

FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: Minister Reveals Crucial Facts To Japanese Court

Knut Holdhus
December 25, 2023



The flag of the [Family Federation](#)

Christian minister sends opinion letter with crucial facts about dissolution case to court

First part of an opinion letter to the court concerning the request for a dissolution order against the [Family Federation](#) (formerly the [Unification Church](#)), written 12th December 2023 by Rev. Haruhisa Nakagawa (中川晴久), Minister of Christian Church of the Lord's Sheep (主の羊クリスチャン教会), Executive Secretary of Tokyo Christian Theological Institute, President of Japan Christian Theological Institute, SALTY Editorial Committee Member. SALTY is the Japanese Christian opinion website salty-japan.net. He conducted an undercover investigation of the [Unification Church](#) in 2012. Republished with permission. Translated from Japanese. [Original article](#).

Introduction



Rev. Haruhisa Nakagawa (中川晴久)

I am a Christian minister in Isogo Ward, Yokohama (横浜市) City. My activities primarily involve organizing monthly research meetings on medieval theological thought as the secretary of the Tokyo Christian Theological Institute (東京キリスト教神学研究所). Additionally, I contribute to information dissemination through the web-based opinion site SALTY, working with a team of nine pastors and scholars.

I started researching the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#) (commonly known as the [Unification Church](#)) when I was 27, before I became a minister. Now I am 53 years old, so that was 26 years ago. I have continued to observe and criticize the [Unification Church](#) from a negative perspective for more than 25 years.

During the first 15 years or so, I researched materials related to the [Unification Church](#), attended meetings organized by the National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales (全国霊感商法対策弁護士連絡会 - Zenkoku Benren), which is the leading force on the anti-cult side. I communicated with Eito Suzuki (鈴木エイト), a journalist from the YaYa Nikkan Cult Shimbun (Almost daily cult newspaper - やや日刊カルト新聞) [an online news outlet], and even participated in support groups for "victims" organized by opposing pastors. Additionally, I conducted undercover research within the [Unification Church](#) itself.

I have now decided to submit an "opinion letter" to the court in opposition to the request to dissolve the [Unification Church](#). The main reason is that the information that is being conveyed to the public deviates so much from what I have personally observed. Additionally, there are many aspects not discussed in the government's dissolution request.

The negative impression of the [Unification Church](#) has been amplified and widely disseminated,

particularly among Christians, who tend to harbour strong aversion toward unorthodox beliefs. As soon as you speak badly of the [Unification Church](#) in sympathy with its critics, you will also get their approval. I am ashamed to say that I was half inclined to do so, and half calculating that in this way the heretical forces of the [Unification Church](#) could be deterred. However, it cannot be considered acceptable that even the government is getting involved in this.

Nationwide, there are "many" pastors opposed to the [Unification Church](#) who work actively on the [Unification Church](#) issue. However, when we say "many", we are referring to a specific group of individuals. They represent only a small fraction of the entire Christian community. Regular pastors prioritize their own church work and do not engage with such issues.



Eito Suzuki (鈴木エイト), born as Kiyofumi Tanaka

Consequently, the dissemination of information related to the [Unification Church](#) issue is limited to specific organizations. In particular, we have to rely on information provided by the National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales and journalist Eito Suzuki, who is the main writer of the Yaya Nikkan Cult Shimbun.

Notably, information often associated with the [Unification Church](#) issue, as known by the public, tends to reflect the opinions of a single group expressed through various channels. Among these channels, the Yaya Nikkan Cult Shimbun considers itself effective in picking on and making fun of organizations it deems as "cults". Therefore, if we were to accept information directly from them, it would be quite biased.

Despite this, I monitor the [Unification Church](#)'s activities by occasionally turning to the YaYa Nikkan Cult Shimbun. Personally, I discount about 30% of their information to account for potential bias. This means that some aspects may appear like

black propaganda [propaganda that gives the impression that it was created by those it aims to discredit.] However, following the tragic incident involving former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, such information has spread widely through television shows and been accepted by the public without much scrutiny.

Nervertheless, I thought that as time went by and the public became sober as reality dawned on them, they would come to realize the excesses of the story and make a major change of course. However, it was unstoppable, and finally even the government got on board, even going as far as to request an order to dissolve the [Unification Church](#).

To be continued. Part 2 coming soon.

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Sinister Plot Of Hostile Lawyers Exposed

December 16, 2023 • Knut Holdhus

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Lawyer reveals sinister plot involving authorities and legal system to get rid of Family Federation

Tokyo, 15th December 2023 – Published as an article in the Japanese newspaper Sekai Nippo. Republished with permission. Translated from Japanese. [Original article](#)

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No clear indication of “continuity” and the “3 requirements” that have disappeared into thin air

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

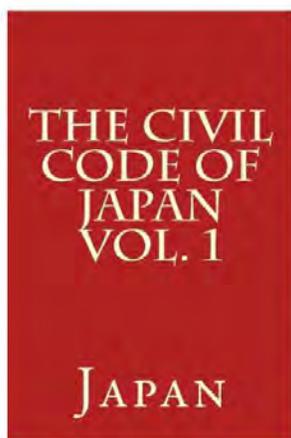
See part 1, part 3

– Regarding the three criteria of “organizational nature”, “malice”, and “continuity”, until now Attorney Nakayama has strongly asserted that the organization does not meet these criteria.



The logo of the Sekai Nippo

When you read the press release from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology regarding the dissolution request, none of these three requirements are mentioned at all. There was no mention of “continuity” at all. There was no mention of the 2009 compliance declaration issued by the Family Federation either. The arguments of the two sides don't mesh.



An English exact reproduction of The Civil Code of Japan, vol. 1, 4th edition, first published 1906.

In October 2022, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida changed his interpretation of the law overnight and stated that “if there are three requirements, the Civil Code will be included.” However, at the time of requesting the dissolution order in October 2023, the “three requirements” had disappeared into thin air. Without even providing a clear indication that there had been “continuity”, the inclusion of Civil Code cases was justified based on a literal interpretation of the legislative process.

The government said a year ago that if there were three requirements, it would include

Civil Code cases. However, what was done one year later does not match this. In other words, they pretended there should be three requirements, but included Civil Code cases anyway, without such requirements.

– Does this mean that the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology did not attach importance to Prime Minister Kishida's answer to the Diet that if there were three requirements, the Civil Code would be included?

That's right. Judges would immediately recognize this kind of inconsistency. Therefore, it is clear at a glance that this dissolution request is not based on logic or law, but on politics. In a sense, such a heavy-handed approach by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology may work in favor of the religious organisation in court. On the other hand, the point stated so negatively – “a receptacle for the acquisition of property” – may make the judges think, “If it is described so badly, it must be a bad organization.”



It is extremely dangerous that the prejudice of anti-Unification Church factions, such as National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales (全国霊感商法対策弁護士連絡会 – Zenkoku Benren), can be conveyed to judges through the government. I am deeply

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concerned about it.

Attorney Tatsuki Nakayama. Photo: Sekai Nippo

Would the proposal presented by Tomihiro Tanaka, chairman of the Family Federation, at a press conference to deposit 6 to 10 billion yen with the government be effective?



Tomihiro Tanaka at press conference in Tokyo 7th Nov. 2023. Photo: Screenshot from live transmission by the Family Federation of Japan.

If you genuinely consider it in terms of "helping victims", it will be effective enough. To briefly explain the concept of deposits, let's assume a debtor is unsure whether to pay money to creditor A or B. Even if it is uncertain, as long as there is a payment deadline, you can deposit the money with a trustee until that date. Even without such a system, providing money that does not run away, is a good way to provide "victim relief".

Regarding the religious organisation's proposal for a deposit, criticism that it is a "sign of not engaging in negotiations" is off the mark. National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales (Zenkoku Benren) claims damages of 100 billion yen and argues that "100 billion yen is not enough." However, the actual evidence of harm is almost nonexistent. In reality they cannot go to court because they know they will likely lose if they do.



Prime Minister Fumio Kishida being swayed by arguments of hostile lawyers. Here speaking in the Japanese Diet 23rd January 2023. Photo: 首相官邸ホームページ / Wikimedia Commons. License: CC Attr 4.0 Int

National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales (Zenkoku Benren) seems to only think about "getting rid of the Unification Church". That comes across as their true intention, and you get the impression that there may be little consideration for helping "victims". The network's outright condemnation of the deposit suggestion, without being willing to consider it at all, is indicative of such a mindset.

The network of lawyers has never submitted any evidence of harm to the courts and shows no sign of willingness to discuss concrete relief methods, even though they say they are providing relief to victims. Those facts show that the actual damage differs

significantly from the claims of National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales (Zenkoku Benren).

If the network of lawyers files a lawsuit and ends up losing, that would be recognized as having 'no claim.' The network might try to delay the court process, maintain their claims, bring about dissolution, and distribute assets through liquidation, without having their rewards for their success reduced. There is a possibility of such strategic maneuvering.

Continued in [part 3](#)

See [part 1](#)

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 master course of Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy. His notable works include "Global Governance Compliance" and others.

Featured image above: 3 leading activist leftwing lawyers from National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales – from left: Masaki Kito, Hiroshi Watanabe, Hiroshi Yamaguchi. Photo: Screenshot / [Bitter Winter](#)

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