

## FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: Japanese Fascist Politician Attacks FFWPU Marriage With Nazi Ideas

Knut Holdhus  
December 5, 2024



*Yoshinobu Miyake speaking at [IRF Asia](#) (center of photo), July 22, 2024, Chiyoda Ward, Tokyo*



**Japanese politician censured for his attack on religious minority when using Nazi ideas and the same kind of totalitarian thinking and eugenics ideology as that of Hitler**

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[Original article](#)

**Series: Freedom of Religion Under Threat - Part 6: Voices of Religious Leaders**

**Concerns about Media and Politics Getting Out of Control**

**Various Religious Denominations Make Statements**

by the Religious Freedom Investigative Team of the editorial department of [Sekai Nippo](#)

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In [May last year](#), the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#) (formerly the Unification Church) held an international [mass wedding](#) ceremony in South Korea. Prior to this, in February of the same year, at a hearing of opposition parties held in the National Diet, Kazunori Yamanoi (山井和則), a member of the House of Representatives from the Constitutional Democratic Party (CDP), stated,



*Kazunori Yamanoi, Japanese politician of the Constitutional Democratic Party, a member of the House of Representatives in the Diet 2000-2017 for DPJ and again since 2021 for CDP. Photo 2009*

"A dissolution order must be issued before the [mass wedding](#) ceremony takes place. If it is delayed, it could lead to children born from the [mass wedding](#) asking, 'Why didn't you stop it?'"

This remark implied that children born to parents of [this faith](#) should not exist.

Norio Hosoya (細谷典男), a city council member from Toride City, Ibaraki Prefecture, took issue with this statement. On 20th July this year, he delivered a lecture at the "[Niigata Prefectural Symposium](#) to Protect Freedom of Religion and Human Rights", which was organized by [Family Federation](#) believers. Hosoya criticized the statement, comparing it to the totalitarian and eugenic ideas of Nazi Germany, saying,

"This is the same kind of totalitarian thinking and eugenics ideology as that of Hitler. For example, the Nazis killed disabled people

because they were deemed a burden, and this later escalated into the Holocaust - the systematic genocide of Jewish people by state power."



*Norio Hosoya, Japanese author and politician. Among his books is one titled "The Constitution and the Former [Unification Church](#)" (2023)*

Hosoya warned that such rhetoric must not be overlooked, drawing parallels to how the Nazis gained power with popular support.

At the Niigata Prefectural Symposium, attendees represented a wide range of religious denominations, reflecting diverse voices and perspectives.

A man who follows the teachings of Ryokan (良寛和尚), a renowned Zen Buddhist monk, expressed deep concern, saying,

"It's abnormal that something like the Holocaust is even being discussed in modern times."

He added,

"I was moved by the fact that [Family Federation](#) members practice their faith with conviction, no matter how much criticism they receive."

A priest from the Hokke School (法華宗 - Nichiren Buddhism) shared his worries about unchecked public sentiment, remarking,

"The law should properly restrain the swelling tide of public opinion, but it is failing to do so. It is unhealthy to allow the vulnerable to be relentlessly attacked."

A female member of Soka Gakkai, who started studying the teachings of the [Family Federation](#) after her son joined it two years ago, stressed,

"We should not judge the essence, teachings, and activities of the [Family Federation](#) by looking at only a portion of it."

She added,

"As our organization also faces criticism, this gathering gave me courage."

A pastor leading a branch of a Christian new religious movement attended a similar symposium held on 14th October in Osaka. He warned,

"The media and the political left have run amok, with the legal community and public opinion completely capitulating. I sense an oppressive atmosphere close to totalitarianism."



*Rev. Haruhisa Nakagawa of the Christian Church of the Lord's Sheep*

Haruhisa Nakagawa (中川晴久), Senior Pastor of the Christian Church of the Lord's Sheep (主の羊クリスチャン教会 - based in Yokohama), has also spoken at gatherings organized by [Family Federation](#) believers across Japan. In his lectures, he has argued against the unjust nature of the dissolution order request targeting the [organization](#).

Over 25 years ago, Pastor Nakagawa viewed the [Family Federation](#) as heretical. In 2013, harboring thoughts of "They should just collapse," he covertly infiltrated one of their facilities in Yokohama, concealing his role as a pastor. However, after repeatedly interacting with members through his visits, his perspective underwent a complete transformation.

He stated,

"The [Family Federation](#) fosters a sense of connection and bonds among its believers, creating a very positive community. Members

sincerely practice their faith, encouraging and supporting one another. This experience resolved almost all the issues I had with the [religious organization](#)."

Nakagawa also noted that the people he encountered in the [Family Federation](#) were "filled with a spirit of wanting to improve society." He observed significant improvements in visible metrics such as lawsuits and complaints, particularly after 2009. However, he criticized the lack of recognition for these positive changes, arguing,

"The absence of any acknowledgment of these efforts is, in itself, a problem."



*Rev. Yoshinobu Miyake. 2015*

Religious leaders are beginning to raise their voices on international platforms. On 22nd July 2024, at the International Religious Freedom (IRF) [Summit Asia](#) held in Tokyo, Yoshinobu Miyake (三宅善信), Executive Director of the Shinto International Institute (神道国際学会), addressed the issue of the dissolution order request.

He remarked,

"In the National Diet, which is the source of democratic power, lawmakers have turned a blind eye to the social annihilation of a particular new religious movement due to fears of being associated with it. Furthermore, the mass media has taken on the role of judge."

His comments challenged the dominant narrative in major media outlets, which have overwhelmingly assumed a stance that "dissolution as inevitable" in their reporting.

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# Media Criticized For Stereotyping Minorities

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• December 4, 2024 • Knut Holdhus



*Muslims in Japan censure media for stereotyping minorities, creating image that Islam is dangerous and associated with groups like al-Qaeda*



Logo of the Sekai Nippo

Tokyo, 28th November 2024 – Published as the **42nd article** in a series in the Japanese newspaper *Sekai Nippo*. Republished with permission. Translated from Japanese. *Original article*








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Concerns over prejudice: **"Religion is dangerous"**

by the Religious Freedom Investigative Team of the editorial department of *Sekai Nippo*

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### Outrage in Resident Muslim Communities

Sayyed Sajjad Shah, a 67-year-old self-employed resident of Nagoya, is a follower of the Ahmadiyya Muslim minority group. He is affiliated with the *Japan Ahmadiyya Muslim Association*.

Shah was born and raised in a family of doctors in Pakistan, where he was seen as having a bright future. However, as the only Ahmadiyya believer in his high school class, he faced discrimination. This deeply troubled both him and his parents, ultimately leading them to make the difficult decision for him to leave school.

This experience strengthened his resolve against religious persecution and deepened his commitment to the principle of freedom of religion.

### Shah’s Journey in Japan and His Advocacy for Religious Freedom

Shah migrated to Japan in 1984 and has been an active and devoted member of the *Japan Ahmadiyya Muslim Association* since the organization moved its headquarters from Tokyo to Nagoya in the 1980s. The association now has over 500 members. However, recent criticisms of the *Family Federation for World Peace and Unification* (formerly the *Unification Church*)



Locations of regions and cities mentioned.  
Illustration: TUBS / Wikimedia Commons.  
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following the assassination of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and the government’s subsequent dissolution request have heightened concerns within the association.

Shah asserts,

*“The teachings of Islam do not advocate for the deprivation of religious freedom. Wise religious leaders must explain this to the government.”*

He believes that the spread of negative sentiment toward religion in Japan stems from a lack of education and understanding about it.

While the **Family Federation** faced scrutiny for excessive donations beyond its followers’ means, Shah highlighted the Ahmadiyya approach:

*“In the Ahmadiyya community, contributions and charitable giving are entirely voluntary. All funds collected and their uses are meticulously recorded and disclosed to members. This transparency ensures trust and satisfaction among believers.”*

### Promoting Unity and Understanding Across Religions

Through Shah’s introduction, Anis Ahmad Nadeem, the Japan headquarters’ head missionary for the *Ahmadiyya Muslim Association*, participated in the *Aichi Prefecture Conference for Building Paths to Religious Harmony and Unified Peace* on 5th October 2024, organized by **Family Federation** members in Nagoya. In his guest address, Nadeem emphasized,

*“No one has the right to deprive others of religious freedom.”*



A similar event titled *One Osaka 10.14: Weaving the Value of Faith into the Future*

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Humayun Mughal being interviewed.  
Photo: Tsuyoshi Toyota (豊田剛).

was held in Osaka on 14th October 2024. Religious commentator and journalist Humayun Mughal, a former friend of the late politician and professional wrestler Antonio Inoki, delivered a keynote speech wearing a suit and red shawl reminiscent of Inoki's style. He declared,

*"True happiness arises only when there is freedom of faith, freedom of the soul, and freedom of the heart."*

### A Shared Experience of Cultural and Religious Advocacy

Mughal, a Sunni Muslim, came to Japan 40 years ago as a student at Waseda University. Drawing on his experiences as an interpreter for the Pakistani Embassy and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he leads an Islamic cultural research group. Despite decades of life in Japan, he continues to grapple with differences in culture and customs, strengthening his resolve to promote understanding and harmony.



Antonio Inoki (1943-2022), legendary Japanese professional wrestler, professional wrestling trainer, martial artist, and politician. Photo: Ogiyoshisan / Wikimedia Commons. License: CC ASA 3.0 Unp

### Humayun Mughal Expresses Concerns Over Prejudices and Religious Freedom

Mughal lamented the challenges facing Muslims in Japan, sharing an ongoing struggle to establish an Islamic cemetery in Kyushu. Local opposition has stalled the project, leaving it without approval. Currently, there are only seven burial sites in Japan where Muslims can be interred according to Islamic traditions, and none are located in the Chūgoku, Shikoku, or Kyushu regions.

He also pointed out a



Islam is often associated with groups like Al-Qaeda. Here: members of Al-Qaeda, the militant Salafist Islamist terrorist network founded by Osama bin Laden in the late 1980s. Photo: GagogaSus / Wikimedia Commons. License: CC ASA 4.0 Int

widespread misconception equating Islam with extremism, saying,

*"Many people in Japan still associate Islam with groups like Al-Qaeda, reinforcing the notion that religion is strange or dangerous."*

Mughal criticized the media for creating and perpetuating stereotypes, highlighting a similar issue in the backlash against the [Family Federation](#).

Mughal expressed deep concern about the government's dissolution request for the [Family Federation](#), viewing it as a potential threat to Muslim communities. "Politics should not interfere in matters of religion," he argued, fearing that government actions could create precedents affecting Islamic organizations.

He explained,

*"Islamic groups are already under surveillance by public security authorities, like other new religious organizations. If the dissolution of the [Family Federation](#) sets a precedent, it could lead to increasing restrictions and possibly dissolution orders for Islamic groups as well."*

Mughal warned that such developments would not only hinder Muslims' ability to freely practice their faith but also create broader societal challenges, making life more difficult for Muslims in Japan

societal challenges, making life more difficult for Muslims in Japan.

**Featured image** above: Sayyed Sajjad Shah being interviewed. Photo: Tsuyoshi Toyoda (豊田剛)

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