

FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: Yoshio Watanabe on 50 Years of Evolving Victory Over Communism Struggle

Knut Holdhus
July 13, 2025



Yoshio Watanabe - Born in 1950 in Niigata Prefecture. Joined the anti-communist movement during his time at Niigata University. Has served as Akita Prefecture Chapter Chief, Central Headquarters Director of Education and Publicity, Secretary-General, and Vice President. Became IFVOC President in May 2025



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"The Struggle Isn't Over": IFVOC President describes communism as evolving beyond Marx and Lenin making today's battle one of cultural fronts

Tokyo, 12th July 2025 - Published as an article in the Japanese newspaper [Sekai Nippo](#). Republished with permission. Translated from Japanese. [Original article](#).

[Opinion and Commentary]

"Still Unable to Fully Defeat Communism"

Publishing "How the Federation for Victory Over Communism Fought"

by Tatsuo Ikenaga (池永達夫)

The International Federation for Victory Over Communism (IFVOC), which has led a patriotic movement opposing communism, has recently published "How the Federation for Victory Over Communism Has Fought" (Sekai Nippo Publishing), a retrospective of its more than 50 years of activity. We spoke with its current President, Yoshio Watanabe (渡邊芳雄), about what the essence of their struggle has been.

Post-Cold War: The Ongoing Cultural Struggle

Interview with Yoshio Watanabe, President of the International Federation for Victory Over Communism

Interviewer: Tatsuo Ikenaga (池永達夫)

- You've published a book summarizing over half a century of activity. What was the key point you most wanted to emphasize?

The assassination of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (安倍晋三) on 8th July 2022, was a turning

point. We aimed to publish the book in time for the third anniversary of that incident.



How the Federation for Victory Over Communism Has Fought" (Sekai Nippo Publishing, 2025

The International Federation for Victory Over Communism was founded in 1968, the same year as the North Korean guerrilla attack on South Korea's Blue House (the presidential residence).

Since then, we've fought against communism for over 50 years. Yet former president Gentarō Kajikuri (梶栗玄太郎 - 1937 - 2012) once reflected, shortly before his death, that "we have not fully defeated communism."

While the Cold War may be over, communist ideology still lingers. Marx's ideas have undergone reinterpretation and have morphed into various movements - gender-free ideologies, LGBTQ rights activism, same-sex marriage legalization, and more.

In that sense, the struggle continues. In fact, we now need to engage in a more intense ideological battle.

Communism's ideal is supposedly a society free of exploitation and discrimination. Marx proposed a vision for realizing that society. Leninism, however, distilled this into violent revolution and one-party dictatorship. Dissenters in such systems are purged.



Gentarō Kajikuri (梶栗玄太郎 - 1937 - 2012)



Antonio Gramsci (1891-1937) in 1922, Italian communist political philosopher

Antonio Gramsci of Italy, during the lifetimes of Lenin and Stalin, clearly criticized this approach, saying it could not bring about true communism. Gramsci argued that rather than seizing power and then changing culture, cultural transformation must come first - or at least occur in parallel. Without that, revolution won't happen, and the ideal society can't be realized.

Gramsci's ideas have since spread widely through avenues like the Frankfurt School and have become major challenges

in themselves.

During the Cold War, many were influenced by Marxism. But today's activists don't use words like "Marxism" or "communism". Instead, they promote ideas aimed at dismantling culture, family, and religion - under the belief that without such dismantling, discrimination can't be eliminated. This makes today's cultural battle more insidious and far harder to overcome.

To be continued. Part 2 coming soon

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2nd-Gen Believers Challenge Closed Hearings

• July 12, 2025
• Knut Holdhus

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Push for transparency as young members demand to know the truth and challenge having the dissolution hearings behind closed doors



Tokyo, 12th July 2025 – Published as an article in the Japanese newspaper [Sekai Nippo](#). Republished with permission. Translated from Japanese. [Original article](#).

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From the press conference in Tokyo 11th July 2025. Photo: Association of Second-Generation Members to Protect the Human Rights of Believers

In response to the closed court proceedings regarding the request for a dissolution order of the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#) (formerly the [Unification Church](#)), a group of second-generation believers has expressed opposition to the non-public nature of the hearings. On 11th July, the group “Association of Second-Generation Members to Protect the Human Rights of Believers” – led by Nozomi Kojima (小嶋希晶) reported that they had submitted a written application to the *Tokyo High Court* on 10th July to participate as interested parties.



A representative of Association of Second-Generation Members to Protect the Human Rights of Believers and a legal representative outside Tokyo High Court 10th July 2025. Photo: Association of Second-Generation Members to Protect the Human Rights of Believers

The request to participate in the hearings was made by eight individuals, including leader Kojima. They are [church](#) staff, working adults, and students who are believers. The group collected over 35,000 signatures opposing the dissolution order through non-contentious procedures [\[See editor’s note below\]](#). If their participation is granted, they will be able not only to attend the hearings but also to review submitted materials and call witnesses independently of the [church](#).

Kojima emphasized that if the hearings continue to be held behind closed doors,

“All we can do is watch the [church](#) disappear while being presumed guilty.”

She added that even experts are saying,

“It is questionable to treat this as a non-contentious case [\[See editor’s note below\]](#); shouldn’t it be made public?”

She further explained the reason for seeking to participate as an interested party:

“We don’t know if the hearings are being conducted fairly. I want to know what will happen to my [church](#).”

Featured image above: Nozomi Kojima (小嶋希晶), leader of Association of Second-Generation Members to Protect the Human Rights of Believers, speaking at the press conference in Tokyo 11th July 2025. Photo: [Sekai Nippo](#)

[Editor’s note: A **non-contentious case** refers to a legal matter where there is no dispute between parties. These cases typically involve administrative, procedural, or uncontested legal actions, such as probate (handling a deceased person’s estate), uncontested divorces, adoption, or registering a trademark. Since there are no opposing parties or legal conflicts, these cases usually proceed smoothly
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