

## FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: Journalists speak in favor of FFWPU Japan

Knut Holdhus  
August 20, 2024



Yutaka Toriumi, third from the right, speaking at the panel discussion in the afternoon of 18th August in Tokyo



[Sekai Nippo](#)

### Symposium organized in Tokyo by second-generation members takes in-depth view of vicious persecution of religious minority

Tokyo, 19th August 2024 - Published as an article in the Japanese newspaper [Sekai Nippo](#). Republished with permission. Translated from Japanese. [Original article](#)

"The fear of having one's heart crushed" - Experiencing abduction and confinement

Symposium of second-generation Family Federation believers

by the editorial department of [Sekai Nippo](#)

Non-fiction writer Kubota: "Turning people around you and outsiders into understanding persons" in Tokyo.



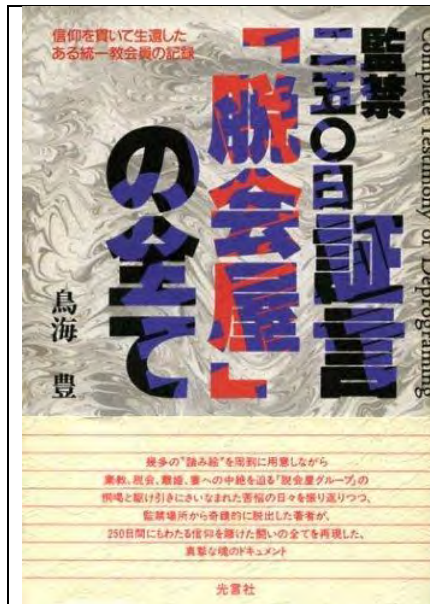
[Second-Generation Association for Protecting the Human Rights of Believers](#)

On 18th August 2024, the "Association to Protect the Human Rights of Second-Generation Believers", established by second-generation believers of the [Family Federation for World Peace](#)

[and Unification](#) (formerly the [Unification Church](#)), held a symposium titled "Why Do We Still Believe in the [Unification Church](#)

Additionally, Toriumi, who has experienced abduction and confinement aimed at forced de-conversion, shared his personal experience, saying,

"The people who confined me said they were 'gathered here for my sake', but when I spoke honestly, they completely denied my words. This made me feel the terror of having something important inside me being gradually destroyed."



*Yutaka Toriumi's 1994 book, where he gives a detailed account of the 250 days of forcible detention that he suffered, and how he managed to keep his Unification Church faith*



*Masaki Kubota*



*Infiltrating the Former Unification Church by Masaki Kubota*

Masaki Kubota, concerned that the situation surrounding the [Family Federation](#) might be a precursor to societal unrest, pointed out that "the media prefers safe reporting that doesn't attract complaints." He noted the difficulty in changing media that is vulnerable to complaints and emphasized the need to "increase the number of people who understand you, both among outsiders and those around you."

Additionally, many Japanese tend to view religion negatively. From their perspective, when they observe the words and actions of the followers of the [religious organization](#), Kubota suggested,

"Seeing their enthusiasm leads to fear, which in turn leads to attempts to crush them. The more positive things the followers say, the more vicious a cycle it becomes. If it is so, then it is necessary to work on turning this cycle in a positive direction."

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[Editor's note: Masaki Kubota (窪田順生) is a non-fiction writer who has contributed to weekly and monthly magazines. His new book, "Infiltrating the Former Unification Church - the Complete Story of the Request for a Dissolution Order and the Deepest Secrets of the 'No Good Coverage'", is currently on

sale.]

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# Kyodo News: 100s Of Rights Violations Claimed

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**Large Japanese news agency reports on hundreds of rights violations suffered by minority faith**

by Knut Holdhus



After *Kyodo News*, the leading news agency of Japan, issued its report on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2024, dozens of Japanese newspapers, including large ones like the *Sankei Shimbun* and *Tokyo Shimbun*, have reported on hundreds of human rights violations and other damages suffered by members of the *Family Federation*, formerly the *Unification Church* throughout Japan.

According to the *Kyodo News* report, the *Family Federation* had received a number of inquiries from various news outlets, and in response to those, it released a statement on 22<sup>nd</sup> June claiming that since 8<sup>th</sup> July 2022, there had been "a total of 337 cases of human rights violations and other damages had been reported by believers and churches nationwide up to December of last year". 8<sup>th</sup> July 2022 is the day former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was killed by assassin Tetsuya Yamaami, who claimed grudges against the *Family Federation*.



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Graffiti sprayed on [Family Federation](#) facilities in Japan after the Abe assassination in July 2022. Photo: [FFWPU](#)

The huge number of open hostilities against the [Family Federation](#) include graffiti sprayed on cars, and windows of church facilities being broken during prayer sessions.

According to the large news agency, the [Family Federation](#) also alleged that contracts to purchase cars under the church's name were signed at used car

dealerships affiliated with Toyota and Nissan, but the purchases were later refused. Toyota denied these claims, stating, "There is no truth to it," while Nissan commented, "We do not disclose individual transactions and have not issued any directives regarding sales to the church."

The [Family Federation](#) announced that it will present these details in writing to *Tokyo District Court* during the hearings for the dissolution order requested by the Kishida administration. The religious organization also reported recurring incidents of graffiti with messages like "Traitor cult" and "Cult, get out," along with nuisance phone calls at churches in various locations across the nation.



Graffiti sprayed on [Family Federation](#) facilities in Japan after the Abe assassination in July 2022. Photo: [FFWPU](#)

Kyodo News also reported that conflicts within families belonging to the [Family Federation](#) regarding faith and donations have intensified. For example, a woman in her 70s from the Tokyo metropolitan area sustained a fracture after being assaulted by her husband, who acquired negative views of the [religious organization](#) following the assassination of the popular former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. In another case, a woman in her 60s from the same region reported that her relationship with her daughter rapidly deteriorated after the media linked the cold-blooded murder of Abe to the [Family Federation](#). It culminated in the daughter's suicide in July 2022, soon after the assassination.

The statement issued by the [Family Federation](#) on 22<sup>nd</sup> June gives a detailed overview of the human rights violations and other damages suffered by the [religious organization](#) and its members since the huge number of sensationalist biased media articles that turned truth on its head, claiming it was the [Family Federation](#) that was the perpetrator and the assassin a victim.

**Featured image** above: *Shidome Media Tower, located in Shiodome, Minato, Tokyo, Japan. Floors 1-24 are the headquarters of Kyodo News, Japan's largest news agency. Photo: ↷ License: [CC ASA 3.0 Unp.](#)*

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