

FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: UK Press Release Blasts Korea's Indictment of Hak Ja Han, 82

Knut Holdhus
October 10, 2025



A typical cell at Seoul Detention Center where [Mother Han](#) is being held, possibly for many months.
Image: Chat GPT

In London press release, Family Federation expresses deep concern over indictment and prolonged detention of Hak Ja Han (82) recovering from heart surgery



[Mother Han](#), here on August 31, 2025, soon before her detention

London, October 10, 2025

Family Federation of Europe and the Middle East Urges Fair Treatment of its Founder and Respect for Religious Freedom in South Korea

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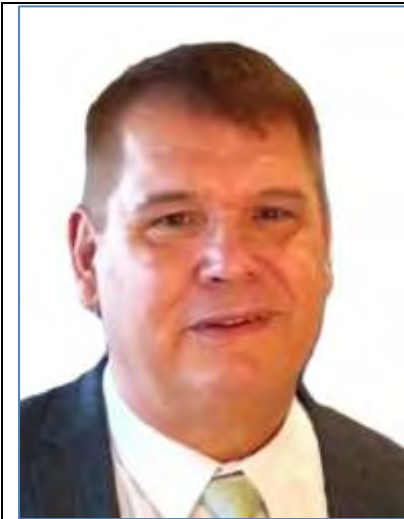
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The [Family Federation](#) of Europe and the Middle East ([Unification Church](#)) expresses deep concern over today's indictment [See editor's note below] by South Korean authorities of Dr. [Hak Ja Han](#), co-founder of [our movement](#) and widow of the late Rev. Dr. [Sun Myung Moon](#).

At 82 and recovering from heart surgery, [Dr. Han](#) has been held alone in a tiny cell for nearly three weeks - raising serious concerns for her health, rights, and due process.

"We believe these charges are unfounded," said Dr. Michael Balcomb, President of the [Family Federation](#)

of Europe and the Middle East. "[Mother Han](#), known widely as the Mother of Peace, has dedicated her entire life to peace, interfaith harmony, and moral renewal. She deserves fairness, dignity, and full respect for her religious freedom."



Dr. Michael Balcomb, here on Aug. 8, 2025



Dr. Massimo Introvigne, here at the UN Office at Geneva June 16, 2025

Although government officials maintain that the prosecution is based on legal grounds, not ideology, human rights advocates are worried. "This is not just about one woman," writes religious freedom scholar Dr. Massimo Introvigne in the Human Rights journal [Bitter Winter](#) today,

"It is about the soul of a nation. It is about whether South Korea will remain a democracy that respects religious freedom - or become a state where faith is punished, and dissent is criminalized."

The [Family Federation](#) urges people of goodwill everywhere to stand in solidarity and prayer for [Dr. Han](#)'s swift release and for the protection of freedom of belief in South Korea.

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A group of demonstrators in front of Seoul Detention Center 1st Oct. 2025, protesting the detention of [Mother Han](#)

[Editor's note: When [Hak Ja Han](#) was indicted today on 10th October 2025, in principle the South Korean authorities could continue to detain her pending trial even though she is of advanced age and with frail health - if a court finds sufficient grounds. However, in practice there are legal limits and procedural protections that may make it more difficult or subject to challenge.

Once indicted, the standard maximum detention period is 2 months, which may be extended twice (i.e. two renewals of 2 months each) - giving a maximum of 6 months in custody at the first-instance trial stage.

If the case goes to appeal, further detention periods may be extended, though typically those are shorter (4 - 6 months, depending on the appellate court and special evidence hearings).

In cases handled by a special prosecutor, the law mandates that a final judgment at first instance must be delivered within six months after public prosecution begins.

Because this case is being handled by a special prosecutor (rather than ordinary prosecutors), additional rules apply:

The special prosecutor's investigation period is 60 days from the end of an initial preparation period, with the possibility of one extension of 30 days, subject to presidential approval.

Once the public prosecution is filed (i.e. indictment), the law requires that the trial under the special prosecutor must be given priority and that judgment at the first instance must be rendered within six months.

With this legal framework in mind, here is how things could play out in practice for [Hak Ja Han](#), given her age and health:

Her age and health condition do not automatically mandate non-detention under Korean law, but they are relevant factors that her defense can present to argue for release (or for special custody conditions).

The courts may be more reluctant to deny release/bail or to impose strict detention on someone in fragile health unless the prosecutors can convincingly show strong risk factors (e.g. flight risk, destruction of evidence, interference).

In fact, media reports in Korea JoongAng Daily have already noted that her detention period (as of 10th October) was due to expire imminently, implying that her ongoing detention had been under judicial scrutiny.

She sought a court review of her arrest on September 29, which the court rejected. According to the same paper, this indicates that she already has used procedural remedy options.

Thus, while there is a legal basis for continued detention, her defense may contest it strongly, and health concerns may bolster arguments for release or leniency.

Estimating the interval until trial is speculative, but given the procedural limits, and because the special prosecutor regime applies, the investigation should complete within 60 days (with one possible 30-day extension).

Once the indictment is handed over to the court, the trial preparation begins. After indictment, the court and defense may engage in preparatory steps: document exchange, motions, perhaps pretrial hearings or conferences. Korea's "overview of criminal system" materials suggest that in many cases the first trial hearing is often scheduled within 2 - 4 weeks of induction of the public prosecution. But in a high-profile, complex corruption case, scheduling might be delayed by logistical constraints, defense motions, or backlog.

Under the special prosecutor law, the first-instance court must deliver judgment within six months from the start of public prosecution.

The start of the public prosecution is the date of the formal indictment into court. So even if the defense or court delays procedural steps, the six-month statutory cap should apply to the judgment, not necessarily the very first hearing.

Under favorable conditions, one might expect a trial to begin within 2 - 4 months, with a verdict by six months from indictment; in a complicated high-profile case, that might stretch somewhat, but those statutory limits act as a constraint.]

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Korean Crisis: “True Democracy Must Serve Heaven”

• October 9, 2025
• Knut Holdhus



In comment on South Korean crisis, “Godism” is held up as path to true democracy and peace

Part 1 of a speech by Ahn Ho-yeol (안호열), former media spokesperson of the [Family Federation](#) in South Korea, at a prayer vigil in [Gapyeong](#), South Korea on 9th October 2025. Translated from the transcription of the original Korean.

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Today’s topic is “**A True Democracy That Serves Heaven.**”

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Father Moon and Mother Han devoted their entire life to peace, promoting "Godism" [See editor's note 1 below] as solution not only for Korea, but the world. Photo: FFWPU

Our True Mother has dedicated her entire life to realizing a world of peace, yet she said,

"Korean democracy should not treat me this way. Is this all that Korean democracy amounts to?"

Those words are profoundly serious. Why? Because throughout his life,

True Father did not advocate a democracy centered on human beings, but one centered on God.

He proclaimed "Godism" [See editor's note 1 below] – a form of democracy guided by divine principles.

When Korea was in turmoil – divided between the left and the right, between pro-America and anti-America, between pro-Japan and anti-Japan, and endlessly entangled in the issue of "cleansing old evils" – True Father was not concerned merely about the physical division of the land. He worried far more about the **division of thought, the division of the nation, and the division of faith.**

Therefore, he continuously proclaimed Godism [See editor's note 1 below], Head-wing thought (두익사상 – 頭翼思想) [See editor's note 2 below], and the vision of a world of **interdependence, mutual prosperity, and universally shared values.**

In that context, Heaven – our Heavenly Parent who loves and has chosen this nation – sent us the **Only Begotten Daughter**, the embodiment of the Holy Spirit, the True Mother.

Heaven believed that if this nation could just follow and attend the True Parents, it could surely become the nation that Heaven desires. But now, we ask:

"Why is this happening to our True Mother, who has lived her entire life for the liberation of our Heavenly Parent, for human peace, and for the salvation of humanity? Why is this happening?"

We will remember, and we will not forget. We must **never** forget. On the morning of 18th July, I heard the news and drove up here. There were about **twenty people gathered**, and I joined them. We prayed, sang the holy songs of Cheonil-Guk, and declared that we would guard **Heaven's lineage.** We shouted our determination with tears in our eyes.



Police buses arrived one after another at the Family Federation HQ in Gapeong, South Korea 18th July 2025. Photo: FFWPU

But even as we stood there praying, police buses arrived one after another, surrounding the area like a blockade. One officer came up and asked,

"Who are you people? Why are you here?"

We said,

"We are here to pray for True Mother's safety."

He looked puzzled and said,

"You can't be here."

I replied,

"We are not protesting, we are praying."

But they pushed us back, saying we were causing obstruction.



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From a prayer vigil in front of Seoul Detention Center 28th September 2025. Photo: Masataka Asaoka.

At that moment, my heart broke. Is this what **Korean democracy** has come to? Have we now reached a point where even **prayer** – a simple act of faith – is treated like a crime?

The **True Mother**, the embodiment of **God's ideal** of love, is being treated as though she were a criminal. She, who has built schools, media foundations, peace organizations, and relief movements across the world – who has fed the hungry, rebuilt war-torn nations, and embraced the despised and the forgotten – now finds herself confined by the very nation she has loved and served.

“Brothers and sisters”, we must ask:

“What kind of democracy is this?”

A true democracy must protect the rights of faith, of conscience, and of love. It must serve Heaven first. But **when the media twist the truth, when the prosecutors distort the law, and when politicians remain silent** – we must ask ourselves,

“Then who truly governs this country today? Is it the politicians? Is it the prosecutors? Is it the media?”



A group of demonstrators protesting the detention of **Mother Han** outside Seoul Detention Center 3rd October 2025. Photo: Masataka Asaoka

If we know Heaven's will, and we know the **True Parents**, yet we remain silent, then we are committing a sin before Heaven. Silence in the face of injustice is not neutrality – it is complicity. When the righteous are silent, evil gains power. **True Father** always said:

“When you see injustice, you must speak out even if your voice trembles. When you see unrighteousness, you must stand against it even if you stand alone.”

That is the path of Heaven's sons and daughters. That is the path of those who have inherited **True Parents'** heart.

Do you think **True Mother** is enduring this situation because she is powerless? No. She is enduring because she is **protecting Heaven's providence**. Just as Jesus silently endured the cross to fulfill **God's will**, **True Mother** is now walking a path of indescribable sorrow to protect Heaven's foundation on earth.

But Heaven is watching. The ancestors who toiled for this nation's restoration are watching. And the entire spirit world is watching to see who among us will stand with Heaven, and who will remain silent out of fear.

Therefore, brothers and sisters, we must choose. Will we bow to worldly power, or will we uphold Heavenly law? Will we remain silent, or will we testify to the truth of the **True Parents**?

The road may be narrow, and we may face persecution. But that road – the road of loyalty to Heaven – is the path of **God's will**, the path of the **True Parents**, and the path of a true democracy.

To be continued. Part 2 coming soon.

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Featured image above: Ahn Ho-yeol (안호열), former media spokesperson of the [Family Federation](#) in South Korea, delivering his message in gapyeong, South Korea 9th October 2025. Screenshot from video by [FFWPU](#).

[Editor's note 1: "Godism" (하나님주의) is one of the central philosophical and theological ideas associated with [Sun Myung Moon](#) (문선명) and the Unification movement. 하나님 (Hananim) = "God" (the personal, loving Creator). 주의 (主義) = "-ism" or "principle/ideology". So 하나님주의 (Godism) literally means "the ideology centered on God".

[Sun Myung Moon](#) presented Godism as a third ideological alternative to capitalism and communism, especially during the Cold War. It was meant to be a moral and spiritual worldview that could reconcile left and right, transcending materialistic and human-centered ideologies. This is closely connected with his idea of Head-Wing Thought (두익사상) [See editor's note 2 below] – where Godism serves as the *core spiritual content*, and Head-Wing Thought serves as the *social-political application*.

The core principles of Godism:

- **God-centered humanism** – Humanity's ultimate purpose is not self-centered fulfillment but living for the sake of others, reflecting [God's](#) heart of love.
- **Dual purpose of life** – Each individual exists both for personal perfection (becoming one with [God](#) in love) and for the good of others (family, society, and the world).
- **Family as the school of love** – [True love](#) begins in the family and expands to all levels of human relationships, reflecting [God's](#) parental heart.
- **Unity of science and religion** – Godism seeks to harmonize spiritual truth and scientific understanding under a divine purpose.
- **Overcoming ideological conflict** – By centering politics and economics on [God's](#) love, Godism proposes peace through moral renewal, not domination or class struggle.]

[Editor's note 2: Head-wing thought (두익사상 – 頭翼思想) is a concept coined by [Sun Myung Moon](#). 두 (頭) = "head", 익 (翼) = "wing", 사상 (思想) = "thought" or "ideology". So 두익사상 literally means "Head-Wing Thought."

It was developed by [Sun Myung Moon](#) (Co-Founder of the [Family Federation](#)) and his followers as a philosophical framework intended to transcend and harmonize left-wing (liberal/socialist) and right-wing (conservative/capitalist) ideologies – hence the "head" guiding both "wings".]

[Editor's note 3: "Interdependence, mutual prosperity, and universally shared values" (상호의존, 상생, 공의) is one of the most important expressions of [Sun Myung Moon's](#) and [Hak Ja Han's social philosophy](#), and it encapsulates the *ethical foundation* of their "Head-Wing Thought" (두익사상) [See editor's note 2].

Literally, 상호의존 (相互依存) means "mutual dependence". All beings exist in relationship, not isolation. Human society and the universe are based on interdependence.

The literal meaning of 상생 (相生) is mutual giving life / co-prosperity. True prosperity arises when all parties benefit – not through competition, but cooperation.

A literal translation of 공의 (公義) would be "public justice" or "universal righteousness". This is the moral foundation that aligns individual and collective good with [God's](#) love and truth.

Together, they form a **trinity of social principles** that describe the ideal structure of relationships in a [God-centered](#) world. This threefold ideal – interdependence, mutual prosperity, and universally shared values – expresses the **ethical and structural order** of a society grounded in **Godism** (하나님주의) [See editor's note 1] and **Head-Wing Thought** (두익사상) [See editor's note 2].

Interdependence means that society and the cosmos operate through harmonious give-and-take. It rejects the materialist idea of conflict (as in Marxism) and instead sees cooperation as the essence of existence.

in harmony and instead sees cooperation as the essence of existence.

Mutual prosperity signifies that economic life should aim for shared benefit, not exploitation. True prosperity comes from living for the sake of others, ensuring everyone's well-being.

The meaning of "universally shared values" is that moral and social systems must reflect God's universal principles of justice and love. This provides a common moral ground transcending ideology, race, and religion.

The concept is sometimes described as the **ideological foundation for the "Kingdom of Heaven on Earth"** envisioned by Sun Myung Moon and Hak Ja Han.]

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