

FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: Japanese Lawyers Using Witnesses Under Duress

Knut Holdhus
December 30, 2023



The Alternative of Williamsburg 1775. Satire; Virginian loyalists being forced to sign either the Association or the Resolutions drawn up by the Williamsburg Convention in Aug. 1774. A number of Liberty Men with large clubs are grouped round two casks on the top of which is a plank serving as a table; on this is the paper which the reluctant loyalists are being forced to sign

Scandal: Lawyers building hundreds of cases on testimonies given under duress

Fourth 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), Pastor 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. He conducted an undercover investigation of the [Unification Church](#) in 2012.

6. Those who quit naturally and the real perpetrators

When I say "format", I don't just mean the process of going from abduction and confinement to filing a lawsuit as a "victim". In fact, there is a clear difference between "defectors" who were abducted and confined and then left the organization, and "natural defectors". I feel like some kind of thought pattern (format) has been injected into the consciousness of those who were forced to quit.

There are many who quit the [Unification Church](#) and are now found in Christian communities. More than 30 years ago, when I first visited a large Protestant church with about 150 people, there were three former [Unification Church](#) members there, whose names I can still recall. People gain depth of thought through experience, and some make a decision to leave the organization, while others stay. In any case, various experiences provide lessons in life, and through them, each person describes him- or herself in various colors, saying, "I live this way now." Those who have been through it all, have their own story to tell.



Masaki Kito, activist leftwing lawyer who emphasizes "standing with the victims"

However, persons who abandoned their faith due to abduction and confinement, suddenly become "victims of the [Unification Church](#)". They completely deny the [Unification Church](#) and advocate the position of the Zenkoku Benren (National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales). So, when someone says, "We should stand with the victims," I can't help but pause at the word "victim". Can we accept the testimony of people who were forcibly detained for a long period of time, subjected to ideological reeducation, with their hands and feet tied, forced to be incapacitated, and threatened that they would not be released unless they renounce their faith?

It seems that some other force is at work. Some who were abducted and locked up, committed suicide, some were raped, or had their back broken when trying to escape. Many also suffer from PTSD (Post-traumatic stress disorder). However, persons who abandoned their faith this way, became witnesses for the Zenkoku Benren (National

Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales) as "victims of the [Unification Church](#)". Even under such circumstances, the issue of abduction and confinement has not been taken into consideration by society. Those involved in abduction and confinement have been left unchecked to incite the public opinion and even move politicians and governments.



Rev. Haruhisa Nakagawa (中川晴久)

7. About donations

Large donations have become an issue, but the feelings of those who donate vary from person to person. I myself have donated much of my income to the Christian church. However, it was given to [God](#) through the church, and I do not feel the need to demand a return from a church I left in the past. At that time, the people of that church were like family, as brothers and sisters. It is rather normal to give your own earned income to your family.

If a believer like me is told by [God](#), "I have taken your heartfelt thought seriously," then I am satisfied and grateful. Believers are happier when their extra money is used for [God's](#) work rather than for a life in luxury. Therefore, although the [Unification Church](#) is different from other churches in doctrine and everything else, I can understand its spirit.

However, let's say that a former believer who lost faith after being abducted and locked up, claimed under the guidance of the perpetrators behind the confinement, that the donations

made in faith when he was an active believer, actually were made against his will. I wonder if there will ever be a society where such a claim is accepted?

In the face of the events that have occurred due to the government's dissolution request, I - as a religious person and believer - cannot help but cling to the court with a feeling that we're in a critical time, wondering what will happen in the future if the court, which is the last bastion of religious freedom, does not protect the existence of a religion.

8. Final remarks

I don't think the [Unification Church](#) is an organization without any problems. I think it became a social issue in the past because such a reality actually existed. However, as far as I have investigated undercover, the people who gather there, are people who are full of enthusiasm to improve society. In addition, especially since 2009, there has been a visible improvement in the number of lawsuits and claims. I think it's problematic that there has been no evaluation of this.

Basically, we Christians all don't like the [Unification Church](#). Even at times like this, we feel emotionally, "Let it collapse!" However, as a religious person who has observed the [Unification Church](#) for more than 25 years, I have to testify fairly.

A request for dissolution has been made, and they are really at a complete loss. I do not think, however, that they are such a bad religious organization that they should be dissolved, because for 14 years now they have already made improvements and reforms and have kept themselves within the framework of a religion for that long.

Although their doctrine is completely different from my church, I can understand that they have important values that they want to protect. And, as they have been striving for improvement since 2009, I also believe that if they continue their activities while demonstrating their true worth, they will be able to contribute to the universal values of humanity.

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Parents Pay For Activism Of Pastors And Lawyers

December 28, 2023 • Knut Holdhus

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Pastors and lawyers instilling fear in parents and making them pay dearly for destructive activism

Third 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), Pastor 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. He conducted an

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December 18, 2023

undercover investigation of the [Unification Church](#) in 2012.

Translated from Japanese. [Original article](#).

See [part 1](#), [part 2](#), [part 4](#).

4. At a meeting of the national network of lawyers



Hiroshi Yamaguchi, activist leftwing lawyer. Photo: Screenshot / Bitter Winter

When I attended a meeting of the *Zenkoku Benren* (National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales) in September 2011, there were several pastors present who were involved in abduction and confinement cases.

During the social gathering after the meeting, Attorney Hiroshi Yamaguchi (山口広), who played a central role, exclaimed during the closing remarks, "Sun Myung Moon should rot in hell!" The audience responded with an emphatic "Oh!" and the social gathering came to an end. The hatred

towards the [Unification Church](#) was exceptionally intense.

At that time, I still didn't realize the deep collaboration between the *National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales* and the groups behind abduction and confinement. At the social gathering venue, I spoke with Attorney Masaki Gouro (郷路征記) about a former [Unification Church](#) student I had once known at K University.

That young man had been abducted and confined by Pastor Mamoru Takazawa (高澤守) of the Christian Truth Church of Kobe (キリスト教神戸真教会). During the captivity, Takazawa had told him,

"You are the 647th person [or was it the 674th? Nakagawa doesn't remember clearly]. There are currently six other people whom I am also holding captive."



Mamoru Takazawa, pastor and faith-breaker. Photo: Kazuhiro Yonemoto

In response, Attorney X angrily retorted, "Counting the number of people he's abducted? Takazawa is going too far!" It was then that I realized that Attorney X was merely upset about the act of counting the abductees. I had assumed that he was against abduction and confinement, but he knew the facts of what was actually going on.

5. The actual circumstances of abduction and confinement

Pastors involved in abduction and confinement thoroughly instill fear of the [Unification Church](#) into the parents of believers and encourage the parents to attend the pastor's own church. When parents reach the point where they want their children to leave the [Unification Church](#), the parents are given the leading role for abducting and confining their own children. Note that when we say "children", we are referring to adults who have already reached maturity. Furthermore, the opposing pastors are not volunteers. They receive compensation, fees, and rewards from the parents. When their son or daughter quits the [Unification Church](#), both parents and child can become members of the pastor's congregation.

Even if being abducted and confined, the child cannot sue the parent. The bond of "affection" between parents and children is exploited. Parents are also instructed to channel their affection towards their child. These pastors, under the guise of Christian faith, lecture parents on the theory and methods of abduction and confinement, leading them to ambush their own child "with love". The child, aware of this "affection", experiences immense suffering. Regardless, this leaves significant emotional scars and will seriously damage the parent-child relationship.

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I personally interviewed someone who had been abducted and confined by Pastor S, a well-known pastor associated with forced de-conversion. The abducted individual had his hands and feet tied for two days. During restroom breaks, one of the parents allegedly had to pull down what he was wearing. Even though it was one's own parent, it was a humiliating experience. This strategy aims to break the individual's spirit and diminish the captive's resistance from the outset. However, even if he or she eventually quits the faith, deep wounds remain in the parent-child relationship.



Rev. Haruhisa Nakagawa (中川晴久). Photo: Private

Naturally, ordinary parents would never subject their child to such a treatment. Behind the scenes, there are individuals orchestrating these actions on behalf of the parents. Once the person's spirit is broken, and he or she no longer resists, the pastor finally appears for coercion. The captive remains locked up until de-conversion occurs.

Then, the next step involves presenting evidence in court, claiming, "I was under mind control!" This is where a lawyer from the national network of lawyers is introduced. Such a "format" exists. Christian pastors do not engage in these actions without legal assurances. The parents take the lead, with a Christian pastor backing them up, with lawyers as their support. Both pastors and lawyers are not volunteers. The parents pay the pastors for the faith-breaking, and if the case goes to court, the parents must cover those costs as well. In that way, money flows to pastors and lawyers.

Continued in [part 4](#).

See [part 1](#), [part 2](#)

Featured image: *Illustration of Toru Goto, a member of the Family Federation, just before he was kidnapped by his parents and relatives in 1995 in Tokyo. Illustration: [Japanese Victims' Association against Religious Kidnapping and Forced Conversion](#)*

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