

FFWPU Europe and Middle East: Holy Mother Han Briefly Released for Medical Reasons

Knut Holdhus
November 4, 2025



[Mother Han](#) in detention cell. Illustration: Grok xAI



[Sekai Nippo](#)

Due to her rapidly worsening health condition, Hak Ja Han has been briefly released as South Korean court grants a temporary suspension - 3 days - of detention

[Mother Han](#) being brought out from Seoul Detention Center in a wheelchair to a waiting car on 4th November 2025. Photo: Masataka Asaoka

The South Korean daily [Segye Ilbo reports on 4th November](#) that A South Korean court has granted a temporary suspension of detention for [Hak Ja Han](#) - also known as [Mother Han](#) - the President of the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#) - the global religious movement more formerly known as the [Unification Church](#). The decision, handed down on 4th November by the 27th Criminal Division of the Seoul Central District Court under Judge Woo In-seong (우인성), effectively allows [Mother Han](#) to be released for a limited period while her formal arrest order remains legally valid.



[Segye Ilbo](#)

In South Korean law, a "stay of detention" does not overturn an arrest but pauses its enforcement. This measure is generally reserved for cases in which a detainee's health condition or humanitarian circumstances make continued confinement inappropriate. [Mother Han](#)'s lawyers filed such a petition on 1st November, arguing that the 82-year-old religious leader required urgent medical care. The court accepted the request, ordering her temporary release until 7th November.

[Mother Han](#)'s legal situation has drawn significant public attention both within South Korea and abroad. Often referred to as "[True Mother](#)" by followers, she has led the [Family Federation](#) since the death of its co-founder - and her late husband - Reverend [Sun Myung Moon](#), in 2012. Under her leadership, the [movement](#) has maintained a large international network.

According to the [Segye Ilbo](#), the current criminal case involves allegations that she and senior [Federation](#) officials made illegal political donations to conservative lawmakers ahead of South Korea's 2022

presidential election.



[Mother Han](#) being brought out from Seoul Detention Center in a wheelchair to a waiting car on 4th November 4, 2025

[Mother Han](#)'s defense team maintains her innocence, stating that she has been unfairly targeted, and that her [health has deteriorated](#) due to prolonged detention. She previously failed to appear for questioning by a special prosecutor investigating former First Lady Kim Keon-hee (김건희), citing the need for heart surgery.

The court's ruling marks a brief reprieve for [Mother Han](#) but does not signal the end of her legal troubles. Once the temporary stay expires, she could be required to return to custody unless the court grants an extension or modifies her detention status further.

Dr. Michael Balcomb, President of the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#) in Europe and the Middle East, writes in a statement to members 4th November,

"You will have seen the welcome and breaking news that a Korean Court has ordered the temporary release of [True Mother](#) from her cell in the Seoul Detention Center, effective from 1000CET today.



Dr. Michael Balcomb, here on 8th August 8, 2025

However, according to news reports and confirmation from the World Mission Department, this is likely to be just a 3-day release for urgent medical treatment and, unless there is further court intervention, it will expire 1000CET Friday and [True Mother](#) would have to return.

Furthermore, it seems that the hospital where she will receive treatment - one report mentions ophthalmology [the branch of medicine that specializes in the study, diagnosis, and treatment of disorders of the eyes and visual system] - is located within the detention center campus.

Still, we are grateful that [True Mother](#) will at last receive proper medical attention. Let us pray for further positive developments."

Text: Knut Holdhus, editor

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In Tiny Solitary Cell: Irreversible Harm Caused

• November 2, 2025
• Knut Holdhus



Mother Han's long-term detention in tiny solitary cell appears undeniably like the sustained assault on health of octogenarian heart patient in violation of basic protections for elderly detainees

The Damage Is Done?

How Dr. Hak Ja Han's Detention Can Cause Irreversible Harm

An article by Demian Dunkley, President of the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification in North America](#), originally [posted on X 1st](#) November 2025.

This Is Not Just Detention. It's



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Dr. [Hak Ja Han](#), the 82-year-old global peace leader known as the “Mother of Peace,” has now been held in what amounts to solitary confinement for over 40 days in the *Seoul Detention Center*. But this is not just a legal case, and it is not just religious persecution; it is a humanitarian and medical emergency. Can any future verdict undo the physical damage already inflicted by her incarceration? What began as pre-trial detention has now taken the form of a **sustained, avoidable assault on the health of an elderly heart patient**.



Demian Dunkley, here speaking in Elizabeth, New Jersey 19th Oct. 2025. Screenshot from live transmission by [FFWPU](#)

The Cell as a Mechanism of Harm

The conditions in which [Dr. Han](#) is confined are **not merely austere, they are physically destructive**. Her solitary cell measures just 70 square feet, with no bed, no chair, and an inadequate ventilation system that fails to regulate humidity, airflow, or indoor air quality.

For the first month – and well into her second – before heating was finally introduced, she slept on folded blankets directly on a damp floor. Though the heat was turned on only recently, the extended exposure to cold and moisture had already taken its toll. The chill of the concrete seeped into her body, worsening arthritis and threatening hypothermia. The cell remained humid due to wet laundry and poor airflow, amplifying her hyperhidrosis and placing further strain on her already failing heart.



The United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules)
From the front page of the UN document “[Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners](#)”, also called the Nelson Mandela Rules.

According to international correctional standards, these conditions violate basic protections for elderly detainees. According to Rule 13 of the [UN Mandela Rules](#), prison accommodations must meet “all requirements of health”. That standard is not being met.

A Heart That Needed Rest Was Given Stress

On September 4, [Dr. Han](#) underwent a cardiac ablation to treat atrial fibrillation. Her Korean

cardiologist recommended 30 days of rest. Instead, she was interrogated three times – on September 17, 24, and 29 – for a total of 25 hours. Just one day after her third interrogation, doctors confirmed a recurrence of heart failure and atrial fibrillation, likely triggered by stress and lack of rest.

She now requires stronger medication and ongoing observation. As Dr. Burton stated, “the standard of care requires immediate outside medical evaluation, with the possibility of hospital admission and telemetry,” due to the compounding effects of cardiovascular strain, dehydration, and unsupervised medication use. A U.S. physician who reviewed her records, Dr. Samia Burton, warned that prolonged stress and confinement following such a procedure poses a life-threatening risk of stroke.



Dr. Samia Burton. Screenshot (2021) from PeaceLink TV.

In her October 22 medical opinion, Dr. Burton outlined additional urgent risks – including hypertensive emergency, recurrent arrhythmia, infection due to poor ventilation and dampness, thyroid hormone misdosing, and malnutrition – all compounded by inadequate climate control, lack of mobility aids, and unsupervised medication delivery.

These facts are not disputed – they are documented. Yet no sufficient medical accommodation has been made.

Her grandson, Shin Chul Moon, echoed the concern in an interview with *The Washington Times*:

“Her eyesight is really almost nearly blind. Even just walking ... even



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eating for her is a little difficult without support. Currently at the detention center, she is not getting any of that support."



Shin-chul Moon, here speaking at a rally in Seoul October 2025. Screenshot from video by FFWPU

Is This Strategic Weakening by Design?

The deterioration of **Dr. Han's** health has become so predictable, so preventable, and yet so persistent that it raises a sobering question: **Is this suffering the result of neglect – or of strategy?**

Legal scholars and rights observers have long documented how prosecutorial systems sometimes use conditions of confinement to exhaust and pressure detainees. In **Dr. Han's** case, every element – sleep deprivation, cold, damp, physical isolation, denial of assistive devices – serves to weaken both body and spirit. Whether intended or not, the result is the same: a physically fragile elder, increasingly dependent, increasingly vulnerable, and increasingly at risk of collapse.

And that vulnerability benefits only one party: the prosecution led by Min Joong-ki.

As Shin Chul Moon put it,

"To have someone that has been living their whole life for that one value to be framed as a person who has lobbied for their own benefits... To a certain degree, it does seem like persecution to me."

The Irreversible Toll of Solitary on the Elderly



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.

Medical research makes clear that confinement like this does not merely cause discomfort – it **accelerates irreversible damage**:

Muscle atrophy sets in rapidly when mobility is limited. Crawling around a small cell, as **Dr. Han** now does, leads to **loss of strength, coordination, and stability**.

Cognitive decline follows isolation, especially when paired with sensory deprivation and vision loss.

Heart strain and stroke risk increase under sustained stress, cold, and inadequate sleep – all present here.

Worsening vision and mobility impairments become permanent without proper devices or support.

These are not temporary setbacks. They are the building blocks of **irreversible decline**. The longer this continues, the less chance **Dr. Han** has of returning to full function – regardless of the case's outcome.

The Medical and Moral Standards Being Ignored





From a large demonstration rally near Seoul City Hall 2nd November 2025 organized by Incheon, Gyeonggi Northern Diocese of the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#). The rally had the theme "One Heart, One Peace Rally for Religious Freedom and Peace". It was attended by about 2000 persons. Photo: Masataka Asaoka.

The [UN Mandela Rules](#) explicitly **forbid prolonged solitary confinement for individuals with physical or mental vulnerabilities**. South Korea's own constitution guarantees freedom from arbitrary detention and affirms the right to dignity and health.

Yet in this case, an **octogenarian spiritual leader with multiple chronic illnesses has been denied the very basics of ethical detention: medical rest, humane conditions, mobility assistance, and access to appropriate nutrition and care**.

Even if her detention were justified, these conditions are not.

The Clock Will Not Turn Back

The reality is deeply concerning: the effects of confinement are already taking a physical toll. She faces a risk of **weakening bones, destabilized heart rhythms, and potential cognitive decline**. While not all outcomes can be predicted with certainty, some of the harm may already be irreversible.

This is not just a legal injustice. It is a human one. The prosecution may call it due process. The system may call it pre-trial detention. But any honest reading of the evidence shows what it truly is: the slow, **systematic unraveling of an elderly woman's health under the watch of a state that refuses to change course**.

A public apology may come later. But preventing further harm must come now.

Citations and References

[Faith Under Fire in Korea](#), opinion piece by Demian Dunkley in the Washington Times 23rd October 2025.

UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners ([Mandela Rules](#))

[ICCPR](#) Articles 9 & 18; Korean Constitution Articles 12 & 20

External medical review: Dr. Samia Burton, Internist, Riverview Health Hospital, Noblesville, Indiana, USA

Peer-reviewed medical studies on effects of solitary confinement on the elderly [【Detention Conditions vs. Scientific Evidence】](#)

Featured image above: Artistic impression of [Mother Han](#) in detention cell. Illustration: Grok xAI, October 2025.

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