

FFWPU Europe & Middle East: Japan's Dissolution Order a Crisis for Democracy

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Pastor Ryuichi Sunakawa of Tsukishiro Christian Church voices opposition to the dissolution of the Family Federation, May 13. 2025 in front of the Okinawa Prefectural Government Office in Naha City, Okinawa Prefecture, Japan



Member of clergy warns authorities that dissolving a religious organization based solely on media manipulation and public impression, could easily lead to dissolution of Christian churches and Buddhist groups

Tokyo, 14th May 2025 - Published as an article in the Japanese newspaper [Sekai Nippo](#). Republished with permission. Translated from Japanese. [Original article](#).

Dissolution of the Family Federation is a "Crisis for Democracy", Christian Pastor Claims in Okinawa

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

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In response to the Tokyo District Court's issuance of a [dissolution order](#) for the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#) (formerly the [Unification Church](#)), a group called the "Okinawa Citizens' Association for the Protection of Fundamental Human Rights and Freedom of Religion", made up of followers of the [religious organization](#), held a rally on 13th May in front of the Okinawa Prefectural Government Office in Naha City. Speakers at the event appealed, saying,

"Don't be swayed by biased views - listen to the voices of the believers as well."

Taking the microphone as a guest speaker, Pastor Ryuichi Sunagawa (砂川 竜一) of Tsukishiro Christian Church (located in Nanjo City) passionately argued,

"If the former [Unification Church](#), which hasn't committed any criminal acts, is forcibly dissolved, it is a crisis for democracy."

He also touched upon the assassination of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, pointing out,

"The media did not go after the suspect, Tetsuya Yamagami, but instead shifted the criticism against the [religious organization](#)."

He warned,

"If an [organization](#) can be dissolved based solely on media manipulation and public impression, then Christian churches, Buddhist temples, and ultimately even Shinto shrines could all face dissolution."



More out protesting the dehumanizing state persecution of the [Family Federation](#), here from a protest in Kitakyushu, Japan March 23, 2025

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The front cover page of Tamiya Taguchi's book "Unification Church: Rescue and Rehabilitation"

Unification Church and Rehabilitation (統一教会、救出とハビリテーション). Taguchi was a well-known "deprogrammer" (faith-breaker) who specialized in persuading people under conditions of confinement. That year alone, 204 cases of abduction and confinement were reported. (Showing image) Here is the book, Unification Church: Rescue and Rehabilitation.

Struggle:
Surviving 4,536
Days of
Confinement"

Having published a book myself, I understand that getting a book into stores is not easy. A book must pass through multiple levels of review before being deemed acceptable for publication.

However, I want you all to be aware of what was actually written in this book of Taguchi, which was sold in bookstores.

(Showing image) This may be difficult to read due to its small text, but this is the Rescue Flowchart from the book. This is a direct excerpt from the book itself. It includes the following instructions:

"Parents must be prepared for a long-term siege. They must take extended leave from work, and in some cases, may even have to quit their jobs. [...] Typically, confinement lasts between 1 to 3 months, but in some cases, it extends up to six months."

The book also refers to this process as "protection", but its true nature is clear:

"Rent a property for the confinement. Secure the exit with locks from the inside. Seal all windows with security measures to prevent escape. Check for any possible escape routes or places where the person might try to barricade themselves."

This systematic approach to abduction and forced de-conversion was not just an isolated practice – it was structured, documented, and widely implemented. This book was lined up in bookstores.

"Where and when to conduct the confinement." Here is the timetable.

"A condominium above the 4th floor is preferable to a standalone house. And the location must be thoroughly cleaned from the inside after an escape attempt, with all entrances sealed. The front door should have a padlock installed from the inside, along with a door stopper and additional locks."

The details are extremely meticulous: "This is the method for sealing windows."

The red section lists:

"Measuring tape, nails, screws, wire, saw, hammer, pliers, flathead and Phillips screwdrivers, and an electric drill for convenience."

It's this detailed:

"Materials to prepare: long, thin wooden slats, transparent acrylic sheets, and corrugated plastic sheets."

Even the method of securing the corrugated sheets is written here.

"First, nail the long wooden slats on both sides of the column. Try not to damage the apartment structure too much, but some damage is inevitable. If using acrylic sheets, line them up as needed and secure them with screws from behind. Use an electric drill to fix them in place."

It goes this far in detail.

"There have



Property for confinement:
The location of the 8th floor apartment in Ogikubo, Tokyo where Toru Goto was held captive and dehumanized. Photo: National Association of Victims of Abduction, Confinement, and Forced Deconversion

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There have been cases where people escaped through ceiling panels for bathroom plumbing."



Removing ceiling panels in order to escape.
Illustration: Grok xAI, May 2025.

This is common among victims of abduction and confinement. These victims are desperate to escape. When they look up, they often see openings, thinking,

"Could I get out through there?"

Many victims of **abduction and confinement** say they remember the movie *Die Hard*. They wonder, "What would John McClane do in this situation?"

These (what I'm describing) are true stories. However, things don't go as smoothly as in the movies.

Usually, the ceiling pathways are closed off between units, so escape attempts often fail.

"For transport, use an 8-passenger van."

And here it says,

"Stay in constant communication with the persuaders (説得者)." This shows that it's not just the family involved.



Locked up to have your faith broken: The door was always chained.
Photo: [National Association of Victims of Abduction, Confinement, and Forced Deconversion](#)

According to our research, the average confinement period is about two months. This is also written here: "Typically, it lasts one to three months, with the average being two months." Now, let's do some calculations.

There were **4,300 victims**. If the average confinement period is two months per person, what does that add up to? 8,600 months. How long is that in years? 716 years.

Imagine stretching out the confinement periods of each victim – it would amount to 716 years. That takes us back to the **Kamakura period** (which lasted from the late 12th century to 1333).

(Screen) This is the photo that is now being shown worldwide. This was taken after I endured 12 years and five months of confinement, during which I went on a 30-day hunger strike. Even after that, my family, influenced by the "deprogrammers", refused to give me proper food. I truly respected my family. They were just an ordinary family. However, under the influence of these deprogrammers, they ended up doing these terrible things.

For details, please read *Deadly Struggle* (死闘). In a way, I believe my family was also a victim.

I have spoken about the value of freedom, and in *Deadly Struggle*, I also write about my faith, as I am a believer.

Finally, I want to share my concluding remarks. In my darkest and most painful moments, I had no choice but to pray to **God**. I prayed intensely. And I believe **God** gave me answers, guidance, strength, and hope, which allowed me to survive this period.



Toru Goto in 2008, barely able to move after being held in forcible detention by his own family in league with professional faith-breakers for more than 12 years.
Photo: Kazuhiro Yonemoto / [Japanese Victims' Association against Religious Kidnapping and Forced Conversion](#)

Seventeen years ago, on this very day in the late afternoon, I was

seventeen years ago, on this very day, in the late afternoon, I was suddenly thrown out of the apartment where I was confined. I walked 10 kilometers toward my church headquarters, but eventually, I couldn't walk anymore.



Miraculously, a famished and exhausted Toru Goto met a female member who gave him money for a taxi ride. Illustration: [National Association of Victims of Abduction, Confinement, and Forced Deconversion](#),

photo above shows how she suffered terribly, almost to the point of death. She passed away in 2012.

The person who called out to me at that moment – just by chance – was a member of the [church](#). I firmly believe that this, too, was [God's](#) intervention.

For 12 years and 5 months, I endured this ordeal. You may dismiss my experience as mere delusion or personal perception – that's fine.

However, I sincerely hope that through *Deadly Struggle*, you will take a moment to reflect on the preciousness of faith.

Thank you very much for listening.

See [part 1](#), [part 2](#), [part 3](#), [part 4](#), [part 5](#)

Featured image above: Asako Shukuya (1964-2012), forcibly detained for five months and forced to renounce her faith. The trauma she suffered due to the coercive faith-breaking was immense. She developed severe PTSD, bipolar disorder, insomnia, and nightmares. She also suffered from atopic dermatitis. The

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