

FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: Japan's Media, Politics and Courts Colluding for Dissolution of FFWPU?

Knut Holdhus  
May 15, 2025



From left: Mamoru Kamono (鴨野守), Fumihiko Kato (加藤文宏), and Toru Goto (後藤徹) participate in a panel discussion at the Toyama Family Church on May 14, 2025



**Panel of speakers in large Japanese city discussing convergence of power: How courts, media, and politics shape the narrative. Were they colluding against Family Federation?**

Tokyo, 15th May 2025 - Published as an article in the Japanese newspaper [Sekai Nippo](#). Republished with permission. Translated from Japanese. [Original article](#).

**Media's False Image Triggered the Dissolution of the Family Federation**

**Symposium on Religion, Media, and Human Rights Held in Toyama**

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

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A public symposium titled "Considering Religion, Media, and Human Rights" was held on 14th May at the Toyama Family Church of the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#) (formerly the [Unification Church](#)) in Toyama City.



*Fumihiko Kato delivering a lecture Dec. 14, 2024 in Ichikawa City, Chiba Prefecture, Japan*

Speakers included author Fumihiko Kato (加藤文宏); Toru Goto (後藤徹), a member and representative of the [National Association of Victims of Abduction and Forced De-Conversion](#); and Mamoru Kamono (鴨野守), a freelance journalist and executive director of the Toyama Peace Ambassadors Council, a group related to the [religious organization](#).

The speakers shared the view that distorted media reporting contributed to the court's decision to issue a [dissolution order](#) for the [Family Federation](#).

Kato argued that, following the 2022 shooting of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (安倍晋三), the media suddenly began reporting on ties between the [religious organization](#) and politicians, creating a "false image" of the [organization](#). He warned,

"At this point, it's as if [Family Federation](#) members no longer have human rights. Unless politicians, the judiciary, and the media correct themselves, this issue will persist for decades."

Kamono claimed that the Kishida administration's declaration of severing ties with the [organization](#) was the result of media going wild, and he appealed to the journalists present:

"Please report on religion and faith without prejudice."



*Toru Goto, here at the [official launch 10th Feb. 2025](#), of his book "Deadly Struggle: Surviving 4,536 Days of Confinement"*

Toru Goto, who was a victim of [abduction and confinement](#) for [12 years and 5 months](#), criticized the Tokyo District Court's [dissolution ruling](#) for not considering cases of [abduction and confinement](#). He warned,

"If things stay as they are, it will become socially acceptable to confine people just because they are [Unification Church](#) members."

He emphasized,

"This is not a problem concerning just one religious organization."

The symposium was hosted by the Toyama Peace Ambassadors Council, and about 150 people attended. According to organizers, holding a public symposium inside a church facility is rare even on a national level. They stated, "We wanted members of the media to see the church as it truly is."

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# Clergy: Dissolution Order A “Crisis For Democracy”

• May 14, 2025  
• Knut Holdhus

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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**

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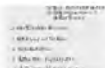
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
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In response to the Tokyo District Court's issuance of a [dissolution order](#) for the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#) (formerly the [Unification Church](#)), a group called 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 13<sup>th</sup> May in front of the Okinawa Prefectural Government Office in Naha City. Speakers at the event appealed, saying,



Location of Naha and Nanjo in the prefecture of Okinawa, which consists of several small islands called the Ryukyu islands, to the south of the larger island of Kyushu. Illustration: Maximilian Dörrbecker (Chumhwa) / Wikimedia Commons. License: [CC ASA 3.0 Unp](#)

"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 23rd March 2025. Photo: [FFWPU](#)

More from Pastor Ryuichi Sunagawa: [New Laws Let Lawyers Aid Many to Pose as Victim](#)

See also [Media, Politics, Courts Colluding for Dissolution?](#)

**Featured image** above: Pastor Ryuichi Sunakawa (砂川竜一) of Tsukishiro Christian Church voices opposition to the dissolution of the Family Federation, 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025 in front of the Okinawa Prefectural Government Office in Naha City, Okinawa Prefecture Photo: Yuya Kawase (川瀬裕也)

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