Kito from National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales. Photo: Screenshot / [Bitter Winter](#)

deprogrammers and Christian pastors involved in the abductions, who received substantial amounts of money from the relatives of the believers they deprogrammed.

When the lawyers were consulted by the believers' parents, they first introduced them to the deprogrammers. If and when deprogramming was successful, the lawyers took over from the deprogrammers as 'handlers' of the former believers, made them plaintiffs, and filed lawsuits. The anti-[Unification Church](#) group, including Attorney Kito and journalists Yoshifu Arita, and Eito Suzuki, still defends deprogramming to this very day, and claims it was performed to 'protect' the former members of the [Unification Church](#)." (Hanada / [Bitter Winter](#))

Fukuda explains how thousands of members of the [Unification Church](#) were kidnapped, forcibly confined and deprogrammed. Not only were they forced to denounce their belief. They also had to prove that they had separated themselves from the church by asserting they had been "victims of spiritual sales". The network of lawyers made them go to court against the [Unification Church](#) demanding to retrieve the money they once had donated.

See also [Lawyers Manipulating, Coercing, Lying](#)

More than 4,300 members were kidnapped and deprogrammed in this way. With so many forced by leftwing lawyers to sue the [Unification Church](#), this communist-inspired activist network managed to inflate figures immensely and portray the [Unification Church](#) as a group "detrimental to public welfare".

Fukuda reveals how for decades, the leftwing lawyers in the afore-mentioned network have used tactics like coercing ex-members to join their lawsuits against the [Unification Church](#), making up evidence, and extorting money from a perfectly legitimate religious movement, that is constantly being attacked and painted black by those lawyers. Masumi Fukuda calls those lawsuits fraudulent. She says,

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](#) 26<sup>th</sup> June 2023.)



The network was actually organised in order to put an end to the [Unification Church](#), now called the [Family Federation](#). In her articles the Japanese journalist exposes how the activist lawyers, many of them hard-core communists, used trumped-up charges against a new religious movement, while the "crime" it has committed, is to be against communism.

In this way the communists wage their "final war" against the [Family Federation](#), by pushing for its dissolution order.

It is hard to think of a more dishonest, immoral and sly way to attack one's enemy.

Featured image above to illustrate "New Admission by Top Japanese Communist": Kazuo Shii 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023. Photo: Attribution: [若田宗雄](#) / [Wikimedia Commons](#)

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“New Admission by Top Japanese Communist” – text: Knut Holdhus. Published 7th Sep 2023 at 9:51 am, updated 2:14 pm same day.

See also [Call to End Witch Hunt](#),

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