

FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: Abe Murder 3-Year Trial Delay - Tell the Truth

Knut Holdhus
May 16, 2025



Attorney Shinichi Tokunaga giving a speech at the "National Rally to Seek the Truth Behind Former Prime Minister Abe's Assassination" - on the afternoon of May 13, 2025 in Chiyoda Ward, Tokyo



Public Tokyo gathering seeks transparency in 2022 Abe murder legal process as criticism mounts over historic 3-year trial delay

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

"We Must Raise Our Voices to Uncover the Truth"

Rally for the Case around the Assassination of Former Prime Minister Abe

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

A rally calling for a thorough investigation into the 2022 assassination of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (安倍晋三) was held on 13th May in Tokyo, organized by the Committee for the Investigation of the Former Prime Minister's Assassination.



Attorney Shinichi Tokunaga
March 11, 2025

Attorney Shinichi Tokunaga (徳永信一) gave a speech at the event, stating,

"We must raise our voices to demand the truth behind the incident be revealed."

About 200 people gathered, filling the venue to capacity. Tokunaga commented on the current defense team of the accused, Tetsuya Yamagami (山上徹也), saying,

"They seem to be avoiding a legal battle, acknowledging the defendant's guilt, and focusing solely on seeking leniency by emphasizing his grudge against the [Unification Church](#)."

He went on to assert,

"We need to amplify public calls - through social media, petitions, and other means - urging the defense to aim for a trial that genuinely seeks to uncover the truth."

Regarding the possibility of another perpetrator besides Yamagami, Tokunaga noted,



Setsu Kobayashi, author, constitutional scholar and professor emeritus at Keio University, Japan (2015)



Masumi Fukuda, author and investigative journalist, here delivering a speech 23rd Sep. 2024 in Chiba City, Japan

"If there are doubts, the trial must be one that addresses and answers those doubts."

As a guest speaker, Setsu Kobayashi (小林節), constitutional scholar and professor emeritus at Keio University, commented on the rally, saying,

"The truth must be brought to light, and those responsible must be held accountable. This is something that must never be abandoned."

Nonfiction writer Masumi Fukuda (福田ますみ) questioned the nearly three-year delay in the start of the trial, remarking,

"There has never been such a prolonged pre-trial arrangement procedure."

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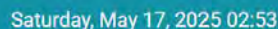
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May 9, 2025

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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*

See also *Clergy: Dissolution Order a “Crisis for Democracy”*

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.

Speakers included author Fumihiro 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.”



Fumihiro Kato (加藤文宏) delivering a lecture 14th Dec. 2024 in Ichikawa City, Chiba Prefecture. Photo: Tsuyoshi Toyoda (豊田剛).

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*”. Photo: Screenshot from videorecording of the event.

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.”

See also *Clergy: Dissolution Order a “Crisis for Democracy”*

Featured image above: From left: Mamoru Kamono (鴨野守), Fumihiro Kato (加藤文宏), and Toru Goto (後藤徹) participate in a panel discussion at the *Toyama Family Church* on 14th May 2025. Photo: Tsuyoshi Toyoda (豊田剛)

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