

FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: 35 Experts Slam Japan's Dissolution Case In New Book

Knut Holdhus  
July 5, 2025



"Objection to the 'Dissolution Order' Against the [Family Federation](#) - Statements from 35 Experts from Japan and Abroad"

New book in Japanese: "Objection to the 'Dissolution Order' Against the [Family Federation](#) - Statements from 35 Experts from Japan and Abroad"

Statements by 35 Experts from Japan, Europe, and the USA Where They All Object to the Dissolution Order Against the Family Federation



**Press Release**

Press release issued by the [Family Federation](#) of Japan 1st July 2025 concerning the publication of a new book in Japanese: "Objection to the 'Dissolution Order' Against the [Family Federation](#) - Statements from 35 Experts from Japan and Abroad". See [original article](#) in Japanese.



Attorney Tatsuki Nakayama, here in Tokyo in 2023

We are pleased to announce the publication of the book "Objection to the 'Dissolution Order' Against the [Family Federation](#) - Statements from 35 Experts from Japan and Abroad", edited by attorney Tatsuki Nakayama (中山達樹) and published by Good Time Publishing.

This book compiles into one volume the written opinions submitted to the Tokyo District Court during the first trial of the government's request for the dissolution of the [Family Federation](#).

In the foreword, Attorney Nakayama writes:

"This book contains valuable opinion statements submitted to the court by politicians, scholars, journalists, pastors, and other intellectuals from Japan and abroad, who opposed the dissolution of the [Family Federation](#) and sought to challenge the abnormal 'atmosphere' following the assassination of former Prime Minister Abe.

I hope readers will experience this brave, refreshing, and righteously indignant wave of resistance, boiling over with passion."

The 35 experts featured in the book are as follows:

[Japanese experts]

- [Satoshi Hamada](#) (浜田 聡) - Member of the House of Councillors
- [Toshikazu Masubuchi](#) (増渕 賢 一) - Former Speaker of the Tochigi Prefectural Assembly

[Norio Hosoya](#) (細谷 典男) - City Council Member of Toride, Ibaraki Prefecture

Hajime Takahira (高比良 元) - Former Nagasaki Prefectural Assembly Member

[Hideo Mima](#) (美馬 秀夫) - Tokushima City Council Member

[Shingo Inoue](#) (井上 真吾) - Kitakyushu City Council Member, Fukuoka

Minoru Okada (岡田 実) - Tottori City Council Member

Takeshi Tanaka (pseudonym) - Local Assembly Member in Miyazaki Prefecture

Masatoshi Hayashi (林 正寿) - Professor Emeritus, Waseda University

[Seishiro Sugihara](#) (杉原 誠四郎) - Former Professor, Musashino Women's University

[Masaki Nakamasa](#) (仲正 昌樹) - Professor, Kanazawa University

Young-chul Ko (高 永喆) - Visiting Researcher, Takushoku University

Masakazu Kobayashi (pseudonym) - Professor at a private university in Tokyo

Shigeru Yamada (pen name) - Sociologist

Kenichi Furuya (pseudonym) - Professor Emeritus, National University

Eitaro Ogawa (小川 榮太郎) - Literary Critic

[Masumi Fukuda](#) (福田 ますみ) - Non-fiction Writer

[Masaki Kubota](#) (窪田 順生) - Non-fiction Writer

[Fumihiro Kato](#) (加藤 文宏) - Author

[Humayun A. Mughal](#) - Journalist

[Haruhisa Nakagawa](#) (中川 晴久) - Pastor, Lord's Sheep Christian Church

[Tatsuhiko Iwamoto](#) (岩本 龍弘) - Pastor

[Ryuichi Sunagawa](#) (砂川 竜一) - Pastor, Tsukishiro Christian Church

Satoshi Mizota (溝田 悟士) - Evangelist, Speech-Language-Hearing Therapist

[Tatsuki Nakayama](#) (中山 達樹) - International Attorney

Tatsuaki Park (pseudonym) - Former Director, Local Chapter of Mindan (Korean Residents Union in Japan)

[Shunsuke Uotani](#) (魚谷 俊輔) - Secretary-General, UPF Japan



International experts

Statements by four human rights activists:

[Willy Fautré](#) - Director, NGO Human Rights Without Frontiers

[Ján Figel'](#) - Former EU Commissioner for Education

[Massimo Introvigne](#) - Sociologist of Religion

[Aaron Rhodes](#) - President, Forum for Religious Freedom

[Patricia Duval](#) - International Attorney

[Massimo Introvigne](#) - Sociologist of Religion (appears again)

[Paula White](#) - Pastor (currently Director of the U.S. White House Faith and Opportunity Initiative)

[Newt Gingrich](#) - Former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives

[Mike Pompeo](#) - 70th U.S. Secretary of State

This is the only book that brings together such a collection of valuable expert statements from across various fields. We encourage you to read it. (Available via Amazon and bookstores.)

Amazon (Paperback)

Amazon (Kindle Edition)

"Objection to the 'Dissolution Order' Against the Family Federation - Statements from 35 Experts from Japan and Abroad"

Editor: Tatsuki Nakayama (International Attorney)

Publisher: Good Time Publishing

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62), a certified SME consultant living in Yachiyo City, Chiba Prefecture, is an active member of the *Family Federation for World Peace and Unification* (formerly the *Unification Church*). On 2<sup>nd</sup> June, he held a *press conference* in Chiba City, announcing his candidacy in the *House of Councillors* election from the Chiba constituency under the banner of the political group he founded – the “Association for Protecting Japanese Families”. Ogasawara, who claims the government’s request to dissolve the *religious organization* is unconstitutional and violates religious freedom, spoke to us.



Location of Chiba City (population about 1 million), located on the main island of Honshu. Illustration: Maximilian Dörrbecker (Chumhwa) / Wikimedia Commons. License: CC ASA 3.0 Unp

Interview by Takahide Ishii (石井 孝秀)

– What led you to run for office?

Since last year, I’ve been expanding activities around the theme of religious freedom, including hosting symposiums in the prefecture. However, I became gravely concerned that national political parties were unilaterally cutting ties with the *religious organization*, leaving believers with no voice in national politics.



From Hiroshi Ogasawara’s campaign July 2025. Photo: Hiroshi Ogasawara

I concluded that believers themselves must run for national office. I decided to run based solely on my personal judgment – without support or instructions from the *Family*

*Federation*. The “Association for Protecting Japanese Families” was founded last summer, and already has over 160 members, many of whom are not members of the *religious organization*.

Campaign funds come from personal contributions and donations, with income and expenditures publicly disclosed online. Precisely because the dissolution of the *Family Federation* is now being contested, I believe running for office and voicing opposition is especially meaningful.

– What’s your election strategy?

Honestly, the hurdles are high. I’m not well-known, so first I need to get my face out there. I’ll focus on posters, street speeches, and especially sharing information on a YouTube channel.

Among voters, there are likely religious figures who feel alarmed by the *Tokyo District Court’s* March *decision to order the dissolution* of the *Family Federation*. There are also growing voices saying dormant religious organizations should be disbanded, or that “all religions are shady and should be destroyed.” There’s a real danger of escalating religious persecution. By running for office, I hope to raise awareness among religious communities and help spark broader public debate.



From Hiroshi Ogasawara’s campaign on YouTube July 2025. Photo: Screenshot

Additionally, our group believes that respecting family and local culture is essential to national strength. Specifically, we aim to amend the

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Constitution to add a clause on family protection, preserve traditional cultural practices like festivals that strengthen community ties, and correct excessive LGBT policies such as intrusions into women's spaces.

The Chiba race has many candidates, so votes will likely be scattered. Since we're the only group focused on [family values](#), I believe that will differentiate us.

– **Across the country, more believers protest through rallies and street speeches the [court order to dissolve the religious organization](#).**

There's a prevailing image of the [Family Federation](#) as an "anti-social organization", and people don't really see who its members are. In such a situation, it's hard for the public to empathize with how many members would be hurt if the [religious organization](#) disappears. That's why I think it's vital to show our faces in public and keep sharing our message.

However, "expressing" and "being understood" are two different things. It's not just about voicing your own opinion – you have to think about how your words will actually reach others. Gaining public understanding is very difficult, but I believe our passion will eventually get through, so we must keep speaking out.

– **During the campaign, 8<sup>th</sup> July marks the third anniversary of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's assassination. What are your plans?**

I'm planning to hold a street memorial speech for Shinzo Abe (安倍晋三) and offer a silent prayer at 11:30 a.m., the time he was attacked. It's unbearable to see a man who did so much for Japan now being disparaged as "deeply entangled" (with the [religious organization](#)). Even LDP candidates likely won't hold memorials, but at the very least, our group will.



*Shinzo Abe in March 2022, few months before he was assassinated. Photo: United States Ambassador to Japan Rahm Emanuel / Wikimedia Commons. [Public domain](#) image. Cropped*

Frankly, parties like the LDP and the *Constitutional Democratic Party* have been using the [Family Federation](#) and Mr. Abe as scapegoats to boost their own popularity. But that hasn't improved their approval ratings – if anything, it shows none of them think 50 or 100 years into Japan's future.

The Abe incident was twisted into a problem with the [Family Federation](#). Worse, society has created an atmosphere that not only fails to condemn the violence, but even sympathizes with the perpetrator. A society that can't denounce violence – especially during an election campaign – is unacceptable. I'll continue to raise my voice against that as many times as needed.

**Featured image** above: **Hiroshi Ogasawara** (小笠原裕), born in 1963 in Hiroshima Prefecture, graduated from the University of Tokyo's Faculty of Economics in 1988. While at university, he studied the teachings of the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#) (formerly the [Unification Church](#)). After graduation, he joined a general trading company and worked both in Japan and overseas. He retired in 2020 and started working independently as a certified SME management consultant in Chiba Prefecture.

In January 2024, he founded the "Association of Chiba Citizens to Protect Religious Freedom and Human Rights" and became its representative. In summer 2024, he established the political group "Association for Protecting Japanese Families". In June 2025, he [announced his candidacy](#) for the House of Councillors. Photo: Takahide Ishii (石井 孝秀) / [Sekai Nippo](#)

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