FFWPU Europe and Middle East: Michael Balcomb on BBC Slams Japan's FFWPU Verdict as Xenophobic

Knut Holdhus April 6, 2025



Dr. Michael Balcomb 1st January 2025 and the BBC Radio 4 logo

Dr. Michael Balcomb defends Family Federation on BBC, condemns Japan's controversial legal crackdown as religious persecution

Dr. Michael Balcomb, President of the <u>Family Federation</u> for Europe and the Middle East and National Director of the <u>movement</u> in the UK, recently spoke out against Japan's legal actions targeting the <u>Family Federation</u>.



Court issuing controversial verdict. Here, the sign outside Tokyo District Court

Appearing on BBC Radio 4's "Sunday" program, which explores religious and ethical news, Dr. Balcomb strongly condemned a Tokyo District Court <u>ruling</u> that threatens the legal and corporate status of the <u>Family Federation</u> in Japan. He described the <u>decision</u> as a case of religious persecution, attributing it to xenophobia, distortions of the <u>organization</u>'s donation practices, and broader violations of human rights.

The <u>ruling</u>, if upheld on appeal, could lead to the dissolution of the <u>Family Federation</u> as a legal entity in Japan. Such a consequence would potentially allow the government to seize a large number of

properties held by the <u>religious organization</u> and confiscate donations made by everyday members, raising deep concerns about the future of religious freedom in the country.



Demonstration against unjust and xenophobic <u>verdict</u> against the <u>Family Federation</u> in Japan. Here members in Karatsu City on the southern island of Kyushu protesting March 30, 2025

Dr. Balcomb used the BBC platform to voice the organization's concerns and to clarify the mission and

beliefs of the <u>Family Federation</u>. He gave a concise overview of the <u>movement</u>'s founding principles, its spiritual orientation, and the important role it plays in the lives of its members around the world.

The controversial <u>court decision</u> has sparked considerable media attention both within Japan and internationally. As the case unfolds, many religious freedom advocates and observers are closely watching the implications it may have, not only for the <u>Family Federation</u> but for minority religious groups across Japan. Dr. Balcomb's BBC interview served as a critical opportunity to share the <u>federation</u>'s side of the story and challenge narratives that he argues misrepresent the <u>group</u>'s values and intentions.

Here is what Dr. Balcomb said,

"Of course, we think to appeal this <u>decision</u> because we think it's a serious mistake and that it's in contravention of the conventions on Human Rights and Freedom of Religion.

We think the real reason here is connected to lingering xenophobia and even racial prejudice among the Japanese people against Koreans, where our church originated.

The <u>Family Federation</u> was <u>founded in 1954</u> by the Reverend <u>Sun Myung Moon</u> in South Korea in answer to a <u>personal call from Jesus</u> Christ and now led by his widow, <u>Hak Ja Han</u>.



Encouraging strong <u>marriages</u>. Here, a <u>Family Federation</u> couple, with their distinct <u>Blessing</u> rings, holding hands

We call her 'Holy Mother Han'. We're a biblical faith and perhaps unique in our <u>teachings</u>, we teach that <u>God</u> is both Heavenly Father and Heavenly Mother. Our focus, frankly, is on encouraging strong <u>marriages</u> and families because we believe that it's in <u>marriage</u> that we come to resemble <u>God</u>.

We do encourage our members to <u>donate</u>. Of course, all religions do that. We don't accept the Ministry of Education's explanation in Japan that this is excessive, or it is forced. They quote about 200 cases, but we'd have to remember that we have several hundred thousand members in Japan so, at most, we're talking about one

tenth of 1%, over a period of about 25 years.

If I could put it in scriptural terms, Jesus said that <u>God</u> leaves 99 to save the one. Of course, as a pastor, I am sorry that any people who <u>donated</u> leave unhappy, but the <u>church</u> has never been accused of any crime, and I believe this is a case of religious persecution. The assassin of Shinzo Abe, <u>Tetsuya Yamagami</u>, was never a member of our community and I think it's absurd that his crime should be laid at our feet."

Text: Knut Holdhus

Related to slamming verdict on BBC: <u>Japan Following the Way of China</u>

Also related to slamming verdict on BBC: Media/Legal Expert: Communism Behind Persecution

Also related to slamming verdict on BBC: "Poorly Compiled Evidence Including Falsehoods"

And also related to slamming verdict on BBC: <u>Huge Scandal: "Ministry Is Falsifying Affidavits"</u>

Also related to slamming verdict on BBC: <u>Japan's New Laws to Curb New Religious Movements</u>

Also related to slamming verdict on BBC: <u>New Law Designed to Bankrupt Family Federation</u>

Also related to slamming verdict on BBC: Religious Faith Framed as Mental Health Concern

Also related to slamming verdict on BBC: <u>Terms from Consumer Law Used to Rob Faith</u>

And also related to slamming verdict on BBC: <u>New Law Manufacturing "Victims"</u>, <u>Dividing Families</u>

And also related to slamming verdict on BBC: Maverick Minister Lets "3 Foxes in the Henhouse"

More, related to slamming verdict on BBC: <u>Journalist Reveals Ugly Leftwing Conspiracy</u>

And more, related to slamming verdict on BBC: Militant Lawyers Dictate Government Policy

And more, related to slamming verdict on BBC: Media Helping Terrorist Reach His Goal

Related to slamming verdict on BBC: Kishida Administration Giving in to Terrorism

Related to slamming verdict on BBC: <u>Bizarre Atlantic Report Condoning Terror</u>

Related to slamming verdict on BBC: <u>Japan Times: Warning of Terror</u>

Related to slamming verdict on BBC: Did constant hate-mongering cause terror?

Also related to slamming verdict on BBC: <u>Dissolution Case: Wild Claims, Illegal Actions</u>

Also related to slamming verdict on BBC: <u>2nd-Generation Members Protesting Persecution</u>

Also related to slamming verdict: Inhuman Government-Supported Mass Deprogramming

And also related to slamming verdict: Bias: No Right to Respond for Religious Minority

More, related to slamming verdict: Collusion to Rob Minority of Its Rights

And more, related to slamming verdict: State and Media Creating "Today's Non-Citizens"

Still more, related to slamming verdict: <u>Japan Criticized for Glaring Rights Violations</u>

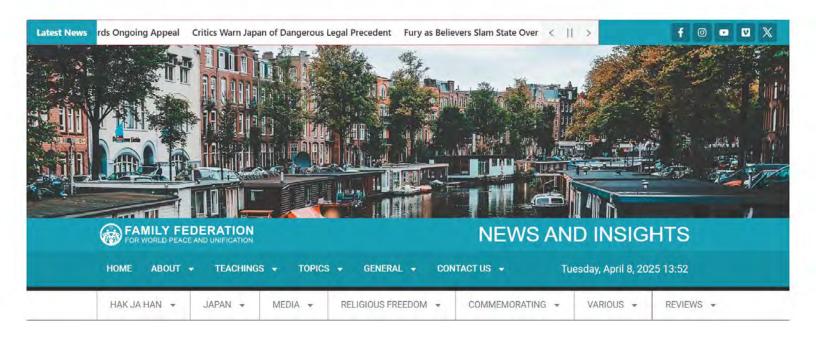
Even more, related to slamming verdict: <u>Two European Scholars Warning Japan</u>

And yet more, related to slamming verdict: <u>Japan Censured at Religious Freedom Event</u>

And even more, related to slamming verdict: <u>Inhuman Government-Supported Mass</u>
<u>Deprogramming</u>

And still more, related to slamming verdict: Malicious One-Sided Government Source Selection

More, related to slamming verdict: Government's Foul Play Pointed Out



City's Facility Ban Disregards Ongoing Appeal

• April 5, 2025 • Knut Holdhus





Facility ban sparks religious freedom concerns as Japanese city enforces dissolution order despite ongoing appeal



Tokyo, 2nd April 2025 – Published as an article in the Japanese newspaper Sekai Nippo. Republished with permission. Translated from Japanese. Original article.

Use of Facility Denied Due to Dissolution Order

Family Federation, Shimonoseki, Yamaguchi

Logo of the Sekai Nippo

editorial department

by the





of Sekai Nippo At a regular press conference on 31st March, Shintaro Maeda (前田晋太郎), Mayor of Shimonoseki, Yamaquchi Prefecture announced his intention not to approve the use of a city facility by the Shimonoseki Family Church of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (formerly

the Unification



Location of Shimonoseki, on the western tip of the main island of Honshu. From Shimonoseki there is a ferry to Busan, South Korea. Illustration: Maximilian Dörrbecker (Chumhwa) / Wikimedia Commons. License: CC ASA 3.0 Unp.

Church). This decision follows the *Tokyo District Court*'s issuance of a dissolution order for the religious organization on 25th March. Mayor Maeda stated, "We will comply with the judicial decision."



Shimonoseki Lifelong Learning Plaza. Photo: Zilog80 / Wikimedia Commons. License: CC ASA 3.0 Unp. Cropped

According to a representative of the Shimonoseki Family Church, they had planned to hold a large-scale event at the Shimonoseki Lifelong Learning Plaza in May. Although the application had already been accepted, on 1st April, a city official

contacted them to formally notify that the facility could not be used. The only reason given was "due to city policy."

From 2021 to 2024, the religious organization had held events at the same facility. In May of last year, Mayor Maeda commented,

"Refusing use of the facility before the court's decision on the dissolution order is finalized would only create confusion."

A church representative expressed concern, saying,

"If the dissolution order is upheld by the Tokyo High Court, it's clear that we'll no longer be able to rent facilities nationwide. While some say this won't affect religious beliefs, I question whether freedom of religion is truly being protected."

Featured image above: Shintaro Maeda (前田晋太郎), Mayor of Shimonoseki, Yamaguchi Prefecture, Japan. Photo: 内閣府 地方創生推 進室/Wikimedia Commons. License: CC Attr 4.0 Int. Cropped.

Related to city's facility ban: "Poorly Compiled Evidence Including Falsehoods"

Also related to city's facility ban: Huge Scandal: "Ministry Is Falsifying Affidavits"

Also related to city's facility ban: "Outrageous Verdict Allows State Persecution"

Also related to city's facility ban: Dissolution: The Danger of Secretive Proceedings

Also related to city's facility ban: Japan's New Laws to Curb New Religious Movements

Also related to *city's facility ban*: New Law Designed to Bankrupt Family Federation

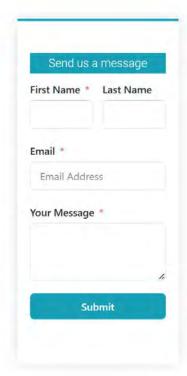
Also related to *city's facility ban*: Religious Faith Framed as Mental Health Concern

Also related to city's facility ban: Terms from Consumer Law Used to Rob Faith

And also related to city's facility ban: New Law Manufacturing "Victims", Dividing Families

And also related to city's facility ban: Maverick Minister Lets "3 Foxes in the Henhouse"

More, related to city's facility ban: Journalist Reveals Ugly Leftwing



Conspiracy

And more, related to city's facility ban: Militant Lawyers Dictate Government Policy

And more, related to city's facility ban: Courts Using Debunked Concepts Against Minority

Also related to city's facility ban: Dissolution Case: Wild Claims, Illegal Actions

Also related to city's facility ban: 2nd-Generation Members Protesting Persecution

Also related to city's facility ban: Inhuman Government-Supported Mass Deprogramming

And also related to city withdrawing facility approval: Bias: No Right to Respond for Religious Minority

More, related to city withdrawing facility approval: Collusion to Rob Minority of Its Rights

And more, related to city withdrawing facility approval: State and Media Creating "Today's Non-Citizens"

Still more, related to city withdrawing facility approval: Japan Criticized for Glaring Rights Violations

Even more, related to city withdrawing facility approval: Two European Scholars Warning Japan

And yet more, related to city withdrawing facility approval: Japan Censured at Religious Freedom Event

And still more, related to city withdrawing facility approval: Lawyer Exposes Dirty Leftwing Plot

And even more, related to city withdrawing facility approval:
Inhuman Government-Supported Mass Deprogramming

And still more, related to city withdrawing facility approval: Malicious One-Sided Government Source Selection

More, related to city withdrawing facility approval: Government's Foul Play Pointed Out

More, related to city withdrawing facility approval: Kishida Has Opened Can of Worms

Previous Next Critics Warn Japan Of Danger... Balcomb On BBC: Slams Verdi...

