

FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: Alleged Forgery by Japanese State

Knut Holdhus
March 12, 2025



Press conference disclosing the allegations, released on March 11, 2025, via the YouTube channel "Ogasawara Family Church Channel". Hiroshi Ogasawara (right) and attorney Shinichi Tokunaga



Dissolution order controversy: Family Federation follower takes legal action against government ministry officials over alleged forgery

Tokyo, 11th March 2025 - Published as an article in the Japanese newspaper [Sekai Nippo](#). Republished with permission. Translated from Japanese. [Original article](#).

Ministry of Education Officials Accused

Family Federation Follower Alleges Fabrication of Statement

by the editorial department of [Sekai Nippo](#)

A male follower of the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#) (formerly the [Unification Church](#)) filed a criminal complaint with the Tokyo District Public Prosecutors Office on 10th March 2025, accusing officials from Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology (MEXT) of document forgery and the use of forged documents. This comes amid [allegations](#) that statements submitted by MEXT as evidence in its request for a dissolution order against the [organization](#) at the Tokyo District Court may have been fabricated.



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The individual filing the complaint is Hiroshi Ogasawara (小笠原裕), a follower of the [Family Federation](#). He announced the accusation in a video released on YouTube on 11th March.

The complaint targets three MEXT officials responsible for drafting statements from two former followers of the [Family Federation](#), which were used as witness testimony in the court proceedings regarding the dissolution order.

Ogasawara expressed outrage, stating,

"We have dedicated our lives to this faith. As a believer, it is unbearable to see fabricated evidence used

to justify the dissolution order."



YouTube channel of Ogasawara Family Church, where the announcement was made on March 11

He emphasized that the criminal complaint would ensure that "a third-party perspective properly examines the matter."

Attorney Shinichi Tokunaga(徳永信一), representing the complainant, questioned the integrity of the entire legal process, saying,

"This raises serious doubts about whether other procedures were conducted fairly as well."



On 19th February 2025, the [Family Federation](#) published a [report](#) titled "MEXT's Fabrication of False Evidence - The Grave Crime of State Power Exposed in the Dissolution Order Lawsuit." In it, the [organization](#) pointed out multiple fabricated or

false statements, including those from the two former members whose testimonies were used in the case. Additionally, on 7th March, the [Family Federation](#) formally requested an explanation from the Agency for Cultural Affairs regarding the alleged fabrication.

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Flawed, Deceptive Evidence Gathering By State

• February 11, 2025 • Knut Holdhus



Tokyo paper: Serious flaws suggest pattern of careless or even deceptive evidence gathering by ministry spearheading state persecution of religious minority the Family Federation

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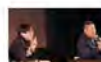
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Logo of the Sekai Nippo

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[Scoop 2] Evidence for Dissolution Included Without Consent

“No Confirmation,” says Angry Current Member – Former Members of

Different Religions Also Included

Allegations of Fabrications in Ministry of Education’s Statements on Family Federation Dissolution Order Request

by the editorial department of *Sekai Nippo*

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Former entrance of the Tokyo government building housing MEXT, the Japan Sports Agency, and the Agency for Cultural Affairs – Chiyoda, Tokyo. Photo (2009): Dick Thomas Johnson. License: [CC Attr 2.0 Gen](#)

Concerns have arisen regarding the *Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology* (MEXT) and its submission of statements as evidence to the *Tokyo District Court* in support of a dissolution order for the *Family Federation for World Peace and Unification* (formerly the *Unification Church*). **Individuals whose names appear in the submitted evidence have reported to this newspaper that they were neither consulted nor did they provide statements aligning with what was submitted.**

A **new allegation** has surfaced from a **person claiming she was unknowingly included as part of the ministry’s evidence for the dissolution order**. Additionally, it has come to light that **former members of religious groups unrelated to the Family Federation were included as “victims”** in the statements. This suggests a **pattern of careless or even deceptive evidence gathering by MEXT**.

“My words were misused” – a devout member’s anger

Yukie Sugiyu (pseudonym), a woman in her 70s living in Sapporo, Hokkaido, and a current member of the *Family Federation*, says,

“I have never been so disrespected. My statements were twisted, and I feel deeply hurt.”



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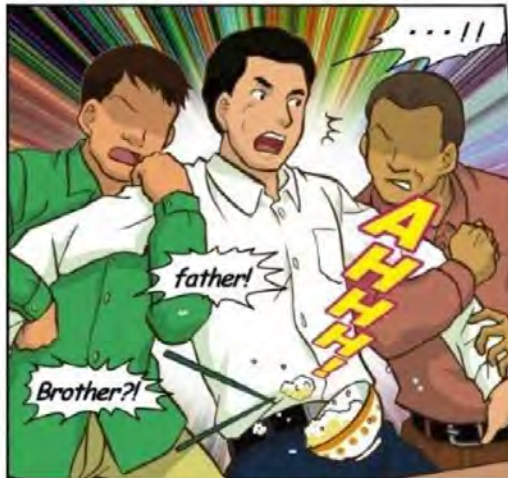
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Allegations of **careless or even deceptive evidence gathering** by MEXT. Here, the symbol of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan. Photo: 文部科学省 (MEXT Japan) / Wikimedia Commons. License: [CC Attr 4.0 Int](#)

Sugiya, who regularly attends her local church, was shocked to learn last year that court documents she had been involved with were being used as evidence in MEXT's request for a dissolution order.

The documents in question date back to 1988 when former **Family Federation** members sued the **organization** in the *Sapporo District Court*. Sugiya had testified in that case as a witness supporting the **Family Federation**.

Sugiya was once close to one of the plaintiffs, a former member who had left the **organization**, claiming its teachings were flawed. However, in her testimony, Sugiya stated that the woman had suddenly become



Drawing depicting kidnapping of a member of the Family Federation in Japan. Image: [Japanese Victims' Association against Religious Kidnapping and Forced Conversion](#)

unreachable for about a year, leading her to believe that the real reason for her departure was **abduction and confinement by her relatives**.

Sugiya testified in court to defend her faith and to expose the reality of **coercive faith-breaking** through abduction and confinement. Despite this, her testimony has now been submitted as "victim evidence" supporting the dissolution of the **Family Federation** – without any prior consultation or confirmation from MEXT. She said angrily,

"The people trying to dissolve the Family Federation are twisting the narrative in their favor. This is beyond common sense!"

She is now working with the **Family Federation** to demand that MEXT remove her testimony from its evidence.

Unrelated religious group's former member also included as a "victim"

Another case has emerged in western Japan, further **exposing the flaws in MEXT's evidence gathering**. An investigation into the membership records of a woman who contributed a statement to MEXT found no trace of her ever having been affiliated with the **Family Federation**.

Upon further inquiry, it was discovered that nearly **20 years ago**, the woman had been recruited into a **completely different religious organization, Group A**, and had made monetary donations there. She had attended a gathering of Group A in a city in western Japan, where she met the group's leader. Later, she encountered a member of yet another religious group, **Group B**, and gradually distanced herself from Group A due to the new acquaintance's influence.

Despite never being a **Family Federation** member or donating to it, the woman had previously been a notary in a collective legal negotiation against the **Family Federation**, represented by lawyers affiliated with **the National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales**. It appears these lawyers

introduced her to MEXI as a “victim” of the [Family Federation](#).

MEXT officials are expected to verify the backgrounds of those who contribute statements, either through direct interviews or phone calls. If they failed to distinguish between religious organizations, this suggests **negligence**. If they knowingly included a false victim, it raises **serious ethical concerns**.

Son's lawsuit for refund of donations already dismissed

On 21st
January
2025, [this](#)



Anti-religious legislation allows relatives of donors to claim refund decades later! Here, a Japanese woman offering a donation at a meeting. Illustration: Microsoft Designer Image Creator, 10th February 2025.

[newspaper reported](#) on a separate case where a believer had voluntarily donated money, only for non-believing family members to later claim the donation was forced and demand a refund. The statement supporting the dissolution order falsely portrayed the believer as a victim.

A similar pattern appears in the case of **Hanako Tanaka (pseudonym)**, a devout believer from the Kansai region. Tanaka actively practiced her faith and made donations until her passing a few years ago. She lived alone but cherished her friendships with fellow believers.

After her death, her estranged son discovered [Family Federation](#) books and memorabilia among her belongings. He then **filed a lawsuit seeking to reclaim her donations**, claiming his mother had been manipulated. However, the **court dismissed his claim**, ruling that there was no evidence of coercion.

Despite the court rejecting the son's claim, **his statement still appears among the evidence collected by MEXT**. This contradicts MEXT's stated approach of handling the dissolution order request “with caution” and raises concerns about its process, especially given the **grave implications of dissolving a religious corporation through closed-door proceedings**.

Conclusion

MEXT's handling of evidence for the dissolution of the [Family Federation](#) appears **deeply flawed**, involving **misuse of statements, inclusion of false victims, and lack of verification**. If the ministry is indeed **fabricating or manipulating testimonies**, it calls into question the legitimacy of the entire dissolution request.

See also [Alleged Evidence Tampering in Dissolution Case](#)

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Featured image above: Yukie Sugiya (pseudonym) speaks in an interview with the [Sekai Nippo](#) in the northern city of Sapporo. Photo: Takahide Ishii (石井孝秀)

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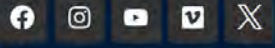
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