

FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: Scandal - Japanese Government Falsifies Affidavits To Convict FFWPU

Knut Holdhus
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Miyuki Kawaguchi (pseudonym) during an interview on the afternoon of January 19, 2025, in Aichi Prefecture, Japan



Several witnesses claim Japanese government ministry has been falsifying multiple affidavits in current case against the Family Federation

Tokyo, 21st January 2025 - Published as an article in the Japanese newspaper [Sekai Nippo](#). Republished with permission. Translated from Japanese. [Original article](#).

[Breaking News] Elderly Mother: "I Never Said 'Get the Money Back'" - Ministry of Education Falsifies Affidavits

by the Religious Freedom Investigative Team of the editorial department of [Sekai Nippo](#)

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) has filed a dissolution order against the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#) (commonly known as the [Family Federation](#), formerly the [Unification Church](#)) with the Tokyo District Court. It has come to light that affidavits prepared by MEXT and submitted to the court contain statements that differ from the truth, as alleged by individuals identified as "victims". Although the trial is being conducted behind closed doors, there appear to be multiple cases in which affidavits, submitted as evidence of "unlawful acts" to justify the dissolution of the [Family Federation](#), were not written by the purported victims themselves and contained false information.



"Well, to tell the truth, I never asked (son's name) to get back the money I donated. So they're just using me for their puposes."

Kimiyo Sagayama (pseudonym), a resident of Aichi Prefecture whose name appears on MEXT's affidavit, said this to her daughter, Miyuki Kawaguchi (pseudonym). Last summer, upon learning that her mother's name was included in MEXT's affidavit, Miyuki visited her mother,

who lives alone, to confirm whether she had personally written the affidavit, which listed a total damage amount of approximately 35 million yen.

The mother then stated to her daughter, whom she had converted to the faith, "I don't even want the money back." Miyuki, who is over 60, has practiced the faith alongside her mother for more than 30 years and knew that Kimiyo had made donations of her own volition.



Disputed donations. Here, woman offering donation that her son later wanted refunded

However, the affidavit bearing Kimiyo's name claimed that she had been "incited" to make donations by Miyuki. The unnatural claim that her mother, who had introduced her to the faith, was influenced by her own daughter left Miyuki exasperated but unsurprised. "That's what I thought," she said, suspecting that MEXT may have embellished the story by drafting a template of alleged victim narratives and supplementing it with details obtained through interviews. It is highly likely that Kimiyo, an elderly individual, was made to sign the affidavit without fully understanding its contents.

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Kimiyo, who is over 90 years old, has been a member of the [Family Federation](#) for 38 years and introduced her daughter Miyuki to the faith. Both Kimiyo and Miyuki also converted their respective husbands, and in 1992, they participated in the International [Blessing Ceremony](#) held in Seoul, South Korea, to renew their marriages in the ceremony of the [religious organization](#).

NHK

NHK (Nippon Hoso Kyokai) state-owned Japan Broadcasting Corporation

Kimiyo has been devout in her faith, but as she has aged, and her health has declined, she has become less able to attend church. Then, two years ago, the assassination of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe occurred, which triggered a wave of intense criticism against the [Family Federation](#).

In early 2023, Miyuki was summoned by her elder brother during the New Year holiday. With their younger brother also present, Miyuki faced pressure from her brothers to "leave the [Family Federation](#)". Miyuki refused on the spot. However, according to her, Kimiyo is now effectively estranged from the [federation](#) against her will due to the influence of her sons. Miyuki laments,

"Taking advantage of her dependency on them in her advanced age and frailty, they have forced her to deny her entire life's faith. That's unfilial."

Having heard her mother's voice directly state, "I never said I wanted the money back," Miyuki feels a deep fear that the government is leveraging family members' anxieties exacerbated by the critical media coverage, along with affidavits containing falsehoods, to force the dissolution of the [Family Federation](#).

讀賣新聞

Yomiuri Shimbun, Japanese national daily, the largest in circulation of the country's "big 3" dailies

The request for a dissolution order against the [Family Federation](#) is currently being deliberated in the Tokyo District Court. According to reports by NHK and major newspapers, four hearings have been held so far.

The Yomiuri Shimbun online edition (13th December 2024) reported that "current members claim that the allegations by former members contain falsehoods."

According to sources close to the [religious organization](#), two witnesses presented by MEXT during the hearings admitted that there were discrepancies between the actual facts and the contents of their affidavits.

Basis for dissolution order wavers

It is not only the Sagayama family who are alleging that MEXT (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports,

Science and Technology) falsified their affidavits. A 60-year-old male believer, Shinji Toyama (pseudonym), claims that MEXT's affidavit wrongly stated that he had been threatened by other believers, who told him he would face misfortune if he did not resolve ancestral grievances, leading him to make donations. Toyama, however, had informed relevant parties that "the motivation for his donations was different."



Japanese man offering a donation to support missionary work

Toyama has been a believer for about 30 years and has consistently donated to support Japanese believers involved in missionary and volunteer activities abroad. Around the time of the former prime minister's assassination, however, financial difficulties left him struggling. He contacted a helpline, the number for which he found on a TV program discussing the [Family Federation](#), hoping to get his donations refunded. He was then referred to a lawyer who facilitated a meeting with two MEXT officials, where he cooperated with their inquiry.

When his refund efforts stalled, Toyama approached the [organization](#) directly, engaged in negotiations with its representatives, and ultimately reached a settlement. Regarding MEXT's affidavit, Toyama stated, "That document wasn't written by me." The affidavit concluded with the sentence, "I only hope that

the [organization](#) will be dissolved," but Toyama insists he never made such a statement during the MEXT interview. Furthermore, he claims that MEXT officials never informed him that the affidavit was intended to support a dissolution order against the [organization](#). Toyama requested multiple corrections to the affidavit, but none were made.

Similarly, Mayumi Adachi (pseudonym), a current female believer living in Nerima Ward, Tokyo, discovered that an affidavit submitted by MEXT under her mother's name had been filed. Upon directly asking her mother, Adachi was told clearly, "I didn't write it."

Adachi's father had previously sought a refund of their donations, represented by Hiroshi Yamaguchi, a lawyer affiliated with the National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales. However, the donation repayments had already been completed and the matter resolved amicably. Why an affidavit supposedly written by her mother, who denies authoring it, was submitted in the trial for a dissolution order remains entirely unclear.

According to one source, some affidavits prepared by MEXT touch on the [Family Federation](#)'s doctrines, referring to the biblical figure of humanity's ancestor as "Eve" in English. However, within the [organization](#), they follow the terminology of the Japan Bible Society's version of the Bible, referring to her as "Eva". "This discrepancy alone shows that the document wasn't authored by the individual but was instead written by MEXT," an affiliate of the [religious organization](#) stated.

The emerging pattern of MEXT using believers' names to include false or exaggerated claims in affidavits highlights concerns about the ministry's approach. Moreover, since the trial is closed to the public, there is no mechanism to check MEXT's potential abuse of power, which remains a troubling issue.

The main basis for MEXT's request for the dissolution order against the [Family Federation](#) is the [organization](#)'s loss in 32 civil lawsuits and the submission of approximately 300 affidavits from alleged victims. However, claims from these "victims" that MEXT fabricated the contents of affidavits to align with the ministry's objectives are mounting. This development significantly undermines the credibility of MEXT's arguments.

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Big Daily: Authorities Using Outdated Evidence

• January 16, 2025 • Knut Holdhus



Sankei Shimbun publishes figures that clearly show weakness in Japanese authorities' case against Family Federation – much outdated evidence










Header of publication on operations of the Japan Legal Support Center, issued by Ministry of Justice


against the relatively large religious minority the *Family Federation for World Peace and Unification*, formerly known as the *Unification Church*. The headline of the Sankei piece was "Spiritual Sales Consultations – Only 20% Related to the Former *Unification Church*; 40% of Monetary Troubles Date Back Over 20 Years".



The Sankei Shimbun, one of Japan's top 5 most circulated national dailies, disclosed in an article 16th January 2025, figures from the *Japan Legal Support Center* (Houterasu) that could spell troubles for the authorities' campaign

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The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology (MEXT) has requested Tokyo District Court to issue a court order to dissolve the **religious organization**. The authorities have largely built their case on terms taken from consumer affairs laws, even to the extent that donations are called "spiritual sales".



Consultation hotline. Illustration: Microsoft Designer Image Creator, 16th January 2025

According to the Sankei Shimbun it turns out that less than 20% of the cases handled by the "Spiritual Sales Consultation Hotline" operated by Japan Legal Support Center are associated with the **Family Federation**. Furthermore, 41% of the monetary disputes involving this **organization** occurred more than 20 years ago. A critical question is how the Tokyo District Court will interpret the

continuity of these issues, a key argument in the petition by the administration led by the Liberal Democratic Party for the dissolution of the **religious organization**.

According to the large newspaper, this hotline, established in November 2022 to replace the government's previous phone consultation service, has fielded 10,003 inquiries over the last two years, ending in November 2024. Of these, 1,979 (19.8%) were linked to the **Family Federation**. The names of other implicated organizations have not been revealed by the Japan Legal Support Center.

The timeline of financial troubles involving the **Family Federation** provides some insight:

- 5% occurred within one year prior to the consultation.
- 2% occurred within three years.
- 3% occurred within five years.
- 11% occurred within ten years.
- 12% occurred over ten years ago, but within twenty years.
- 41% occurred more than twenty years ago.

The Sankei Shimbun points out that this distribution suggests a reduction in incidents over time, particularly after the **organization** introduced a compliance declaration in 2009, which committed to stricter adherence to laws and regulations.

According to the newspaper, MEXT has based its dissolution request on the argument that the **Family Federation** meets the criteria for organizational dissolution, namely illegality, maliciousness, and continuity. These elements are central to the Ministry's claim that the **federation** has engaged in systematic and ongoing "harmful activities".

According to informed sources, the Tokyo District Court is expected to conclude its review of the case by the end of January 2025. A judgment may be announced as soon as March.

On 15th January, the **Family Federation** issued a statement emphasizing the declining number of complaints linked to the **organization** in recent years. The statement read,

"The analysis of the hotline, which specifically targeted our **organization**, highlights that 'troubles' involving us have significantly decreased in recent years."



Weighty arguments on scale of justice presented by **Family Federation** to Tokyo District Court. Photo: 991joseph / Wikimedia Commons. Public domain image

This issue has sparked significant public and legal interest, with many watching closely as the court deliberates the fate of the **organization**. Central to the decision will be whether the **federation's** past activities,

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many of which predate 2009, still bear relevance to its current operations and whether they satisfy the criteria for dissolution under Japanese law.

Featured image above: *Sign at the entrance of the headquarters of the [Family Federation of Japan](#) in Shibuya, Tokyo. Photo: [Sekai Nippo](#)*

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