

FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: Japan's PM Kishida Swayed By Communist Dictatorial Policy

Knut Holdhus
March 23, 2024



Fumio Kishida (right) with four top leaders of Japanese Communist Party (JCP), from left: Keiji Kokuta, Tomoko Tamura, Akira Koike, Kazuo Shii. Photo (30th March 2023)

Politician claims Kishida has copied dictatorial policy of the communists as he violates the freedom of religious minority



Toshikazu Masubuchi

[Bitter Winter](#), the online magazine for human rights and religious freedom, published as a series of three articles a report titled "The [Unification Church](#) Case in Japan: A Politician Speaks Up." It was written by a member of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), Toshikazu Masubuchi, who served as speaker of Tochigi Prefectural Assembly 1991-2011.



On 29th February 2024, [Bitter Winter](#) published the 3rd of its 3 articles. It was headlined "[Political Motivations Behind the Request of a Dissolution Order](#)". There, Masubuchi explains that if Fumio Kishida had responded to calls

from left-wingers to cut ties with the [Family Federation](#), in a similar way that former Prime Minister Nakasone did in 1987, the Liberal Democratic Party would have avoided many of the problems it faced after the Abe assassination in July 2022.

On [part 1](#) in [Bitter Winter](#) series, [part 2a](#), [part 2b](#)

Masubuchi points out that the media may manifestly advocate for human rights and champion justice, but at the same time they readily overlook the human rights of those who deviate from their narratives. The media exhibit no hesitation in branding the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#) (FFWPU,

formerly known as the [Unification Church](#)) as an "anti-social" organization. The majority of the media uses such a defamatory term despite it originally being reserved for certain groups identified by the National Police Agency, such as "yakuza and pseudo-yakuza" and "political extortion groups".



The Japanese headquarters of Chosen Souren (General Association of North Korean Residents in Japan) in Chiyoda, Tokyo, Japan

In addition, organizations like the Japanese Communist Party (JCP), "Chosen Souren" (General Association of North Korean Residents in Japan), violent extreme left-wing groups, and Aum Shinrikyo have been pointed out by the police as "groups to be monitored" under the Subversive Activities Prevention Act, whereas the [Family Federation](#) has not received such a designation. Nonetheless, the media report on the [Family Federation](#) seemingly assuming that it is an "anti-social group", demonstrating a lack of introspection.

The LDP politician draws attention to the fact that in the groups of lawyers aggressively hounding the [Family Federation](#) and demanding its dissolution, there are individuals who vehemently opposed the "Subversive Activities Prevention Act" being applied to

Aum Shinrikyo. It appears they were intent on preventing a precedent being established for applying the Act. Essentially, they sought to safeguard the Communist Party, which is labeled a "group to be monitored" under the Act.

Masubuchi emphasizes the huge paradox of resisting applying the Act to Aum Shinrikyo, responsible for numerous casualties, while fanatically insisting on the [Family Federation](#) being dissolved, even though it has committed no criminal offenses. The actions of those lawyers prioritize their own political interests.



The Central Committee Building of the Japanese Communist Party (JPC) in Shibuya, Tokyo May 2006

Moreover, the media harshly criticize politicians with ties to the purportedly "anti-social" [Family Federation](#) or its affiliates, alleging that such relations endorse their anti-social activities. Nonetheless, Masubuchi commends those politicians solely for their unwavering commitment to safeguarding Japan from left-leaning tendencies. As secular political experts, Masuchi and fellow politicians cannot endorse the religious beliefs of the [Family Federation](#). This is yet another instance of the left's typical misdirection.

The Tochigi politician writes that members of the [Family Federation](#) place their faith in [Sun Myung Moon](#) as the Messiah of the Second Coming, not in politicians who are ordinary persons. Masubuchi asks rhetorically if there is even one member who contributes to the [Family Federation](#) because some of its gatherings involve LDP politicians.

Furthermore, even if such contributors exist, it is unclear why that would be unlawful. Those troubled by donations to the [Family Federation](#) are according to Masubuchi predominantly leftists. He claims their underlying message is, "Do not support anti-communist groups!"

Labeling a donor as a "victim" is manipulative. It is not the consumer, but the Japanese Communist Party that suffers.

However, members of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), possibly wary of media disinformation, consistently feigned not knowing when questioned if they had ties to the [Family Federation](#) and affiliated groups. The politicians are without doubt in a demanding situation as they must secure electoral victories in the next elections.

Nevertheless, on 31st August 2022, to everyone's surprise, even Prime Minister Kishida announced

during a press briefing that he, as the head of the governing party, had given instructions to the party's secretary-general to sever connections to the [Family Federation](#).



Hirokazu Matsuno, Chief Cabinet Secretary from Oct. 2021 till Dec. 2023



Yasuhiro Nakasone (1918-2019), Japanese Prime Minister 1982-1987



Prime Minister Fumio Kishida swayed by communist campaign. Here, 16th April 2023

Subsequently, Kishida's large party amended its governance code, articulating a policy of "completely cutting off connections with [FFWPU](#) and its affiliated organisations". According to Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno's statement in the Diet, the term "affiliated organisations" encompasses International Federation for Victory Over Communism (IFVOC).

Masubuchi is puzzled by what Prime Minister Kishida may be contemplating,

"What is Prime Minister Kishida thinking when he decides to sever ties with those who have fought at the risk of their lives to prevent Japan from leaning left since before he entered university? Wasn't there peace in society afterward thanks to them?"

Has Prime Minister Kishida ever fought for Japan with the same dedication as they have? It is unavoidable to conclude that Prime Minister Kishida's actions go against the 'essence of conservatism'."

During a parliamentary questioning session in 1987, Yasuhiro Nakasone, who was Prime Minister at the time, firmly rebuffed Communist Party members' demand to cut ties with International Federation for Victory Over Communism (IFVOC), asserting,

"I consider it a serious violation of freedom of thought and action. I think this is a manifestation of the Communist Party's dictatorial policy. I would like them to refrain from making such unconstitutional statements that violate freedom of thought and action."

Toshikazu Masubuchi claims,

"If Prime Minister Kishida had responded with such a reasonable argument, there would have been no problem, and the situation of demanding the dissolution of [FFWPU](#) would not have arisen. I hoped that Prime Minister Kishida, once in office, could transform into a courageous politician like former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe - but it was a miscalculation."

To be continued. Part 3b coming soon.

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Toshikazu Masubuchi.
Photo: *Bitter Winter*

of the *Liberal Democratic Party* (LDP), Toshikazu Masubuchi, who served as speaker of *Tochigi Prefectural Assembly* 1991-2011.

28th
February



2024, *Bitter Winter* published the 2nd of its 3 articles. It was headlined "Spies and Fake News". There, Masubuchi reveals that the assassination of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was exploited by the political left as the perfect opportunity to launch an all-out attack on the *Family Federation* and other organisations founded by *Sun Myung Moon* and *Hak Ja Han*.

On *part 1* in the *Bitter Winter* series, *part 2a*, *part 3a*

Since 1975, Masubuchi has maintained ties with IFVOC and, starting from 2010, he has also been involved with the *Family Federation for World Peace and Unification* (FFWPU), previously known as the *Unification Church*. One notable observation from his interactions with the *Family Federation members is their profound earnestness and self-sacrifice for the betterment of society and the world*. He says,

"It is evident that they are fundamentally different from left-wing activists who believe in fiction and lead people to unhappiness."

Masubuchi points out that leftwing lawyers frequently raise objections about the so-called "spiritual sales" issue when criticizing the *Unification Church*. However, understanding the **concepts of "faith" and "religious spirit" is crucial in grasping this matter**. Masubuchi himself purchased a marble vase and a seal with the intention of supporting the *church*. He emphasizes that there should be no issue if both parties are satisfied with such transactions, whether for spiritual artifacts or to support a religious organization, even if significant sums are involved. Any subsequent dissatisfaction shouldn't be construed as "suffering", but rather as a change of perspective. Masubuchi explains,



Marble vase, similar to some of those that members sold in Japan.
Photo: *Knut Holdhus*.

"Left-wing lawyers seize the opportunity to criticize *FFWPU* and *IFVOC*, emphasizing the 'suffering' of those who bought the artifacts, but **shifting from the essence of the matter is their usual tactic**. Knowing the actual situation, I have assisted in settling some such disputes."

The sarin gas incident in the city of Matsumoto in Nagano in 1994, followed 9 months later by the Tokyo subway sarin gas attack in 1995, exposed these as crimes planned and carried out by the 1987-founded religious group *Aum Shinrikyo* and its head, Shoko Asahara. Subsequently, new religious movements in Japan, including the *Unification Church*, faced accusations of being "cults", leading followers to eventually cease the sale of items like vases and pagodas.

The LDP politician mentions that the *Family Federation* also draws criticism for large donations, but this **practice is common in Christianity. The amount contributed reflects an individual's level of faith and isn't a matter for external judgment**. Donations sustain the activities of religious organizations, without which their functions would be impossible. **Denying religious organisations the right to seek donations echoes the arguments of communists who dismiss all religions as opium for the people**.

Masubuchi comments on certain accusations against two movements coming from South Korea,

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"There are individuals who criticize FFWPU and IFVOC as 'anti-Japanese'. However, such **criticism is usually from left-wing individuals who are 'anti-Japanese' themselves.** The **intention is likely to create divisions among conservatives.** Considering the efforts made by IFVOC to preserve Japanese traditions, it should be unthinkable to easily criticize them as 'anti-Japanese.'"

Toshikazu Masubuchi recalls well 8th July 2022, the day Shinzo Abe was assassinated,

"The realization that a former prime minister could be a target of an 'assassination' and the awareness of Abe's significant political influence struck me simultaneously. A few days later, the 'confession' of the shooting suspect, Tetsuya Yamagami, was leaked to the media, and it was reported that Yamagami's crime was motivated by 'resentment towards the former **Unification Church**'.

Having previously read materials concerning events such as the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and of Japanese Prime Minister Hirobumi Ito in 1909 by Korean activist An Jung-geun [안중근 – 1879-1910, Korean independence activist], I was aware that **political motives were always intertwined with how assassination incidents were reported.**"



Terrorist in Japan, hero for Koreans: An Jung-geun (안중근), Korean independence activist who assassinated the Japanese prime minister in Harbin, China in 1909. Photo: Wikimedia Commons. Public domain image.

Consequently, Masubuchi says he harbored suspicions about the authenticity of the confession, especially considering subsequent contradictions in the reporting. Despite these doubts, **media outlets, particularly those with left-leaning bias, repeatedly framed the incident solely as an act of resentment towards the Family Federation**, exploiting it to tarnish the organizations' reputations.

This biased narrative, coupled with the questionable handling of the suspect's confession, calls for a **cautious approach to media reporting.**

Masubuchi explains,

"However, the media, despite the suspect's confession being the only information available, repeatedly reported a **one-sided narrative as if there were no motive other than 'resentment towards FFWPU'**. For the left-leaning media that already harbored strong antipathy towards FFWPU and IFVOC, this presented a **perfect opportunity to attack these organizations**, stirring public opinion significantly. However, the posture of some authorities leaking such confessions, and **treating them as if they were unquestionable facts**, raises doubts. Furthermore, in this reporting, not only left-leaning media outlets but even Yomiuri Television followed the same direction."

The former Tochigi politician says that former Prime Minister Abe's lifelong resistance against media misinformation further highlights the need for skepticism towards such narratives.

However, as long as the truth behind the shooting remains uncertain, the government's push for the dissolution of the [Family Federation](#) appears unjustifiable. Religious freedom is a cornerstone of democracy, safeguarding individual beliefs and thoughts. Media reporting that undermines such principles warrants scrutiny.

Continued in [part 3a, Kishida Swayed by Communist Dictatorial Policy.](#)

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Featured image above: *Just months before assassination: Shinzo Abe in March 2022. Photo: English: United States Ambassador to Japan Rahm Emanuel / Wikimedia Commons. [Public domain](#) image. Cropped*

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