

FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: Journalist: Believers, Raise Your Voice

Knut Holdhus
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Japanese writer and investigative journalist Masumi Fukuda speaking in Tokyo in January 2024

Seasoned writer and journalist encourages believers to speak out and demonstrate: "Raise your voice!"



Tokyo, 21st May 2024 - Published as an article in the Japanese newspaper [Sekai Nippo](#). Republished with permission. Translated from Japanese. [Original article](#)

**"Believers, Raise Your Voice" - Masumi Fukuda gives a lecture in Tochigi
On the theme of basic human rights of the Family Federation**

by the editorial department of the [Sekai Nippo](#)

Amidst increasing national persecution of the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#) (formerly the [Unification Church](#)), a gathering of Tochigi Prefecture residents to consider basic human rights - organized by the Tochigi Prefecture Residents Association to Protect Basic Human Rights - was held on 19th May 2024 in Utsunomiya City, Tochigi Prefecture.



Masumi Fukuda speaking in Utsunomiya 19th May 2024

Non-fiction writer Masumi Fukuda (福田ますみ) gave a commemorative lecture titled "Fabricated Truth' - The True Colours Manipulated from the Shadows". In her presentation, she condemned the National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales (全国靈感商法対策弁護士連絡会 - Short form: Zenkoku Benren [全国弁連]), which is at the forefront of the persecution of the [Family Federation](#). She described the lawyers' network as "an organization hiding its true intent of crushing the Anti-Espionage Law". Approximately 230 people attended the event.

Masumi Fukuda pointed out, "The general public does not know about the true nature of the abductions and confinements or the

National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales (Zenkoku Benren). It is a complete conspiracy."

She called on the followers of the [Family Federation](#), saying, "I want you to stop silently enduring this. You should take to the streets and demonstrate; each individual needs to raise his or her voice more."

She also shared an episode where she three times called lawyer Masaki Kito for an interview about the abductions and confinements. He is known to hound the [Family Federation](#). But she never got a response.

"The abductions and confinements are lawyer Kito's Achilles' heel. This is where we need to attack," Fukuda advised.



Masaki Kito leading activist leftwing lawyer of National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales (NNLASS)



Toshikazu Masubuchi

Toshikazu Masubuchi (増淵賢一) is the former Speaker of the Tochigi Prefectural Assembly and the event's organizer. He spoke about Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, who is also president of the Liberal Democratic Party and orders party members to sever ties with the [Family Federation](#). Masubuchi said, "It is a blatant disregard for human rights, and it makes my blood boil."

Masumi Fukuda (福田ますみ) is a Japanese non-fiction author and award-winning journalist, well known for her investigative journalism. She has written several in-depth reports about the persecution of the Family Federation in Japan and has exposed how the above-mentioned leftwing network of lawyers uses any means to have the Family Federation dissolved. Her articles have been published mainly in Japan, but several are republished by [Bitter Winter](#), the international online magazine on religious freedom and human rights.

Toshikazu Masubuchi (増淵賢一) is a member of the governing Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) of Japan. He served as speaker of Tochigi Prefectural Assembly 1991-2011.

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January 8, 2024 • Knut Holdhus

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Japanese journalist exposes how government, media and public opinion effectively have made members into "non-citizens"

Tokyo, 5th January 2024 – Published as an article in the Japanese newspaper Sekai Nippo. Republished with permission. Translated from Japanese. [Original article](#)

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Part 6 of an interview with Masaki Kubota (窪田順生), author of “Infiltrating the Former Unification Church”

by Seisaku Morita (森田 清策)

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– **The government, media, and public opinion are creating a synergistic effect (相乗効果) [producing a combined effect greater than the sum of their separate effects], resulting in a “control of thought and religion” (思想・宗教統制) we are not aware of.**

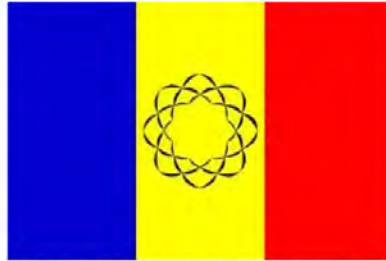


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I sense the beginning of fascism. First, they take away freedom of religion, then they take away freedom of speech. They don't suddenly impose a strict control, but gradually tighten it. After publishing the book, I realized that some people will be silenced if they are slammed by those around them. Then, the state will control them more and more. If the state decides, “Anything in this direction is good,” then anything other than what the state has decided becomes “anti-social”. I think this is the first step towards such a society.

If Prime

Minister Fumio Kishida says that from now on he will have no relations with socially problematic organisations, those taking a stance against the Liberal Democrats can continue to point out the social problems of other religious organisations, such as the Soka Gakkai [創価学会 – the new Buddhist movement on which the political party Komeito is based, the governing Liberal Democratic Party's coalition partner]. They can say, “Why do you declare you have cut ties with the former Unification Church (Family Federation for World Peace and Unification), but not with other religious groups?” It would not be a situation where they could form a coalition. It can be said that Prime Minister Kishida without thinking has destroyed the identity of the Liberal Democratic Party.



The Soka Gakkai International flag. Photo: QueerMichael / Wikimedia Commons. License: CC ASA 4.0 Int

Moreover, if we tamper with freedom of thought and religion, our society will become dreadful. They probably did it because they didn't think that far ahead and were afraid their approval ratings would drop. In addition, the officials of the Agency for Cultural Affairs (文化庁) had no choice but to file a request for a dissolution order because it was the Prime Minister's order, and the remaining part of their careers would be in jeopardy should they not obey.

What they did was to accumulate the stories of “victims” by going back in time. On the other hand, they did not listen to the stories of active believers. Normally, if there is a problem, one must first listen to the believers of the group that is thought to have a problem.

Instead of doing that, if they only listen to the stories of former believers who quit 20 years ago, and pile up all of that, saying “there is so much damage,” Soka Gakkai [創価学会 – the new Buddhist movement on which the political party Komeito is based, the governing Liberal Democratic Party's coalition partner] will also be in danger. The story is so far-fetched that it should be pointed out by the media. But on the contrary, they are pleased that “support” is overwhelming in public opinion polls. It's a terrifying situation where even extrajudicial matters are approved as long as everyone agrees.

– **In your book, the situation of the believers surrounded on**

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all sides (四面楚歌), is described as “today’s non-citizens” (令和の非国民).



From Japanese history: Flag used by the Righteous Army during the February 26, 1936 coup attempt. The four characters reading “Revere the Emperor, Destroy the Traitors” (尊皇討奸) are placed in the corners of a standard Japanese flag. Photo: Cckerberos / Wikimedia Commons. [Public domain image](#)

Believers might feel bad, but the term “today’s non-citizens” which I used, means they have become the same as renegades during wartime.

Those who were said to be non-citizens then, were not beaten up because of laws such as a “Non-Citizens Exclusion Act” (非国民排斥法). At that time, the media frequently

wrote articles about the war at a time when the fate of the Japanese people was at stake. As the stories of the soldiers were published in newspapers and broadcast on radio, the word “non-citizen” was spread, and ordinary people lynched those who opposed the war.

Indeed, now, believers from the former [Unification Church](#) are not lynched these days. However, they can't rent a hall, and they are told not to come to summer festivals, and they are treated like non-citizens. This is deeply related to the media reports and Prime Minister Kishida's declaration of cutting all ties.

– Even media people are afraid to meet today’s non-citizens.

After I interviewed Masayoshi Kajikuri (梶栗正義), chairman of *International Federation for Victory over Communism* (国際勝共連合), I suggested to my media acquaintances, “I’m going to introduce you, so why don’t you interview him and listen to his story?” However, they refused out of fear what he would do. They even said no to just meeting him and listen to his story.



Masayoshi Kajikuri (梶栗正義). Photo: IFVOC

The image that has been created is scarier than the reality. Many people think they can’t communicate with members. By publishing a book, I wanted to shatter that image. Followers might be talkative and have different values from you in some areas, but they are people with whom you can have a dialogue.

Continued in [part 7](#).

[Part 1](#), [part 2](#), [part 3](#), [part 4](#), [part 5](#), [part 7](#)

Featured image above: Masaki Kubota, Japanese author and journalist. Photo / graphics: Sekai Nippo.

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Masaki Kubota (窪田順生) is a non-fiction writer who has contributed to weekly and monthly magazines. He has also worked first as a producer, then as an advisor for TV-documentaries. He is journalist for a weekly magazine and a newspaper, and editor of a monthly magazine. In addition, he works as a media consultant, having conducted over 200 public relations consultations and media training sessions (training on how to handle interviews).

His books include

- "Spin Doctor – Techniques of Information Manipulation Used by Professionals Who 'Hush up Bad Information'" (Kodansha Alpha Bunko – 2009), which deals with Japan's political and corporate public relations strategies, and
- "14 Stairs – Reportage on the Niigata Girl's 9 Years and 2 Months Confinement Case" (Shogakukan – 2006), which won the 12th Shogakukan Non-fiction Award for Excellence.
- His new book, "Infiltrating the Former Unification Church – the Complete Story of the Request for a Dissolution Order and the Deepest Secrets of the 'No Good Coverage'", is currently on sale.



The front cover of 'Infiltrating the Former Unification Church' (潜入旧統一教会「解散命令請求」取材NG最深部の全貌 – Tankobon Softcover, Nov. 2023), by Masaki Kubota (窪田順生).

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