

FFWPU Europe and Middle East: Couple Abducted by their Own Family and Held Captive 5 Days

Knut Holdhus
March 24, 2025



Yukie Kanamori (alias) shares her experience of being [abducted and confined](#)



"I thought I'd never see my kids again": A mother's harrowing ordeal - Couple abducted and held captive for days

Tokyo, 24th March 2025 - Published as an article in the Japanese newspaper [Sekai Nippo](#). Republished with permission. Translated from Japanese. [Original article](#).

In July 2014, an incident occurred in Hiroshima where a couple in their 40s, members of the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#) (formerly the [Unification Church](#)), were [forcibly detained](#) by their relatives and confined in an apartment in Osaka. In 2020, the Hiroshima High Court ordered the Christian-affiliated individuals and relatives responsible for the confinement to pay approximately 1.7 million yen [Editor's note: ca. 11,360 US Dollars] in damages. Yukie Kanamori (pseudonym, in her 50s) spoke to [The Sekai Nippo](#) about what happened at the time.

Christian Pastors Appeared to Persuade Them to Leave their Faith

Separated from Their Young Children for Five Days

by Takahide Ishii (石井 孝秀)

Kanamori recalls the experience of being [abducted and confined](#) while visiting her family home,

"At first, I didn't understand what was happening."



Her parents being abducted and confined by relatives took its toll on daughter

There have been numerous cases where [Family Federation](#) members have been abducted and confined by their relatives, who were influenced by "faith-breakers" (professional deprogrammers) and certain Christian pastors, to force the believers to renounce their faith and leave the [religious organization](#).

Kanamori had returned to her family home in Hiroshima on the afternoon of 26th July 2014. She had other plans that day, but her mother strongly urged her to come home, so she complied, bringing along her 8-year-old daughter and 3-year-old son. Other family members, including her parents, her younger sister and her husband, as well as her mother's brother and his wife, were also present.

By 8 pm, Kanamori began noticing unusual behavior among her relatives. Her mother and younger sister took her daughter out shopping,

which she found odd given the late hour. In hindsight, she realized this was a ploy to separate her from her children.

At that time, Kanamori was beside her son, who had already fallen asleep, when her father invited her to talk in another room. There, she was surrounded by her father, uncle and aunt, and her brother-in-law. As they talked, her brother-in-law suddenly pinned her down from behind.

Her mouth was covered with a towel, and her hands and feet were about to be tied. At that moment, she realized she was being abducted and confined to force her to abandon her faith, and she resisted desperately. Suddenly, her brother-in-law's parents also entered the room.

She screamed in fear, thinking, "I may never see my children again." However, her sister had already prepared for this - she played music from a CD player to drown out the noise, ensuring that neighbors would not hear the struggle.

After a fierce struggle, Kanamori was not only bound but also forced into a sleeping bag and transported in a van. Around 1:30 am on 27th July 2014, she arrived at an apartment in Osaka. She found that her husband had also been brought there.

Her husband had been tricked into going to visit a critically ill uncle at a hospital earlier that day. However, this was a ruse set up by his relatives, who then took him directly to the apartment.

Persuasion by Christian Pastors and Hunger Strike Resistance



*Pastor and faith-breaker:
Mamoru Takazawa of the
Christian Truth Church of
Kobe, Japan*

During their confinement, two Christian pastors visited the couple: Pastor Mamoru Takazawa (高澤守) from Christian Truth Church of Kobe (a Protestant church) - after the incident he committed suicide - and Atsuyoshi Oshima (尾島淳義), a deacon from the Aotani Evangelical Lutheran Church in western Japan. They criticized the [Family Federation](#) and pressured the couple to leave it. However, the couple resisted by going on a hunger strike, refusing to comply with the pastors' demands.

Throughout their confinement, they carefully exchanged information and observed their surroundings in an attempt to determine their location. Kanamori noticed a gas valve labeled "Osaka Gas", confirming they had been moved from Hiroshima to Osaka. Additionally, from overheard conversations among the relatives, she learned that they were being held in "Room 501" of the apartment building.

Since their belongings, including their cell phones, had been confiscated, Kanamori took a risk. At 2 am on 31st July, while their captors were asleep, she used one of their mobile phones to send a text message to a fellow [Family Federation](#) member. She provided all the information she had gathered and requested that the police be contacted.

The police arrived and freed the couple. They had been held captive since the night of 26th July and were finally able to return to Hiroshima in the early hours of 31st July.

During this time, their children had been cared for by Kanamori's mother and younger sister. She recalled,

"The night we returned to Hiroshima, my sister and her husband brought the children back home. The moment they saw me at the door, they burst into tears."

The children had been told that their parents were "away on work", but the forced separation had taken its toll - especially on her daughter. She had become overly cautious, insisting on locking the chain lock on the door every night, something she had never done before. She also started experiencing severe night terrors, crying uncontrollably at night.

Kanamori expressed her deep sorrow and frustration,

"What I find hardest to forgive is how this has hurt my children's hearts."

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Tokyo Court To Rule On 25th In Dissolution Case

• March 23, 2025 • Knut Holdhus



Lower court to rule on 25th March in landmark religious dissolution case with wide-ranging implications for all religions

3 Judges to Decide Fate of Religious Organization That Has Committed No Crimes








by Knut Holdhus, editor

Several Japanese news outlets – NHK World, Mainichi Shimbun and The Japan Times – reported 23rd March 2025, that Tokyo District Court is expected to decide on Tuesday 25th March whether to issue a dissolution order for the religious organization formerly known as the **Unification**



The logo of the Mainichi Shimbun. Public domain image

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Church. The Japanese government's education and culture ministry requested the court's intervention in 2023, arguing that the **organization** engaged in unethical fundraising practices and frightened members with stories about eternal damnation in hell.

This case follows an extensive investigation by the ministry, which claims to have interviewed over 170 former members who had sought "damages" and their donations being refunded after being advised to do so by activists and hostile lawyers campaigning against the **religious organization** since the 1980s.



According to NHK World, government ministry officials claim that the **religious organization** forced its members to offer substantial donations over a long period of time.

The Japan Times reports that the *Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology* claims that members of the former **Unification Church** "committed illegal acts" when soliciting "people to make large donations to the group by stirring up their anxiety".



The Japan Times article was provided by *Jiji News Agency*, which states,

"The **Unification Church** has rebutted that the receipt of donations is part of religious activities and is not a way to acquire property through illegal acts. In January, the group filed with the court a claim that the evidence submitted by the ministry was fabricated."

The **Unification Church**, which in 2015 changed its name in Japan to **Family Federation for World Peace and Unification**, denies forcing anyone to offer donations and stirring up potential donors' anxiety.

As NHK World reports, the **religious organization** points out that "receiving donations is part of its religious activities." According to Japanese law, all registered religious corporations are entitled to solicit donations. And donors are entitled to offer large donations if they wish to do so.



An English exact reproduction of The Civil Code of Japan, vol. 1, 4th edition, first published 1906.

According to the media reports, the government ministry contends that asking for donations using wrongful methods constitute unlawful acts under Japan's Civil Code, providing grounds for dissolution under the **Religious Corporations Act**. Up until now, only criminal acts would be ground for dissolution of a religious corporation. However, after the Abe assassination, the Kishida administration **changed**



the law overnight in order to allow claimed civil wrongdoings to suffice for issuing a dissolution order.

Front page of 2018 English version of **Religious Corporations Act of Japan**.

Although NHK World does not mention specifically that the authorities **changed the law** to specifically target the **Family Federation**, the large state-run media outlet writes,

"The latest request [for a dissolution order] is the first case filed based on illegal acts under the Civil Code."

NHK describes that it "is the third time that a Japanese government ministry or agency has sought the dissolution of a religious group for violating laws." The state channel describes the two previous cases:

- the Aum Shinrikyo movement, responsible for the deadly 1995 Tokyo subway sarin gas attack
- the Myokakuji group, whose leader was convicted of fraud.

In order for the **Family Federation** to be placed in this category, the law had to be changed. Unlike these prior instances, the case against the former **Unification Church** is entirely based on alleged violations of the Civil Code rather than criminal offenses.

Text: Knut Holdhus

Featured image above: The sign outside Tokyo District Court. Photo: FFWPU

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