

FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: Horrendous Persecution In Japan

Knut Holdhus
November 9, 2023



From the press conference i Tokyo 7th Nov. 2023

A reporter asks about the horrendous persecution largely created by the media



Tomihiko Tanaka at press conference in Tokyo 7th Nov. 2023

At a press conference 7th Nov. 2023 at the national headquarters of the [Family Federation](#) in Shibuya, Tokyo, attended by most major Japanese news outlets, the president of the [Family Federation](#) of Japan, Tomihiro Tanaka, was asked about the wave of persecution members have experienced since the Abe assassination in July 2022.

Tanaka was asked by reporter Sasayama from the Asahi Shimbun,

朝日新聞

The Asahi Shimbun logo

"I've been reporting on this for a year [...] and have also heard stories of active believers in their 30s being discriminated against at work and being refused medical treatment at hospitals, so-called social discrimination. Please tell us about the scale and examples you know about as a religious organization."

President Tanaka gave a detailed answer,

"Regarding discrimination and victimization, we have been experiencing a truly difficult situation since the incident involving former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

For example, there was a young man who was forced to quit his job because he appeared in a photo reported by the media.

A student who graduated from a Korean university related to the church had his job offer rescinded.

Also, there have been cases where teachers have criticized the [Family Federation](#) endlessly during social studies classes at school, causing children to become so stressed that they are no longer able to go to

school.

Also, there were some test questions in the high school, whose answers led to conclusions that slandered the [Family Federation](#).

Due to media reports, a young man who suffered excessive stress attempted suicide, and some actually committed suicide.



Japanese sound truck of the kind used to drive slowly past [Family Federation](#) properties while blasting out hostile message

Also, there are people who actually got divorced because their husbands forced them to choose between leaving the religious organisation and getting a divorce, and there are people whose lives were finally saved by going to the police.

There are, of course, many stories of people having their belongings disposed of by their relatives.

Also, regarding [Family Federation](#) employees, there are some who have had their contracts terminated for the apartments they live in and are having trouble finding new apartments under the name of the [Family Federation](#).

There are also hospitals that refuse to treat patients when they see '[Family Federation](#)' written on their insurance cards.

Also, there have been cases where local churches and businesses run by members have been refused real estate contracts.

Also, there are many cases where we have been denied the use of public facilities all over the country.

Bank transactions have become difficult and have been stopped.

Also, this building of our movement is the headquarters, and when we hold a ceremony here, we use a lot of flowers and a lot of catered lunch boxes, and we are sometimes refused to order such things.

Also, there has been a notice from above that prohibits the sale of certain famous brand cars (Toyota) to our church nationwide, so we are no longer able to buy cars at our branches.



Graffiti sprayed on [Family Federation](#) property in Aichi, Japan 15th Aug. 2022. The graffiti praised the terrorist who killed Shinzo Abe

Graffiti has been painted on church facilities, and public meetings have been disrupted by sound trucks showing up during worship hours.

There have been more than 20,000 cases of harassment, threatening phone calls, murder threats, and so on against the church. We stopped counting after it exceeded 20,000. There have been many things such as knives and suspicious items sent to us.

According to our movement's teachings, we should 'live for the sake of others', or love the community, and work hard to improve our character while doing service activities. However, this service itself is currently facing a difficult situation. This is what hurts the most.

For a long time, the children had been involved in a campaign to create flower beds, which was allowed by a certain local administration, but suddenly it was stopped by the authorities because they were children of the [Family Federation](#). The children were then asked to take home the flowers they had planted, so they tearfully pulled them out and took them back home. These things are actually happening.

The media is buzzing with the phrase, 'Even if the [Family Federation](#) receives a dissolution order, it will simply lose its preferential tax treatment, and there will be no problem in continuing its faith.' However, that has become a problem even before the request for a dissolution order was filed. Therefore, it is already a clear fact if there is a discussion of a dissolution order in the future, or if it is issued, the faith itself will become difficult to practice. By some local administrations, members of the [Family Federation](#) are treated like second-class citizens.

In view of this current situation, we are now thinking deeply about how we can protect these believers at all costs. Members of the [Family Federation](#) normally abide by the law, pay taxes normally, love their families, and live their lives valuing small acts of service.

In particular, children are treasures for both our church and Japan as they are the ones who will carry the future. We are aware that we must protect these children, and we sincerely hope that you will listen to the voices of our believers."

More about horrendous persecution: [Incendiary Hate Speech from Washington Post](#)

And yet more about horrendous persecution: [12 Religious Freedom NGOs Denouncing Japan](#)

Still more about horrendous persecution: [Press Release About Media Attacks](#)

And even more about horrendous persecution: [Pure Activism in Japanese Media](#)

And even more about horrendous persecution: [Heavily Biased Japanese Reporting](#)



Family Federation

The Family Federation for World Peace and Unification

The Family Federation for World Peace and Unification is a global federation of individuals and families who aim to create a world of peace and unity beyond national, cultural, religious and ideological barriers, a world where everyone may live together in peace and harmony.



Father and Mother Moon 1st August 1996.

In a nutshell

Name: Family Federation for World Peace and Unification

Founded: 1996

Founders: Rev. [Sun Myung Moon](#) (1920-2012) and Dr. [Hak Ja Han](#)

Teachings: [Unificationism](#), a long series of revelations received by [Sun Myung Moon](#). See: [Brief about the Teachings](#) of the Family Federation

Goal: The [Kingdom of Heaven](#) on Earth. A harmonious world family, where everyone may experience peace, security, freedom and love.

Strategy: Unite all good forces

Distribution: Largest in South Korea and Japan, but found in most nations.

Background: The Family Federation took over many of the functions of the [Unification Church](#) and its basic teachings.

Frequently asked questions: See: [Faq](#)

Three ideals

As the name indicates, the Family Federation is based on three ideals – family, world peace, and unification.

- **The family ideal.** Most religions focus on the individual and its spirituality. The Family Federation teaches a broader concept of spirituality, where your [relationships](#) to your loved ones are of decisive importance for your eternal life. As [God](#) is the source of love, [marriages](#) blessed by [God](#) and families full of [true love](#) are the very foundation for the [Kingdom of Heaven](#) that [God](#) longs for. It is a love kingdom, and the family is a [school of love](#).
- **World peace.** If there is love and peace in the home, there is hope that we may also create societies and nations with peace. The family is the fundamental social institution. If we can learn to love our fellow human beings on micro-level, in a family, we may also do so on macro-level, i.e. in the society around us and in the big world we live in. Well-functioning families are the very key to reducing crime, alcohol and drug abuse, the number of suicides and many other social problems.

- **Unification.** We talk about unification on all levels, from the individual to the global level. [God](#) is the source of unity, evil the source of division. Therefore, the goal of the Family Federation is to remove the barriers and create a world of unity, a social unity, such as that between husband and wife, between parents and children, different social groups, nations and religions, but also unity between the inner world and the outer, between mind and body, spirit and matter, religion and science.

The inauguration

The Family Federation for World Peace and Unification was first founded in the USA 31st July 1996 by [Sun Myung Moon](#) and his wife [Hak Ja Han](#), and in many European nations soon after that.

As co-founder, [Mother Moon](#) gave the inaugural address titled "View of the Principle of the Providential History of Salvation", reading a prepared text. [Father](#)

[Moon](#) spoke without a script at the closing banquet the following day, 1st August, at the Sheraton Washington Hotel. His speech was titled "In Search of the Origin of the Universe".



The Inaugural World Convention of the Family Federation 31st July 1996

Gerald Ford, U.S. President 1974-1977, spoke at the inauguration 31st July 1996. He said,



Gerald Ford 31st July 1996

"While the world's finest athletes test themselves in Atlanta, this gathering is sort of a spiritual Olympics. Like the Olympians, you have assembled from all over the world to further the cause of peace among nations.

But while those Olympians are dedicated to gold and glory, you in this room pursue other objectives. The glory you seek, comes from God, not gold.

If at times

I sound a bit like an Old Testament prophet, it's because there is nothing about which I feel more strongly, more deeply, than the survival and the strengthening of the family. No civilization that neglects the family, can be called civilized for long, and no political philosophy that takes the family for granted, will be taken seriously by anyone who values morality, compassion and peace."



National Building Museum, Washington DC. [Public domain](#) image. Cropped

The chronicle "40 Years in America" describes the event,



[Mother](#) and [Father Moon](#) 31st July 1996

"The movement's most spectacular world convention was held in Washington, D.C. from July 30-August 1, 1996, inaugurating the Family Federation for World Peace (FFWP).

This event included a cast of luminaries rivaling anything the movement had yet undertaken: two former Presidents of the United States, Gerald Ford and George Bush; former President and Nobel Peace Prize winner Oscar Arias of Costa Rica; former Prime Ministers Edward Heath of Great Britain and Brian Mulroney of Canada; thirty-six one-time heads of state or governments; university presidents including Boston University's John Silber; Christian television personality Robert Schuller; Christian Coalition Executive Director Ralph Reed; Coretta Scott King, the widow of Martin Luther King, Jr.; Maureen Reagan, the daughter of former U.S. President Ronald Reagan; well-known comedian Bill Cosby; and Christian singer-actor Pat Boone. In addition, the main proceedings were covered live by C-SPAN television network. (p.443) [...]

The establishment of the FFWP represented a new stage in the movement's development. Rev. Chung Hwan Kwak, who was appointed International President, maintained that the FFWP was more important than the Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity (HSA-UWC) or [Unification Church](#). HSA-UWC, he noted, was "not [True Parents'](#) ultimate organization".

The rationale for this assertion was connected to the historic shift that underlay the emergence of the [Completed Testament Age](#). As noted previously, Rev. Kwak



[Completed Testament Age](#). As noted previously, Rev. Kwak explained,

'Religious organizations have always been centered upon the salvation of the individual, but we have now progressed to the salvation of the family. [...] Such an organization is not a church; it is the Family Federation for World Peace.'



[Sun Myung Moon](#) 1st August 1996



From the Inaugural Convention 31st July 1996.

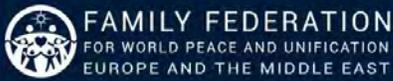
Given this understanding, it wasn't surprising that the FFWP rather than the [Unification Church](#) was the main sponsor of the World Culture and Sports Festivals and International [Marriage Blessings](#) after 1996." (p.444) (From the section "Federations for World Peace and Unification", in "40 Years in America – 1959-1999 – An Intimate History of the Unification Movement", by Michael Inglis and Michael L. Mickler, published by HSA Publications Oct. 2000, 624 pages.)

The Family Federation was launched on the foundation of the [Unification Church](#), a spiritual movement [founded](#) in South Korea in 1954. The original intention was neither to establish a church nor a new religion.

The Family Federation took over many of the activities and tasks of the [Unification Church](#) and the same basic teachings, but has a pronounced goal of creating a world of peace and unity based on well-functioning families.

[More](#) about the Family Federation

Text: Knut Holdhus



GET STARTED

[Home](#) [Privacy Policy](#)

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER

First Name

Last Name

Your Email Address

I consent to have the website generate, administer, inform, and if they are required to my needs.

Follow us

