

FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: Japan's Attack on FFWPU Leftist Scheme

Knut Holdhus
February 9, 2025



Newt Gingrich, former Speaker of the US House of Representatives, delivering a special pre-recorded video message 5th February 2025 at the International Religious Freedom (IRF) Summit 2025 in Washington DC



Senior US politician points to large leftist scheme behind vicious campaign not solely targeting Family Federation, but governing conservative party LDP

A special pre-recorded video message presented 5th February at the International Religious Freedom (IRF) Summit 2025 in Washington DC, by senior American politician Newt Gingrich, former Speaker of the US House of Representatives.



IRF Summit co-chair: Sam Brownback, US ambassador-at-large for international religious freedom 2018 - 2021. Here, at the IRF Summit in Washington DC 5th Feb. 5, 2025

First of all, I want to extend my greetings to Ambassador Sam Brownback and Dr. Katarina Lantos Swett, who are the co-chairs of the International Religious Freedom Summit.

This is a very important time to have this summit. The fact is that the assassination of former Prime Minister Abe by somebody who was clearly mentally ill, and who was not a member of the [church](#), led to a deliberate effort - I think largely [driven by the Communist Party](#) - in an effort to destroy the political party which had been such a strong bulwark of American and freedom relations. The Liberal Democratic Party had done so much to help Japan, but now, beaten down, attacked, battered.

I wrote back in [November 2022 in the Washington Times](#), that it's clear that the attack on the [Family Federation](#) is actually an attack on the Liberal Democratic Party. That's exactly what happened. And it was an effort, frankly, by the communists to create an environment where there could be a closer relationship with China and a more distant relationship with the United States.

The government now is in a mess, and the election results were very damaging.

What's happened is that the government has been trying to destroy the [Unification Church](#). It's gone so far beyond the Japanese constitution. It's found no crimes, and it has no basis for what it's doing.

And in fact, the U.S. State Department, in its [2023 report](#) in the Biden administration, noted that Japan had deviated from the norm when it decided to dissolve the [Family Federation](#) without any proof of any activity that was criminal that had been committed by the [church](#). They just stepped in for political

reasons.



Now you don't have to believe America. In 2024, the United Nations Rapporteur on Religious freedom [issued a mandate](#) that the Japanese actions are in violation of the human rights declaration that Japan has signed on to.

Your host today, IRF co-chair Dr. Katarina Lantos Swett and Suzan Johnson Cook, former State Department Ambassador for religious freedom, [in 2023, wrote](#),

"In a move that is much more reminiscent of current practices in China and Russia, Japan's government is now threatening to dissolve a legally constituted religious group for seemingly political purposes." (RealClear Politics 26th September 2023)



Left: USCIRF Chair Dr. Katrina Lantos Swett in Oslo 8th Nov. 2014 - Right: Suzan Johnson Cook in July 2023

Let me be clear: The Biden administration has already condemned this activity. The United Nations has already condemned this activity.

And now with President Trump, we have somebody who is deeply, passionately committed to religious liberty. This is going to have grave consequence for the United States' relationship with Japan and our view of what's happening with Japanese politics.

It's very important that Japan remain pro-freedom. It's very important that Japan follow its own constitution. It's very important that Japan remains with America and not allows

itself to be gradually overwhelmed by Communist China.

This is an important meeting, and I'm honored to have been given a chance to chat with you.

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Dissolution Request Condemned At Freedom Summit

• February 7, 2025 • Knut Holdhus

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Japan's dissolution request against religious minority draws strong condemnation at Washington DC religious freedom summit

Tokyo, 5th February 2025 – Published as an article in the Japanese newspaper *Sekai Nippo*. Republished with permission. Translated from Japanese. *Original article.*

Expectation for Trump's "Pressure"

Request for Dissolution of Family Federation Discussed at International Religious Freedom Summit in Washington, D.C.


by Yosuke Yamazaki (山崎 洋介)



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[Washington DC] The *International Religious Freedom (IRF) Summit*, aimed at promoting religious freedom worldwide, began on 4th February 2025 in Washington, D.C., for a two-day session. During a dinner event, former high-ranking officials voiced concerns that religious freedom was being violated in relation to the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#) (formerly the [Unification Church](#)), which the Japanese government has requested to be dissolved. Many attendees expressed expectations for the Trump administration's response to this issue.



Katrina Lantos Swett speaking at the IRF Summit in Washington DC 5th Feb. 2025. Photo: FOREF

Katrina Lantos Swett, a co-chair of the summit and former chair of the *U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF)*, expressed concern during a panel discussion about the Japanese government's handling of the [Family Federation](#). She stated that **Japan appears to be abandoning the rule of law and equality under the law**, which are fundamental to democracy, **driven by an obsessive desire to attack a religious community**.

She pointed out that Trump's administration has shown a willingness to exert maximum pressure to achieve policy goals, stating, "It may not always be polite, but it can yield results." She further emphasized her expectation that the Trump administration would apply strong pressure on Japan in defense of religious freedom.

See [Katrina Lantos Swett's remarks at the panel](#)

Additionally, former U.S. House Speaker **Newt Gingrich** delivered a video message referring to the *U.S. State Department's 2023 annual report on religious freedom*, which **pointed out that Japan's October 2023 request for dissolution was based on civil law violations rather than traditional legal standards**. He also highlighted that the United Nations **issued a recommendation** last year, warning that Japan's actions were in violation of the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)*.



Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House of Representatives in the American Congress 1995-1999, here delivering a video message to the IRF Summit in Washington DC 5th Feb. 2025. Photo: Screenshot from live transmission.

Gingrich stated,

"The Biden administration and the UN have already condemned this activity. And now with President Trump, we have somebody who is deeply, passionately committed to religious liberty. This is going to have grave consequences for the United States' relationship with Japan and our view of what's happening with Japanese politics."

The panel discussion also touched on allegations that Japan's *Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology (MEXT)* **fabricated statements** in the case against the [Family Federation](#). **Marco Respinti**, director of the Italian online religious freedom magazine *Bitter Winter*, raised the question, "Is this true?" In response, **Norishige Kondo** (近藤徳茂), deputy director of the [Family Federation](#) of Japan's Legal Department, replied, "That's correct."

He strongly criticized the Japanese government, saying,

"I think it is outrageous that the government tried to dissolve a **religious organization** based on **fabricated evidence**."

The dinner event was sponsored by the *Washington Times Foundation* and the *Universal Peace Federation (UPF)*. Other speakers at the panel discussion included **Tatsuki Nakayama** (中山達樹), an international lawyer, and **Patricia Duval**, a French international human rights lawyer.

See [Patricia Duval's speech](#)

Tomihiko Tanaka (田中富広), President of the [Family Federation](#) in Japan, criticized former Prime Minister Fumio Kishida (岸田文雄) for changing the legal interpretation overnight to include "civil law violations" as grounds for dissolution. He stated,

"The Japanese government has crossed a line that should never have been crossed."

He expressed his determination to



Tomihiko Tanaka (田中富広), President of the

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"overcome this crisis for religious freedom and democracy in Japan" with support from the U.S.

Family Federation in Japan, speaking at the IRF Summit in Washington DC 5th Feb. 2025. Photo: Screenshot from live transmission

At the conclusion of the dinner event, participants signed a statement calling on Japan to protect religious freedom. The statement expressed deep concern that, following the assassination of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (安倍晋三), "various forces have begun dismantling the human rights of religious believers in Japan."

Text: Yosuke Yamazaki (山崎 洋介)

Featured image above: A panel discussion on the Japanese government's request for an order to disband the former Unification Church at the International Religious Freedom (IRF) Summit held in Washington on 5th February 2025. Photo: Yosuke Yamazaki (山崎 洋介)

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