

FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: Japanese PM Kishida Blatantly Involved In Destruction Of Evidence

Knut Holdhus
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Jamoo2 Vocational School in Senegal, before and after the name and the WFWP logo were removed from the school building.



Japanese cover-up scandal involving Kishida administration's evidence destruction

The conservative Shukan Shincho, regarded as one of the most influential weekly magazines in Japan, published 20th August 2024 a story that could indeed escalate into a significant scandal with serious implications for Prime Minister Kishida and his administration. The story was headlined "[Erase all traces of the former Unification Church!](#) - Forced removal of logos - The Ministry of Foreign Affairs' cover-up operation exposed regarding African Official Development Assistance [Exclusive]"

The magazine writes,

"On August 14, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida (67) suddenly announced his decision not to run in the LDP presidential election, but it seems unlikely that he will be allowed to "escape" in this manner. It has now been revealed through the investigation by non-fiction writer Masaki Kubota and Shukan Shincho that the government had been blatantly engaged in 'evidence destruction'. The stage for this was none other than the African continent."



Masaki Kubota

The article penned by award-winning author Kubota, links Kishida directly to the controversy that is exposed.

The Shukan Shincho report reveals a covert operation by the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs to erase evidence linking a vocational training school in Senegal, JAMOO2, to the former [Unification Church](#).

In April 2023, a section chief from the Ministry's International Cooperation Bureau traveled to Dakar, Senegal, not for an inspection but to carry out "evidence destruction". The school, JAMOO2, was built with Japan's Grassroots Human Security Grant Aid, a form of Official Development Assistance (ODA). The controversy arose because the school displayed the logo of the Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP), an organization with the same founders as the former [Unification Church](#), now called the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#), founded by [Sun Myung Moon](#) and [Hak Ja Han](#), also known as [Father](#) and [Mother Moon](#).

The principal of JAMOO2, Véronique Diop, testified that Japanese officials were coercive, demanding the removal of all logos to appease opposition and public opinion in Japan. They also insisted on changing the school's phone number and email address to make it appear as a different institution. Ms. Diop complied out of fear of losing the school.

The issue gained political traction when a member of the Japanese Communist Party questioned the use of taxpayers' money for a school displaying the WFWP logo. And it turns out that the Foreign Minister who approved the ODA for JAMOO2 was the current Prime Minister, Fumio Kishida. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs could not admit that the decision to provide Official Development Assistance (ODA) was a mistake, leading to the cover-up operation.

Ms. Diop's NGO established JAMOO2, and although it was a private organization on paper, she was also the vice president of the local WFWP, hence the logo's presence. The Ministry's solution was to erase the WFWP logo, constructing a narrative that JAMOO2 had no connection with WFWP.



Jamoo2 vocational school

When questioned about the operation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that they were appropriately following up on the matter through the embassy and ministry visits. This response, however, did not address the core issue of evidence destruction and the coercive tactics used.

The article highlights the lengths to which the Japanese government went to cover up the connection between JAMOO2 and the former [Unification Church](#), raising questions about transparency and accountability in the use of ODA funds.

The story could potentially be damaging for the Kishida administration. The allegations of "evidence destruction" involving a government official in a foreign country raise serious ethical and political concerns.



Fumio Kishida in 2015, during his time as minister for foreign affairs

And the claim that the principal of the school felt coerced and had no choice but to comply could be seen as a violation of both ethical standards and international norms, potentially damaging Japan's reputation abroad.

If these revelations gain traction, they could undermine public trust in the administration, particularly if the opposition parties use this as a basis to attack Prime Minister Kishida's credibility.

The administration's lack of transparency and the perception of trying to cover up a mistake could lead to broader political fallout, making this a significant risk for Kishida and his government.

The fact that Fumio Kishida was the foreign minister who approved the grant to the school in Senegal could be damaging for him now. This connection links him directly to the controversy and the obvious attempts to cover up the issue. The involvement of high-level officials in "evidence destruction" to

avoid political fallout only heightens the potential for scandal, especially if it's perceived that Kishida is trying to distance himself from the consequences of his earlier decision as foreign minister.

If the public or media perceives that Kishida's administration is involved in a cover-up or that he is directly implicated, it could severely undermine his credibility and leadership, potentially affecting his political standing within Japan.



Given the involvement of a foreign country (Senegal), if international media or human rights organizations pick up the story, it could add pressure on the Japanese government and amplify the issue.

On 20th August 2024, the report was also published on [Daily Shincho](#), a news site that has been publishing articles from Shukan Shincho since 2015.

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
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The logo of the *Second-Generation Association for Protecting the Human Rights of Believers*.

On 18th August 2024, the “Association to Protect the Human Rights of Second-Generation Believers”, established by second-generation believers of the *Family Federation for World*

Peace and Unification (formerly the *Unification Church*), held a symposium titled “**Why Do We Still Believe in the Unification Church?**” in Tokyo.

Guest speakers were Yutaka Toriumi (島海豊), a believer and professor at *Daegu Catholic University* in South Korea, and non-fiction writer Masaki Kubota (窪田順生). They delivered keynote speeches and participated in the panel discussions. This was the sixth symposium hosted by the association.



Front cover page of Yutaka Toriumi's 1994 book, where he gives a detailed account of the 250 days of forcible detention that he suffered, and how he managed to keep his *Unification Church* faith. Published on *Tankoban* hardcover in Japanese in 1994.

Toriumi explained that the *Family Federation* “started as a religious organization with the resolve and pledge to embrace all religions and save all humanity.” However, he also expressed regret, saying, “I am truly sorry and regretful for various harms because we rushed too much due to time constraints on goals.”

Additionally, Toriumi, who has **experienced abduction and confinement aimed at forced de-conversion**, shared his personal experience, saying,

“The people who confined me said they were ‘gathered here for my sake’, but when I spoke honestly, they completely denied my words. This made me feel the terror of having something important inside me being gradually destroyed.”



Masaki Kubota. Photo (2023): *Sekai Nippo*

Masaki Kubota, **concerned that the situation surrounding the *Family Federation* might be a precursor to societal unrest**, pointed out that “**the media prefers safe reporting that doesn't attract complaints.**” He noted the difficulty in changing media that is vulnerable to complaints and emphasized the need to “increase the number of people who understand you, both among outsiders and those around you.”

Additionally, **many Japanese tend to view religion negatively**. From their perspective, when they observe the words and actions of the followers of the *religious organization*, Kubota suggested,

“Seeing their enthusiasm leads to fear, which in turn leads to attempts to crush them. The more positive things the followers say, the more vicious a cycle it becomes. If it is so, then it is necessary to work on turning this cycle in a positive direction.”

Featured image above: Yutaka Toriumi, third from the right, speaking at the panel discussion in the afternoon of 18th August in Tokyo. Photo: Takahide Ishii (石井孝秀) / *Sekai Nippo*

[Editor's note: Masaki Kubota (窪田順生) is a non-fiction writer who has contributed to weekly and monthly magazines. His new book, “**Infiltrating the Former Unification Church – the Complete Story of the Request for a Dissolution Order and the Deepest Secrets of the ‘No Good Coverage’**”, is currently on sale.]



The front cover of 'Infiltrating the Former Unification Church' (潜入旧統一教会「解散命令請求」取材NG最深处の全貌-

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Tankobon Softcover, Nov. 2023), by Masaki Kubota (窪田順生).

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