

FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: Yeon Ah Choi Moon's Firsthand Account of Holy Mother Han's Ordeal

Knut Holdhus
October 2, 2025



Yeon-a Moon delivering her message on October 2, 2025 at a prayer vigil in Gapyeong, South Korea

A daughter-in-law's account of detention of elderly religious leader in frail health: "Mother is exhausted and in distress"

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A group of demonstrators protesting the detention of [Mother Han](#) outside Seoul Detention Center October 1, 2025

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Extracts from a message delivered by Yeon-a Moon at a prayer vigil in Gapyeong, South Korea 2nd October. She had the day before visited her mother-in-law, [Hak Ja Han](#), known as [Holy Mother Han](#), at the Seoul Detention Center, where she has been held since 23rd September while investigations are going on into alleged violations of political funding and anti-graft laws.

Many members and others have been worried about what appears to be an excessively harsh treatment by South Korean authorities of the octogenarian religious leader in frail health, just recovering from a heart procedure. As reported by the large Korean newspaper [The Chosun Daily](#) on 1st October [Mother Han](#) herself stated,

"I have dedicated my life to working as a 'Mother of Peace' for world peace. How can this country treat me like this? It is devastating and frustrating."

She said those words in a final 3-minute statement during court hearings on 1st October where she sought the cancellation of her detention at a review hearing after being held for ten days. However, according to the [Chosun Daily](#), the judges sided with four prosecutors claiming there is "a high risk of flight".



A group of demonstrators protesting the detention of [Mother Han](#) outside Seoul Detention Center October 1, 2025

So, when I shared [Mother's](#) recent condition with you all on two different occasions, I didn't mention the external circumstances.

I held back.

Even though this is a place where we can share our hearts openly with one another, I was afraid - afraid of how these words might be heard, how they might be distorted, how they might be interpreted. That's why I held back my words.

But today, I felt that I could no longer just keep silent unconditionally.

Of course, you all must already have some sense of [Mother's](#) situation and her environment. Even without me saying it, you've probably understood much of it. Still, there is a clear difference between knowing something indirectly and hearing it directly from someone who has seen her.

Today, [...] after entering, we offered our greetings and bows, saying who was present.

At the very beginning, [Mother](#) said something,

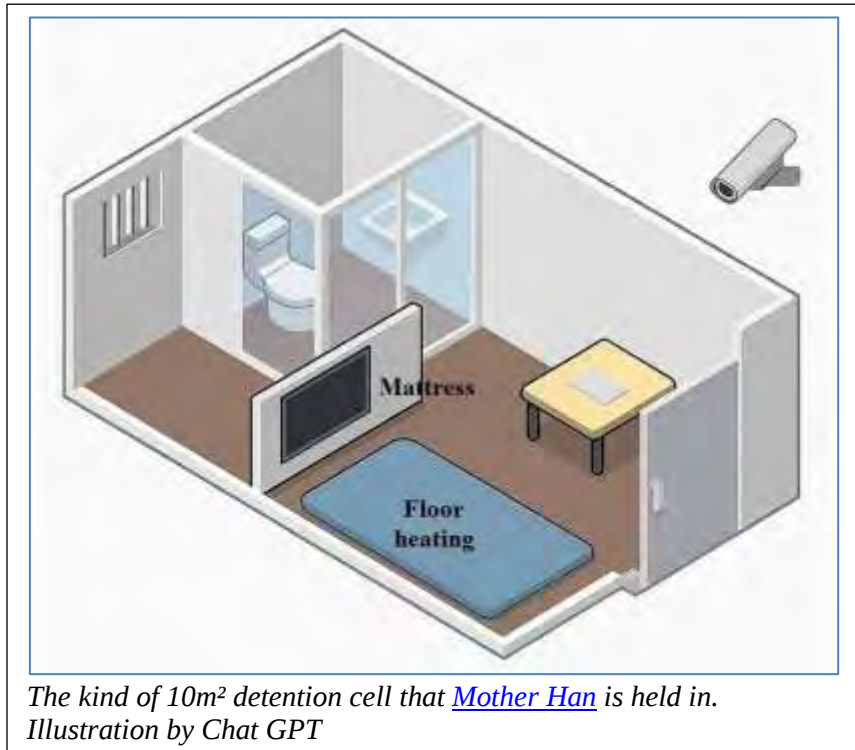
"My body is not well. I feel so unwell and exhausted."

In fact, you may have heard in the news that [Mother](#) was scheduled to undergo some examination today. But she even said that just going through with that would be too difficult for her.

When she said this, her expression clearly showed her struggle. Looking at her face, I noticed her lips - they were unusually pale and tinged with blue. There was a purplish hue, and it made me very worried.

You all know, right? That recently [Mother](#) has been to the hospital. Perhaps this is a lingering effect from

that. Seeing her complexion made me think of many things, and it pained my heart deeply.



Even so, when [Mother](#) saw us and smiled warmly, you know that her smile wasn't just for the five people there in the room. [Mother](#) always thinks of all the members around the world, all the "sons and daughters" of the worldwide [Family Federation](#), who couldn't be with her. That joy she shows is for all of you.

Still, despite her smile, her complexion looked strained, and for [Mother](#) - who normally withholds her words - to openly say she was suffering, it made me realize how serious it is. My heart ached.

There were some other details about her health that she

shared, but I don't need to go into specifics. I believe you can understand well enough how difficult it must be for her.

Translated from the original Korean, introduction by Knut Holdhus, editor.

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70 Years On: Detention History Repeats Itself

- September 28, 2025
- Knut Holdhus

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Echoes of 1955: Mother Han's detention makes hundreds of members gather in prayer every night in front of detention center

Déjà Vu 70 Years Ago



Kim Dong-yeon (김동연), Vice-President, Family

A briefing 28th September 2025 by Kim Dong-yeon (김동연), Vice-President, Family Federation for World Peace and Unification in South Korea on the 6th day of Mother Han's detention at Seoul Detention Center. AI-translated from Korean, slightly edited.

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This weekend, members continue to make their way to *Seoul Detention Center*, where *True Mother* is being held. In front of the iron gates, under the sign that reads "*Establishing Law and Order, Seoul Detention Center*", our members stand weeping and praying without ceasing.

Seventy years ago



Sun Myung Moon being released from a 3-month detention under the *Syngman Rhee* regime and declared innocent 4th October 1955.
Photo: *FFWPU*

As I watch our members, I imagine the scene seventy years ago. In 1955, *True Father* was unjustly accused and imprisoned for three months as an unconvicted detainee at *Seodaemun Prison*. This prison, originally the *Gyeongseong Prison* under the Japanese occupation, was renamed *Seoul Prison* and later *Seoul Penitentiary* after the liberation, housing both those awaiting trial and convicted prisoners.

During *True Father's* confinement and trial, newspapers and magazines across the country published articles slandering the "*Unification Church*". Although social criticism poured down, members gathered daily at *Seodaemun Prison*, longing to see *True Father*.

In 1967, with judicial reforms, *Seoul Detention Center* was established in Anyang as a facility specifically for pre-trial detainees. In 1987, *Seodaemun Prison* was closed, and *Seoul Detention Center* was fully relocated to its current site in *Uiwang* [satellite city to Seoul]. Now, seventy years later, in 2025, *True Mother* has been confined to *Seoul Detention Center*.

We who live in 2025

It feels as though the history of suffering *True Father* endured is repeating itself, as the *Republic of Korea* once again condemns the "*Unification Church*". To see the *True Parents* walk the path of unjust imprisonment under the weight of religious prejudice fills our members only with sorrow and remorse.



Sun Myung Moon and other members detained for 3 months in 1955 at *Seodaemun Prison* in Seoul. All were released 4th October, except

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Kim, who was kept until 25th December. They were all declared innocent. Rear from left: [Sun Myung Moon](#) (1920-2012), Eu Hyo-won (1914-1970). Front from left: Eu Hyo-min, Kim Weon-pil (1928-2010), Eu Hyo-yeong. Photo: FFWPU

In 1955, the [Unification Church](#) was a small, unknown church. Yet seventy years later, the [Family Federation](#) has grown into a worldwide religion, with [blessed](#) families across the globe attending the [True Parents](#). Nevertheless, many people still do not know the [True Parents](#), nor does everyone understand the [Family Federation](#). As we see people ridicule and scorn us, we realize all the more clearly that our mission is far from complete.

Just as the trial in Seodaemun Prison became the foundation for deeper roots of faith in the Korean church, so too must we use this suffering as an opportunity to advance Heaven's [providence](#) even more firmly. Centered on the [True Parents'](#) words, "Forgive, Love, Unite," we must plant unshakable roots of faith, practice [true love](#), and reach out even to those who criticize and despise us.

When [True Father](#) was released from Seodaemun Prison, having been declared innocent, he came out with a face more radiant than anyone else's. I envision the day when [True Mother](#), too, will return to us with a smile brighter than that of any other. Let us offer our prayers and devotions together for that day to come quickly!

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Featured image above: From a spontaneous prayer vigil 25th September 2025 outside Seoul Detention Center, where [Mother Han](#) has been held since 22nd Sep. Photo: Masataka Asaoka.

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