

FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: Japan's Government Exposed, They Re-Wrote Laws To Help Them Destroy The Unification Church

Knut Holdhus
July 31, 2024



Investigative journalist exposes how Kishida administration has made several attempts at implementing new legal interpretation for specific individuals or groups



Tokyo, 30th July 2024 -
Published as an article in the Japanese newspaper [Sekai Nippo](#). Republished with permission. Translated from Japanese. [Original article](#)

Former Unification Church: The Government's Reckless Sudden Change in Legal Interpretation for Specific Individuals or Organizations and Asahi's

Complicity

by Tsukasa Masuki (増記代司)



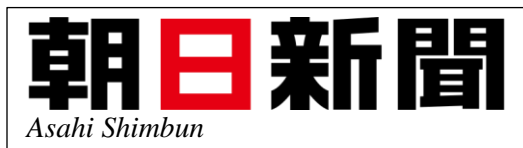
Hiromu Kurokawa January 2019

The Government Loses in Document Disclosure Case

Is it acceptable for the government to suddenly change a legal interpretation that has been in place for 40 years? Can such arbitrary actions be allowed? A month ago, there was a ruling in the Osaka District Court. There was a lawsuit seeking to overturn the government's decision not to disclose related documents regarding the 2020 Cabinet decision to extend the retirement age of Hiromu Kurokawa (黒川弘務), the Chief Prosecutor of the Tokyo High Public Prosecutors Office. The Osaka District Court ruled on 27th June 2024 to overturn the non-disclosure decision.

The retirement age for prosecutors is set at 63 by the Public Prosecutors Office Act, but just before Kurokawa's retirement, the government revised its legal interpretation and applied the

extension provisions of the National Public Service Act to a prosecutor for the first time. In the document disclosure lawsuit regarding this Cabinet decision, the government lost.



The Asahi Shimbun reported this on the front page of its 28th June issue and even published an editorial titled "To Prevent Repeated Recklessness" on 30th June.

The lawsuit was filed by Hiroyuki Kamiwaki (上脇博之), a professor at Kobe Gakuin University, who has fought numerous information disclosure lawsuits against the government and brought to light the issue of slush funds within the Liberal Democratic Party factions. He hailed the ruling as a groundbreaking decision that recognized the government's arbitrary and unacceptable act of changing legal interpretation for a specific individual.

So, what about the government's "reckless" act of suddenly changing legal interpretation for a specific religious organization? This concerns the requirements for the dissolution request involving the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#) (formerly the [Unification Church](#)). Until 18th October 2022, the government had stated that the requirements did not include the Civil Code. There was also a Cabinet decision to that effect.

The 1995 Tokyo High Court decision, which ordered the dissolution of Aum Shinrikyo (オウム真理教) following the subway sarin attack, referred to "the Penal Code, etc.," and this had been the legal interpretation of the requirements. The "etc." in the Penal Code, etc., is commonly understood to refer to other laws accompanied by criminal penalties (such as the Weapons Manufacturing Act), and the only

two cases where dissolution orders were finalized were Aum and Myokakuji Temple (明覚寺), both of which were prosecuted as criminal cases.



Professor Hiroyuki Kamiwaki, June 2014

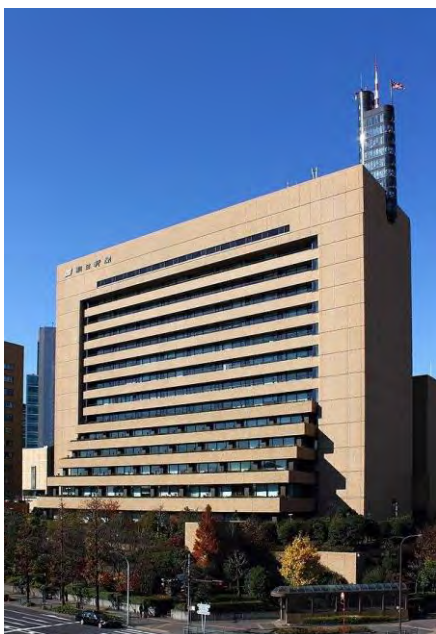
However, on 19th October, during a Diet session, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida had changed the legal interpretation overnight, stating that the "etc." includes the Civil Code. There was no Cabinet decision, and even the meeting where this was discussed is unclear. Despite this, Asahi sealed any doubts and, in its series "Deep Stream: Two Years Since Abe's Shooting" (published on 9th July), created a so-called "secret meeting" to help justify the change (see [my article from 16th July](#)).

Related Article: "[News Intentionally Manipulated Against Faith](#)" - [News and Insights](#)

Asahi's Confession in their article

Ironically, the Asahi article "confessed" how arbitrary the change in interpretation was. The following sentence illustrates this: "The government was in a situation where it had no choice but to change its policy. Criticism of the [religious organization](#) was growing, and 'the social atmosphere was completely

different from when large donations were previously criticized' (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology official). The Consumer Affairs Agency's expert panel also urged an investigation with a view to requesting a dissolution order for the [organization](#)."



The Tokyo head office of left-leaning Asahi Shimbun, one of the 3 largest daily national newspapers in Japan, 2014

Asahi itself acknowledges that the change in interpretation was the result of pressure from the "social atmosphere" and the "Consumer Affairs Agency's expert panel." This is highlighted in this newspaper's series "[Freedom of Religion Under Threat: Part 1 - The Kishida Administration's Reckless Actions](#)," which revealed two points: "[Swallowing Reports Whole from National Network of Lawyers and the Media](#)" (published on 1st July) and "[Abuse of authority by Kono \(河野\), Minister of Consumer Affairs](#)" (published on 3rd July).

As a result, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, following Prime Minister Kishida's change in interpretation, found itself frantically gathering "evidence" for dissolution requirements despite having no such evidence. The Asahi article also "testifies" to this: "To get the court to recognize the request, we must gather 'thick evidence,' 'we have started collecting new materials,' 'including cases that have not become civil lawsuits...' 'hearings from over 100 people.' According to government officials, interviews were conducted based on such guidelines." Clearly, the dissolution request came first.

Officials Suffer from Anxiety Disorders

The Asahi article also describes the feelings of government officials:

"It was a major decision that may be written into textbooks 30 years from now as 'the point where religious persecution began.' I had sleepless nights, sweating."

They are so fearful of being complicit in religious persecution that they have developed anxiety disorders. How sinful Prime Minister Kishida is.

Asahi, if you are outraged by the sudden change in legal interpretation regarding the retirement age of prosecutors, saying "don't repeat reckless actions," why do you approve of the sudden change in legal interpretation regarding the dissolution requirements for religious corporations? It's a double standard to say one is bad and the other is good. That is hypocrisy.

Text: Tsukasa Masuki (増記代司)

Related to Kishida making new legal interpretation: [Collusion to Rob Minority of Its Rights](#)

And more, related to Kishida making new legal interpretation: [State and Media Creating "Today's Non-Citizens"](#)

Yet more, related to Kishida making new legal interpretation: [Malicious One-Sided Government Source Selection](#)

Still more, related to Kishida making new legal interpretation: [Japan Criticized for Glaring Rights Violations](#)

Even more, related to Kishida making new legal interpretation: [Japan Following the Way of China](#)

And still more, related to Kishida making new legal interpretation: [12 Religious Freedom NGOs Denouncing Japan](#)

And even more, related to Kishida making new legal interpretation: [Conference on Religious Freedom Violations](#)

Still more, related to Kishida making new legal interpretation: [Japan: Threat to Religious Freedom](#)

Even more, related to Kishida making new legal interpretation: [Call to End Witch Hunt](#)

More, related to Kishida making new legal interpretation: [Government's Foul Play Pointed Out](#)

Yet more, related to Kishida making new legal interpretation: [Japan Urged to Make U-Turn](#)

More, related to Kishida making new legal interpretation: [Japan: 4300 Abductions and Forcible Detentions](#)

And more, related to Kishida making new legal interpretation: [Illegalities of Activist Lawyers Exposed](#)

Yet more, related to Kishida making new legal interpretation: [Lawyers Manipulating, Coercing, Lying](#)

Still more, related to Kishida making new legal interpretation: [Biased Information from Leftwing Lawyers](#)

Even more, related to Kishida making new legal interpretation: [Dangerous Precedent to Crush Religions](#)

Even more, related to Kishida making new legal interpretation: [Kyodo News: 100s of Rights Violations Claimed](#)

Even more, related to Kishida making new legal interpretation: [Fabricated Torts Part of Wily Strategy in Japan](#)



Conference On Religious Freedom Violations

October 2, 2023 • Knut Holdhus

Share:



Tokyo conference on religious freedom denounces Japanese state persecution

2nd October 2023 – Published as an article in the Japanese newspaper Sekai Nippo. Republished with permission. Translated from Japanese. [Original article](#)

Former Unification Church: Domestic and foreign experts appeal for protection of religious freedom

By Sekai Nippo Editorial Department

Tokyo International Religious Freedom Roundtable



Amid growing prospects for the government to demand a dissolution order for the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (formerly the Unification Church), a "Special International Religious Freedom Roundtable" was held in Tokyo on 1st October to appeal for the protection of religious freedom. Domestic and foreign experts in attendance expressed their strong opposition to the request for dissolution.

Italian sociologist of religion Massimo



More Posts

- New Legal Interpretation For Specific Group**
July 31, 2024
- 20th Anniversary For Thousands of Couples**
July 29, 2024
- Confucianism And Unificationism: Common Features**
July 28, 2024
- The Need For A New View Of Humanity's Essence**
July 27, 2024
- Kishida Succumbed To Pressure From Biased Media**
July 26, 2024
- "Kishida's Totalitarian Declaration Unreasonable"**
July 25, 2024
- Legal Authority: "Japan Should Be Taken Before UN!"**
July 24, 2024

Search

Categories



Logo of the Sekai Nippo

Introvigne called concepts such as "cult" and "brainwashing" used to criticize the **Family Federation**



Dr. Massimo Introvigne in April 2023. Photo: FOREF

"pseudoscience". "It is surprising that theories that have been rejected by scholars and courts in the United States and most European countries since the 1990s, are still uncritically accepted in Japan," he said, expressing the view that the attack on the **Family Federation** is even an anomaly internationally.

Holly Folk, a professor at *Western Washington University* in the USA, pointed out that the *Japan Communist Party* played a major role in the fight against the **Family Federation**, and it is likely that anti-cult movements in Europe and the *Chinese Communist Party* were involved. She said the movement for dissolution was part of an international anti-religious campaign, claiming, "the short-term target is the **Family Federation**, but the larger target is religious freedom and the right of freedom of conscience itself. They are trying to make the anti-**Family Federation** movement in Japan a precedent for other constitutional democracies."

Attorney Tatsuki Nakayama emphasized, "The **Family Federation** does not meet any of the three requirements for a dissolution request: violation of laws and regulations must be of a systematic nature, malicious, and continuous. Therefore, the **Family Federation** should not be disbanded." He also held that the Religious Corporations Law did not give religious groups the right to a fair trial and was "unconstitutional".



Masumi Fukuda in April 2023. Photo: FOREF

Journalist Masumi Fukuda criticized the *Agency for Cultural Affairs* for cooperating when exercising the right to pose questions to the **Family Federation**, with the *National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales* (National Benren), which had been demanding the dissolution of the **Family Federation** since its formation in 1987. "The *National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales* teamed up with the *Agency for Cultural Affairs* and gave them instructions on what to do. It is highly questionable whether the *Agency for Cultural Affairs*, with a hostile organisation

as a collaborator, was able to make a neutral and fair decision. The claims of the *National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales* are being passed on without being checked."

At the conference, Nadine Maenza, former commissioner of the *United States Commission on International Religious Freedom* (USCIRF), which is a bipartisan government advisory body that advises the President, Secretary of State, and



USCIRF Chair Dr. Katrina Lantos Swett in Oslo 8th Nov. 2014. Photo: United States Commission on International Religious Freedom / Wikimedia Commons. **Public domain image. Cropped.**



Nadine Maenza. Photo: USCIRF. **Public domain image. Cropped**

Congress on overseas religious freedom issues, and Katrina Lantos Swett, former chair of the same organisation, sent video messages expressing their strong concerns about the move to request a dissolution.

Featured image above: From *Special International Religious Freedom Roundtable conference in Tokyo, Japan 1st October 2023*. Photo: 中央

"Conference on Religious Freedom Violations" – text: Editorial Department Sekai Nippo

See also: [Japan Copying Totalitarian Regimes](#)

See also: [Arbitrary Populist Measures Against Religion](#)

See also: [Claims: Government Acting Illegally](#)

Send us a message

First Name * Last Name

Email *

Email Address

Your Message *

Submit



GET STARTED

[Home](#) [Privacy Policy](#)

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER

First Name Last Name

Your Email Address

Follow us



I agree to receive newsletters from this website. I understand that my personal data will be used for marketing purposes.