

FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: Japan's government hates the Unification Church for protecting it from Communism

Knut Holdhus
March 17, 2024



[Sun Myung Moon](#) writing calligraphy at the founding of the International Federation for Victory over Communism (IFVOC) 13th January 1968 in Cheongpa, Seoul, South Korea

The origin of half a century with fierce persecution is simply red hatred for movement working to protect Japan and provide clear alternative to communism



Toshikazu Masubuchi



Stanislav Levchenko

[Bitter Winter](#), the online magazine for human rights and religious freedom, published as a series of three articles a report titled "The [Unification Church](#) Case in Japan: A Politician Speaks Up." It was written by a member of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), Toshikazu Masubuchi, who served as speaker of Tochigi Prefectural Assembly 1991-2011.

On 28th February 2024, [Bitter Winter](#) published the 2nd of its 3 articles. It was headlined "Spies and Fake News". There, Masubuchi explains how an initiative by the International Federation for Victory Over Communism (IFVOC), founded by [Sun Myung Moon](#), against foreign spies was one of the main reasons the political left of Japan kept attacking his movement.

On [part 1](#) in [Bitter Winter](#) series

Even though Japan was a liberal democracy, it earned the reputation of being a "spy haven" because it lacked laws to prevent espionage. Masubuchi tells about KGB major Stanislav Levchenko, a former Soviet agent who worked four years as a spy in Japan, before he defected to the USA in 1979 and bore witness in front of the U.S. House Intelligence Committee. He stated that the absence of laws against espionage in Japan facilitated his work.

Levchenko disclosed the names of no less than 200 Japanese politicians and journalists who were involved in espionage activities. Those included leading members of the Japan Socialist Party like Seiichi Katsumata (勝間田 清一 - its leader 1967-1968), Shigeru Ito (chairman of the Policy Deliberation Council), and Tamotsu Sato (secretariat chief of the Socialist Association). Levchenko's disclosure of the huge Japanese spy network was truly significant.



*Spying for the Soviet Union:
Seiichi Katsumata, leader of Japan
Socialist Party 1967-1968*

Also, North Korean agents worked as spies in Japan, and the lack of laws preventing espionage made it impossible for the police to counter it effectively. If anti-espionage laws had been in place, occurrences such as North Korea's abduction of Japanese citizens from 1977 to 1983 could have been avoided. Given Japan's advanced industrial status, protecting its industries from industrial espionage was also crucial.

In response to these national security concerns, the International Federation for Victory Over Communism (IFVOC), founded by [Sun Myung Moon](#), sought the backing from resource persons across various fields - politicians, businessmen, academics, journalists, lawyers, diplomats, religious leaders, and individuals with security experience - in order to set up the "Spy Prevention Law Enactment Citizens Conference".

Local branches were formed in all prefectures to raise awareness for the introduction of the law. The "Spy Prevention Law Enactment Promotion Citizens Conference" was established in

February 1979 with Seiichi Uno (1910-2008), a professor emeritus at the University of Tokyo, as chairman. A meeting of the founding members took place at Sankei Hall in Tokyo with 300 scholars, intellectuals, and businessmen attending.



Nobusuke Kishi, 15th June 1961

Five years later, in April 1984, a large meeting was convened at the National Diet Building. About 300 lawmakers and experts came together and discussed the formation of the "Parliamentarians and Experts Discussion Group for the Promotion of the Spy Prevention Law," chaired by Nobusuke Kishi (1896-1987), Prime Minister 1957-1960.

Toshikazu Masubuchi describes his work to promote the adoption of an "Opinion Statement Calling for the Enactment of the Spy Prevention Law" in the Tochigi Prefectural Assembly on 25th March 1982. A representative from the Socialist Party was strongly against it and tried to use so-called obstructive tactics. The heated debate lasted until midnight, when a resolution in favour of the opinion statement was at last passed. Masubuchi became secretary-general of the Tochigi prefecture branch of the IFVOC and traveled throughout the prefecture delivering speeches.

Law enforcement officials in charge of national and public security commended this initiative warmly. A subcommittee consisting of "security professionals" within the movement that supported the enactment of the anti-spy law included former top officials such as a former head of the National Police Agency and former top officials of the Tokyo Metropolitan Police.

Despite discussions in the Diet regarding the enactment of the Espionage Prevention Bill, it did not gain sufficient backing. No action was taken on serious national security concerns.

To be continued. Part 2b coming soon.

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Communists' War With A Faith Since 1978 Defeat

March 8, 2024 • Knut Holdhus

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Politician describes how Japanese communists have been at war with a faith since 1978 election defeat that halted their progress.



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Toshikazu Masubuchi. Photo: Bitter Winter

published a report titled "The Unification Church Case in Japan: A Politician Speaks Up." It was written by a member of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), Toshikazu Masubuchi, who served as speaker of

Tochigi Prefectural Assembly 1991-2011.

On 27th February 2024, Bitter Winter published the 1st of its 3 articles. It was headlined "It Is All About Anti-Communism".



On part 2a in the Bitter Winter series

In it, Masubuchi tells his story, how he came to work together with the Unification Church and why he thinks it is **being unjustly persecuted fiercely**.

He was born in a deeply religious Buddhist family in Utsunomiya (宇都宮市), the main city of Tochigi Prefecture (栃木県), about 100 km north of Tokyo. He worked in his father's large construction company before entering politics at the age of 26, in 1972. Three years later, he was elected to the prefectural assembly and served there for nine terms until 2011.

Masubuchi describes his political fundamentals,

"For me, the essence of conservative politics lies in patriotism and religious faith. Masashige Kusunoki [楠木 正成 - 1294-1338, the epitome of the loyal samurai in Japanese history] advocated "Hirihōkenten" as his emblem. This means that one should act in accordance with the will of Heaven. Without a sense of reverence towards Heaven, people would act as they please, and justice would not prevail. Following the will of Heaven is essential for politics that lead people to happiness.

Although Japan is often described as non-religious, religious sentiments are actually ingrained within the people, as seen in the incorporation of religious rituals into annual events. I believe that the Japanese people's reputation for moral integrity is largely due to the deep-rooted religious faith that has been traditionally passed down from one generation to the next."

The experienced politician holds the belief that despite the diversity of religions worldwide, akin to the various climbing routes up Mount Fuji, **different religious denominations may vary in approach but ultimately aspire toward the same goal**. Therefore, he holds respect for religions beyond Buddhism.

Masubuchi's conservative political ideology stands in **stark opposition to communism**. He fundamentally rejects communism for its denial of the **existence of God** and its willingness to employ any means to achieve its objectives, regardless of the human cost. He cites instances from history where **hundreds of millions of lives were lost** in countries like the former *Soviet Union*, the *People's Republic of China* (PRC), and Cambodia due to communist regimes' indifference towards human rights violations. The Tochigi politician is strongly opposed to the **concentration of power in the hands of a few** based on the **concept that a Communist paradise can be created by a one-party dictatorship**.

He recounts an incident he experienced when left-leaning media falsely accused a school principal of obstructing free speech when he called the police to handle a disturbance at a junior high school in Utsunomiya City. This incident led Masubuchi to publicly express his belief that the school board, rather than the principal, should handle media relations in such situations. However, his statement was twisted by media outlets like the "Asahi Shimbun" and exploited by the Communist Party, showcasing their **tendency to distort facts**

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and propagate falsehoods to suit their narrative.

Following his unsuccessful bid in the July 1974 by-election for the Tochigi Prefectural Assembly, Masubuchi was introduced to the **International Coalition for Victory Over Communism** (IFVOC), a conservative political organization founded by **Sun Myung Moon**. That was during the Cold War era when Japan and South Korea faced the threat of communist expansionism. Inspired by IFVOC's stance against communism, Masubuchi engaged in discussions **criticizing communism** with the members of the anti-communist organization.

Masubuchi recalls attending the Tochigi Prefectural Convention of IFVOC around 1976, where its chairman Osami Kuboki (1931-1998) delivered a speech titled "A Cry for the Salvation of the Country". He addressed the threat of communism from a conservative perspective. Impressed by the speech, Masubuchi felt a sense of solidarity with IFVOC's values,



Osami Kuboki in 1969.
Photo: [FFWPU](#)

"As someone proud to be a conservative politician, it felt as if I had gained a million allies and found a leader in political philosophy. At that time, the religious affiliations of those leading IFVOC were an entirely different dimension of the issue."

The politician recalls how IFVOC from the late 1970s and into the 1990s, played a **significant role in supporting conservative candidates in local elections, contributing to the decline of left-wing administrations in many municipalities,**

"In 1978, the Kyoto Prefectural Governor election took place. The left-wing administration of Torazo Ninagawa (蜷川虎三 - 1897-1981) had lasted for 28 years in Kyoto, and to overthrow it, **young members of IFVOC fought on the front lines through street speeches and more.** They even faced fierce interference from the Communist Party at times. After such life-threatening battles, conservative candidate Yukio Hayashida (林田 悠紀夫 - 1915-2007) won the election.



K. Miyamoto.
Photo: *Romanian Communism Online Photo Collection / Wikimedia Commons.* [Public domain image.](#)
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In response, Kenji Miyamoto (宮本 顕治 - 1908-2007), the Communist Party chairman at the time, was furious and called for the destruction of IFVOC and [FFWPU](#) ('Red Flag' (Shimbun Akahata - the newspaper of the Japanese Communist Party), 8th June 1978)."

And IFVOC continued to engage in frontline battles in various local elections,

"Left-wing local governments, such as Ryokichi Minobe (美濃部 亮吉 - 1904-1984) in Tokyo (1967-1979), Ryoichi Kuroda (1911-2003) in Osaka (1971-1979), and Yawara Hata (畑和 - 1910-1996) in Saitama (1972-1992), disappeared one after another, leading to the decline of once-thriving leftist municipalities."

As a result, the 1990s witnessed a period of conservative dominance in Japan, with IFVOC being viewed as a staunch adversary by the *Japanese Communist Party* and its sympathizers.

Around 1980, IFVOC expanded its presence nationwide,

establishing branch organizations composed mainly of politicians. In Tochigi Prefecture, Masubuchi assumed the role of secretary-general in the Tochigi Prefecture General Branch, working alongside former senator Noboru Yano to further IFVOC's mission of combating left-leaning tendencies and promoting conservative values in Japan.

Continued in [part 2a, Red Hatred for Movement to Protect Japan](#).

Featured image above: *From a Victory over Communism campaign in Japan in 1969, supported by the [Unification Church](#). Photo: IFVOC*

"Communists' War with a Faith since 1978 Defeat" – text: Knut Holdhus

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