

FFWPU Europe and Middle East: Formal Complaint Filed Against Lead Korea's Special Prosecutor

Knut Holdhus
October 25, 2025



Portrait of Cho Bae-sook September 7, 2023

Leading opposition politician files formal complaint as public outcry grows over powers of Lee Jae-myung administration's special prosecutors



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Strong reactions are mounting against the extensive powers granted by the Lee Jae-myung (이재명) administration to its team of special prosecutors. The coercive investigation methods employed by Chief Special Prosecutor Min Jung-ki (민중기) and his large staff of prosecutors and legal assistants have already drawn international criticism.

Their extensive powers include keeping 82-year-old [Hak Ja Han](#) (한학자), also known as [Mother Han](#), in a tiny [cold and damp detention cell](#) while she is recovering from a heart operation and suffers from multiple health problems. She has already been held for 35 days under inhuman conditions.

The main opposition party, the People Power Party (PPP), is certainly reacting. Five-term National Assembly member Cho Bae-sook (조배숙) and Attorney Park Kyung-ho (박경호) filed on 22nd October a complaint at the Seoul Central District Prosecutor's Office against Special Prosecutor Min Jung-ki for abuse of power and Capital Markets Act violations.

Cho Bae-sook is one of the country's pioneering female legal professionals. It's not the first time she has stepped to the forefront

of legal and ethical controversy. A former prosecutor, judge, and lawyer, Cho currently serves in the People Power Party, where she is known for her sharp legal insight, conservative values, and commitment to the integrity of the justice system. Educated at Seoul National University's Faculty of Law, Cho built her career across nearly every branch of Korea's legal world before entering politics.

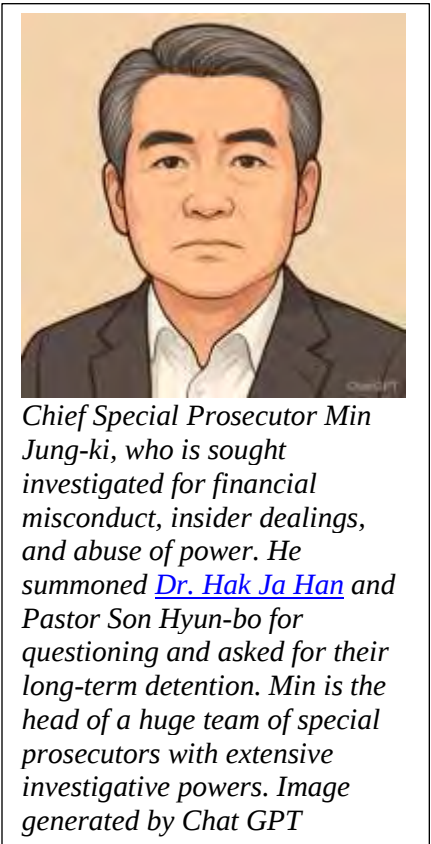
On 22nd October, she released a powerful statement on Facebook following the People Power Party's formal complaint against Special Prosecutor Min Jung-ki and his investigative team - a post that has quickly spread across social media and reignited public debate about judicial ethics, prosecutorial conduct, and accountability at the highest levels of law enforcement.

In her statement, titled "Min Jung-ki, the Special Prosecutor Who Speaks of Justice with Dirty Hands While Hiding Behind the Statute of Limitations - Resign Immediately," Cho opened with the announcement that she and other party members had submitted an official complaint to the Seoul Central District Prosecutors' Office. The complaint accuses Min Jung-ki and members of his special investigation team of coercive interrogation practices and human rights violations during their handling of the Yangpyeong Gongheung District development case - an investigation that, according to Cho, culminated in the suicide of defendant Jeong Hee-cheol (정희철), a local township chief.



Screenshot from Cho Bae-sook's Facebook page October 25, 2025.

Cho's post goes beyond the immediate tragedy of the Gongheung case to paint a picture of what she calls a pattern of unethical behavior by Min stretching back more than a decade. She accuses him of past financial misconduct dating to his tenure as a high court judge, particularly involving insider trading and concealed profits from the NeoSemitech solar energy scandal of 2010.



According to Cho, Min disclosed ownership of 10,000 unlisted shares in NeoSemitech in 2008, when he served as a senior judge. The company later went public through a backdoor listing in October 2009, but within months, accounting fraud was exposed, its trading was suspended in March 2010, and the company was delisted that August. Cho claims Min had already sold his shares just before the trading suspension, profiting by about 150 million won (roughly USD 110,000). Even more telling, she writes, was that Oh Myung-hwan (오명환), the company's CEO - and Min's high-school and university classmate - made a much larger profit, selling his stock shortly before the suspension and allegedly earning 2.4 billion won (USD 1.8 million).

Cho challenges Min's defense that he had simply invested "on the recommendation of an acquaintance unrelated to the company." She stresses that Min has refused to identify this acquaintance, the securities firm, or the broker who allegedly advised him to sell the stock, nor has he disclosed the precise timing of the transaction. Such secrecy, Cho argues, undermines his credibility and strongly suggests the use of insider information, which would constitute a serious criminal offense.

The lawmaker's post conveys a deep sense of public outrage among small investors who suffered losses in the NeoSemitech collapse. Many of them, she recounts, lost their savings and homes, with some reportedly driven to despair and suicide. "Countless small investors shed tears of blood and saw their families destroyed," Cho quoted one victim as saying.

"And now we learn that the man at the center of it all is a special prosecutor? It's beyond belief."

Anticipating claims that any potential charges against Min are barred by the statute of limitations, Cho presents a detailed legal rebuttal. She cites the case of Oh Myung-hwan (오명환), NeoSemitech's former CEO, who was indicted and eventually sentenced to 11 years in prison after fleeing abroad for four years before his arrest by Interpol in Vancouver in 2013. Citing Article 253 of the Criminal Procedure Act, Cho argues that the suspension of the statute of limitations for one accomplice applies to all accomplices.

Given Oh's extended flight and trial, she contends, the clock on Min's own potential charges was stopped for at least seven years, meaning that the case remains open and prosecutable.

Beyond legal arguments, Cho's post is a moral and philosophical indictment of what she sees as hypocrisy within the justice system. Drawing on the "Clean Hands Principle" - a doctrine stating that those who have acted unlawfully cannot invoke the law's protection - she insists that a prosecutor implicated in ethical violations has no moral authority to administer justice. "If the head of the nation's top investigative body has dirtied his own hands," she writes, "he can no longer speak in the name of justice or investigate citizens in its name."

Her conclusion is unequivocal: Min Jung-ki must resign immediately, and the special prosecution team should be dissolved. She calls on Min to "bow before the people," to voluntarily appear before investigators, and to "confess his crimes in full."

Cho's post combines the sharpness of a legal brief with the fervor of a political manifesto. It reflects her dual identity as a jurist and lawmaker - one steeped in legal reasoning but animated by moral conviction. Her argument is not limited to Min's alleged misconduct; it is also a broader critique of the erosion of public trust in the justice system. For Cho, accountability is not just about punishing wrongdoing but about preserving the moral authority of the law itself.

Her statement also positions the People Power Party as a defender of legal transparency and prosecutorial reform at a time when the political climate is deeply polarized. Whether her allegations lead to renewed investigation or disciplinary action remains uncertain. Yet, Cho Bae-sook's intervention has already reignited debate over whether those entrusted with enforcing justice can ever be above it - and whether, as she warns, "those who have defiled the name of the law have any right to speak in its name."

Text: Knut Holdhus, editor

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Politics Fueled Japan’s Attack On Federation

• October 24, 2025
• Knut Holdhus



The political genesis of Japan's attack on religious minority can be traced to extreme leftwing group with clear links to Communist and pro-China factions

Dr. Massimo Introvigne penned an article published in [Bitter Winter](#), the leading online magazine for human rights and religious freedom, on 21st October 2025, titled *"Attorney Masaki Kito's NHK Party Accusations Reignite Debate Over Japan's Anti-Family Federation Campaign"*.

The Italian scholar basically argues that **Japan's campaign against the Family Federation cannot be divorced from its political origins**. Hostile activist attorney



Dr. Massimo Introvigne, here speaking at the UN Office at Geneva on 16th

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Masaki Kito's recent revival of accusations is simply a **continuation of an old ideological battle**. The controversy, therefore, offers a test case for **how democratic societies balance religious liberty, historical truth, and political partisanship** – and whether Japan can confront its own history of politically driven “anti-cult” crusades.

Introvigine reports how Japan in recent weeks has seen a renewed flash-point in the debate surrounding the campaign against the **religious movement** formerly known as the **Unification Church** – since 2015, called the **Family Federation for World Peace and Unification**.



Persuaded the government: Masaki Kito (紀藤正樹), one of the hostile lawyers of National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales (全国霊感商法被害対策弁連) and Nationwide Unification Church Damage Countermeasures Legal Team (全国統一教会被害対策弁護団). He worked in league with faith-breakers forcing believers into lawsuits and exploiting them to fit narrative: One of the architects of new law and advisor to the Japanese authorities. Photo: Screenshot / **Bitter Winter**

Attorney Masaki Kito (紀藤正樹) – known for his activism against new religious movements – publicly accused the small political party called the **NHK Party** of having close organizational ties with the **Family Federation**, and in turn implicated the ruling **Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)** in continuing such connections.

Kito's point is that the LDP may claim to have severed its links with the **Family Federation** in the aftermath of the 2022 assassination of former Prime Minister Shinzō Abe (安倍晋三), yet its alliance with the **NHK Party** betrays that promise.

On the other side, the **NHK Party** and former Diet member Satoshi Hamada (浜田聡) – who has publicly criticized anti-religious-liberty measures directed at the **Family Federation** –



Former House of Councillors member for the **NHK Party** Satoshi Hamada (浜田聡), here speaking on 26th January 2025. Photo: Yasuhiro Uno (宇野泰弘)

responded forcefully on social media, denying Kito's claim and defending their independence. Kito in turn charged Hamada with being “so easily deceived by the **Family Federation**'s organisational propaganda,” and recalled that, back in the 1980s, some 300 lawyers purportedly from across Japan joined what he called “a bipartisan effort” to defend “victims” of what Kito termed “spiritual sales” by the **Family Federation**.

Yet Dr. Introvigine highlights a challenge to this commonly accepted narrative. Drawing on **investigative work** by journalist Masumi Fukuda (福田ますみ), the **article** argues that the campaign against the **Family Federation** was *not* simply a neutral consumer-protection initiative supported across the political spectrum. Rather, it is shown to have had **strong political roots in left-wing and pro-China networks**. According to Fukuda's findings, the original “National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales” emerged not as a bipartisan victims' group but from within the **Socialist Party's Social, Cultural and Legal Center** – which had historical links to Communist and pro-China factions.

Indeed, the **Church**'s support via its own affiliate, the **International Federation for Victory Over Communism (IFVOC)**, for electoral conservative forces and for anti-espionage legislation had drawn the ire of these left-wing networks.

According to the **Bitter Winter article**, internal documents uncovered by Fukuda include a 1987 piece in the Center's newsletter in which attorney Hiroshi Yamaguchi (山口広) asserted that money raised through “spiritual sales” by the **Unification Church** funded IFVOC's push for a national anti-spy law.



Masumi Fukuda, here 20th Jan. 2024. Photo: Screenshot



Two weeks later, Yamaguchi, alongside attorneys Kazuo Ito (伊藤和夫) and Yasushi Higashizawa (東澤靖), held a press conference launching the “Lawyers' Network for Relief of Damages Caused by Spiritual Sales” (a

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Hiroshi Yamaguchi
(山口広), activist
leftwing lawyer and
founder and leading
member of National
Network of Lawyers
Against Spiritual
Sales (NNLASS).
Photo: Screenshot
/ Bitter Winter

precursor to the later National Network).

Notably, some of these attorneys were affiliated with explicitly left-wing organisations. Although Yamaguchi told mainstream media that the network simply wanted to “help victims”, in a Socialist-Party newspaper he admitted the goal was to persuade the *Ministry of Education* (MEXT) to revoke the [Family Federation's](#) religious-corporation status.

Masumi Fukuda's research concludes that the **campaign's framing as consumer protection was a veneer: the deeper strategic objective was to dismantle the [Family Federation](#)**

because of its anti-Communist stance and its [capacity to mobilize electorally for conservative causes](#). The lawyers' network also **benefitted from lawsuits** initiated by de-programmed former members – some of whom had been subject to forced de-conversion tactics – a factor that further tied the network of lawyers to **politically-driven litigation**.

Against this backdrop, Kito's recent claims – though framed as exposing unethical alliances – are interpreted by Introvigne as perpetuating a sanitized and simplified version of history. By portraying the campaign against the [Family Federation](#) as well-meaning and apolitical, they obscure the ideological and Cold-War-era conflicts that underpinned it. In attacking the NHK Party and Hamada, Kito is seen to be using typical “anti-cult” rhetoric to mask a continuation of left-wing ideological contestation rather than addressing the broader question of religious freedom, political bias and historical transparency in Japan.

In short, the [article](#) argues, the current controversy not only casts doubt on the credibility of Kito's allegations, but reopens the need for a more honest, historically informed discussion about how strategies against new religious movements in Japan have been influenced by political motives.

Text: Knut Holdhus, editor

Featured image above: Satoshi Hamada speaking on his X channel on 24th October. Screenshot slightly edited by ChatGPT.

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