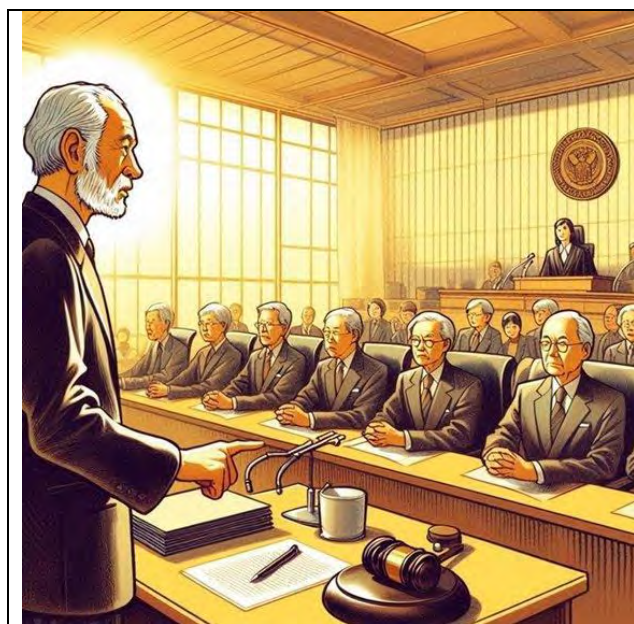


## FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: FFWPU Japan Press Release On Japanese Supreme Court Case

Knut Holdhus  
June 12, 2024



*Japanese court room*



*Young Japanese person being abducted*

### Press Release on the Supreme Court Appeal Hearing in case staged by hostile lawyers



*From the header of [ffwpu.jp](http://ffwpu.jp), the official homepage of the [Family Federation](http://ffwpu.jp) of Japan*

### Official statement regarding appeal hearing at the Japanese Supreme Court on 10th June 2024

*Press Release 10th June 2024, by the Public Relations Department of the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](http://ffwpu.jp) of Japan, translated from Japanese. See [Japanese original version](#).*

Today, a hearing was held at the First Petty Bench (第一小法廷) of the Supreme Court concerning a lawsuit in which [our organization](#) is the appellee (Case No. 2022 (Ju) No. 2281).

This lawsuit was filed in 2017 by Ms. A, a former member of [our organization](#) (who was introduced to the church by her third daughter in 2004), and her eldest daughter. They claim that the donations made by Ms. A should be considered "damages based on unlawful acts". From the beginning of the lawsuit, Ms. A's eldest daughter has represented her, and Ms. A herself has never appeared in court or testified about her experiences.

On the other hand, Ms. A, during her lifetime, deliberately created a document (commonly referred to as a "memorandum"), stating that all her donations to [our organization](#) were made out of free will based on her faith. This memorandum was certified by a notary at the local notary office.

Why some members create such memoranda

According to our investigation, members of [our organization](#) who create such memoranda often do so due to special circumstances, primarily the presence of family members who strongly oppose their faith.

[Our organization](#) has documented over 4,300 members who have been subjected to abduction and confinement by family members who strongly oppose their faith. They have also faced severe human rights violations, including forced renunciation of their faith, often led by certain Christian pastors and professional de-conversion (faith-breaking) specialists.

Members who create these memoranda are fully aware of these severe situations and often do so because they have family members or relatives who strongly oppose their faith, or they anticipate such strong opposition.

For instance, in a separate lawsuit (Case No. 2016 (Wa) No. 21355), the validity of a similar memorandum created by the plaintiff, a former believer, was contested. The Tokyo District Court dismissed the false claims made by the plaintiff's attorneys, Hiroshi Yamaguchi (山口 広) and Takeshi Kimura (木村 壮), and treated the memorandum as valid, resulting in a complete victory for [our organization](#). In that case, the plaintiff created the memorandum due to strong opposition from her husband, who later violently assaulted her, leading to her forced departure from the faith.



*Hiroshi Yamaguchi, activist  
leftwing lawyer and leading  
member of National Network of  
Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales*

In the Supreme Court case mentioned above, Ms. A also feared strong opposition to her faith from the appellants if her beliefs were discovered. Anticipating such opposition, she participated in a "protest against abduction and confinement" held on December 3, 2010.

Ms. A created the memorandum and sought notarial certification because she wished to protect from opposing family members her faith and the donations made based on her faith.

#### **Claims by the Appellants**

The appellants claim that the memorandum in question was created on instructions from [our organization](#) and violates public order and morals (extortion). However, as stated above, this claim is entirely contrary to the facts.

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Man And Woman Together Manifesting The Divine

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## Press release claims Japanese government made decision based on biased information

The [Family Federation of Japan](#) issued a **press release** on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2023,

In response to the policy of requesting a dissolution order against our corporation



Symbol of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan.

Photo: [文部科学省 \(MEXT Japan\) / Wikimedia Commons](#). License: [CC Attr 4.0 Int](#)

# 文部科学省

On 12<sup>th</sup> October, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) announced that it will file a

request for a dissolution order for the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#) (hereinafter referred to as "the Corporation") to the Tokyo District Court. We would like to announce our views on this.

The [corporation](#) is extremely disappointed, and it is deeply regrettable that such a decision has been made: It is particularly distressing that the Japanese government made that momentous decision based on biased information from a **group of leftwing lawyers established with the aim of destroying our corporation**.

On 19<sup>th</sup> October last year, **Prime Minister Kishida overnight forcibly changed the long-standing government's interpretation of the law** that "civil law torts are not included" in the legal violation requirement for requesting a dissolution order for a religious corporation. "Civil law torts may also be involved," he replied in the Diet. This is clearly a result of the opposition's pursuit and **pandering to public opinion** and will remain **a stain on Japan's constitutional history**.

What changed everything was the assassination of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in July last year. Our religious [organisation](#) is no different from what it was before. Nevertheless, the environment surrounding our [organisation](#) went through a roller coaster transformation, and before we knew it, we were being **portrayed as "absolutely evil" monsters in media** reports.

Since receiving certification by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government as a religious corporation on 15<sup>th</sup> July 1964, our religious [organisation](#) has to this day been engaged in evangelism, education, and various social activities with the aim of spreading the founders' teachings of "living for the sake of others". Our dream has been to realize world peace through ideal families centered on God. Our aim has been to become an organisation that lives for Japan and the world.

During that time, we received a lot of criticism, but since the Declaration of Compliance in 2009, we have been actively engaged in church reform, especially by appointing leaders from a new generation of future leaders. We have continued to promote reforms up to the present. In September last year, we



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established a “Church Reform Promotion Headquarters” within the corporation to work on further reforms.

In that sense, the government’s request for a dissolution order is extremely unfortunate for both the older generation of church members and the new second and third generations who will be taking over the church.

We are convinced that we are not the kind of religious [organisation](#) to receive a dissolution order from the government. Those who have been in direct contact with our congregations, those who have known us for many years, will agree. However, we are keenly aware that we were not able to convey a true picture of our religious [organisation](#) to the majority of the public, who swallowed the media reports that only spewed out **flimsy information by left-wing lawyers** on TV shows and in other media outlets.

We intend to present our legal arguments in court. In addition, we will continue to actively disseminate information and do other activities so that the public can come to understand our religious [organisation](#) as well as possible.

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

*“Biased Information from Leftwing Lawyers” – the text consists of press release from the Family federation of Japan on 12th October 2023.*

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