

FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: Does the Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan support faith-breaking?

Knut Holdhus
May 24, 2024



Front cover page of "Kidnapping and Confinement Carried out by Opponents of the [Family Federation](#)", by the [Family Federation](#), published in Japanese on Kogensha Sep. 2023, 241 pages

Awful abuse of professional faith-breaking, and brain behind it, pointed out in Japanese Parliament



Satoshi Hamada asking questions in the Japanese Parliament 13th May 2024

Satoshi Hamada (浜田 聡), member of the House of Councillors, the Upper House in the National Diet of Japan since 2019, asked on 13th May 2024, several questions to the parliamentary Administrative Oversight Committee concerning the current case at Tokyo District Court about the Kishida administration's request for a court order to dissolve the [Family Federation](#) of Japan.

Hamada's questions are seen as an attempt to point out important perspectives that are missing from the authorities' and the media's one-sided, biased handling of the case. The apparent bias is seen by many as seriously endangering the court's impartiality in its crucial decision-making process.

Part 3 (final part) of Satoshi Hamada's questions

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

Committee member Satoshi Hamada asked a further question,

"Well, the answer (see [part 2](#)) was that they couldn't confirm it, but it's probably true. I'm sure all those involved in the police are going through a lot of trouble.

Furthermore, it is difficult to say that this issue has been resolved, so I would like to request appropriate handling of the matter.



Forcibly detained for 12 years, but not allowed by authorities to press criminal charges: Toru Goto, here in 2008 barely able to move after being held in forcible detention by faith-breakers for more than 12 years

There is actually an individual who was abducted and confined for a long period of time - 12 years and 5 months, to be precise. His name is Toru Goto. I would like to ask about this person's case of forcible detention, which resulted in a non-indictment in a criminal complaint.

In Toru Goto's book titled 'Kidnapping and Confinement Carried out by Opponents of the [Family Federation](#)', there is a part where he discusses his own experience of forced confinement and subsequent victory in a civil lawsuit.

This person was abducted and held captive in September 1995 and released in February 2008. At that time, he was reportedly malnourished and had to be hospitalized.

After being discharged from the hospital, he filed a criminal complaint against those involved in the abduction, but it was not prosecuted. Reluctantly, a civil lawsuit was filed afterwards.

Toru Goto won the case there. I would like to ask about the non-prosecution decision at that time. Looking back now, I would like to hear your thoughts on the appropriateness of that decision."

Yuko Matsushita, Director-General of the Criminal Affairs Bureau of the Ministry of Justice, replied,

"I will reply. You are asking for the opinion of the Ministry of Justice on the handling of a specific case by

the prosecution authorities. However, the Ministry of Justice would like to refrain from commenting on individual cases."

Committee member Satoshi Hamada continued his questions,

"Well, a few years later, the case went to the Supreme Court in a civil lawsuit, and Mr. Toru Goto won. I believe that the appropriateness of this outcome should be thoroughly examined. That is what I wanted to convey.



Professional deprogrammer and advisor to Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan: Takashi Miyamura

Um, regarding this matter, I would like to share a name that I believe everyone should be aware of. That person is Takashi Miyamura. This individual is believed to have been involved in numerous cases of abduction and confinement as a deprogrammer.

Although it is the family that actually carries out the confinement, this deprogrammer devised ways to avoid being held accountable and indirectly guided the family in the deprogramming efforts.

However, in court, his involvement has been recognized.

What I want to emphasize is that Takashi Miyamura, this deprogrammer, is said to be closely involved in a national political party in an advisory capacity, although not mentioned by name, according to the [Family Federation](#).

Well, there may be various reasons, but I believe we should take seriously the fact that a person who was instructing others to abduct and detain people was involved with a national political party (Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan).



Hostile activist against [Family Federation](#): Yoshifu Arita, former House of Councilors member for Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan, the party above-mentioned professional faith-breaker Miyamura was advisor to. Before that, Arita was a communist politician 1990-2007

By the way, I am addressing the issues related to the [Family Federation](#) from a different perspective than the mainstream media.

I have received various information from members of the [Family Federation](#) and have also been invited to participate in their meetings.

The current situation is that the media are swarming around Liberal Democratic Party members who had past associations with the [Family Federation](#).

As for myself, I would like to convey to the mass media that I would very much appreciate it if they could also interview me!

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

Featured image above: Front cover page of "Kidnapping and Confinement Carried out by Opponents of the [Family Federation](#)", by the [Family Federation](#), published in Japanese on Kogensha sep. 2023, 241 pages. The book is presented on Amazon as being about:

"Biased coverage and reporting on the [Family Federation](#), like a witch hunt. 'Freedom of religion' is being trampled upon. Behind it are people who oppose the [Family Federation](#) with clear motives and strategies.

The first chapter of this book summarizes in Q and A format (20 questions) the background and history of what kind of maneuvers the forces opposed to the [Family Federation](#) have carried out. Chapters 2 to 4 summarize the notes of those who were abducted and confined, as well as the tactics used by the opposition.

In August 2022, during the second part of a General Assembly held in South Korea by Interreligious Association for Peace and Development (IAPD), an organization associated with the [Family Federation](#), the theme of 'Freedom of Religion' was addressed with a focus on forced de-conversion through abduction and confinement. Chapter 5 includes case materials and testimonies from participants at the general meeting.

This book was created in order to understand the background of the current biased reporting surrounding the [Family Federation](#), and to prevent the abduction and confinement of believers from happening again."

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Authorities "Unaware" Of Gross Rights Violations

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When question brought up in Parliament, Japanese authorities claim to be unaware of gross rights violations

On May 13, 2024, Satoshi Hamada (浜田 聡 - member of the House of Councillors, the Upper House in the National Diet of Japan since 2019) asked several questions to the parliamentary Administrative Oversight Committee concerning the current case at Tokyo District Court about the Kishida administration's request for a court order to

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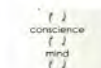
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the Kishida administration's request for a court order to dissolve the *Family Federation of Japan*.

Hamada's questions are seen as an attempt to point out important perspectives that are missing from the authorities' and the media's one-sided, biased handling of the case. The apparent bias is seen by many as seriously endangering the court's impartiality in its crucial decision-making process.

Part 2 of Satoshi Hamada's questions

See [part 1](#), [part 3](#)

Committee member Satoshi Hamada continued his questioning,



Front page of 2018 English version of *Religious Corporations Act of Japan*.

"Regarding the dissolution order for religious corporations, it is very narrowly defined under Article 81, Paragraph 1, Item 1 of the Religious Corporations Act as acts that are clearly recognized to violate laws and regulations and significantly harm public welfare. I understand that, in practice, dissolution orders have only been applied in two cases: Aum Shinrikyo (オウム真理教) and Myokakuji Temple (明覚寺).

I believe the change in interpretation by Prime Minister Kishida during the 2022, House of Councilors Budget Committee is problematic."

The background to Satoshi Hamada's question here is the fact that in the 2022 *Senate Budget Committee*, **Prime Minister Kishida reinterpreted the *Religious Corporations Act***. This has become a contentious issue.

During the committee session, he **unexpectedly changed the government's legal interpretation, suggesting that unlawful acts under civil law could now be considered grounds for dissolution of religious organizations**. Specifically, he stated that a dissolution order against the former *Unification Church* is "possible". This **sudden shift in interpretation has raised concerns**.

Hamada went on,

Specifically, **there existed a Cabinet decision that a dissolution order could not be requested against the former *Unification Church* due to the absence of criminal penalties**. Still, Prime Minister Kishida's stated that civil law torts are also included in the requirements for requesting a dissolution order. Thereby he **changed the legal interpretation overnight**. This is a significant issue.

There are numerous claims that the **interpretation was forcibly changed in order to issue a dissolution order** against the former *Unification Church* in order to maintain the Cabinet's approval ratings. No effective rebuttal has been made against these claims. I **hope the courts will take this point into consideration**.

Furthermore, if this case leads to the possibility of **dissolving religious corporations not only for criminal cases but also for civil cases**, I believe

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many religious corporations will live in fear of dissolution in the future.

To all those involved in religious affairs, I hope you will take note of this.

Next, regarding the [Family Federation](#), an issue that I believe should be addressed in the Diet (parliament), is the **problem of forced renunciation of faith (forced de-conversion, forced apostasy, deprogramming, faith-breaking)**. 'Renunciation of faith' means to abandon one's religious teachings.

This involves **malicious methods** by which the **families of members of the [Family Federation](#) forcibly try to make them leave the organization, such as by abduction and confining them with the intent to make them renounce their faith.**

According to statements by the [Family Federation](#), there have been **4,300 such cases**.

This issue has also been brought up in the Diet in the past.

On 22nd April 2000, during a session of the House of Representatives' Committee on Audit and Oversight of Administration, Representative **Hitoshi Hinokida (検田仁議)** of the **Liberal Democratic Party** raised this issue.



Dr. Hitoshi Hinokida (1942-2016). Won Nobel Peace Prize in 1985 as a principal member of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW). Worked with Mother Theresa 1980-1990. Member of House of Representatives in Japan 1996-2000. Photo (2000): [Japanese Victims' Association against Religious Kidnapping and Forced Conversion](#).

I have prepared the minutes from that session for reference. It mentions how the **U.S. State Department criticized the Japanese police for not addressing this issue.**

I hope you will review it. First, I would like to ask the National Police Agency: Regarding the troubles that arise from the forced renunciation of faith and the abduction and confinement of [Family Federation](#) members, could you please tell us what the National Police Agency is aware of?

Kazuhito Shinka (親家和仁), who currently serves as *Deputy Director-General* in the *National Police Agency Commissioner's Secretariat*, replied,

"I would like to respond to your question. Regarding the occurrence of crimes against former members of the former [Unification Church](#), we have investigated to the extent possible within the Public Prosecutor's Office. However, we have **not been able to confirm any cases** reported by prefectural police departments."

Continued in [part 3](#).

See [part 1](#), [part 3](#)

Featured image above: Satoshi Hamada (浜田 聡), member of the House of Councillors, the Upper House in the National Diet of Japan since 2019). Photo: [Sekai Nippo](#)

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