

## FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: Truth About Faith-Breaking Stuns Journalist

Knut Holdhus  
June 30, 2024



*Attempted faith-breaking illustrated*



*Masumi Fukuda speaking in Kumamoto  
16th June 2024*

### **Japanese investigative journalist deeply shocked as she discovers the hidden truth about professional faith-breaking**

Part 3 of a speech Masumi Fukuda (福田ますみ), Japanese investigative journalist and award-winning author, gave 16th June 2024 at the "[Kumamoto Conference to Protect Freedom of Religion](#)" at a hotel in Kumamoto, a city of ca. 740,000 inhabitants on the southern island of Kyushu. The [conference](#) was attended by members and supporters of the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#), protesting against the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology's request for a court order to dissolve the [Family Federation](#) of Japan.

See [part 1](#), [part 2](#)

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So, I thought to myself, "National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales (Zenkoku-benren) claims it was established to help victims of spiritual scams, but is that really all there is to it? Is there some other purpose?"

At the time, I started thinking, "I wonder how that network came to be? Something seems strange."

So, I decided, "Let's investigate it! Let's look into the network of lawyers!"

First, I checked magazines and articles from around the time of its establishment in May 1987. There was a monthly magazine called Zenbo (全貌 - The Full Picture) back then, associated with what was considered a far-right publishing house called Zenbo-sha. I wondered if it had some connections to the Cabinet Intelligence and Research Office and provided independent information.

Other newspapers and magazines all featured stories from anonymous victims of so-called "spiritual sales". There was such an article in "Asahi Journal". Anyway, it was all about people being tricked out of their money by sweet talk, or being made to buy a really expensive vase, or something like that.

Among those publications, the one called Zenbo revealed that almost all the lawyers in National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales were connected to the Communist Party (JCP). Back then, some of them were also associated with the Japan Socialist Party (JSP) [existed 1945-1996], now referred to as the former Socialist Party. [JSP was re-founded in 1996 as the Social Democratic Party]. Lawyers like Hiroshi Yamaguchi were affiliated with the Socialist Party, particularly with its far-left wing, the Socialist Association. They were all leftist lawyers.



*Hiroshi Yamaguchi, activist leftwing lawyer and founder and leading member of National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales*

It was also written that the true purpose of National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales was not to combat spiritual scams but to undermine the Anti-Espionage Law. Reading this, I somewhat understood it, but it was only covered in that one magazine. There wasn't much written about the true nature of the network of lawyers.

Additionally, there is the ideological struggle between theism (有心論) and atheism (無心論). Since the network of lawyers is connected to the Communist Party, of course they don't believe in [God](#), and there are many ideological struggles. Of course, the Federation for Victory over Communism (勝共 連合) and the [Unification Church](#) (統一教会) are organizations that are closely and inseparably linked. As the Federation for Victory over Communism criticizes communism, I thought it made sense that there were various relationships there, but I was a little unsure about what to make of it being reported in just that one magazine.

Then, just after that, I read a little about Toru Goto (後藤 徹) and the issue of abduction and detention in "Our Unpleasant Neighbour" (我らの不快な隣人) written by Kazuhiro Yonemoto (米本 和弘). So I was a little aware that it was members of the former [Unification Church](#) who had been abducted and detained.



*The front cover page of "Our Unpleasant Neighbour: The Tragedy of the 'Rescue' of a Female Believer from the [Unification Church](#)" by Kazuhiro Yonemoto (2008)*

So, I thought that the issue of abduction and confinement was probably important, and I asked Toru Goto to interview him. After all, he was held captive for 12 years and five months. That's a terrible thing. I was really shocked.

When I met with Toru Goto and asked him about abduction and confinement, he mentioned that there are over 4,300 victims of abduction and confinement. It was shocking news to me. It seems there exists a systematic structure for abduction and confinement. It has even become a business. I thought that the presence of apostates in post-war Japan is truly a matter of great concern which is deeply rooted and has been vicious.

Listening to Toru Goto's story, I could hardly believe it. In Japan, where freedom of religion is guaranteed, how could there be more than 4,300 people abducted and confined? A pastor who specialized in making individuals leave religious organisations, said himself that there were more than 5,000 such victims. Why did something like this happen? Why couldn't it be prevented or stopped? That was my simple question.

As I listened to Goto's story and learned more about what happened in Japan, his brother and sister had also been former believers. They were abducted and held captive by Takashi Miyamura (宮村 峻) and forced to leave the [Unification Church](#).

Toru Goto's older brother, who was also a victim, and his wife, also a former believer, and his sister, who had also been abducted and held captive, then locked Goto up in an attempt to "rescue" him, and held him captive for 12 years and five months. Those who were once considered victims, had now become perpetrators, harming their own relative Toru Goto. Hearing this shocked me deeply.

I said to Goto, "Is this something that happens on this Earth?" I even asked him, "Isn't this something that happens on another planet?" We had a conversation like that, and Goto chuckled a bit at that moment. It was then that I brought up the topic of Zenkokuben (All Japan Lawyers' Association).

I was deeply shocked to hear that, and so I asked Goto, "Did this really happen here on this Earth? Isn't this really something that happens on another planet?" That's what I was saying, and he laughed a little because of that.

Then I mentioned about National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales.



Toru Goto in 2008, barely able to move after being held in forcible detention by his own family in league with professional faith-breakers for more than 12 years

I showed Goto a copy of the article in the magazine called Zenbo (全貌 - The Full Picture). At that time, Sato, the Public Relations Director who assisted with the interview, was there too. When I asked them if it was true, they both looked as if they already knew about it.

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To be continued. Part 4 coming soon.

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# Journalist Uncovering Truth About Witch Hunt

June 26, 2024 • Knut Holdhus



## Investigative journalist tells her amazing story of uncovering the truth about modern witch hunt



Masumi Fukuda speaking in Kumamoto 16th June 2024. Photo: Screenshot from video recording.

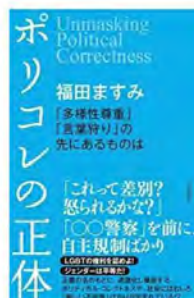
Part 2 of a speech Masumi Fukuda (福田ますみ), Japanese investigative journalist and award-winning author, gave 16<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at the "Kumamoto Conference to Protect Freedom of Religion" at a hotel in Kumamoto, a city of ca. 740,000 inhabitants on the southern island of Kyushu. The conference was attended by members and supporters of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification, protesting against the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology's request for a court order to dissolve the Family Federation of Japan.

See part 1, part 3

However, since the assassination of former Prime Minister Abe two years ago, the Family Federation has been subjected to a lot of criticism. I have spoken at various symposiums on why I started covering the Family Federation.

One reason I began was that after publishing "Unmasking Political Correctness" (ポリコレの正体 っていう) at the end of 2021, "political correctness", known as "PC" in America, is sweeping across the country. While writing about it, I felt like I was learning a lot myself, and I completed the book.

During that time, I wanted to interview someone well-versed in American affairs, and I came across an editorial board member of Sekai Nippo (世界日報), who had a dialogue with Masayuki Takayama (高山正幸), a former Sankei Shimbun [large newspaper] commentator, in the conservative monthly magazine "Will". Since the editorial board member seemed knowledgeable about American affairs, I decided to interview him.



The front cover page of 'Unmasking Political Correctness'

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# 世界日報

The logo of the Sekai Nippo

However, when I mentioned this to the editor of the publishing house that put out "Unmasking Political Correctness," he asked, "Isn't Sekai Nippo related to the Unification Church? Is it okay?"

by Masumi Fukuda.

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I didn't know much about it at the time, but I knew that Sekai Nippo was established by Reverend Sun Myung Moon of the Unification Church. Despite the concern, I noted that many famous conservative figures were giving lectures at Sekai Nippo events and that conservatives were reading Sekai Nippo. It had also published some scoops and provided useful references.

So, I thought, "It should be okay." I proceeded to interview the editorial board member of Sekai Nippo and got a very good impression of him.

He answered the questions I wanted to ask most accurately and thoroughly and was very kind. I tend to be a bit clumsy sometimes, and I made a mistake with my voice recorder running out of batteries during the interview, so I couldn't record. I was lamenting about it, as I'm not very good with machines, but he immediately changed the batteries in the voice recorder for me and reassured me, saying, "It's okay." His kindness left a great impression on me, and I believe we met about twice afterwards for some information exchange or something like that.

After that incident, when the assassination of former Prime Minister Abe occurred, and the intense bashing towards the Family Federation followed, naturally, I wondered if the editorial board members were okay. I wasn't sure if all the employees at Sekai Nippo were followers of the Unification Church. However, as the bashing worsened, I was contemplating whether to reach out.

At that time, a young editor from the Monthly Hanada magazine encouraged me and mentioned that he knew some people connected to conservatives at Sekai Nippo, including the young editor himself. According to him,



The logo of Monthly Hanada

"Sekai Nippo has high quality, and all the journalists there are good people. Fukuda-san, if you contact them, I'm sure they'll be glad."

So, I thought, "Maybe I should contact them. I'll send an email." But I hesitated a bit, wondering if it would be okay.

Around August, over a month after Shinzo Abe's passing, when I checked online, the bashing against the Family Federation was still going strong. However, amidst all that, there was one comment that stood out: "This is a witch hunt." Upon reading that, I thought,

"Yes, this is indeed a witch hunt. There's no substantial evidence, yet they're labeling them as such an anti-social group. Something is definitely not right."

I didn't fully understand everything yet, but I felt strongly,

"This level of bashing is abnormal. A situation where there isn't even anyone defending the Family Federation is strange."

So, I decided to email them. I remember the wording vaguely. I wrote a brief email saying,

"The situation is very difficult right now, but are you okay? This feels like a witch hunt. I think this is fascism. I'm thinking of writing something."

So, I sent that email, and I received a reply from him immediately. He wrote something like, "I was so happy that tears came to my eyes." I'm not sure if it was in that email or a subsequent one, but he wrote,

"The current situation is dire, threatening even our right to exist. I'm fine for now, but I have a daughter. If anything were to happen to her too, it would truly be unbearable."

This made me think,

"Wow, this is really a terrible time. Is the Family Federation really such a bad organization?"

It was as if there were a dark secret society within Japan, or so everyone was saying. I thought,

"And this person is a member of that society, and yet he is such a good person."

Within myself, I couldn't reconcile this inconsistency. Also, when I asked the editor from the Monthly Hanada magazine whether all the employees of Sekai Nippo are believers, he said he didn't really know.

I vaguely remembered hearing from somewhere that believers don't drink alcohol. So, I mentioned this, and the young editor from Monthly Hanada said, "Huh? The people at Sekai Nippo drink alcohol like crazy." (laughs) So I thought, "Maybe they're not believers after all?" However, later on, it turned out that almost everyone is a believer. Anyway, we had a lively conversation between the two of us. In the end, I thought, "Let's write something anyway."

Another reason I decided to start covering the Family Federation was when I saw Masaki Kito [leading member of left-wing activist lawyers' network hostile to the Family Federation] frequently appearing on TV programs like "Miyane-ya". What Kito was saying seemed quite extreme to me – things like prostitution for high donations, connections to organized crime, and claiming that all believers in Japan are victims. I wondered if a lawyer should really be saying such things. Also, I didn't even know that the name had changed from the Unification Church to the Family Federation. Hearing



from the elimination of all of the former Federations. Hearing Kito speak, I felt he harboured an extraordinary hatred towards the former [Unification Church](#).

Continued in [part 3](#).

See [part 1](#)

**Featured image** above: Media campaign against the [Family Federation](#) in Japan. Illustration: Microsoft Designer Image Creator.

Masaki Kito (紀藤正樹), leading activist leftwing lawyer of National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales (NNLASS). Photo: Bitter Winter / screenshot

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