

FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: Misleading Serious Changes By Japanese Lawyers

Knut Holdhus
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Mamoru Kamono, journalist



Yasuo Kawai, the secretary-general of NNLASS



Masaki Kito, leading activist leftwing lawyer of NNLASS

Journalist exposing lawyers making serious misleading changes in their campaign against religious minority

By Mamoru Kamono, journalist. Originally published as part of an 8-page report in the May 2024 issue of Monthly Hanada, a Japanese magazine. Republished with permission.

Exaggerated amount of damages

On 11th July 2022, right after the shooting incident, the president of the [Family Federation](#), Tomihiro Tanaka (田中富広), held a press conference. The following day, on 12th July, the National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales (全国弁連が[§]) held a press conference attacking the [Family Federation](#). Looking back over these two and a half years, it was this press conference that significantly determined the direction of the media coverage and public opinion.

At the press conference of the National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales on that day, it was stated, "The financial damage from 1987 to last year, over approximately 35 years, exceeds a total of 123.7 billion yen." Yasuo Kawai (川井康雄), the secretary-general who explained this, said,

"This is only the damage we are aware of, so it's just the tip of the iceberg, but such enormous damage has occurred."

Attorney Masaki Kito (紀藤正樹), who attended, said, "I would like you to focus on this issue, that is, on the great evil, and that we must not leave a great evil in Japan, including the fact that this great evil must be made to pay for its sins. I would like you to look into the issue of the [Unification Church](#)."

Attorney Masaki Gouro (郷路征記) also stated, "As far as our work is concerned, the [Unification Church](#) is 100% evil, and the mother of the suspect Yamagami, as far as her relationship with the [Unification Church](#) is concerned, is also 100% a victim."

The methods of so-called anti-cult organizations typically involve labeling the target as a "cult" and "reversing the roles of victims and perpetrators". That is a common tactic when religious organizations are targeted, especially when large donations are questioned, as pointed out by sociologist of religion Massimo Introvigne.

The National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales made full use of such traditional methods.

On 26th July 2022, Attorney Masaki Kito suggested during a meeting of the Japanese Communist Party's parliamentary group,

"The total amount of damages, 123.7 billion yen, is just a part of the total damages. Generally, if consumer consultation services are functioning properly, about one-tenth appears in statistics. If they are not functioning well, it is said to be one-hundredth."

He implied that there might have been damages exceeding one trillion yen in the past. Furthermore, he stated,

"If we assume the number of consultations is ten times higher, there would be 340,000 cases of damage. Considering that there are families around these victims, if we further multiply by 3 or 4, easily over a million victims may have been silently buried in the past." (From Shimbun Akahata (Red Flag), 21st July 2022)

The National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales continued to make announcements as if the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#) were the mastermind behind a massive economic fraud case.



Numbers filled with falsehoods

However, in the past two years, the only ones who came forward on TV to claim "damage" were former second-generation believers, Ms. Saruri Furukawa (古川さるり - pseudonym), and Mr. Tatsuo Hashida (橋田達夫) from Shikoku (四国). Neither of them were "victims" of large donations. Nevertheless, one after another, individuals identifying themselves as former believers appeared, and the "damage" was exaggerated endlessly and sensationalized.

The media attacked the [Family Federation](#) as "anti-Japanese" and "anti-social," and reported that members of the Liberal Democratic Party had a "deep" relationship with such organizations. Prime Minister Kishida was surprised by the false image of "the [Family Federation](#) = great evil" created by National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales and the media. He hurriedly declared a "severance of ties" at the end of August 2022.

However, the numbers announced by the National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales were filled with falsehoods. The reasons are listed below.

the "amount of damage" is the "amount of damage consultation". As non-fiction writer Masumi Fukuda points out, the "amount of damage" referred to by the National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales was actually the "amount of damage consultation".

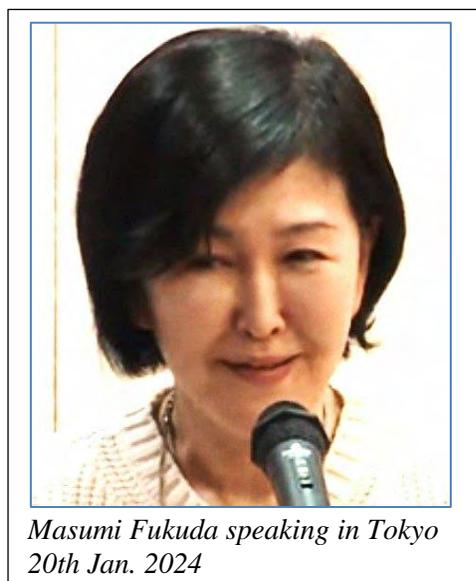
Treating the "number of incidents" as if it were the number of people. The number of incidents was dressed up as if it were the number of "victims", making the "damage" appear larger. For example, if one person purchased 10 items, the number of incidents was counted as 10. The actual number of people who consulted would drastically decrease to one-fifth or one-tenth of the announced number.

Most of the "damage" has been resolved. In response to the consultations that have been made so far, the congregation and the [religious organization](#) responded sincerely, and many were resolved through discussions. Also, some were settled in court. As of now, there is no such thing as "huge damage" that actually exists.



In fact, last October, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology announced the "scale of damage" caused by the [Family Federation](#) since 1980 as about 1,600 cases, with an amount of about 22.6 billion yen. The numbers claimed by the National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales had been inflated to about 20 times the number of cases and about six times the amount.

Moreover, the religious organization stated, "The 'scale of damage' announced by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology also includes a large number of amounts settled through negotiations, and is far from the actual situation of 'damage'."



Masumi Fukuda speaking in Tokyo
20th Jan. 2024

Fraudulent Methods of the National Network of Lawyers

As nonfiction writer Masumi Fukuda has pointed out in this magazine, the National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales is a left-wing group of lawyers that has been operating with a clear political intention to destroy the former [Unification Church](#), which has been engaged in anti-communist activities such as the International Federation for Victory over Communism (IFVOC).

However, the director of the Religious Affairs Division of the Agency for Cultural Affairs, which oversees religious organizations, answered at the "[Unification Church](#)" national hearing centered on the Constitutional Democratic Party on 4th September last year, "We are working with the lawyers of the National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales and collecting evidence to see if it meets the strict requirements for dissolution based on the information about the former

[Unification Church.](#)"

It is extremely difficult to expect a fair and neutral judgment from the Agency for Cultural Affairs under these circumstances.

Here, one noteworthy event occurred.

On 5th October last year, when it seemed certain that an order to dissolve the [Family Federation](#) would be issued hastily, the National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales made a serious correction to the number "34,537 cases, total damage amount of 123,733,575,406 yen", which had been displayed as the total of the separate damage tally since 1987.



Prime Minister Fumio Kishida delivering a speech at the COP26 in November 2021

In other words, they changed what had been written as "number of cases" to "number of consultations". Furthermore, for the first time, they added the following "annotation" outside the table:

"The figures are a tally of the numbers consulted in the respective year. For example, the tally for 2021 is a tally of the number of consultations and the amount of damage that occurred in the same year, not a yearly tally of the actual damage incurred."

If this cannot be called a fraudulent method, what can? The National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales misleading Prime Minister Kishida and misleading the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology into hastily ordering the dissolution of a religious organization is extremely serious.

The [Family Federation](#) and the International Federation for Victory over Communism (IFVOC) have been fighting [God-denying communism](#) head-on for half a century, and have stopped the movement toward communism. Therefore, the [religious group](#) and associated organizations, including the International Federation for Victory over Communism (IFVOC), have been viewed as enemies by leftist forces and have been subjected to slander and defamation in various situations.

"Serious Misleading Changes by Lawyers Exposed" - text: Mamoru Kamono

Mamoru Kamono was born 1955 in Toyama Prefecture. Graduated from the Faculty of Education, Kanazawa University. Journalist. Works mainly on educational issues, war and biographies. Author of several books.

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Japanese award-winning author Masumi Fukuda, known for her investigative journalism, exposes in the July 2023 issue of the magazine



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Monthly Hanada, an extreme network of leftwing lawyers manipulating the legal system in Japan, the media and the public opinion. For decades, activist lawyers in the network have been using tactics like coercing former members to join their lawsuits against the [Unification Church](#), fabricating evidence, and extorting money from a perfectly legitimate religious movement, that is constantly being persecuted and slandered by those lawyers.



From July 2023 issue of Hanada. Photo: [Bitter Winter](#)

The network was in fact established in order to destroy the [Unification Church](#), now called the [Family Federation](#). What the Japanese journalist is unmasking, essentially boils down to the activist lawyers, many of them communists, using trumped-up charges against a new religious movement, while the "crime" it has committed, is to be against communism.

[Bitter Winter](#), an online magazine on religious freedom and human rights, published Fukuda's findings in a series of four articles in English. The first one appeared 23rd June, the fourth and last 27th June.



From front page of July 2023 issue of Hanada

The first article describes the legal battle between the [Unification Church](#) in Japan and a group of anti-cult lawyers who want to dissolve the [church](#). Fukuda argues that the [church](#) is not a "cult", but a

legitimate religious organization, that has been persecuted and slandered by the lawyers and the media. The article also exposes the hidden motives and connections of the lawyers, who have been profiting from lawsuits against the [church](#) and collaborating with former members and other anti-cult groups. The investigative journalist claims that the request to dissolve the [church](#) is unreasonable and unjust, and that it violates the freedom of religion and human rights of the [church](#) members.

Fukuda points out that although the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) has been petitioned many times by the activist lawyers' network to dissolve the [Unification Church](#) / [Family Federation](#), the ministry has no case to do so. The investigative reporter states,

"Although the MEXT has now exercised its right to ask questions for five times, it has not 'collected enough evidence'. In fact, it has not found a single piece of evidence. This is the best proof that the religious organization is innocent." ([The Plot to Destroy the Unification Church in Japan. 1. Why the Church Should Not Be Dissolved](#), written by Masumi Fukuda, published in [Bitter Winter](#) 23rd June 2023.)



The second article [Bitter Winter](#) published, details the devious tactics of the anti-cult lawyers, who have been suing the [Unification Church](#) in Japan for decades. It is revealed how the

lawyers have been manipulating the legal system, the media, and the public opinion to create highly image-tarnishing lawsuits against the [church](#). The article also exposes how the lawyers have been coercing former members to join their lawsuits, fabricating evidence, and extorting money from the church. Fukuda claims that the lawyers have been violating the law, the ethics, and the human rights of the church members.

In the third article, Masumi



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Fukuda makes shocking revelations about the fraudulent lawsuits that the anti-cult lawyers have filed against the [Unification Church](#) in Japan. The article shows how the lawyers have used false or exaggerated claims to accuse the [church](#) of brainwashing, extortion, and other abusive methods. Fukuda shows how the courts have been biased and unfair towards the church, and how some judges have ignored or dismissed the evidence presented by the church. The third Bitter Winter article claims that the lawsuits have been unjust and unlawful, and that they have caused



Activist lawyers caused great damage and suffering to [Unification Church](#) members. Here Toru Goto after 12 years of forcible detention. Photo: [FFWPU](#)



Key member of activist lawyers' network – Hiroshi Watanabe. Photo: Screenshot / [Bitter Winter](#)

great damage and suffering to the church members.

The final article in the series, brings to light the

real “anti-social” group, the anti-cult lawyers who try to destroy the [Unification Church](#) / [Family Federation](#) in Japan. This article exposes the systematic lies and disreputable tactics of the lawyers who have been spreading false information and propaganda about the [church](#). We get insights into the hidden agenda and interests of the lawyers, who have been collaborating with anti-cult groups, former members, and media outlets to discredit and harass the [church](#). The writer claims that the lawyers are the ones who are violating the social norms and values, and that they should be held accountable for their actions.

Here is an example of the fabricated evidence that Fukuda mentions,

“The plaintiff also submitted as evidence several notebooks and passbooks in which she had noted each time she made a donation or other contribution. However, when the defendants analyzed these notes, they found that some of them had not been written at the time of the donations, but later, in order to fabricate favorable evidence for the trial.”

(From [The Plot to Destroy the Unification Church in Japan. 4. The Real “Anti-Social” Group, the Anti-Cult Lawyers](#), written by Masumi Fukuda, published in Bitter Winter 27th June 2023.

Fukuda writes,

“For almost all religions, including the former [Unification Church](#), donations, endowments, and charitable gifts are expressions of piety and are offered willingly to [God](#). For example, not a few overseas Christians donated vast tracts of land or even their entire wealth before the end of their lives and died penniless. Will their relatives sue the religious corporations for depriving them of the inheritance they expected to inherit?

It is not unusual for other religious corporations to receive donations of hundreds of millions of yen. It is problematic to unilaterally criticize only large donations made for the altruistic reason of

'promoting world peace' or 'the good of humanity'.



Head of the activist lawyers network – Hiroshi Yamaguchi. Photo: Screenshot / [Bitter Winter](#)

Unfortunately, however, even if the donors are convinced at the time of the donation that they are donating freely, as time goes by, their faith may wane. Their relatives may rush to the National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales to recover the donation.

The donors may be persuaded by lawyers from the Communist Party of Japan or the former Socialist Party that they have been 'deceived', and a lawsuit against the religious organization for the return of the donation may follow. In fact, there are many cases in which relatives consulted with the Network on how to force the donors-believers to sue." ([The Plot to Destroy the Unification Church in Japan. 3. Fraudulent Lawsuits](#), written by Masumi Fukuda, published in [Bitter Winter](#) 26th June 2023.)

Featured image above: Masumi Fukuda, april 2023. Photo: [FOREF](#)

"Lawyers Manipulating, Coercing, Lying" – text: Knut Holdhus

Read more about lawyers manipulating in [Illegalities of Activist Lawyers Exposed](#)

Read even more about lawyers manipulating in [Japan Times: Warning Of Terror](#)

Also [Bitter Winter](#) has more articles on Japanese leftwing activist lawyers manipulating the country's legal system.

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