

FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: Lawyer Slams Japanese Government Over Blatant Bias

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Blatant bias in Kishida administration's handling of Family Federation case

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Questionable request for dissolution of the Family Federation: Interview with international lawyer Tatsuki Nakayama (Part 1)

Concerns about Totalitarianism out of Control and a Conclusion Predetermined by Political Leadership

By the editorial department, interviewers: Takahide Ishii (石井孝秀) and Yoshiyuki Iwaki (岩城喜之)

Tatsuki Nakayama (中山達樹) was born in Kanagawa Prefecture (神奈川県) in 1974. He graduated from the University of Tokyo's Faculty of Law. In 2005, he became a registered lawyer and graduated from the National University of Singapore Law School in 2010. After working as an international lawyer at a law firm in Singapore, he established Nakayama International Law Office in 2015. In 2016, he became a certified fraud examiner and graduated from the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy. His notable works include "Global Governance Compliance" and others.

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology has requested the Tokyo District Court to dissolve the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#). The [religious organisation](#) claims that this is unconstitutional, and concerns have been raised by other religious groups and human rights organizations abroad. International lawyer Tatsuki Nakayama argues that the [Family Federation](#) does not meet the requirements for dissolution. We asked him about a series of government actions.

- What do you think of the government's request for an order to dissolve the Family Federation?



I was surprised by the content of the press handout regarding the dissolution request issued by Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Masahito Moriyama (盛山正仁) at a press conference on 12th October this year. It was particularly surprising that a public administrative agency could use a strong expression like "the [legal entity](#) is a receptacle for the acquisition of property through illegal acts or acts that deviate from the purpose of the entity."

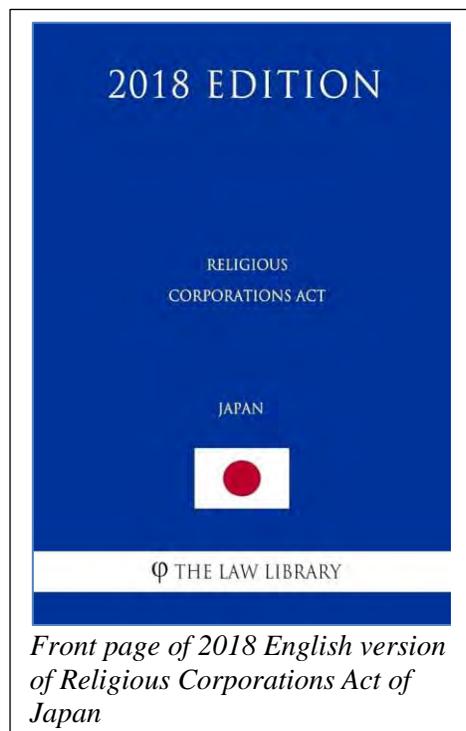
Since there has been no violation of the Criminal Code, if you think logically, you cannot issue a dissolution order unless you include Civil Code cases in the "violation of the law". Therefore, it was concluded that if a request for a dissolution order was to be made, the only way to do so was to include the Civil Code cases. Other circumstances suggest that the call for dissolution is politically driven.

Although the administration was responsible for this action, there are many cases where the court has a verdict in mind and the reasoning is added later. Neither the administration nor the court always follows the law to the letter. It is also common for them to be pressured by public opinion to reach a decision. Therefore, I thought that the possibility of a dissolution request was not zero. If a request has been made, we must be prepared to accept it. However, from a legal perspective, the requirements for a dissolution request are not met.

- Are the request for a dissolution order and the series of government responses appropriate according to the Constitution?

There were major problems such as the inclusion of civil law cases when determining "violation of laws" as the request for dissolution was made, as well as the right to ask questions during the process leading up to the request for dissolution.

If you think about it in terms of a company, even if an employee causes a problem, he or she is not immediately fired. At first, there is a process of handing over a warning letter stating that the work rules have been violated at least twice. If things still don't improve, first then will the worker be sacked. This is the appropriate procedure.



Even in the case of a joint-stock company dealing in the economic sector, dissolution under the Companies Act is limited to "acts that violate criminal laws and regulations", and when the company has continuously violated the warnings from the Minister of Justice. If it is a religious corporation, one deals with internal matters or religious freedom. Then, it is necessary to proceed with a process of dissolution more carefully. However, the problem is that this has not been the case now. Ever since the Religious Corporations Act came into effect in 1951, such a situation was not anticipated, and it can be said that the law itself is flawed.

There is a possibility that this will affect other religious organizations in the future, but I feel a sense of crisis in the Japanese society as a whole. Expressions such as "cult", "mind control", and "corrupt relationships not easy to cut" (zubuzubu - ずぶずぶ) have an impact, but are vaguely defined. They have taken on a life of their own, and without being understood deeply, the use of such words has created a divisive atmosphere.

Even in a normal case of alleged harm, one does not immediately face imprisonment or a large fine in order for human rights to be guarded. However, without any warning or on-site inspections, the [religious organisation](#) was suddenly facing a request for dissolution. Moreover, the hearing investigation only included the voices of the side claiming damages.

A situation where prejudice and misunderstandings affect people's consciousness and even move politics is a serious situation that we must be concerned about as a democratic country.

This totalitarianism out of control is not just a religious issue, but a fundamental problem that all Japanese people must confront.

To be continued. Part 2 coming soon

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Kishida Administration Giving In To Terrorism

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Prominent Japanese YouTube blogger claims Kishida is giving in to terrorism on Family Federation issue

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– How do you see the request for the dissolution of the Family Federation?

Interview with YouTuber Hirohiko Mitsuma

The Kishida administration has “given in to terrorism”

by Seisaku Morita

The Kishida administration has requested Tokyo District Court to order the dissolution of the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#) (formerly the [Unification Church](#)). While a public opinion poll shows that 80% of the people support this, there is a YouTuber who is harshly critical of the Kishida administration’s response. It is Hirohiko Mitsuma (38). Why does he continue to send out messages in defense of the [religious organisation](#), at the same time as the existing media such as newspapers and television continue to criticize the same [organisation](#) after the assassination of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe? We asked Hirohiko Mitsuma. (Interviewer: Seisaku Morita, Photo: Liisa Takezawa)



The logo of the Sekai Nippo

Hirohiko Mitsuma was born in Chiba Prefecture in February 1985. His original specialty was ancient Chinese history. Recently, he has been distributing reviews of current affairs that he is personally interested in on YouTube and other platforms. Graduated from the Department of Chinese Studies (now the Department of Chinese Literature) at Daito Bunka University [Tokyo / Saitama] and completed the doctoral course. His [Youtube Channel URL](#)

– The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology has issued a request for an order to disband the former Unification Church. How do you see this?

It all boils down to the words: “capitulation to terrorism”. To begin with, the bashing of the former [Unification Church](#) following the assassination of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe last summer, was a witch-hunt. It began with talk of feeling sorry for defendant Tetsuya Yamagami (whose mother, a member of the [religious organisation](#), is said to have made a large donation). However, the [organisation](#) has refunded 50 million yen to the Yamagami defendant’s family in instalments since 2005. In other words, this is evidence that the religious organisation has become healthier at this stage.

However, somehow the story has moved in the direction of the [religious organisation](#) being at fault because defendant Yamagami had a grudge against it. The request for a dissolution order has undoubtedly achieved one of Yamagami’s goals. The threat of terrorism is gone, so it can only be described as ‘giving in to terrorism’.



Straw man fallacy icon. Straw man is one form of misrepresentation, where a person or group’s position is misrepresented in order to more easily discredit them. Photo: SkepticalScience. License: [CC ASA 4.0 Int](#)

Journalist Eito Suzuki (a leading critic of the [religious organisation](#)) often refers to the “straw man argument”. In fact, the story of Yamagami is itself a straw man argument. The terrorism case was replaced by a story of hatred towards the former [Unification Church](#). It was wrong from the start.

– Even though it was terrorism, the issue was shifted, and they ended up requesting a dissolution order.

Completely shifted. In the immediate aftermath of the incident, the [religious organisation](#) was bashed by internet influencers, commentators, and politicians. It was also

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labeled a “cult”. Public opinion was then stirred up, saying that it must be disbanded. It is natural to assume that the agitators had a political objective.

– What is its political purpose?

As many commentators have already pointed out, I see it as the breakdown of the Abe faction of the LDP and the destruction of the Abe line. If we look at the situation in which the Abe faction has hardly functioned since the assassination of Shinzo Abe, at least they have succeeded in suppressing the Abe faction.

Thirty percent of the Liberal Democratic Party's support base is rock-solid conservatives. The Abe faction is basically supported by this conservative group. The reason Japan's conservatives are so strong is because the Abe faction has a stable political foundation.

It is true that members of the former **Unification Church**, who are said to have had a relationship with former Prime Minister Nobusuke Kishi (Abe's grandfather), have acted in a practical way on behalf of many conservatives, albeit to realize their own ideas. There is no doubt that it was one of the vote-gathering and support bases of the conservative wing of the Liberal Democratic Party, and it is easy to predict how the political balance will change if this support base is attacked.



Nobusuke Kishi 15th June 1961. Photo: Wikimedia Commons. [Public domain image](#). Cropped

Used to suppress the Abe faction

– How has the Liberal Democratic Party changed since Abe's assassination?



The

The Senkaku Islands, called Diaoyu by Communist China, and Tiaoyu by Taiwan. Photo: Jackopoid / Wikimedia Commons. License: [CC ASA 3.0 Unp](#)

administration in Japan and the Democratic Party administration in the United States are extremely incompatible. However, when he was prime minister, Mr. Abe elicited a statement from President Obama that the Senkaku Islands [disputed group of uninhabited small islands between Japan and Taiwan] were subject to the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty (2014). Abe also delivered a speech at a joint session of both houses of the US Congress (2015).

The greatness of Shinzo Abe's political skills is that he was able to achieve the goals of his conservative politics at a time with a Democratic administration in the United States, in a situation in which the US-Japan alliance tends to be in a state of flux. Furthermore, in the latter half of the 2010s, based on the relationship of trust with then-President Trump, Abe undoubtedly played a role as a mediator on a global level. Domestically, the economic policy Abenomics produced

results.

The Kishida administration made a major shift in the conservative line laid down by Shinzo Abe with the Act on Promoting Understanding of LGBT Issues. The Abe faction was completely suppressed, and the bill was passed almost unanimously in June this year. In the process, U.S. Ambassador to Japan Rahm Emanuel interfered in the country's internal affairs, but the Biden administration did not stop him.

It is an undeniable fact that the political influence of conservatives has declined significantly after the LDP declared that it has severed ties with the [religious organisation](#) due to the bashing of the former [Unification Church](#).

– Prime Minister Kishida is praised by some conservatives as continuing the Abe line when it comes to strengthening defense capabilities.

He has proposed an increase in defense spending, but unlike Mr. Abe, who advocated issuing national bonds, he says he will respond by increasing taxes. Officially, the government appears to be continuing Abe's policy, but raising taxes would likely damage the nation's strength.

Moreover, US President Biden made a statement that could be taken to mean that he himself had persuaded Japan to increase its defense spending. Although he later denied it, it cannot be ruled out that there was a push from the Democratic Party here as well. In this case, it must be said that Japan is bending to the will of the Democratic Party of the United States.

The policies that the US Democratic Party administration – which has taken advantage of the tense situation vis-à-vis China – is trying to impose. To put in a worse way, I would say that the policies are being introduced directly into Japan in areas that have nothing to do with the situation vis-à-vis China. This is the biggest difference from the Abe administration.

Featured image above: Hirohiko Mitsuma. Photo: Liisa Takezawa. Published with permission.

“Kishida Administration Giving in to Terrorism” – text: Seisaku Morita, Japanese journalist.

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