

FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: Family Fed Response to So. Korean Media Allegations by Kim Dong-yeon

Knut Holdhus  
October 20, 2025



Logos of South Korean media outlets around central illustration made by Grok xAI



Kim Dong-yeon, Vice-President, [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#) in South Korea

In response to media claims in South Korea, turning general spiritual aspirations into religious-political collusion, the Family Federation issues clarification of Mother Han's role and decision-making process

Clarifying the Facts

A briefing 20th October 2025 by Rev. Kim Dong-yeon (김동연), Vice-President, [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#) in South Korea. AI-translated from Korean, slightly edited.

In recent days, certain media outlets have continued to misrepresent and distort the facts related to the activities of [True Mother](#) and the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#). In particular, suspicions have been raised that money or goods were offered in exchange for benefits related to a project to develop Cambodia's Mekong River. The [Family Federation](#) of Korea wishes to offer clarification on this matter.

True Mother as the Leader of Our Church



[Mother Han](#), here painted by her daughter Eun-jin Moon Jenkins October 2025

[True Mother](#) serves as the religious and spiritual leader of the [Family Federation](#), dedicating herself to spreading a faith-based vision and values that convey our Heavenly Parent's will for the realization of peace and harmony among all humankind. She does not directly engage in the secular decision-making or administrative operations of the [Family Federation](#) or its international headquarters, such as policy formulation, budget execution, or organizational management.

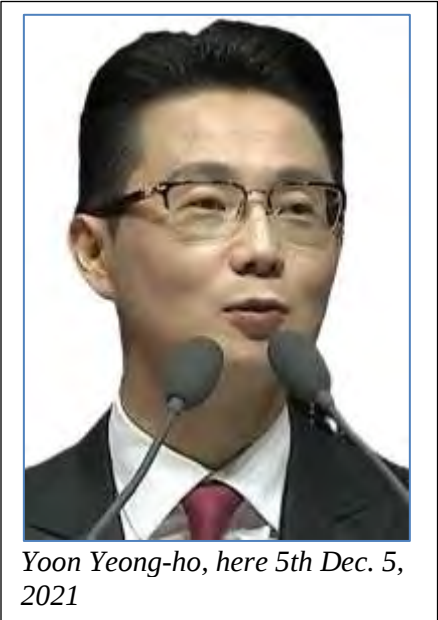
These matters are independently decided and implemented by the heads of each organization - such as the Director-General of the World Mission Headquarters, the foundation chairperson and national leaders - in accordance with legal guidelines and the articles of association.

Some media outlets have interpreted [True Mother](#)'s words, "May Heavenly Parent's will be fulfilled in this land," as implying religious-political collusion. In reality, this statement expresses a spiritual aspiration shared by traditional religions, including Christianity, for a renewed world or the

"kingdom of [God](#)".

**Clarification on Diplomatic and Peace Activities**

The [Family Federation](#)'s long-standing effort to encourage the construction of a fifth United Nations Office on the Korean Peninsula has always been an international public peace initiative aimed at promoting peace and stability on the Peninsula and advancing the national interests of Korea. Characterizing this as a lobbying activity for a particular political faction or interest group is a clear distortion of facts.



Regarding the Mekong River Peace Park project reported in the media: this initiative was pursued independently by the former Director-General of the International Headquarters, who took all related materials with him even after his dismissal in May 2023. The [church](#) has neither taken over nor continued this project, nor was it a policy pursued at the [church](#) level.

Furthermore, [True Mother](#) has never issued any improper requests or directives to Dr. Yoon Yeong-ho, the former Director-General. That being said, while this situation arose from the personal misconduct of a leader entrusted with organizational authority, our [church](#)'s organizational structure should have had safeguards to prevent these actions. In response, the Korean Headquarters is currently pursuing internal structural reforms and improvements to management systems in order to prevent such things from happening in the future.

**Clarification on ODA and Government Funding**

Though some media outlets have made allegations that "[church](#) event expenses were supported through Overseas Development Assistance (ODA)," this is both institutionally and legally impossible. According to OECD statistical guidelines and Article 7 of the Economic Development Cooperation Fund Act, religious facilities and organizations are explicitly excluded from ODA eligibility. Moreover, there has never been a single instance in which Korea's Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) provided support to religious facilities or [church](#)-related events. Korea's policy of assisting developing countries is a national-level diplomatic policy, consistently maintained through the administrations of Presidents Park Geun-hye, Moon Jae-in, and Yoon Suk-yeol.



[Mother Han](#) addressing the "[Summit for Peace on the Korean Peninsula](#)" 13th February 13, 2022 in [Gyeongju](#)

**Regarding International Events and Political Participation**

International events hosted by the [Family Federation](#) are always public events with themes of world peace, reconciliation, and shared prosperity for humanity. Accordingly, when politicians or social leaders deliver congratulatory remarks at these events, it is not the political mobilization of a religious gathering but rather an expression of collaboration for peace among nations and peace in society.

The [church](#) maintains strict political neutrality and has never aligned with or taken a biased stance toward any political party. For instance, at the "Summit for Peace on the Korean Peninsula", held on 13th February 2022, both ruling and opposition presidential candidates were invited. These events are unrelated to political partisanship and are conducted solely as part of the church's broader international peace diplomacy initiatives.

[True Mother](#) holds fast to the belief that the truth will be revealed, saying, "Even if it takes time, justice will surely prevail." At this time, it is essential for all of us to uphold the standards of truth and our faith as we go forward. The [Family Federation](#)'s Korean Headquarters will respond firmly to false reports and religious prejudice and will strive to ensure that the media and the public perceive the essence of our work through a fair perspective based on facts. With the conviction that our Heavenly Parent and the [True Parents](#) are with us, we encourage all members to unite with unwavering faith and sincere devotions.

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# Detention: Harsh Cell Conditions Spark Outcry

• October 19, 2025

• Knut Holdhus



South Korean authorities' humanity called into question as they put elderly religious leaders (82 and 63) through inhuman conditions in detention cells



Rev. Demian Dunkley speaking in Elizabeth, New Jersey, USA on 19th October 2025. Screenshot from live transmission by [FFWPU](#)

Excerpt from a sermon delivered by Rev. Demian Dunkley

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Extracts from a sermon delivered by Rev. Dennis Dunkley, President of the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification in North America](#), at a Sunday worship service in Elizabeth, New Jersey on 19th October 2025.

[...] We're not called to fear. We're not called to be afraid. We are called to faith. Isn't that so?

Fear makes us lower our eyes. But faith can raise a nation. And faith today is on trial across the world. I'm not talking about a church. I'm not talking about a doctrine. I'm talking about faith. Faith itself. The freedom and right to believe, to pray, to love.

We stand together here because faith is not a crime, and love is not afraid. Faith is not a crime, and love is not afraid. Aju! [\[See editor's note below\]](#) So what is really going on? I want to share with you today as much as I possibly can. To bring us to a unity of awareness about what's really going on. Is that okay?



A typical **cell at Seoul Detention Center** where [Mother Han](#) is being held, possibly for many months. The illustration is not exactly the same as Rev. Dunkley showed during his speech, but similar. Image: Chat GPT, 10th October 2025.

Our [Mother](#), the Mother of Peace, is currently being held in a detention center in Seoul. Let us now look at the facts that the media seems too afraid to reveal. First, I want to show you what her cell looks like. [...]

This is actually an image of a cell that's 40% larger than her cell. But this is the kind of shape. There's a place to sleep, there's a toilet, and there's no furniture to sit on. And there's a camera watching you 24 hours a day. And in this cartoon image, it almost looks cozy. But it's not 10 square meters. It's actually barely six square meters. Do you know what that is? Let's go to the next slide.

It's the same size as a Mini Cooper. [...] Her cell is damp. The air is stale. There is no sunlight, just a single bulb above her.



A 1959 Morris Mini-Minor. Photo (2007): [DeFacto / Wikimedia Commons](#). License: [CC ASA 2.5 Gen](#)

She has no bed, and she has no mattress [...]. No mattress. Instead, she folds her blankets beneath her and pulls the remaining one to cover herself at night. But the damp still seeps through.

She has to wash her own clothes. By hand and hang them in her cell, making the air heavier still. There's no sufficient heating. She is cold, but she sweats profusely because of her condition. And she has no extra clothes to change into. So her clothes stay wet. Her hair is wet, and she's getting weaker. She falls from dizziness.

So, with failing eyesight, our [Mother](#) crawls around herself on her hands and knees. Her knees are bruised; her feet are swollen. Her arms are numb. She's in pain. At 82, she endures heart failure, atrial fibrillation, diabetes, and near blindness, among other things.

She needs a wheelchair or at least a cane or assistance.

- To get a wheelchair. Forbidden.
- A cane. Forbidden.

What did the doctor prescribe after her procedure? Absolute rest. What did she receive? Endless interrogation, 25 hours in total. And now life in a cell cut off from the world.

Her meals are not good. She survives on a milk formula. These are not false accusations. These are facts.

But she's not the only one carrying this

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cross. Pastor Son [Son Hyun-bo (손현보) of Busan's Segyero Church (세계로교회)] is in the same detention center. He was detained for standing by his beliefs, questioned for hours and still faces uncertainty.

For simply defending his right to faith and to express that faith, expressing his right for values that he believes in. And he believes that he has the freedom to express those values to other free citizens.



**Also detained: Pastor Son Hyun-bo** (1962-), here August 2025. Photo: [Bitter Winter](#)



*Chance Son in September 2025. Screenshot from video by [FFWPU](#)*

Over Chuseok [Korean holiday], his son, [...] – his name is Chance – reported that his father had caught the flu, was terribly sick, but was told that he would have to wait ten days before receiving medication.

While others who have great responsibilities, were enjoying the festivities and deep meaning of Chuseok, the Korean Thanksgiving, these same people allowed children of God, servants of God, including an 82-year-old great grandmother who can barely see or walk, remain in a cell without visitation.

We also remember Jeong Hee-cheol (정희철), who was recently investigated by the same prosecution team that interrogated [True Mother](#). He only went through half of the grueling course that she did. 13 hours of interrogation compared to her 25. But it sent him to his end.

He [took his own life](#), reportedly due to the psychological pressure of their interrogation style. His note read in part, "I want to turn my back on the world."

His lawyers requested a transcript of the interrogation, at least for the family, that they might know what it was that he went through in his final moments. Denied.

One life has already ended and two remain in the balance. This is not rumor. These are recorded facts now.

Jeong Hee-cheol was in his 50s and healthy. Pastor Son in his 60s and looks pretty healthy. Mother is in her 80s. How long can an elderly great grandmother endure conditions that a man in his 50s cannot survive? And he wasn't even in the detention center.

Each day in that cell is a test of her strength, but it is also a test of our humanity. Every democracy knows a sacred duty to protect the elderly, right? Is there some written rule that if you see a baby in harm's way or an elderly person in harm's way, you have to help?

Or is the very conscience of the human being already awakened or aware enough to naturally know those things? [...]

Because even within the animal kingdom, animals know to protect the vulnerable, even if it's an enemy. Every democracy knows this. Every faith knows this – to protect the elderly.

So all we ask for is transparency, for proper medical access, and for due process, right? [...]

This morning, it has been 27 days. 27 days since she entered that cell. 27 days of damp air and sleepless nights.

**Featured image above:** Rev. Demian Dunkley speaking in Elizabeth, New Jersey, USA on 19th October 2025. Screenshot from live transmission by [FFWPU](#)



**The prosecutors' humanity is called into question.** Here, Chief Special Prosecutor Min Jung-ki (민중기) who summoned [Dr. Hak Ja Han](#) and Pastor Son Hyun-bo for questioning. Min is the head of a huge team of special prosecutors with extensive investigative powers. Image generated by Chat GPT September 2025.

**[Editor's note: "Aju" (아주)]** is mainly a new prayer conclusion. It is used instead of "Amen". The expression was coined by Rev. [Sun Myung Moon](#) and Dr. [Hak Ja Han](#) in 2006. "Aju" replaced the traditional "Amen" to signify not just affirmation of God's power, but a pledge to fulfill God's will through one's own responsibility – a move away from simply asking God to act, toward actively committing oneself to act.]

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