



# Heavenly Parent's Holy Community

## *Family Federation for World Peace and Unification*

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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

### An Brief Update on Developments in Korea

Just yesterday I wrote to celebrate the news of the upcoming Holy Day, the Day of All True Things, and to alert us all to tomorrow's significant 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Opening of the Cheonjeonggung and coronation of the King and Queen of Peace on June 13, 2006. Let us celebrate together and give thanks for our Heavenly Parent's grace!

Today I turn to a more sombre topic. I want to share a brief personal insight into the recent developments with True Mother's court case in Korea:

In the last few days, I have been asked to comment on unverified reports that True Mother's case might conclude this week. Much as we all wish this to be true, it is not the case. I am not a lawyer and I do not have any additional access to add to the public news reports, but here is **my personal understanding** of the current timeline.

Hearings will continue for a few more weeks. These will be followed by a period of judicial deliberations, followed by the pronouncement of verdict/s, most likely in late July. After that, there is the process of appeals and possible sentencing. All of this means we are talking of weeks, even months. Meanwhile, True Mother remains in hospital care in the Asan Medical Center at least until the end of June, and this may be extended further until the verdicts are announced. We don't know.

What *did* happen yesterday? True Mother was in court again, and Dr. Yoon Young Ho's lawyers questioned her. The Korean media covered that hearing in detail. This morning, Rev. Ken Doo sent me one such representative public news article, which I copy below and you can read for yourselves. The media source is not sympathetic, yet as I read it, I sense True Mother's heart of sorrowful love and her determination to see this matter through to the end.

Brothers and sisters, let's all stay the course. We will continue in our prayers, our devotions – and our missions, as True Mother has requested. If I have more news, I will let you know.

Sincerely

Michael & Fumiko Balcomb  
*Continental Director, FFWPU Heavenly Europe & the Middle East*

## **Han Hak-ja, Leader of Family Federation, Denies Gifts to Kim Keon-hee and Refuses to Testify**

*Seoul = Newsis. Reporter Lee Yoon-seok*

**Han Hak-ja, the leader of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (Unification Church)—who has been pinpointed as the vertex of the "alleged collusion between politics and religion"—refused to give any testimony, stating, "I have never given gifts to First Lady Kim Keon-hee."**

On the 12th, the Seoul Central District Court's Criminal Agreement Division 27 (Presiding Judge Woo In-seong) proceeded with a continued public trial on charges including violations of the Political Funds Act and the Improper Solicitation and Graft Act involving Han and others.

Han appeared in court in a patient's gown, riding in a wheelchair. During the witness oath, she repeated the sentences line by line as they were read aloud by her grandson, who attended with her.

After taking the oath, Han suddenly asked the presiding judge, "May I say a word?" Upon receiving permission to speak, she stated, "I have never given 100 million won to Kweon Seong-dong."

She added, "I have also never given gifts to the President's wife, Kim Keon-hee," and "I have never provided funds for politicians' political financing."

She further appealed, "A person I trusted and cherished named Yoon Young-ho created many falsehoods while representing the World Headquarters and the Family Federation. It is a very regrettable matter."

She then declared, "Regarding various questions directed at me, I have already made my position clear, so I refuse to give any further testimony."

The defense counsel for Yoon Young-ho, the former director-general of the Unification Church's World Headquarters, attempted to question Han on whether Yoon had received her permission before providing cash and goods to Representative Kweon and First Lady Kim, but Han refused to answer any questions.

Even during questioning by the special prosecution team, Han avoided giving direct answers, mostly responding with "I don't know" or "I have no memory of it."

Han and others were indicted in October of last year on charges including handing over 100 million won in cash to Representative Kweon Seong-dong of the People Power Party—considered one of former President Yoon Suk-yeol's closest aides—on January 5, 2022, ahead of the 20th presidential election, alongside former Chief of Staff Jeong and former Director-General Yoon.

Han and her associates also face charges of delivering around 100 million won in church funds to People Power Party lawmakers through "split donations," as well as handing over a Chanel handbag and other items to First Lady Kim through the shamanist practitioner known as "Geonjin Beopsa" (Jeon Seong-bae).

Meanwhile, Han is currently standing trial while temporarily released from detention, following the extension of the suspension of her arrest warrant on the 29 of last month.