

FFWPU Europe and Middle East: 1.28 Million Family Fed Members' Data Leaked

Knut Holdhus
August 28, 2026



FFWPU database leak. Illustration: ChatGPT



Security News (Boan News), South Korea's leading real-time online news outlet dedicated exclusively to cybersecurity and information privacy. Boan News plays a pivotal infrastructure role in the country's security economy.

Sensitive member data appears on the dark web: Names, addresses, families leaked in massive data theft affecting more than a million believers

A [report](#) published by the South Korean cybersecurity news outlet Security News (Boan News - 보안뉴스) on 28th August 2026, has drawn attention to what could be a very large exposure of personal information belonging to members of the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#) (FFWPU), commonly known in South Korea as [Unificationism](#) (통일교). The [report](#) says that an individual operating under the online name "0xCAFE" has posted a database on a dark-web forum that they claim contains information on more than 1.28 million members of the [religious organization](#)'s South Korean branch.

The scale and nature of the alleged leak are potentially serious. According to [Security News](#), the material consists of a database of approximately 836 megabytes in CSV format - a type of computer file commonly used to store large quantities of information in rows and columns. The information reportedly goes far beyond names and telephone numbers. It allegedly includes dates of birth, gender, telephone numbers, home addresses and email addresses, as well as membership IDs and information about family relationships and positions held within the organization.

Particularly sensitive information may also be contained in the database. The report says that some records appear to include details such as members' fasting periods. In other words, if the database is genuine, it could potentially provide outsiders with a remarkably detailed picture of individual members and their connections to the [organization](#).

For readers unfamiliar with the dark web, it is important to distinguish it from the ordinary internet. Most websites people visit every day - such as news sites, search engines and social-media platforms - are part of the publicly accessible internet. The dark web consists of online services that are deliberately hidden and generally require specialized software or configurations to access. Some of these services have legitimate uses, including protecting anonymity, but dark-web forums are also used by criminals to trade stolen information, advertise cyberattacks and distribute illegally obtained databases.

A database appearing on a dark-web forum does not, by itself, prove that the information is genuine. Hackers sometimes publish fabricated material to attract attention, deceive potential buyers or damage an organization's reputation. In this case, however, [Security News](#) says it obtained screenshots of sample

records and found that some of the addresses appearing in them correspond to real, searchable addresses.



The dark web vs. the ordinary internet. Illustration: Grok xAI

Cybersecurity specialists cited by the [newspaper](#) therefore believe there is a high likelihood that at least some of the material represents genuine data. Nevertheless, the [report](#) stresses that the authenticity of the entire database has not been officially verified.

The alleged attacker claims to have obtained the information by gaining unauthorized access to an internal membership-management system operated by the [religious organization](#). The attacker reportedly posted several links through which other users could download the material and stated that the complete dataset would be shared in the near future.



Best practices against spear phishing. Illustration: Grok xAI

Why could such a leak be dangerous to the people listed? The most obvious risk is identity theft and fraud. A name combined with a date of birth, address, telephone number and email address gives criminals substantially more information with which to impersonate someone or construct convincing fraudulent messages. For example, a criminal could send a phishing email or text message that appears to be connected to a person's religious organization and uses genuine personal details to make the communication seem credible.

The Attacker

Uses personal and company information to impersonate a trusted colleague and create a believable scenario.

The attacker using spear phishing.
Ill: Grok xAI

The combination of different categories of information can make such attacks particularly effective. A criminal who knows where someone lives, which organization they belong to, who their relatives are and how to contact them can potentially create highly personalized deception rather than relying on generic spam.

There are also concerns specific to the nature of the information allegedly leaked. Religious affiliation is highly sensitive personal information, and disclosure could expose individuals to unwanted attention, discrimination, intimidation or harassment.

If family relationships and organizational positions are also available, people could potentially be targeted not merely as isolated individuals but through their relatives or their connections within the [religious organization](#).

For this reason, [Security News](#) raises the possibility of spear phishing (targeted phishing) and offline harassment as secondary consequences of the alleged leak. The danger does not necessarily come from

the original hacker alone. Once a database has been copied and distributed, it can become extremely difficult to determine who possesses it or where the information may subsequently appear.



Spear phishing. Illustration: Grok xAI

The [Family Federation](#), however, offers an important qualification to the report. According to the organization, this is not necessarily a new cyberattack. A representative said that the [organization](#) became aware of a personal-data breach in 2025, reported it to the Korea Internet and Security Agency (KISA) and the Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency's Cyber Investigation Unit in May of that year, and subsequently notified members through its website.



Spear phishing. Illustr: Grok xAI

The [faith organization](#) says it has also taken security measures intended to protect members whose information was exposed. Consequently, two possibilities currently remain. The material circulating on the dark web could represent information stolen in last year's incident and reposted or redistributed now. Alternatively, it could contain information obtained through a new breach. The [Family Federation](#) says that, because it has so far found no evidence of newly leaked information, it considers the first explanation far more likely.

Thus, while the reported figure of 1.28 million affected members and the full authenticity of the database still require independent verification, the report illustrates a broader problem with large-scale data breaches: once personal information has been stolen, removing the original posting does not necessarily remove the risk. Data can be copied, redistributed and combined with other information, potentially exposing individuals to consequences long after the original breach occurred.

Text: Knut Holdhus, editor

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**WAS CONFIDENTIAL POLICE INTELLIGENCE IMPROPERLY LEAKED?
SPECIAL PROSECUTOR INVESTIGATING ALLEGED OBSTRUCTION OF POLICE INVESTIGATION**

Alleged police intelligence leak. Illustration: ChatGPT, 31st July 2026, edited.

A new dispute has emerged over the final handling of one of the unresolved cases investigated by South Korea's **second Comprehensive Special Prosecutor Team**, this time involving allegations that senior police officials deliberately suppressed an investigation into alleged overseas gambling by leaders of **Unificationism** (통일교), also known as the *Family Federation for World Peace and Unification*.

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The controversy centres on **Yoon Hee-keun** (윤희근), a former Commissioner General of the *National Police Agency*, who was himself investigated by the special prosecutor. Following the team's decision to transfer the unresolved case to the police for further handling, Yoon has accused the special prosecutor of failing to find evidence sufficient for prosecution and of using the investigation for political purposes.

What was the special prosecutor investigating?

The case concerns allegations dating back to the period when Yoon served in the senior leadership of the *National Police Agency*. According to South Korean media reports, police received intelligence concerning alleged overseas gambling by senior **Unificationism** figures, including **Hak Ja Han** (한학자), the leader of the **religious organization**.

The alleged gambling took place at casinos in Las Vegas between roughly 2008 and 2011/2012, although the media reports differ slightly on the precise period. As a large number of media outlets reported, the special prosecutors claim that the amount involved was around 60 billion won, or approximately US\$40-45 million at current exchange rates.

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The special prosecutor's investigation focused not simply on whether the gambling had occurred, but on whether senior police officials had **deliberately suppressed the investigation** after receiving the intelligence. There were also allegations that confidential investigative information had been leaked to [Unificationism](#).



The logo of BBS News, BBS News, the news division of the Buddhist Broadcasting System (BBS), a major religious, non-profit public media network in South Korea, dedicated to Buddhism, operating alongside other major religious outlets like the Christian Broadcasting System (CBS).

According to [BBS News](#), the news division of the *Buddhist Broadcasting System* (BBS), the special prosecutor suspected Yoon of both covering up the alleged gambling and leaking investigative secrets. [BBS reports](#) on 26th August that the team conducted **two searches and interrogated suspects** but ultimately failed to obtain evidence sufficient to establish criminal charges.

[iNews24](#) (아이뉴스24), a prominent online newspaper, similarly reports that Yoon was suspected of having received intelligence about the alleged gambling while serving as Deputy Commissioner General and Commissioner General in 2022 and then, allegedly following

instructions from former President

Yoon Suk-yeol (윤석열), having the

investigation suppressed. The outlet adds that the special prosecutor also suspected him of passing the intelligence to [Unificationism](#).



The logo of iNews24, a prominent South Korean online newspaper.

These remain **allegations investigated by the special prosecutor, not established findings against Yoon Hee-keun** (윤희근).

The special prosecutor does not indict Yoon

The second Comprehensive Special Prosecutor Team **concluded its 180-day investigative mandate** on 24th August. According to [iNews24](#), it indicted 58 people in connection with cases arising from its broader investigation, including former President Yoon Suk-yeol (윤석열), former First Lady Kim Keon-hee (김건희), former military officers and former prosecutors.

But Yoon Hee-keun (윤희근) was not among those indicted.

Instead, according to [iNews24](#), **46 unresolved cases involving 150 suspects were transferred to the National Office of Investigation (NOI)** within the *National Police Agency*.

The NOI is essentially the investigative arm of South Korea's national police. This creates an obvious point of contention for Yoon: the agency to which his case has now been transferred is part of the same police organization that he once headed

That is why, as reported by **Yonhap News**, Yoon sarcastically asked whether the conclusion of 180 days of special-prosecutor investigation was simply to send the case back to what he described as his "former home", the *National Office of Investigation*.

Yoon: "If you cannot indict me, close the case"

Yoon's central argument, reported consistently by many media outlets, is that the special prosecutor should either **produce evidence and prosecute him or formally close the case**, rather than transferring the unresolved matter to the police.

Yonhap News quotes him as describing the allegations against him as "utterly absurd" and insisting that there was no possibility that he and the police investigative leadership had collectively carried out such an operation.



Logo of News1 (뉴스1), South Korea's largest private news agency and wire service.

According to **News1**, Yoon went even further, describing the allegations as a "groundless fantasy" and accusing the special prosecutor of having found neither evidence nor prosecutable charges.

He argued that if an investigation fails to establish criminal wrongdoing, the proper procedure is to explain the result and close the matter without indictment.

He particularly objected to the manner in which the case was transferred. **News1** quotes him as asking whether it was really characteristic of the *Comprehensive Special Prosecutor Team* to quietly slip away "without so much as an expression of regret or an apology".

BBS News highlights a similar point. Yoon argued that after **180 days of investigation, including two extensions of the investigative period and a further extension made possible through a legal amendment**, the special prosecutor had failed to obtain evidence, witness testimony or statements from related individuals sufficient to prosecute him.

Political retaliation?



The dispute has also acquired a distinctly political dimension.

Yoon served as National Police Commissioner under the previous conservative administration. He therefore suggested that the **investigation may have been motivated, at least partly, by the fact that he had held a senior position under the**

Former South Korean President **Yoon Suk-yeol**, sentenced to life imprisonment after investigation by special prosecutors appointed by the political opposition. Now, those prosecutors carry out prolonged investigation against his police chief. Here Yoon Suk-yeol in a meeting at the Pentagon, Washington, D.C., 27th April 2023. DoD photo by U.S. Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Alexander Kubitzka / US Secretary of Defense. License: [CC Attr 2.0 Gen](#). Cropped

former government.

[Yonhap News](#) reports him as demanding an explanation as to whether the investigation had effectively been conducted on an “investigate first, find out later” basis simply because he had been police chief under the previous administration.

All four reports also note Yoon’s accusation that the Lee Jae-myung (이재명) administration and the Democratic Party **have been using special prosecutors as a means of political retaliation**. He questioned how long the government intended to use

what he called the “political retaliation special prosecutor” as a political weapon.

Yoon’s political future

[News1](#) and [BBS News](#) give particular attention to another aspect of the press conference: Yoon’s possible return to politics.

Yoon has reportedly been mentioned as a possible candidate for the vacant *People Power Party* organization leadership in the Cheongju Seowon district and as a potential candidate in a future parliamentary election.

Thus, the four reports portray the 26th August press conference as more than simply a former police chief’s response to an investigative decision. [Yonhap](#) and [iNews24](#) **focus primarily on the unresolved legal case; News1 gives greater attention to Yoon’s accusations that the special prosecutor failed to substantiate its allegations; and BBS News additionally highlights his possible political comeback.**

At the centre of the dispute, however, is a relatively straightforward question: **after six months of investigation, if the special prosecutor could not establish a prosecutable case against Yoon Hee-keun, why was the unresolved case transferred to the very police organization that he once led?** Yoon argues that the special prosecutor should have answered that question itself rather than leaving it to the *National Office of Investigation*.

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