

FFWPU USA: Petition - We Need Your Help

Demian Dunkley
March 31, 2025



FAMILY FEDERATION

The Newsletter

March 31, 2025

Hello family. Petition push. Last Week Today. HJ Global News. Job opportunities. Japan update.

News

Petition: Help Us Reach 100k Signatures by Midnight!

We are just blown away by the support we've received for this petition! We have members all over America hitting the pavement, sharing the issue and collecting signatures. Let's keep pushing to reach our new goal of **100,000 US signatures by midnight tonight** (we have less than 4,000 to go)! 🙏



[share petition](#)

Last Week Today

Featuring missionary programs nationwide



HJ Global News

Messages by True Parents and news on the global movement.



Opportunity

New Hope School is Seeking a Principal



New Hope School, a UC-based school located in Clifton, NJ, is seeking a Principal. We are an MSA-accredited school that maintains a challenging academic curriculum as well as a strong character education program. Many of our graduates have been accepted at Passaic Valley Technical Vocational School, an elite charter high school in the area.

[apply today](#)

National Ocean Challenge is Hiring a Head Cook

National Ocean Challenge is hiring a **HEAD COOK!**

June 30 – July 22
Kodiak, Alaska

- * covered round trip flight
- * covered room and board
- * \$3,000 stipend
- * opportunity to go fishing and hiking!



Apply now!
kodiakoceantribe.org



apply today

Japan

How an Assassin's Dream Came True

Twisting and misinterpreting the law, the Tokyo District Court realized the purpose of Shinzo Abe's assassin to destroy the Unification Church.



Attorney Tatsuki Nakayama (left) speaks at the 2025 International Religious Freedom Summit in Washington DC in a session also featuring Katrina Lantos Swett, President of the Lantos Foundation (center), and French attorney Patricia Duval (right). Photo by Peter Zoehrer.

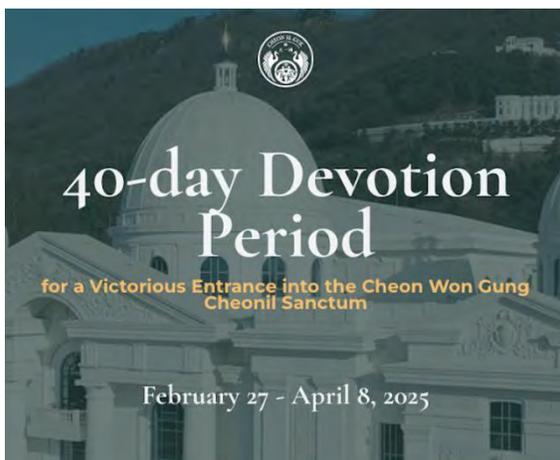
by Tatsuki Nakayama

On March 25, 2025, the Tokyo District Court issued a decision to dissolve the former Unification Church (now called the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification), granting the government's request for a dissolution order. The assassin, Tetsuya Yamagami, offered as motivation for killing the former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe that he was "close to the Family Federation," which he held a grudge against. His stated aim was to damage and if possible destroy the Family Federation. The decision to dissolve the Family Federation will make the assassin's dream come true.

[read more](#)

Useful Links

Click on the image for more information.



Follow Us



Did a friend forward this to you? [Subscribe](#) to The Newsletter.

Religious freedom in Japan is under threat and it's spreading.

Sign the **Petition** to Defend Religious Freedom

[READ THE PETITION](#)

First Name

First Name

Last Name

Last Name

Email

Email address

State

State

Country

United States

Organization (optional)

Organization

[We process your information in accordance with our Privacy Policy.](#)

I agree to privacy policy (required)

Sign





Photo: NPR

Why should I care? It could happen to you.

[SIGN PETITION](#)



Photo: Washington Times

TAKE ACTION

Religious freedom for one is freedom for all.

Add your voice of support by signing the petition.

[SIGN PETITION](#)

...and spread the word!

DOWNLOAD FLYER

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM FOR ONE IS FREEDOM FOR ALL

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN JAPAN IS UNDER THREAT AND IT'S SPREADING

SIGN THE PETITION
TO DEFEND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.

bit.ly/pswm-petition





Petition to Defend Religious Freedom in Japan

**This petition will be
sent to
President Donald J. Trump.**

We, the undersigned representatives of many faith communities, affirm that religious freedom is the foundation of all freedoms. We urge you to help Japan uphold this fundamental right and reverse its disturbing shift away from religious liberty.

The U.S. State Department's 2023 Report on International Religious Freedom stated that Japan's request to order the dissolution of the Family Federation, "marked a deviation from the norm, as previously, revocations had only been ordered following violations of criminal law." The churches and religious movements that are being attacked have not violated any criminal law.

Japan: Family Federation, How an Assassin's Dream Came True

03/31/2025 TATSUKI NAKAYAMA

A+ | A-

Twisting and misinterpreting the law, the Tokyo District Court realized the purpose of Shinzo Abe's assassin to destroy the Unification Church.

by Tatsuki Nakayama



Attorney Tatsuki Nakayama (left) speaks at the 2025 International Religious Freedom Summit in Washington DC in a session also featuring Katrina Lantos Swett, President of the Lantos Foundation (center), and French attorney Patricia Duval (right). Photo by Peter Zoehrer.

On March 25, 2025, the Tokyo District Court **issued a decision** to dissolve the former Unification Church (now called the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification), granting the government's request for a dissolution order. The assassin, Tetsuya Yamagami, offered as motivation for killing the former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe that he was "close to the Family Federation," which he held a grudge against. His stated aim was to damage and if possible destroy the Family Federation. The decision to dissolve the Family Federation will make the assassin's dream come true.

First, as expected, the verdict of the Tokyo District Court followed **the decision of the Supreme Court dated March 3, 2025** when determining whether the grounds for dissolution "in violation of laws and regulations" include civil torts, and answered the question positively.

The Tokyo District Court ruled on whether the Family Federation committed an act "which is clearly found to substantially harm public welfare." However, it is deplorable that the Court did not mention any of the following three points that the Family Federation had strongly argued for:

1. Many who cooperated with the government (the plaintiff in the dissolution suit) are victims of deprogramming.
2. The government allegedly "fabricated" some affidavits of cooperative apostates.
3. The vague terms of "violation of laws and regulations" and "public welfare" violate **international law, particularly the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.**

In addition, this ruling contains the following three points that threaten religious freedom.

First, amicable settlements were included among "torts."

The Tokyo District Court significantly broadened the concept of "tort" in determining whether the Family Federation's refund of donations to apostates is contrary to public welfare. In addition to 32 civil suits (where the first donations were made 32 years ago on average) in which the Family Federation was held liable, in-court and out-of-court amicable settlements were also considered in determining the existence, content, and scale of torts.

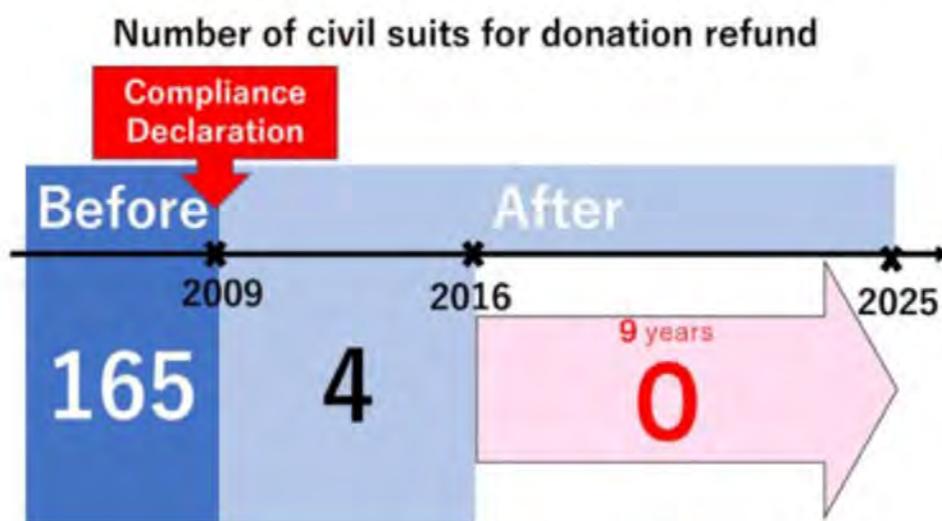
In such settlements, money is refunded just as neutral "settlement money," and such refund is not recognized as compensation for tortious acts. Despite this, the Family Federation's refunds of donations through amicable settlements were collectively regarded as "torts." Accordingly, such refunds through amicable settlements was held to have caused "massive damage" and to be the grounds for the "current problematic situation that cannot be overlooked."

This is a horrible warning to other religions. The lesson is: "If you are sued, never settle or compromise. Never fail to win the case! Otherwise, the court will find your amicable settlements to be 'torts' in the future."

Second, wrong assumption were made on the effects of the Compliance Declaration.

The most important issue in the question whether the Family Federation should be dissolved is the effectiveness of the 2009 Family Federation **Compliance Declaration**. After the Declaration, the Family Federation has significantly improved its organization.

In fact, only four civil suits were filed against the church in relation to donations made after the 2009 Compliance Declaration. Large-amount donations have always been controversial, but not a single donation made in the last twelve years has been found illegal in court. Of the 32 civil cases based on which the dissolution order suit was filed, only one case was filed after the 2009 Compliance Declaration, with a compensation granted of 4,760,500 yen (USD 31,500).



Chronology of civil suits for refunds of donations.

It is easy to understand that the Family Federation's actions after the 2009 Compliance Declaration could not have warranted a dissolution. A distortion of the truth was presented by the anti-cult group **National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales** (NNLASS), which has been eager for decades to dissolve the church.

In 1994 and 1998, the Diet discussed the appropriateness of the dissolution of the Family Federation in response to NNLASS's request, but the government decided that it was not appropriate to apply for a dissolution order.

After the Compliance Declaration, in 2012, NNLASS sued for damages the government, which had refused to file a dissolution order suit against the Family Federation. The Tokyo District Court rejected NNLASS's request. Taking into account the improvements made after the 2009 Compliance Declaration, there was no risk of the Family Federation being dissolved before the Abe assassination



The Family Federation before and after the Compliance Declaration.

However, the Tokyo District Court did not acknowledge the Family Federation's assertion that it had made significant improvement after the 2009 Compliance Declaration.

The court held that, on the premise that the problem of donation issues is "very deep-rooted," the Family Federation has failed to take "fundamental (essential and effective) measures."

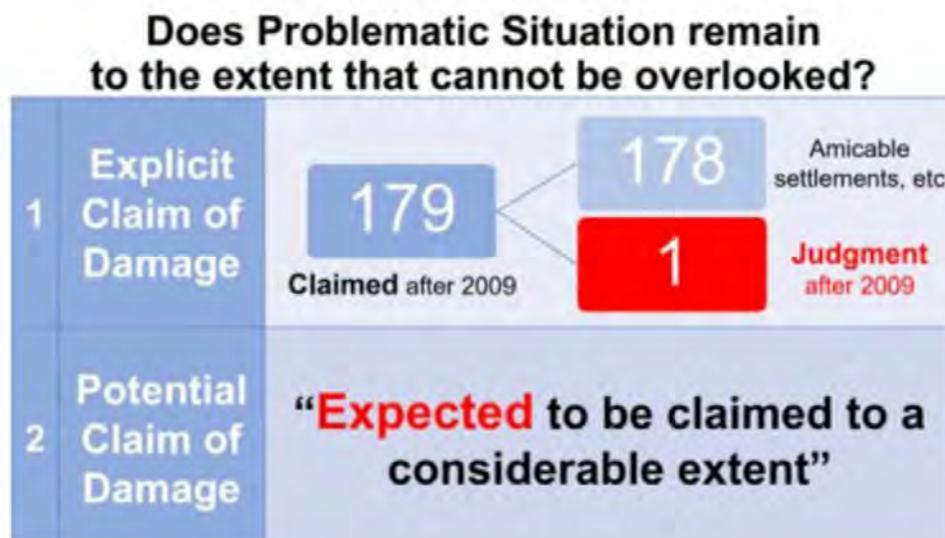
Aside from whether the ruling above is right or wrong, the logic of the court is unacceptable. The Tokyo District Court insisted that:

1. It is "reasonable" to assume that problematic situation" remains because no fundamental measures have been taken; and
2. The problematic situation still remains "to an extent that cannot be overlooked."

First of all, the speculation in Item 1 above that "due to the lack of fundamental measures, it is reasonable to assume that there are still problems" appears unsubstantiated. The court did not prove with persuasive evidence that a problematic situation remains today.

Second, the court dramatically jumped in logic with regard to the extent to which the problematic situation remains in Item 2 above. The court concluded that the problematic situation still remains to an extent that cannot be overlooked, on the ground that a potential damage "is expected to be claimed to a considerable extent," on top of the explicit 179 post-2009 claims made against the church (out of which only one case ended in a judgment).

Based on the loose hypothesis that not only claims actually made but also potential damages that have not yet become apparent may exist to a considerable extent, it was held that "it is reasonable to construe that the problematic situation of the Family Federation remains even now to an extent that cannot be overlooked."



Problematic situations?

This "double" rough speculation that the problematic situation of the Family Federation "would" survive because a significant amount of hidden damage "would" surface appears as shrewd, bureaucratic rhetoric. It is not logical at all.

It was the court's job to carefully reconstruct the facts. Especially in the case of the dissolution order of a religious corporation, it should have done so most carefully "in view of the importance of the freedom of religion guaranteed by the Constitution," as mentioned by the same Tokyo District Court. However, the District Court did not conduct a cautious fact-finding process, and instead relied on an aggressive "hypothetical finding."

Third, the court did not consider religious freedom issues.

In its conclusion, the Tokyo District Court held that the dissolution of the Family Federation is "unavoidable" because the possibility of damage remains to the extent that it could not be overlooked, and it is difficult to expect a church that had not taken fundamental measures to improve the situation.

In addition, the District Court also neglected the religious freedom of believers, by mentioning the "de facto impact of the loss of juridical personality compared to the reflexive benefit of having juridical personality."

This notion of "reflexive benefit" is difficult to understand, but in short, it means that the fact that believers enjoy religious freedom as part of the religious corporation is merely a reflexive benefit of its legal personality. Therefore, it is unavoidable that believers' religious freedom is violated by dissolution.

Using the bureaucratic term "reflexive benefit" the court reduces a dramatic loss of religious freedom of believers to a collateral damage of the dissolution. The court, as fortress of human rights, should have made more considerate comments.

With these devious bureaucratic wording, the purpose of the assassin Yamagami is being achieved—unless the decision will be reformed on appeal.

Three minutes to save independent information
- and perhaps to save human lives

[SUPPORT US](#)

BITTER WINTER



TAGGED WITH: [JAPAN](#), [RELIGIOUS LIBERTY](#), [UNIFICATION CHURCH](#)



Tatsuki Nakayama

Tatsuki Nakayama graduated from the Faculty of Law at the University of Tokyo in 1998. He was admitted as a lawyer in 2005 and graduated from the National University of Singapore Law School in 2010. After working as an international lawyer at a Singapore law firm, he opened Nakayama & Partners in 2015. After studying as a certified fraud examiner in 2016, at Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, and Singularity University, he became a business ethics expert in 2022. He has held executive positions and other important positions in the Inter-Pacific Bar Association, which includes 1,500 lawyers worldwide. His major works are "Global Governance and Compliance" and "Integrity" (both published by Chuokeizaisha), and his recent books include "English Negotiation Techniques" (Heisei Publishing).

Related articles



[Russia Bans Local Church Publication as](#)



[China Insists It Should Control Reincarnation](#)



[Japan and Religion, the Scandal of "Public](#)



[Pakistan: Report Claims Religious](#)

Keep Reading



日本における統一教会の子どもたちのディプログラミング 1. 新たな「取組」

フランスの弁護士パトリス・デュバル氏が、国連の4人の特別報告者に送った報告書。日本の反カルト運動の中で、特に深刻な問題を指摘している。



The Supreme Court and the Unification Church in Japan: Warrant for a "Religiocide"? Part 1

A Supreme Court decision may open the way to the dissolution of the religious organization by overturning decades of case law.



日本の最高裁と統一教会「宗教虐殺」の許可証? その2

数十年の判例を変更し、刑事犯罪ではない民事不法行為が宗教法人の解散理由になる論理的な理由はない。



Norway, Jehovah's Witnesses "Fully Vindicated" By Appeal Court

A wrong decision denying state subsidies and registration to the organization because of its policy towards excluded ex-members has been overturned in appeal.

CESNUR

Via Confienza 19

10121 Torino

Italy

info@bitterwinter.org

