

The Spiritual Doctor

Elisabeth Seidel
September 10, 2026

When my husband Dietrich was in his twenties, he practiced fervently a "witnessing" campaign for the lord. It was in Vienna, Austria in the late 1960s and early 70s. He met Franz Huemer, a medical student, when he was doing these campaigns.

In Franz's family, everyone was led by God somehow. The father, Dr Huemer, was the renowned family doctor in town and most of his children became famous by being heart surgeons or family doctors and more. But one of his kids, Sebastian, became the spiritual doctor.

To be a good doctor you need to study long and hard. You need good intuition too because there is a spiritual side to medicine. My young Korean Facebook friend, Sheryll, was saying yesterday her heart was hurting physically and spiritually because in her country there was a lot to take right now as a believer.

A spiritual doctor knows what happens on the spiritual side of things, which gives them an edge to understand spiritual sicknesses, the ones provoked by evil spiritual realms. Jesus spoke many times about healing the sick by chasing demons out of them. Jesus was the first spiritual healer. The first and best medicine is medicine for the mind.

So, Sebastian became the spiritual doctor of his family and tribe. He was picked by Rev. Moon to marry Mereth, of Mormon descent, with her sisters all being medical doctors. As the spiritual doctor, he could heal the root of dysfunction. He knew the Fall of Man.

if you hold the book Divine Principle, the revelation received by the Rev. Sun Myung Moon on a Korean mountain top at the beginning of the twentieth century, and you have intuition you will feel the positive vibes: the spiritual energy that heals.

To understand more about what is happening in Korea, please read these articles:

Massimo Introvigne: "[South Korea: Mother Han Sentenced to Two Years. She Is Innocent](#)"

Newt Gingrich: "[Mother Moon's conviction threatens religious liberty worldwide](#)"

And here is the link to an inspiring sermon by Rev. Demian Dunkley: "[We Stand With Her](#)"

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South Korea: Mother Han Sentenced to Two Years. She Is Innocent

by Massimo Introvigne | Aug 31, 2026 | News Global

The prosecutor had requested thirteen years. But innocent defendants should be acquitted, not receive “lenient” sentences to save the prosecutors’ face.

by Massimo Introvigne



Mother Han arrives at the District Court. Screenshot.

The Seoul Central District Court delivered a first-degree verdict in one of the criminal cases involving Mother Hak Ja Han Moon, the 83-year-old leader of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU), formerly known as the Unification Church. The prosecution of the religious leader has become a symbol of the pressures conservative believers face in Korea today. Observers have followed a judicial process that expanded, contracted, and changed shape in ways that reveal the

disturbing climate surrounding religion in the country.

This magazine’s position is not one of doubt, uncertainty, or ambiguity. Mother Han is innocent and should have been acquitted.

The case decided on August 31 began with allegations that Mother Han had authorized the gift of a Chanel handbag and a diamond necklace to the former First Lady. The special prosecutor later added claims that Mother Han was responsible for the financial support FFWPU provided to politicians in violation of the laws governing political contributions. The prosecutor merged these accusations into a single narrative and presented them as evidence of an attempt to influence political life.

A separate, still-pending case concerns contributions reportedly made by FFWPU members to several other MPs. After months of investigation, prosecutors concluded there is no evidence that Mother Han knew about these contributions. She has not been indicted in this second case and is no longer part of it, although other FFWPU leaders remain defendants.

There are other cases against Mother Han. One involves the alleged mass enrollment of FFWPU members in the conservative PPP party, which, even if true, in other countries would be considered part of the normal

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even in Asia, in other countries would be considered part of the normal exercise of religious believers' rights to participate in political life. Another concerns the alleged embezzlement of church funds—a case of stealing from her own pocket, given how intertwined the leader's and the corporation's funds are in new religious movements. Further charges and cases may be added, given the broad latitude afforded to special prosecutors on a mission to destroy the FFWPU.

The first case, the only one decided on August 31 in first degree, and subject to appeal, rests entirely on the testimony of a former FFWPU executive who was expelled from the movement. His accounts have shifted repeatedly. Documents, timelines, and his own earlier statements contradict him. He has adjusted his narrative each time prosecutors modified their theory. His credibility has collapsed under the weight of inconsistency and self-interest. He sought to protect himself by accusing Mother Han, and the prosecution chose to rely on him as its foundation.

The prosecutor requested a penalty of thirteen years, which even the court regarded as disproportionate. The donations and gifts cited in the decision total less than 250,000 dollars. Presenting such modest sums as evidence of a grand political scheme creates an absurd impression. Korean politicians may be cheap, but it is difficult to believe that their national and international political choices could be bought for the price of a modest apartment in Seoul. The disproportionate request suggests political retaliation by the special prosecutor appointed to investigate the wrongdoings of the so-called "heretical cults" rather than a sober application of the law.

The court's decision to sentence Mother Han to two years in jail, rather than the requested thirteen, restores a modicum of common sense to the case. But this is not good enough. Let me repeat this. Mother Han is innocent. Nothing in the record shows that she ordered, approved, or even knew of the acts of the FFWPU's rogue executive. Innocent defendants should be acquitted, not sentenced "leniently" to save the prosecutors' face.

Her prosecution has become part of a wider campaign against conservative religion in South Korea. Pastor Son Hyun-bo of Segero Church, Chairman Lee Man-hee of Shincheonji, and other leaders have faced similar pressures and have been arrested. Authorities have embraced expansive interpretations of election and contribution laws that, if accepted, would prevent believers from participating in political life. The consequences of this and of the other pending Mother Han cases reach far beyond one defendant.

The decision punishes an older woman whose life has been devoted to religious and humanitarian work. Millions worldwide call her the Mother of Peace. It also reveals that South Korea continues down a path where conservative religious communities are treated as political adversaries and where prosecutors use fragile testimony to dismantle movements they dislike. Campaigns against these groups in Korea are carried out with disturbing connections to Japanese anti-cult organizations and the Chinese Communist Party.

The case against Mother Han has become a symbol of this trend, and her innocence stands as a reminder of the dangers facing religious freedom in the country.

Religious Liberty, South Africa, Unification Church



Massimo Introvigne

Massimo Introvigne (born June 14, 1955 in Rome) is an Italian sociologist of religions. He is the founder and managing director of the Center for Studies on New Religions ([CESNUR](#)), an international network of scholars who study new religious movements. Introvigne is the

author of some 70 books and more than 100 articles in the field of sociology of religion. He was the main author of the [Enciclopedia delle religioni in Italia](#) (Encyclopedia of Religions in Italy). He is a member of the editorial board

for the [Interdisciplinary Journal of Research on Religion](#) and of the executive board of University of Pennsylvania Press' [Nova Religio](#). From January 5 to December 31, 2011, he has served as the "Representative on combating racism, xenophobia and discrimination, with a special focus on discrimination against Christians and members of other religions" of the [Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe](#) (OSCE). From 2012 to 2015 he served as chairperson of the Observatory of Religious Liberty, instituted by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in order to monitor problems of religious liberty on a worldwide scale.

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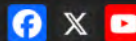
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Mother Moon's conviction threatens religious liberty worldwide

The global war on faith



South Korea's assault on religious freedom and the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification illustration by Alexander Hunter/The Washington Times

By [Newt Gingrich](#) - Monday, August 31, 2026

A quiet but dangerous assault on religious freedom, with deep roots in communism, is sweeping the world.

What was once confined to the margins of authoritarian regimes has now breached the gates of the democratic world.

In what has been described as a "global war on God," the weaponization of the state against communities of faith is occurring in plain sight. The most urgent and tragic battleground of this struggle is unfolding right now in [South Korea](#).

A Presbyterian pastor from Pusan, [Rev. Son Hyun-bo](#) of Segero Church, was imprisoned and then convicted for standing up for Christian values against a woke agenda in public schools. [Rev. Lee Man Hee](#), the 95-year-old leader of the Shincheonji Church, has been arrested and charged.

Many other churches have been raided and are under investigation because they may appear to be threats to the current administration.

The South Korean government has just convicted 83-year-old religious leader [Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon](#). She is co-founder of the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#), which grew into a worldwide organization that today maintains interests in multiple businesses, including The Washington Times.

She is known to millions worldwide as "Mother Moon."

She has faced a highly politicized trial that ended Monday with a guilty verdict.

To understand how awful this attack is, consider the legacy being targeted. After the 2012 passing of her husband, the Rev. Sun Myung Moon — who himself survived brutal communist imprisonment and fought a lifetime of persecution — Dr. Han stepped forward as the sole leader of the federation, a religious movement that spans more than 140 countries.

Under her leadership, the federation has championed international conflict resolution, interfaith dialogue and

Under her leadership, the foundation has championed international communist revolution, international dialogue and religious liberty around the globe, earning her a nomination for the 2026 Nobel Peace Prize.

However, this elderly woman, who is legally blind and suffers from a severe heart condition, has been held in pretrial detention for nearly a year. She has spent roughly 340 days in a South Korean detention cell without bail, even after undergoing major shoulder surgery in custody.

Special prosecutors in Seoul, operating under the highly partisan administration of President Lee Jae-myung, have demanded a staggering 13-year prison sentence on charges of bribery and political funds violations (again, remember, she is 83).

This is not a routine prosecution. It is a systematic, state-sponsored campaign to dismantle a religious movement. The criminal trial is merely the spearhead of a much larger, coordinated offensive. Mr. Lee's Cabinet has openly discussed using foreign dissolution orders as a model to disband the Unification Church outright.

In January, Mr. Lee took the extraordinary step of publicly labeling the church a "heretical" organization and calling for its dissolution. This is not the language of historic democracies.

Even more alarming is the legislative machinery being built to back up this effort. A bill introduced in the National Assembly — Civil Code Amendment Bill No. 2215932, nicknamed the "Church Dissolution Act" — would grant the government sweeping powers to audit, inspect and dissolve any religious organization it deems to have "interfered in politics."

In other words, it will codify the South Korean government's assault on religion. The legislation calls for the transfer of offending church assets to the national treasury. Under this effort, state officials could raid church properties and seize records without a warrant based on mere suspicion.

Mainstream Christian bodies, including the World Evangelical Alliance, have joined in opposing this bill, recognizing that its undefined standards could easily be turned against any church or religious organization in the country.

Again, none of this would be surprising in North Korea, but this attack on faith is happening in South Korea.

When a key democratic ally — one on which American forces have stood to defend liberty and democracy since 1950 — succumbs to such anti-religious, dictatorial maneuvers, the entire free world must take notice.

The battle in Seoul is not an isolated dispute over political campaign funds. It is a test case for how a modern democracy can abuse the legal system and its power to eliminate religious minorities.

If an international peace advocate and Nobel nominee can be locked away and convicted in her twilight years and have her church dissolved by executive decree, then no religious group is safe from state overreach.

This verdict is a critical point of reflection for South Korea (and all other democracies). Will South Korea remain a beacon of freedom or slide further into communist-inspired, anti-religious authoritarianism?

The global community must wake up, raise its voice, and stand in defense of Mother Moon and the fundamental right to faith.

President Trump and Secretary of State Marco Rubio should let South Korea know that these attacks on religious freedom could jeopardize our countries' unique relationship.

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