

FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: Clear Report on Japanese Government's Family Federation Witch Hunt Given to UN

Knut Holdhus
September 26, 2024



Demonstration against the horrendous persecution and human rights violations that members of the [Family Federation](#) suffer in Japan. Here, from a demonstration in Yamaguchi, a city on the southwestern part of the main island of Honshu



Clear report on horrendous persecution in Japan written by French expert on human rights law submitted to UN bodies



Patricia Duval



Tetsuya Yamagami, the man who killed Shinzo Abe, the former prime minister of Japan

Patricia Duval, French attorney specialised in international human rights law, published on 25th September 2024 in [Bitter Winter](#), the leading international magazine on religious freedom and human rights, a spot-on analysis of the vicious persecution suffered by the [Family Federation](#) in Japan.

The [article](#) is what is called an executive summary, i.e. a short account of the main points of a longer report. Duval's summary was submitted to United Nations bodies the same day, on 25th September. It was presented in Geneva, Switzerland "to expose the outrageous violations they [Editor's note: members of the [Family Federation](#)] had suffered of their most basic rights."

In 2013, members reported human rights abuses, particularly abduction and faith-breaking - referred to as "deprogramming" - to UN institutions. These violations were addressed by the UN Human Rights Committee, which called on Japan to stop these practices. In addition, a landmark ruling by Tokyo's High Court deemed the faith-breaking illegal, signaling hope for the members of the [Family Federation](#).

However, the situation deteriorated after the assassination of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on 8th July 2022. Abe's killer was the son of a member of the [Family Federation](#), and the media, influenced by anti-religious lawyer groups, blamed the [federation](#) for Abe's death. This led to a resurgence of hostility, discrimination, and violence against its members.

Patricia Duval sums up the horrendous ordeals that thousands of believers were forced to go through after having been kidnapped,

"Over three decades of deprogramming of [Church](#) members done with carte blanche from the government - abduction and confinement by families and subjection to enforced persuasion by Protestant pastors, a nationwide activity conveniently termed 'protection' by its advocates - resulted in an avalanche of civil cases [...]."



3 leading activist leftwing lawyers from National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales - from left: Masaki Kito, Hiroshi Watanabe, Hiroshi Yamaguchi

For those cases, former members had been instructed by hostile lawyers to claim they had been harmed by the [Family Federation](#). After having had their faith broken by so-called deprogrammers while being forcibly detained, the de-converted members were coerced by their faith-breakers or lawyers to file suits against the [religious organisation](#).

Those lawyers, organized as National Network of Lawyers against Spiritual Sales, employed legal concepts hard to define like "brainwashing" and "undue influence" to challenge the legitimacy of donations made by members of the [Family Federation](#). Japanese courts, adopting the narrative of these lawyers, viewed the practices of the faith society as solely profit-driven and ruled that its religious activities were anti-social and harmful to public welfare.



Demonstration against the horrendous persecution and human rights violations that members of the [Family Federation](#) suffer in Japan. Here, from a demonstration in Chiba, a large city east of Tokyo

In response to Abe's assassination and the pressure from leftwing lawyers hostile to the [Family Federation](#), the Japanese government initiated proceedings to dissolve the [federation](#), using 32 lost tort cases as justification. The government invoked Article 81 of the Religious Corporations Act, accusing the [Family Federation](#) of violating public welfare. However, the UN Human Rights Committee had previously advised Japan not to use the concept of "public welfare" to limit religious freedom, as it contradicts Article 18.3 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Despite this, Japan enacted laws that further restricted the activities of the [Family Federation](#), particularly regarding donations, and allowed former members to claim damages for alleged undue influence.

Duval writes,

"Nevertheless, and pending dissolution, the Japanese authorities have endeavored to hinder the church activities and, through the enactment of two tailor-made laws, prohibited 'unjust solicitations' which

suppress 'the free will' of donors and organized the plundering of its assets by fostering claims for damages from deprogrammed members."

Not only that: Duval points out that the Japanese authorities have enacted horrendous inhuman legislation in order to "plunder the assets",

"Under the theory of undue influence, happy believers are stripped of their legal capacity in religious matters and their families are entitled to rescind their donations in their place, and to sue for damages for the alleged family break-up."

The Japanese government also implemented measures that infringe upon the religious freedom of second-generation [Family Federation](#) members, aiming to sever their ties with their families and the [federation](#) communities. These efforts include reeducation programs led by apostate counselors and providing living spaces to isolate young members from their families, resembling practices seen in authoritarian regimes like China.

In her brief summary Duval explains,

"After endorsing illegal deprogramming of the [UC](#) members for decades, the Japanese government has now adopted a new plan to organize the reeducation of their children through human rights classes and counseling delivered by apostates-trained counsellors.

It is also organizing the estrangement of second-generation believers from their families like in totalitarian states, by offering them 'a temporary living space away from their parents or other believers, facilitating their path to rebuilding their lives.'"

Duval concludes that these measures gravely violate the rights of [Family Federation](#) members, particularly their freedom of religion and their right to raise their children according to their beliefs. If the Japanese government's actions continue unchecked, the [Family Federation](#) faces the risk of extinction in Japan, with its members being forced to either flee the country or abandon their faith under pressure.

Text: Knut Holdhus

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Family Federation

The Family Federation for World Peace and Unification

The Family Federation for World Peace and Unification is a global federation of individuals and families who aim to create a world of peace and unity beyond national, cultural, religious and ideological barriers, a world where everyone may live together in peace and harmony.

In a nutshell

Name: Family Federation for World Peace and Unification

Founded: 1996

Founders: Rev. [Sun Myung Moon](#) (1920-2012) and Dr. [Hak Ja Han](#)

Teachings: [Unificationism](#), a long series of revelations received by [Sun Myung Moon](#). See: [Brief about the Teachings](#) of the Family Federation

Goal: The [Kingdom of Heaven](#) on Earth. A harmonious world family, where everyone may experience peace, security, freedom and love.

Strategy: Unite all good forces

Distribution: Largest in South Korea and Japan, but found in most nations.

Background: The Family Federation took over many of the functions of the [Unification Church](#) and its basic teachings.

Frequently asked questions: See: [FAQ](#)



Father and Mother Moon 1st August 1996.

Three ideals

As the name indicates, the Family Federation is based on three ideals – family, world peace, and unification.

- **The family ideal.** Most religions focus on the individual and its spirituality. The Family Federation teaches a broader concept of spirituality, where your [relationships](#) to your loved ones are of decisive importance for your eternal life. As [God](#) is the source of love, [marriages](#) blessed by [God](#) and families full of [true love](#) are the very foundation for the [Kingdom of Heaven](#) that [God](#) longs for. It is a love kingdom, and the family is a [school of love](#).
- **World peace.** If there is love and peace in the home, there is hope that we may also create societies and nations with peace. The family is the fundamental social institution. If we can learn to love our fellow human beings on micro-level, in a family, we may also do so on macro-level, i.e. in the society around us and in the big world we live in. Well-functioning families are the very key to reducing crime, alcohol and drug abuse, the number of suicides and many other social problems.
- **Unification.** We talk about unification on all levels, from the individual to the global level. [God](#) is the source of unity, evil the source of division. Therefore, the goal of the Family Federation is to remove the barriers and create a world of unity, a social unity, such as that between husband and wife, between parents and children, different social groups, nations and religions, but also unity between the inner world and the outer, between mind and body, spirit and matter, religion and science.

The inauguration

The Family Federation for World Peace and Unification was first founded in the USA 31st July 1996 by [Sun Myung Moon](#) and his wife [Hak Ja Han](#), and in many European nations soon after that.

As co-founder, [Mother Moon](#) gave the inaugural address titled "View of the Principle of the Providential History of Salvation", reading a prepared text. [Father Moon](#) spoke without a script at the closing banquet the following day, 1st August, at the Sheraton Washington Hotel. His speech was titled "In Search of the Origin of the Universe".

Gerald Ford, U.S. President 1974-1977, spoke at the inauguration 31st July 1996. He said,



"While the world's finest athletes test themselves in Atlanta, this gathering is sort of a spiritual Olympics. Like the Olympians, you have assembled from all over the world to further the cause of peace among nations.



The Inaugural World Convention of the Family Federation 31st July 1996



Gerald Ford 31st July 1996

But while those Olympians are dedicated to gold and glory, you in this room pursue other objectives. The glory you seek, comes from God, not gold.

If at times I sound a bit like an Old Testament prophet, it's because there is nothing about which I feel more strongly, more deeply, than the survival and the strengthening of the family. No civilization that neglects the family, can be called civilized for long, and no political philosophy that takes the family for granted, will be taken seriously by anyone who values morality, compassion and peace."

The chronicle "40 Years in America" describes the event,



Mother and Father Moon 31st July 1996

"The movement's most spectacular world convention was held in Washington, D.C. from July 30-August 1, 1996, inaugurating the Family Federation for World Peace (FFWP).

This event included a cast of luminaries rivaling anything the movement had yet undertaken: two former Presidents of the United States, Gerald Ford and George Bush; former President and Nobel Peace Prize winner Oscar Arias of Costa Rica; former Prime Ministers Edward Heath of Great Britain and Brian Mulroney of Canada; thirty-six one-time heads of state or governments; university presidents including Boston University's John Silber; Christian television personality Robert Schuller; Christian Coalition Executive Director Ralph Reed; Coretta Scott King, the widow of Martin Luther King, Jr.; Maureen Reagan, the daughter of former U.S. President Ronald Reagan; well-known comedian Bill Cosby; and Christian singer-actor Pat Boone. In addition, the main proceedings were covered live by C-SPAN television network. (p.443) [...]

The establishment of the FFWP represented a new stage in the movement's development. Rev. Chung Hwan Kwak, who was appointed International President, maintained that the FFWP was more important than the Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity (HSA-UWC) or [Unification Church](#). HSA-UWC, he noted, was "not [True Parents'](#) ultimate organization".

The rationale for this assertion was connected to the historic shift that underlay the emergence of the [Completed Testament Age](#). As noted previously, Rev. Kwak explained,

'Religious organizations have always been centered upon the salvation of the individual, but we have now progressed to the salvation of the family. [...] Such an organization is not a church; it is the Family Federation for World Peace.'



From the Inaugural Convention 31st July 1996.

Given this understanding, it wasn't surprising that the FFWP rather than the [Unification Church](#) was the main sponsor of the World Culture and Sports Festivals and International [Marriage Blessings](#) after 1996." (p.444) (From the section "Federations for World Peace and Unification", in "40 Years in America – 1959-1999 – An Intimate History of the Unification Movement", by Michael Inglis and Michael L. Mickler, published by HSA Publications Oct. 2000, 624 pages.)

The Family Federation was launched on the foundation of the [Unification Church](#), a spiritual movement [founded](#) in South Korea in 1954. The original intention was neither to establish a church nor a new religion.

The Family Federation took over many of the activities and tasks of the [Unification Church](#) and the same basic teachings, but has a pronounced goal of creating a world of peace and unity based on well-functioning families.

[More about the Family Federation](#)

Text: Knut Holdhus



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Sun Myung Moon 1st August 1996



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