

FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: Japan's Apartheid-Style Social Exclusion

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Fumihiro Kato 20th January 2024 in Tokyo

Japanese author puts spotlight on social exclusion of members of religious minority reduced to second-class citizens

What was the reporting intended to convey? Report with data on the hounding of the Unification Church a presentation by Fumihiro Kato (加藤文宏), writer, author and and photographer, at a symposium on the theme "Why Did Reporting Go Astray? Thorough Examination by Journalists on Reporting on the Former [Unification Church](#)", (organized by UPF-Japan) held 20th January 2024 in Tokyo to investigate the media's continued coverage persecuting the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#) (formerly known as the [Unification Church](#)).

Part 1



English reconstruction of one of the slides Fumihiro Kato used 20th Jan. 2024

I intend to examine the media coverage hounding the [Unification Church](#) by looking at the data and asking, "What was the intention of the reporting, and what was being conveyed?" I hope that it can become evidence for both of you.

First, let me provide some background. Since the summer of 2022, I have been interviewing members of the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#) (the former [Unification Church](#)). These believers have expressed concerns, stating,

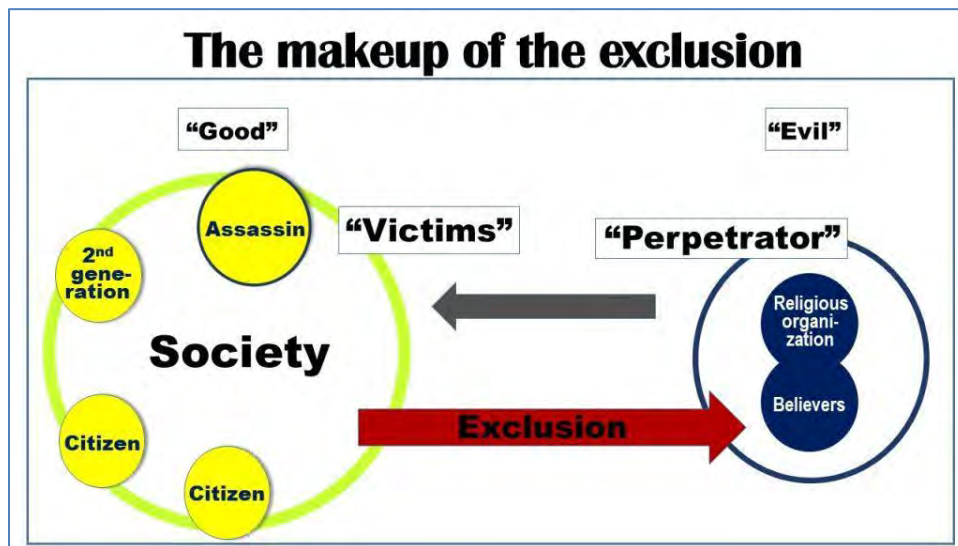
"The mass media only adopts one-sided testimonies."

"The reports criticize the government while using the [Unification Church](#) and its followers, saying that the [church](#) is evil."

"As a result of being used in this way, our faith has been exposed and made public, and we have been excluded from places of civic life."

"There are even movements to limit our right to political participation, and violations of privacy and human rights occur."

They believe that these issues are a result of the media running wild.



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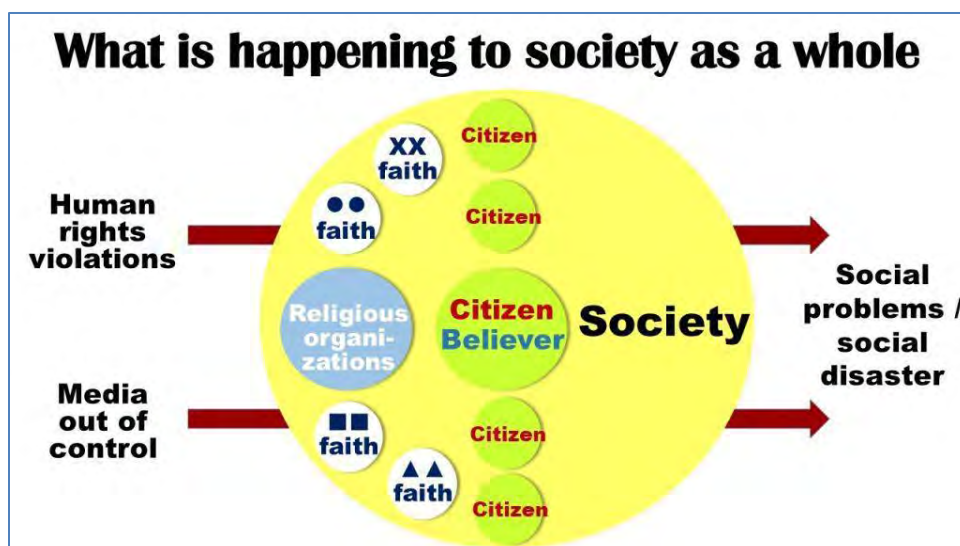
The human rights violations against the followers were carried out under the premise that "a good society is the victim" and "let's exclude the evil [church](#) and its followers because they are the perpetrators." It was stated that "the assassin is the victim," and "ordinary citizens are also victims." The situation where "followers are excluded from society because they are dangerous and abhorrent" reminds us of apartheid, which separated whites and non-whites.

The screenshot shows a webpage from the U.S. State Department. The title is "U.S. State Department Report on International Religious Freedom: Parts related to Japan 2022". The main heading reads "Hundreds of death threats and demands to leave Japan have been reported. Emphasizes importance of religious freedom." Below this is a quote from a statement to the UN Human Rights Committee: "Victims of 'campaign of intolerance, discrimination and persecution'". The quote is attributed to "NGO CAP-LC (Coordination of Associations and Individuals for Freedom of Conscience)". At the bottom, it states "Included a total of 16 times in US State Dept. Report from 1999 to 2020" and "It was also reported that Family Federation members are being 'abducted and locked up (forced deprogramming)'".

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It's not just the followers who point out that they have been excluded from society. In the "Report on International Religious Freedom" by the U.S. State Department, which is responsible for managing the country's foreign policy, the history of the hounding of the [Unification Church](#) after the assassination of Shinzo Abe is thoroughly covered, along with issues of persecution of the Uighurs and Rohingyas. Furthermore, an organization with Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations quoted a statement asserting that "the followers have become victims of intolerance, discrimination and persecution." The statement was quoted as alarming as it has become a Japanese social problem.

By the way, in Japan, if you speak or write about the same content as this State Department report, you tend to be called "tsubo" (壺 (ツボ) - pot, word used to mock followers) or "zubuzubu" ('corrupt relationships not easy to cut' or 'deeply involved') and your opportunities for speech are likely to be taken away. Entertainer Hikari Ota (太田光) has also been called a spokesperson for the [religious organization](#). Until now, we have worked to solve human rights issues, such as discrimination and hate, as social problems. Regardless of the background, the side that discriminates, the side that is discriminated, the side that watches, all are members of society, so it is a social problem.



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If, as a result of reporting out of control, discrimination and exclusion against believers have occurred due to information running wild, then this can be said to be a press disaster and an information disaster. An information disaster is a concept that attracted attention through studies of the rumors and damage that occurred in the aftermath of the 2011 nuclear accident, and questioning the causal relationship between rumors causing harm and the resulting damage. Natural disasters are caused by nature itself. Information disasters are caused by information. And it is the media that widely disseminates information to the public.

To be continued. Part 2 coming soon.

Fumihiro Kato (加藤文宏) has contributed to various media outlets, including opinion magazines. Under the pen name Fumi Kato (かとう ふみ), he has published works such as "Chushi Ruro" (厨師流浪 - Wandering Chef), "Kakai Fuki" (花開富貴 - Blossoming, Prosperous and Noble), and "Denko no Otoko" (電光の男 - Lightning Man). Last year, he contributed with an article titled "[Can News and Talk Shows Determine Good and Evil?](#)" in the February issue of Monthly Seiron (月刊正論), challenging the approach to reporting on the [Unification Church](#).

"Author: Japan's 'Apartheid-Style Social Exclusion'" - text: Fumihiro Kato

More about social exclusion: [Collusion to Rob Minority of Its Rights](#)

Yet more about social exclusion: [Media Authority Decries Human Rights Violations](#)

Still more about social exclusion: [Lawyer Exposes Dirty Leftwing Plot](#)

Even more about social exclusion: [Inhuman Government-Supported Mass Deprogramming](#)

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And even more about social exclusion: [State and Media Creating "Today's Non-Citizens"](#)

And more about social exclusion: [Kishida Has Opened Can of Worms](#)

More about social exclusion: [Japan: 4300 Abductions and Forcible Detentions](#)



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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