

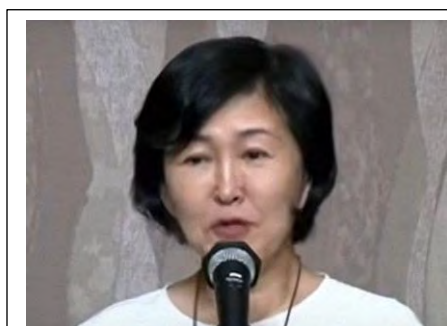
FFWPU Europe and Middle East: Japan's PM Kishida Compared To Pontius Pilate

Knut Holdhus
July 1, 2024



Scene from the Italian film *Ponzio Pilato* [*Pontius Pilate*] (1962)

Investigative journalist on current state persecution: "In the future Fumio Kishida might be seen as a figure like Pontius Pilate."



Masumi Fukuda speaking in Kumamoto 16th June 2024

Part 4 (final part) of a speech Masumi Fukuda (福田ますみ), Japanese investigative journalist and award-winning author, gave 16th June 2024 at the "[Kumamoto Conference to Protect Freedom of Religion](#)" at a hotel in Kumamoto, a city of ca. 740,000 inhabitants on the southern island of Kyushu. The [conference](#) was attended by members and supporters of the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#), protesting against the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology's request for a court order to dissolve the [Family Federation](#) of Japan.

See [part 1](#), [part 2](#), [part 3](#)

To a certain extent, it is common knowledge within the [Family Federation](#). The believers know the [true nature of National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales](#) (Zenkoku Benren). I was surprised by that too. The general public has no idea about it at all.

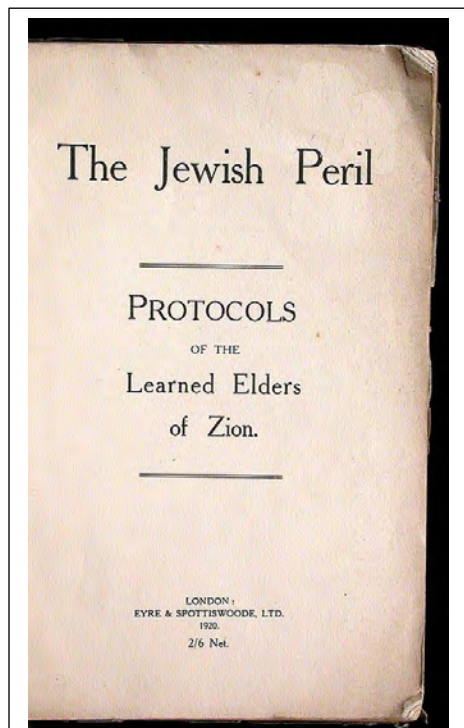


Toru Goto, member of [Family Federation](#) held captive for 12 years and 5 months by his own family and professional faith-breakers who attempted to break his faith

The [true nature of National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales](#), and the [abduction and confinement](#) cases, have recently started to be reported on TV and elsewhere due to [Toru Goto's lawsuit against Eito Suzuki](#) [journalist hostile to the [Family Federation](#)], but I think the general public still doesn't understand much about it.

In any case, the network of lawyers is still perceived as being on the side of justice in society, but various flaws are beginning to emerge. In fact, National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales is not primarily an organization for provide relief to victims of spiritual scams. Regarding this [inconvenient truth about the network of lawyers](#), no media outlet besides Zenbo has covered it at all. I think this gap is also a problem.

It's amazing that ordinary people like us are completely unaware of or aren't informed of things that are pretty common knowledge among [Family Federation](#) believers. It's just as amazing that the media doesn't inform us about those things, exercising their "right not to report" to such an extent.



The Japanese network of lawyers painting a black picture of the [Family Federation](#), uses similar rhetoric to what the Nazis used against the Jews. Here the title page of the 1920 British publication of the anonymous edition of the Protocols of the Elders of Zion, an anti-Semitic fraudulent publication describing an alleged Jewish conspiracy to take over the world

That is because the media, probably many media outlets and television, and the National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales are aiming in the same direction. They are anti-religious. The general public in Japan also has no understanding of religion. That was true for me personally as well. The media amplifies this anti-religious sentiment, especially magazines like Bungei Shunju (Bunshun) are completely anti-religious. They are all like that, including the Shukan Shincho.

The media basically regards religion, especially new religions, as something suspicious. Moreover, the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#) fights against communism and has tried to enact an anti-espionage law. This is completely different from the direction the media aims for. The media and the network of lawyers are heading in exactly the same direction, so they will never report any [inconvenient truths about the National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales](#).

As a result, under the Kishida administration, the state itself has become anti-[Family Federation](#). Essentially, the Kishida administration has given official approval to the persecution of the [Family Federation](#). Starting from last year, or even before that, with the severing of ties and ultimately the filing of a dissolution order, the Japanese state has effectively sanctioned the persecution and destruction of the [Family Federation](#). National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales has given its full endorsement of it, so to speak.

However, as I mentioned earlier, ordinary people know that religious persecution is wrong. They understand the importance of protecting freedom of religion. But they have come to see the [Family Federation](#) not as a religion, but as a money-collecting organization. Therefore, there are misunderstandings and malice among the general public, heavily influenced by the National

Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales.

And then there's the state. I was a conservative journalist, but it's like, how should I put it, it's like fighting against the state. This is something liberals often talk about, right? "Fighting against state power" or "not tolerating the tyranny of state power". Since I am conservative, I thought I was distanced from such things, but now I find myself fighting against state power. I never dreamed I would end up in such a situation, but the current government policy against the [Family Federation](#), including the request for dissolution, is clearly wrong.

This is complete religious persecution by the state, and there are no excuses for it. This is outright religious persecution. In the future, Prime Minister Kishida might be seen as a figure like Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor of Judea. According to lawyer Fukumoto, he's even worse than Pilate.

In any case, there are no excuses. It is complete religious persecution and an infringement on religious freedom. I wonder if there are any media representatives here today. I hope they report on what has not been reported until now. It's no good if only people like me speak out. We wonder why they are reporting the news in such a premeditated manner, and why various incidents of discrimination and persecution occur against members of the [Family Federation](#).

Why is Japan heading in this direction? I heard from Shunsuke Uotani (魚谷俊輔) of the Universal Peace Federation about how this persecution of the [Family Federation](#) is being evaluated overseas. It is being equated with Russia and China.

However, what I find even worse in this context is that it is well-known that new religions are being

persecuted in Russia and China. Of course, this is very bad. I know a little about China and Russia. In Russia, I once heard a very sad nurse who is a Jehovah's Witness say that Putin is persecuting them. This is indeed a very serious situation. However, in Japan's case, Japan is recognized in the world as a member of the G7, an advanced democratic country where religious freedom is fully recognized.



Persecution in China: Tibetan Monks arrested in 2008

Such religious persecution, in the same league as Russia and China, is happening here. This is an even worse situation. In a sense, Russia and China are very predictable; they are countries where one might expect this kind of behavior, unfortunately. But Japan is not expected to do such things by the international community.

Therefore, I want everyone to raise your voices about this situation. Overseas, this is seen as a crisis of democracy in Japan. A crisis of religious freedom is equivalent to a crisis of democracy. I wonder if the current Kishida administration is doing this without realizing it. That is the most serious aspect of this situation.

Honestly, I feel that this lack of awareness is extremely malicious. Overseas, the current situation in Japan is seen as a crisis of democracy. It's not just a matter of religious freedom. Religious freedom is fundamentally an issue of human rights, established first and foremost alongside freedom of speech, freedom of association, and individual rights. This is being neglected in Japan. Religious freedom is essentially about the freedom of one's mind.

I want the media to consider this more carefully. The biased reporting by the media really needs to be corrected.

Thank you very much.

See [part 1](#), [part 2](#), [part 3](#)

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Truth About Faith-Breaking Stuns Journalist

June 30, 2024 • Knut Holdhus

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Japanese investigative journalist deeply shocked as she discovers the hidden truth about professional faith-breaking

Part 3 of a speech Masumi Fukuda (福田ますみ), Japanese investigative journalist and award-winning author, gave 16th June 2024 at the "Kumamoto Conference to Protect Freedom of Religion" at a hotel in Kumamoto, a city of ca. 740,000 inhabitants on the southern island of Kyushu. The conference was attended by members and supporters of the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#), protesting against the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology's request for a court order to dissolve the [Family Federation of Japan](#).



Masumi Fukuda speaking in Kumamoto 16th June 2024. Photo: Screenshot from video recording.

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

So, I thought to myself, "National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales (Zenkoku-benren) claims it was established to help victims of

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spiritual scams, but is that really all there is to it? Is there some other purpose?"

At the time, I started thinking, "I wonder how that network came to be? Something seems strange."

So, I decided, "Let's investigate it! Let's look into the network of lawyers!"

First, I checked magazines and articles from around the time of its establishment in May 1987. There was a monthly magazine called *Zenbo* (全貌 - The Full Picture) back then, associated with what was considered a far-right publishing house called Zenbo-sha. I wondered if it had some connections to the *Cabinet Intelligence and Research Office* and provided independent information.

Other newspapers and magazines all featured stories from anonymous victims of so-called "spiritual sales". There was such an article in "Asahi Journal". Anyway, it was all about people being tricked out of their money by sweet talk, or being made to buy a really expensive vase, or something like that.



Hiroshi Yamaguchi, activist leftwing lawyer and founder and leading member of National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales (NNLASS). Photo: Screenshot / [Bitter Winter](#)

Among those publications, the one called *Zenbo* revealed that almost all the lawyers in *National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales* were connected to the Communist Party (JCP). Back then, some of them were also associated with the *Japan Socialist Party* (JSP) [existed 1945-1996], now referred to as the former Socialist Party. [JSP was re-founded in 1996 as the *Social Democratic Party*]. Lawyers like Hiroshi Yamaguchi were affiliated with the *Socialist Party*, particularly with its far-left wing, the *Socialist Association*. They were all leftist lawyers.

It was also written that the true purpose of *National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales* was not to combat spiritual scams but to undermine the Anti-Espionage

Law. Reading this, I somewhat understood it, but it was only covered in that one magazine. There wasn't much written about the true nature of the network of lawyers.

Additionally, there is the ideological struggle between theism (有心論) and atheism (無心論). Since the network of lawyers is connected to the Communist Party, of course they don't believe in **God**, and there are many ideological struggles. Of course, the *Federation for Victory over Communism* (勝共連合) and the **Unification Church** (統一教会) are organizations that are closely and inseparably linked. As the *Federation for Victory over Communism* criticizes communism, I thought it made sense that there were various relationships there, but I was a little unsure about what to make of it being reported in just that one magazine.

Then, just after that, I read a little about Toru Goto (後藤 徹) and the issue of abduction and detention in "Our Unpleasant Neighbour" (我らの不快な隣人) written by Kazuhiro Yonemoto (米本 和弘). So I was a little aware that it was members of the former **Unification Church** who had been abducted and detained.

So, I thought that the issue of abduction and confinement was probably important, and I asked Toru Goto to interview him. After all, he was **held captive for 12 years and five months**. That's a terrible thing. I was really shocked.

When I met with Toru Goto and asked him about abduction and confinement, he mentioned that there are over 4,300 victims of abduction and confinement. It was shocking news to me. It seems there exists a **systematic structure for abduction and confinement**. It has even become a business. I thought that the presence of apostates in post-war Japan is truly a matter of great concern which is deeply rooted and has been vicious.

Listening to Toru Goto's story, I could hardly believe it. In Japan, where freedom of religion is guaranteed, **how could there be more than 4,300 people abducted and confined?** A pastor who specialized in making individuals leave religious organisations, said himself that there were **more than 5,000 such victims**. Why did something like this happen? Why couldn't it be prevented or stopped? That was my simple question.



As I listened to Goto's story and learned more about what

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Toru Goto in 2008, barely able to move after being held in forcible detention by his own family in league with professional faith-breakers for more than 12 years. Photo: Kazuhiro Yonemoto / Japanese Victims' Association against Religious Kidnapping and Forced Conversion

happened in Japan, his brother and sister had also been former believers. They were abducted and held captive by Takashi Miyamura (宮村 峻) and forced to leave the [Unification Church](#). Toru Goto's older brother, who was also a victim, and his wife, also a former believer, and his sister, who had also been abducted and held captive, then locked Goto up in an attempt to "rescue" him, and **held him captive for 12 years and five months**. Those who were once considered victims, had now become perpetrators, harming their own relative Toru Goto.

I was deeply shocked to hear that, and so I asked Goto, "Did this really happen here on this Earth? Isn't this really something that happens on another planet?" That's what I was saying, and he laughed a little because of that.

Then I mentioned about *National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales*.

I showed Goto a copy of the article in the magazine called Zenbo (全貌 – The Full Picture). At that time, Sato, the Public Relations Director who assisted with the interview, was there too. When I asked them if it was true, they both looked as if they already knew about it.

To be continued. Part 4 coming soon.

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

Featured image above: Attempted faith-breaking illustrated by Microsoft Designer Image Creator 30th June 2024.

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