

FFWPU Europe and Middle East: 2nd-Gen Denounce Hate Filled Media Portrayal of FFWPU

Knut Holdhus
October 2, 2024



Yasumori Ikeda, speaking from the perspective of a second-generation follower, September 28, 2024, Hachioji City, Tokyo, Japan



[Sekai Nippo](http://www.sekainippo.com)

Derisive media portrayal condemned by 2nd-generation members of religious minority

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"Mutual understanding between parents and children is the true solution"

Conference to Protect Freedom of Religion

by the editorial department of [Sekai Nippo](http://www.sekainippo.com)



A second-generation member of the [Family Federation](http://www.familyfederation.org) appeals for the protection of religious freedom and human rights, afternoon September 16, 2024, Shibuya, Tokyo

The "Tama Tokyo Conference to Protect Freedom of Religion" was held on 28th September 2024, in Hachioji City (八王子市), Tokyo, organized by the Tama Tokyo Association for the Protection of Human Rights and Freedom of Religion. The event focused on themes such as freedom of religion and the issues faced by second-generation religious believers. Active members and second-generation followers of the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#) (formerly the [Unification Church](#)) participated and expressed their views from their respective standpoints.

Yasumori Ikeda (池田泰盛), a second-generation follower belonging to a [church](#) in Tachikawa City (立川市) emphasized, "I don't think children become unhappy just because their parents have faith." He criticized reports claiming that the dissolution of the [church](#) is the only way to help victims, stating that such reports "hurt the self-esteem of second-generation followers and instill a victim mentality." He argued that the true solution for the suffering and harm experienced by second-generation religious followers lies in mutual understanding based on respect and dialogue within the [church](#) and between parents and children.



Attorney Tatsuki Nakayama

During the conference, a panel discussion was held between second-generation followers and their parents' generation. A second-generation female follower reflected, "I felt silent pressure to attend [church](#) services every Sunday." In response, a male follower from the parents' generation commented, "Imposing values is not good. Parents should show their children how to live by example."

Additionally, there was a lecture by international lawyer Tatsuki Nakayama (中山達樹) and an activity report from the "Association to Protect the Human Rights of Second-Generation Followers" (信者の人権を守る二世の会).

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Kyodo News: 100s Of Rights Violations Claimed

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Large Japanese news agency reports on hundreds of rights violations suffered by minority faith


by Knut Holdhus



After *Kyodo News*, the leading news agency of Japan, issued its report on 23rd June 2024, dozens of Japanese newspapers, including large ones like the *Sankei Shimbun* and *Tokyo Shimbun*, have reported on hundreds of human rights violations and other damages suffered by members of the [Family Federation](#), formerly the [Unification Church](#) throughout Japan.

According to the *Kyodo News* report, the [Family Federation](#) had received a number of inquiries from various news outlets, and in response to those, it released a statement on 22nd June claiming that since 8th July 2022, there had been "a total of 337 cases of human rights violations and other damages had been reported by believers and churches nationwide up to December of last year". 8th July 2022 is the day former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was killed by assassin Tetsuya Yamaami, who claimed grudges against the [Family Federation](#).



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Graffiti sprayed on Family Federation facilities in Japan after the Abe assassination in July 2022. Photo: FFWPU

The huge number of open hostilities against the Family Federation include graffiti sprayed on cars, and windows of church facilities being broken during prayer sessions.

According to the large news agency, the Family Federation also alleged that contracts to purchase cars under the church's name were signed at used car

dealerships affiliated with Toyota and Nissan, but the purchases were later refused. Toyota denied these claims, stating, "There is no truth to it," while Nissan commented, "We do not disclose individual transactions and have not issued any directives regarding sales to the church."

The Family Federation announced that it will present these details in writing to Tokyo District Court during the hearings for the dissolution order requested by the Kishida administration. The religious organization also reported recurring incidents of graffiti with messages like "Traitor cult" and "Cult, get out," along with nuisance phone calls at churches in various locations across the nation.



Graffiti sprayed on Family Federation facilities in Japan after the Abe assassination in July 2022. Photo: FFWPU

Kyodo News also reported that conflicts within families belonging to the Family Federation regarding faith and donations have intensified. For example, a woman in her 70s from the Tokyo metropolitan area sustained a fracture after being assaulted by her husband, who acquired negative views of the religious organization following the assassination of the popular former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. In another case, a woman in her 60s from the same region reported that her relationship with her daughter rapidly deteriorated after the media linked the cold-blooded murder of Abe to the Family Federation. It culminated in the daughter's suicide in July 2022, soon after the assassination.

The statement issued by the Family Federation on 22nd June gives a detailed overview of the human rights violations and other damages suffered by the religious organization and its members since the huge number of sensationalist biased media articles that turned truth on its head, claiming it was the Family Federation that was the perpetrator and the assassin a victim.

Featured image above: Shidome Media Tower, located in Shiodome, Minato, Tokyo, Japan. Floors 1-24 are the headquarters of Kyodo News, Japan's largest news agency. Photo: ☞ License: CC ASA 3.0 Unp.

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