

FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: Incessantly S Korea Fails to Convict Holy Mother Han - S Korea Makes Up New Charges

Knut Holdhus
August 29, 2026



How many more cases in left-leaning Lee administration's broader campaign against Mother Han?
Illustration: ChatGPT

세계일보

Segye Ilbo

Special prosecutors open new front against elderly and frail Hak Ja Han as number of cases grows in Lee administration's broader campaign targeting perceived political opponents

After 180 days of investigation yielded no evidence sufficient to warrant an indictment, the special prosecutors nevertheless [declined to close the case](#). According to [several South Korean media outlets](#), Yoon Hee-keun (윤희근), a former Commissioner General of the National Police Agency, subsequently questioned how long the government intended to continue using what he called the "**political-retaliation special prosecutors**" as a political weapon. Yoon himself had been investigated by special prosecutors appointed by the current Lee Jae-myung (이재명) administration.

[Commenting on the same case](#), South Korea's daily [Segye Ilbo](#) likewise raised concerns in a 24th August [editorial](#) about whether the country was heading toward a situation in which special prosecutors could continue operating throughout the entire term of President Lee Jae-myung, whose current term runs until June 2030.

Critics argue that this tendency is becoming increasingly apparent in the latest developments surrounding

New indictment. Illustration: ChatGPT

what they regard as the left-leaning Lee administration's broader campaign against [Hak Ja Han](#) (한학자) and the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#), an organization that South Korean media

generally refer to as [Unificationism](#) (통일교) or the [Unification Church](#).

On 28th August, three South Korean news outlets - News1, Newsis and Dailian - reported that [Hak Ja Han](#) - also called [Mother Han](#) - and three current or former senior officials of the [religious organization](#) had been formally indicted over allegations that approximately 10.5 billion won (about US\$7.5 million) in [Family Federation](#) funds had been embezzled over an eight-year period.

The reports concern a new set of allegations involving the handling of the [religious organization](#)'s funds, and should be distinguished from the separate political-funding allegations for which [Mother Han](#) is already awaiting a verdict. Importantly, the reported embezzlement allegations are prosecutorial allegations, not findings of guilt. An indictment means that prosecutors have formally brought a criminal case before a court; guilt or innocence will ultimately be determined through the judicial process.

In this context, the prosecution's theory appears to be that the defendants had legitimate access to or control over [Family Federation](#) money because of their positions, but allegedly diverted some of that money away from its proper organizational purpose and into unauthorized personal control.

That distinction matters. The reports do not say that investigators are simply accusing [Mother Han](#) of having personally spent 10.5 billion won on luxury goods, property, travel, or other personal expenses. Nor do they say that she personally withdrew every amount. The reported allegation is instead centred on the diversion, falsification of accounting and storage of the money.

What is the "Joint Investigation Headquarters"?



Joint Investigation Headquarters. Illustration: ChatGPT

All three media reports mentioned above identify the investigating body as 합수본 (hapseubon), an abbreviation for Joint Investigation Headquarters. In these articles, it refers to a special investigative body bringing together prosecutors and police to investigate allegations described as "collusion between religion and politics" (정교유착).

The Korean term 정교유착 literally combines 정교 ("religion and politics" or "church and state") with 유착 ("collusive ties" or "improperly close connections"). It does not simply mean that religious

organizations and politicians have contact with each other. Rather, in this investigative context, it refers to allegations that religious organizations and political figures developed improper or potentially corrupt relationships - for example, through political contributions, requests for political assistance, influence-peddling or other exchanges of benefits.

The Joint Investigation Headquarters is headed by Kim Tae-hoon (김태훈), Chief Prosecutor of the Daejeon High Prosecutors' Office. It has been investigating a broad range of allegations involving the [Family Federation](#) and political figures.



News1 South Korea's largest private news agency and wire service

The new embezzlement allegations

According to News1, the Joint Investigation Headquarters indicted four people without detention on 27th August: [Hak Ja Han](#) (한학자); Jeong Won-ju (정원주), her former chief of staff; Yoon Yeong-ho (윤영호), former Director-General of the [Family Federation](#)'s World Headquarters; and a former head of its Central Administration Office, identified only as "A."

"Indicted without detention" (불구속 기소) is an important feature of South Korean criminal procedure. It means that prosecutors have decided to prosecute the suspects while they remain at liberty rather than keeping them in custody pending trial. It does not mean that the allegations are considered less serious or that the defendants have been found guilty.

The three media outlets broadly agree on the central allegation. They report that the four defendants are accused of diverting approximately 10.5 billion won in [Family Federation](#) funds between 2017 and 2025.

The alleged mechanism is also described similarly. According to the investigators, senior [Family Federation](#) officials acted in concert to falsify accounting records, thereby concealing the movement of the money, and subsequently kept bundles of cash in a safe in [Mother Han](#)'s private quarters.



South Korean news wire agency
Newsis.



Dailian a prominent South Korean
internet-based general news outlet

News1 describes this as the Joint Investigation Headquarters' assessment, while Newsis and Dailian similarly emphasize the alleged conspiracy among senior officials, the false accounting and the storage of cash in [Mother Han](#)'s private safe. None of the three reports presents this account as a judicially established fact.

The investigation reportedly intensified in May 2026, when investigators carried out searches and seizures at the [Family Federation](#)'s Cheon Jeong Temple (천정궁) complex in Gapyeong, Gyeonggi Province, as well as other related facilities, including its Seoul headquarters and the Hyojeong Global Unification Foundation, an asset-management and property-holding body. A search and seizure (압수수색) is an

investigative measure through which authorities seek to secure documents, electronic records, financial records or other evidence potentially relevant to a criminal case.



Will have to withstand strong
political pressure when issuing
verdict on 31st August 2026:
Presiding judge Woo In-seong.
Image: Grok xAI



Min Joong-gi, the head of an army
of special prosecutors with
extensive investigative powers.
Image: Grok xAI

How this relates to the existing case against [Mother Han](#)

The above media reports also connect the new indictment to the already pending criminal proceedings against Mother Han and others at the Seoul Central District Court.

The court's 27th Criminal Division, presided over by Judge Woo In-seong (우인성), is scheduled to issue a verdict on 31st August in the existing case. That case involves allegations including violations of the Political Funds Act and the Act on the Aggravated Punishment of Specific Economic Crimes, including embezzlement. Newsis describes the 31st August proceedings somewhat differently, highlighting the Political Funds Act and the Improper Solicitation and Graft Act (Kim Young-ran Act).

A significant distinction is therefore necessary: the 31st August verdict concerns charges already before the court, while the 10.5-billion-won embezzlement allegations reported on 28th August have now resulted in a new indictment.

The 13-year sentence requested by prosecutors

All three reports mention that the Kim Keon-hee (김건희) Special Prosecutor's Team, headed by Special Prosecutor Min Joong-gi (민중기), requested a total sentence of 13 years in prison at the final hearing last month.

News1 provides more detail, saying prosecutors requested five years for the alleged Political Funds Act violation and eight years for the remaining charges.

At her final statement, [Mother Han](#) rejected the suggestion that she had sought political influence through money, saying, "I do

not seek power through money." She nevertheless apologized for having, as leader of the [Family Federation](#), unintentionally caused controversy in various respects.

Thus, as presented by News1, Newsis and Dailian, the 28th August development represents a significant expansion of the legal case surrounding the [Family Federation](#): alongside the political-funding allegations for which a verdict is expected on 31st August, investigators have now brought a separate prosecution alleging that 10.5 billion won of the [religious organization](#)'s funds was systematically misappropriated over eight years. Whether those allegations can be substantiated remains for the courts to determine.

Text: Knut Holdhus, editor

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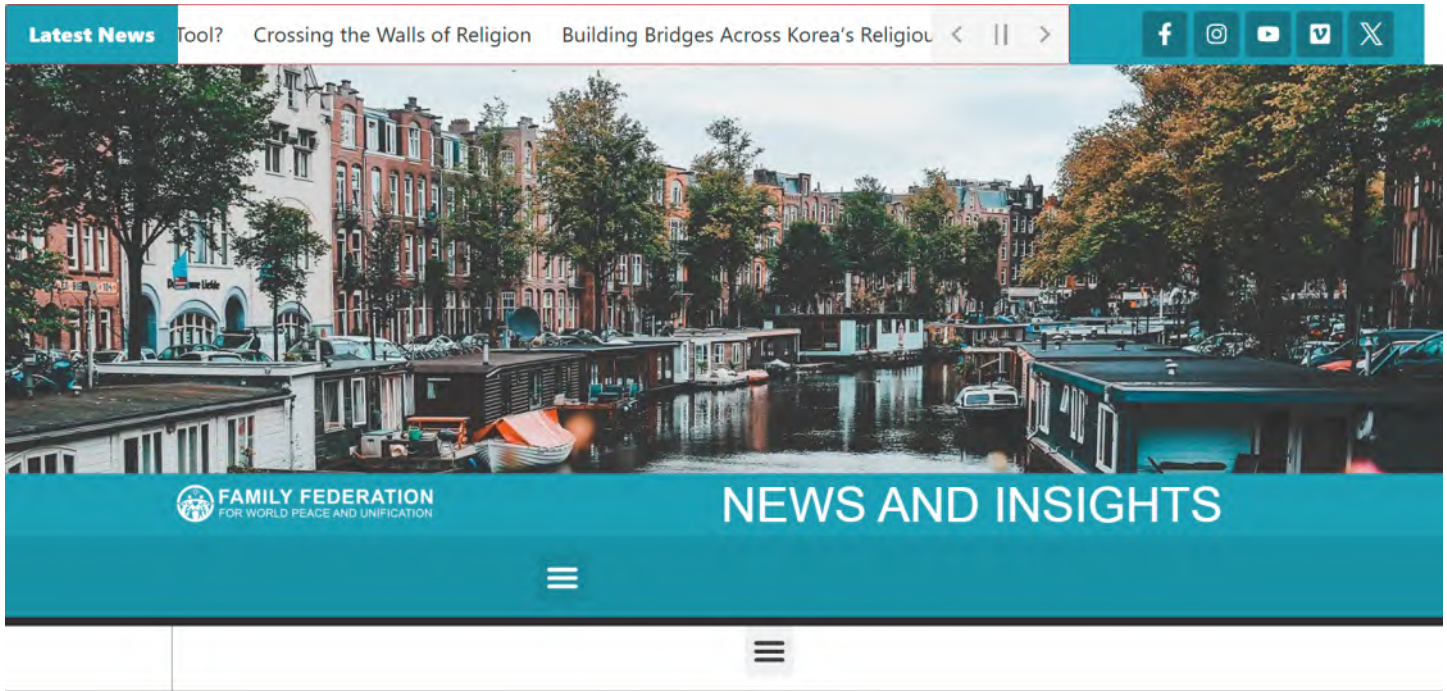
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1.28 Million Members' Data Reportedly Leaked

August 28, 2026 • The News Desk



AI image

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 “OxCAFE” 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.

See also [How Many More Cases Against Mother Han \(83\)?](#)

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](#).

보안뉴스

The logo of **Security News** (Boan News – 보안뉴스), 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.



The dark web vs. the ordinary internet. Illustration: Grok xAI, 28th August 2026

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

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**.

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**

 **Verify the sender.**
Check email addresses carefully.

 **Beware of urgency.**
Threats often pressure you to act quickly.

 **Don't click or download.**
Verify requests through a separate, trusted channel.

 **When in doubt, report it.**
Your security team is here to help.

Best practices against spear phishing. Illustration: Grok xAI, 28th August 2026

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, 28th August 2026

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](#).

SPEAR PHISHING

Targeted. Personalized. Deceptive.

Spear phishing uses personal details to impersonate someone you trust, making the attack look legitimate and urgent.

**What is Spear Phishing?**

A targeted phishing attack tailored to a specific person or organization using information about the victim to build trust and increase the chances of success.



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

Inbox

Urgent: Review attached invoice, Alex

From: Sarah Mitchell <sarah.mitchell@acme.com>
To: Alex Thompson <alex.thompson@acme.com>

Hi Alex,

Can you please review the attached invoice for the Q2 Vendor Payment related to the Riverdale Project and confirm the amounts before we process it? Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks, Sarah

Invoice_Riverdale_Q2.pdf
1.2 MB

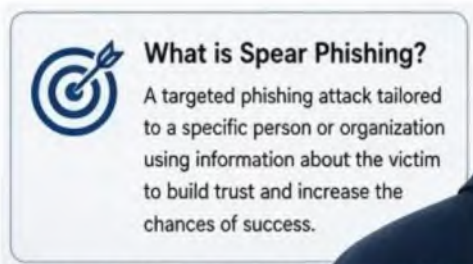
Urgent: Review attached invoice

Received at 9:14 AM



Spear phishing. Illustration: Grok xAI, 28th August 2026.

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. Illustr: Grok xAI, 28th Aug. 2026

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 & 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.

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.

See also [How Many More Cases Against Mother Han \(83\)?](#)

Text: Knut Holdhus, editor

Featured image above: [FFWPU](#) database leak. Illustration: ChatGPT, 28th August 2026.

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