

FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: Demian Dunkley says Hak Ja Han Harsh Cell Conditions Atrocious

Knut Holdhus
October 19, 2025



Rev. Demian Dunkley speaking in Elizabeth, New Jersey, USA on October 19, 2025

South Korean authorities' humanity called into question as they put elderly religious leaders (82 and 63) through inhuman conditions in detention cells



Rev. Demian Dunkley speaking in Elizabeth, New Jersey, USA on October 19, 2025. Screenshot from live transmission by [FFWPU](#)

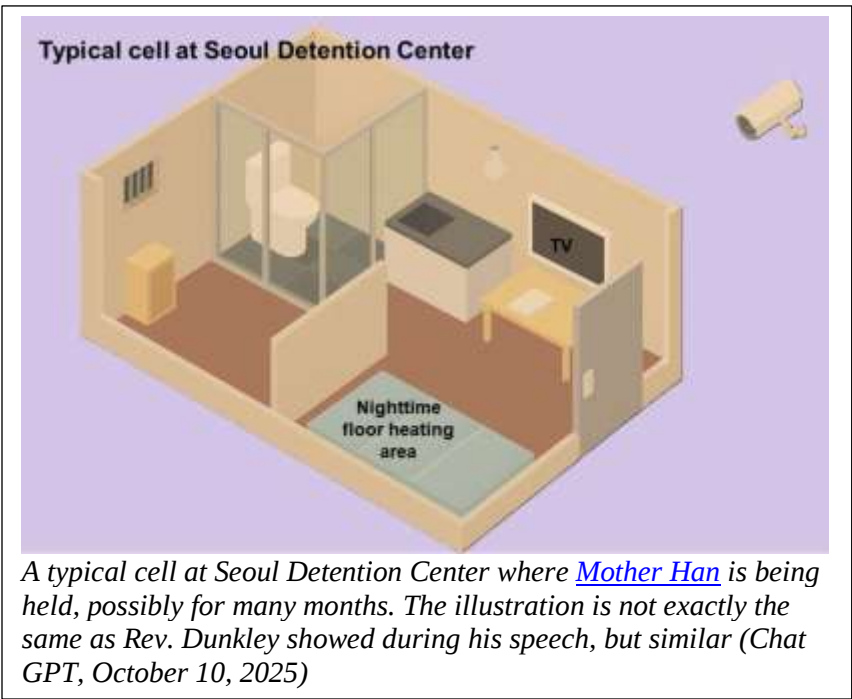
Extracts from a sermon delivered by Rev. Demian Dunkley, President of the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#) in North America, at a Sunday worship service in Elizabeth, New Jersey on October 19, 2025.

[...] We're not called to fear. We're not called to be afraid. We are called to faith. Isn't that so?

Fear makes us lower our eyes. But faith can raise a nation. And faith today is on trial across the world. I'm not talking about a church. I'm not talking about a doctrine. I'm talking about faith. Faith itself. The freedom and right to believe, to pray, to love.

We stand together here because faith is not a crime, and love is not afraid. Faith is not a crime, and love is

not afraid. Aju! [See editor's note below] So what is really going on? I want to share with you today as much as I possibly can. To bring us to a unity of awareness about what's really going on. Is that okay?



Our [Mother](#), the Mother of Peace, is currently being held in a detention center in Seoul. Let us now look at the facts that the media seems too afraid to reveal. First, I want to show you what her cell looks like. [...]

This is actually an image of a cell that's 40% larger than her cell. But this is the kind of shape. There's a place to sleep, there's a toilet, and there's no furniture to sit on. And there's a camera watching you 24 hours a day. And in this cartoon image, it almost looks cozy. But it's not 10 square meters. It's actually barely six square meters. Do you know

what that is? Let's go to the next slide.



It's the same size as a Mini Cooper. [...] Her cell is damp. The air is stale. There is no sunlight, just a single bulb above her.

She has no bed, and she has no mattress [...]. No mattress. Instead, she folds her blankets beneath her and pulls the remaining one to cover herself at night. But the damp still seeps through.

She has to wash her own clothes. By hand and hang them in her cell, making the air heavier still. There's no sufficient heating. She is cold, but she sweats profusely because of her

condition. And she has no extra clothes to change into. So her clothes stay wet. Her hair is wet, and she's getting weaker. She falls from dizziness.

So, with failing eyesight, our [Mother](#) crawls around herself on her hands and knees. Her knees are bruised; her feet are swollen. Her arms are numb. She's in pain. At 82, she endures heart failure, atrial fibrillation, diabetes, and near blindness, among other things.



She needs a wheelchair or at least a cane or assistance.

To get a wheelchair. Forbidden.

A cane. Forbidden.

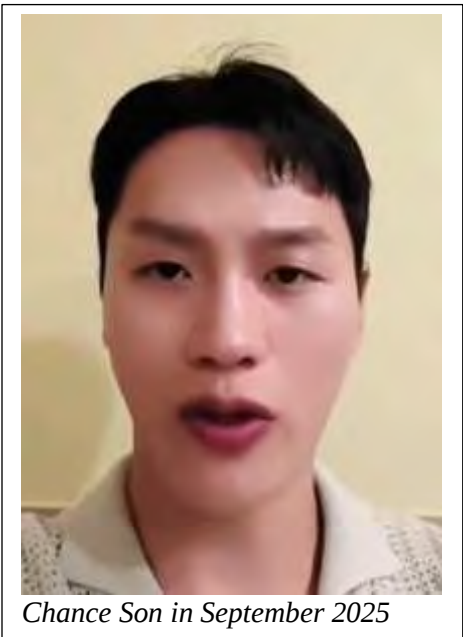
What did the doctor prescribe after her procedure? Absolute rest. What did she receive? Endless interrogation, 25 hours in total. And now life in a cell cut off from the world.

Her meals are not good. She survives on a milk formula. These are not false accusations. These are facts.

But she's not the only one carrying this cross. Pastor Son [Son Hyun-bo (손현보) of Busan's Segyero Church (세계로교회)] is in the same detention center. He was detained for standing by his beliefs, questioned for hours and still faces uncertainty.

For simply defending his right to faith and to express that faith, expressing his right for values that he believes in. And he believes that he has the freedom to express

those values to other free citizens.



want to turn my back on the world."

Over Chuseok [Korean holiday], his son, [...] - his name is Chance - reported that his father had caught the flu, was terribly sick, but was told that he would have to wait ten days before receiving medication.

While others who have great responsibilities, were enjoying the festivities and deep meaning of Chuseok, the Korean Thanksgiving, these same people allowed children of [God](#), servants of [God](#), including an 82-year-old great grandmother who can barely see or walk, remain in a cell without visitation.

We also remember Jeong Hee-cheol (정희철), who was recently investigated by the same prosecution team that interrogated [True Mother](#). He only went through half of the grueling course that she did. 13 hours of interrogation compared to her 25. But it sent him to his end.

He [took his own life](#), reportedly due to the psychological pressure of their interrogation style. His note read in part, "I



protect the vulnerable, even if it's an enemy. Every democracy knows this. Every faith knows this - to protect the elderly.

So all we ask for is transparency, for proper medical access, and for due process, right? [...]

This morning, it has been 27 days. 27 days since she entered that cell. 27 days of damp air and sleepless nights.

His lawyers requested a transcript of the interrogation, at least for the family, that they might know what it was that he went through in his final moments. Denied.

One life has already ended and two remain in the balance. This is not rumor. These are recorded facts now.

Jeong Hee-cheol was in his 50s and healthy. Pastor Son in his 60s and looks pretty healthy. Mother is in her 80s. How long can an elderly great grandmother endure conditions that a man in his 50s cannot survive? And he wasn't even in the detention center.

Each day in that cell is a test of her strength, but it is also a test of our humanity. Every democracy knows a sacred duty to protect the elderly, right? Is there some written rule that if you see a baby in harm's way or an elderly person in harm's way, you have to help?

Or is the very conscience of the human being already awakened or aware enough to naturally know those things? [...]

Because even within the animal kingdom, animals know to protect the vulnerable, even if it's an enemy. Every democracy knows this. Every faith knows this - to protect the elderly.

[Editor's note: "Aju" (아주!) is mainly a new prayer conclusion. It is used instead of "Amen". The expression was coined by Rev. [Sun Myung Moon](#) and Dr. [Hak Ja Han](#) in 2006. "Aju" replaced the traditional "Amen" to signify not just affirmation of [God's](#) power, but a pledge to fulfill [God's](#) will through one's own responsibility - a move away from simply asking [God](#) to act, toward actively committing oneself to act.]

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Faith Leaders Protest State Assault On Religion

• October 18, 2025
• Knut Holdhus



South Korean religious councils protest state overreach following inhuman detention of 82-year-old Mother Han

세계일보
The logo of the *Segye Ilbo*
On 13th October, the South Korean newspaper *Segye Ilbo* published a report which translated to English would carry the headline “Detaining President Hak Ja Han Is an



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Religious leaders reading their joint statement at the prayer rally in support of [Mother Han](#) 13th October 2025 outside Seoul Detention Center. Screenshot from video by PeaceTV.

[Infringement on Religious Freedom – Korea Council of Religious Leaders \(KCRL\) and KCLC Issue Declaration on Religious Freedom](#)". The piece was penned by Religious Affairs Reporter Jeong Seong-su (정성수).

- See also [Arbitrary Detention of Mother Han, Pastor Son](#)
- See also [In Detention: Mother Han's Condition and Words](#)
- See also [Mother Han \(82\) in Poor Health in Damp, Cold Cell](#)
- See also [Law as Weapon: Old Age and Frail Health Ignored](#)
- See also [Mother Han's Arrest and Purge of Faith in SKorea](#)
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In South Korea, tensions between religious communities and state authorities have intensified following the arrest of [Hak Ja Han](#), president of the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#). Prominent religious groups, including the [Korean Christian Leaders Council](#) (KCLC) and the [Korea Council of Religious Leaders](#) (KCRL), have denounced the move as an infringement on constitutional guarantees of religious freedom. The controversy has sparked widespread concern over what faith leaders describe as an alarming encroachment of political and prosecutorial power into religious affairs.



Religious leaders braving the rain during the prayer rally in support of [Mother Han](#) 13th October 2025 outside Seoul Detention Center. Screenshot from video by PeaceTV

The [Segye Ilbo](#) article describes how on 13th October, representatives from KCLC and KCRL gathered outside the [Seoul Detention Center](#) in Uiwang, Gyeonggi Province, just outside Seoul to issue their [Second Declaration on Religious Freedom](#). The event, attended by roughly 300 religious leaders and followers, took the form of a public prayer meeting and a press statement urging government restraint and transparency in handling religious organizations.

The declaration was prompted by a special prosecutor's investigation that included the arrest of [Hak Ja Han](#) and the search of several prominent religious institutions – among them [Yoido Full Gospel Church](#), [Far East Broadcasting Company](#), and the [Family Federation](#) (also known as the [Unification Church](#)). According to KCLC and KCRL, these actions amount to a direct violation of Article 20 of the South Korean Constitution, which enshrines the freedom of religion and the separation of religion and state.



Religious leaders at the prayer rally in support of [Mother Han](#) 13th October 2025 outside Seoul Detention Center. Screenshot from video by PeaceTV.

KCLC argued that the investigation reflects a growing trend of prejudice against religious organizations, warning that politically motivated scrutiny could destabilize the country's democratic principles. The council emphasized that the use of state power against faith communities not only undermines the independence of religion but also threatens the broader foundation of democracy and human rights in South Korea.

In their joint statement, the two religious councils issued three key demands to the authorities. First, they called for an end to biased and

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politically motivated investigations and insisted on fair legal procedures. Second, they urged the media and investigators to refrain from indiscriminate raids and speculative reporting that could damage reputations without evidence. Third, they demanded the cessation of one-sided inquiries and human rights violations stemming from the probe.

Religious Affairs Reporter Jeong Seong-su points out that the declaration also extended concern beyond Christian communities. With allegations of political involvement emerging even within certain Buddhist orders, KCLC warned of a "dangerous trend" in which political bias is spreading across religious boundaries. The group stressed the need for unity among all faith traditions to defend the principle of religious freedom regardless of doctrine or denomination.

A separate news report by Peace TV on 18th October features an extract from a short speech by Rev. Hong Yun-jeong, Chairman of the *Korea Council of Religious Leaders*, delivered at the event 13th October,

"Please become the righteous people of this era. When politicians are corrupt, when those in power remain silent, who is it that has the mission to reveal truth in the darkness of history and become a light for the nation? It is the religious leaders of the nation.

Like the prophecy in Isaiah's era which lamented that there was not even one righteous person, I earnestly appeal once again that you become truly righteous people for this time. I earnestly request once again that you become the Old Testament prophets and New Testament apostles of this era."



Rev. Hong Yun-jeong, Chairman of the Korea Council of Religious Leaders, delivering his brief speech 13th October 2025. Screenshot from video by PeaceTV.

In closing, KCLC and KCRL vowed to continue mobilizing religious communities nationwide to resist what they view as state overreach. The organizations plan to expand interfaith cooperation, pursue legal and institutional reforms, and advocate for stronger human rights protections for religious practitioners.

The event outside the detention center symbolized more than a protest – it was a collective declaration that South Korea's faith leaders intend to safeguard their constitutional rights and resist any erosion of religious liberty in the face of growing political and judicial pressure.

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Text: Knut Holdhus, editor

Featured image above: Religious leaders at the prayer rally in support of [Mother Han](#) 13th October 2025 outside Seoul Detention Center. Screenshot from video by PeaceTV.

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