

FFWPU Europe and Middle East: Brussels Press Conference Condemns Japan's Family Fed Dissolution

Knut Holdhus
June 30, 2026



Participants at the press conference criticizing the dissolution order against the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#) (formerly the [Unification Church](#)) at the Brussels Press Club on June 29, 2026. From right: nonfiction writer Masumi Fukuda; Willy Fautré, director of the international human rights organization [Human Rights Without Frontiers](#); Norishige Kondo, former deputy director of the [religious organization's](#) Legal Affairs Office; and international human rights lawyer Patricia Duval



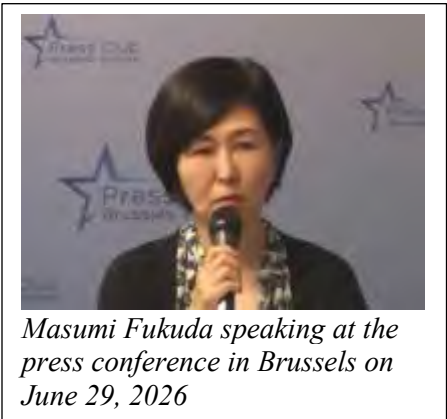
Human Rights Advocates Condemn Japan's Dissolution of Family Federation at Brussels Press Conference

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Human Rights Advocates Criticize Family Federation Dissolution in European Press Conference

by the foreign news department of [Sekai Nippo](#)

A press conference protesting what participants described as the unjust [dissolution order](#) against the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#) (formerly the [Unification Church](#)) was held on 29th June at the Press Club in Brussels, Belgium. Along with nonfiction writer Masumi Fukuda (福田ますみ), representatives of international human rights organizations criticized the dissolution of the [Family Federation](#) and expressed serious concerns about the state of religious freedom in Japan.



Masumi Fukuda speaking at the press conference in Brussels on June 29, 2026

Fukuda, author of The Sacrifice of the State (国家の生贄), a book addressing the issues surrounding the [dissolution order](#) against the [Family Federation](#), criticized the ruling, saying,

"This [dissolution decision](#) is unjust and cannot be regarded as the result of a rigorous trial based on evidence."

She further argued,

"Although the existence of illegal conduct was never proven, the [decision](#) was nevertheless handed down because of biased media coverage portraying the [Family Federation](#) as a 'cult'."

When asked why Japanese politicians have been reluctant to speak out on the issue, Fukuda replied that "simply defending the [Family Federation](#) has become taboo."



Willy Fautré speaking at the press conference in Brussels on June 29, 2026



Patricia Duval speaking at the press conference in Brussels on June 29, 2026



Norishige Kondo speaking at the press conference in Brussels on June 29, 2026



Kimihiro Okamitsu speaking via video from Japan at the press conference in Brussels on 29th June 2026.

As the reason for this, she pointed to the National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales (Zenkokubenren), a left-leaning lawyers' organization politically opposed to the [Family Federation](#). She stated that "for many years the lawyers' network has spread the social stigma that the [Family Federation](#) is a problematic organization," adding that society as a whole has been strongly influenced by this perception.

Willy Fautré, director of the international human rights organization [Human Rights Without Frontiers](#), said,

"For a nonviolent [religious organization](#) to be dissolved by court order constitutes one of the most serious interferences with freedom of religion in a democratic country."

He continued, "Such measures have traditionally been viewed as problems associated with authoritarian states. However, Japan's decision could have repercussions for other countries as well."

French international human rights lawyer Patricia Duval stated that the [dissolution order](#) against the [Family Federation](#) "is not merely the dissolution of a legal entity; it is an issue concerning the eradication of a faith."

She further claimed that there are efforts within the educational system to [separate children from their parents'](#) religion, adding,

"This could be described as a form of deprogramming under another name - a serious interference with religious freedom."

Norishige Kondo (近藤徳茂), who formerly served as deputy director of the church's Legal Affairs Office, criticized the Supreme Court's 22nd June decision to reject the [religious organization's final appeal](#), thereby making the [dissolution order](#) final, saying that "there are serious problems with the court's factual findings."

He emphasized that the number of unlawful acts had declined substantially after 2009, and that by the time the government filed its petition for dissolution, such incidents had become extremely rare. Nevertheless, he argued that "the [Tokyo District Court](#) found unlawful conduct based on [speculation](#) without sufficient concrete evidence."

He added, "Despite this being contrary to the principle that judicial decisions should be based on evidence, both the [High Court](#) and the [Supreme Court](#) upheld those findings."

In addition, Kimihiro Okamitsu (岡光君啓), a second-generation member of the [Family Federation](#) and former head of a facility of the [religious organization](#) in Tokyo's Shinjuku (新宿) district, delivered a video message describing the events on the day of the [Tokyo High Court's ruling](#) in March.

"Just 15 minutes after the [judgment](#) was handed down, the court-appointed liquidator demanded that we vacate the premises immediately," he said.

"That was not simply a matter of real estate - it was the moment when the foundation of our faith was trampled upon."

He questioned whether "a measure that [deprives believers of their places of worship](#) and their religious community can truly be

regarded as a guarantee of freedom of religion."

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Mother Han wins 3rd extension of temporary release allowing her to remain hospitalized as tiny detention cell is regarded as veritable health risk

In an [article](#) published by the South Korean news agency News1 on 29th June 2026, reporters Choi Dong-hyun (최동현) and



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Supreme Court Upholds Dissolution Of Federation

June 23, 2026

동현) and Han Soo-hyun (한수현) write that a Seoul court has once again extended the temporary release of **Hak Ja Han** (한학자), the leader of the **Family Federation for World Peace and Unification** – commonly known in Korea as **Unificationism** (통일교). This allows her to remain out of detention for another month while standing trial on a series of charges. The decision, handed down by the *Seoul Central District Court* on 29th June, marks the third consecutive extension of the suspension of her detention, underscoring the court's determination that her medical condition continues to justify her release under South Korean law.

See also [South Korea's Slide Toward Authoritarianism](#)

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The **News1** report explains that **Hak Ja Han** – also called **Mother Han** – who was originally detained several weeks before **her indictment** on 10th October 2025, has argued through her legal representatives that her health has **significantly deteriorated** during her time in custody.



Mother Han injured badly after fall during detention: A tear of the supraspinatus muscle, the most common form of rotator cuff tear. Illustrations: Nucleus Communications / Wikimedia Commons. License: [CC Attr 4.0 Int](#)

According to her defense, she recently suffered a fractured shoulder requiring surgery and is also experiencing serious vision problems that turn continued detention in a correctional facility into a veritable health hazard. After reviewing the latest medical submissions, the court accepted the request to prolong the suspension of detention until 2:00 p.m. on 31st July.

The ruling does not alter the court proceedings themselves. **Mother Han** remains a defendant in a high-profile case involving allegations of unlawful political financing, illicit donations to politicians, bribery

involving expensive luxury gifts, and the alleged embezzlement of religious funds. According to **News1**, while temporarily released, she must continue to comply with strict judicial conditions, including remaining at the hospital where she is receiving treatment and refraining from any direct or indirect contact with witnesses or other individuals connected to the case.

Under South Korean legal procedure, a suspension of detention is an exceptional measure intended for defendants facing urgent personal circumstances such as serious illness, childbirth, or family bereavement. Although the order allows a defendant to leave custody temporarily, it does not affect the underlying indictment or the continuation of the trial.

The



Jeong Won-ju, here 19th January 2025. Screenshot from [FFWPU](#) video.



Yoon Yeong-ho, here 9th August 2020. Screenshot from video by [FFWPU](#)

charges against **Mother Han** stem from alleged activities in 2022. Special prosecutors appointed by the left-leaning current Lee Jae-myung (이재명) administration contend that she conspired with former senior officials **Yoon Yeong-ho** (윤영호) and **Jeong Won-ju** (정원주) of the **Family Federation** to deliver 100 million won (approximately US\$73,000 at current exchange rates) in cash as an unlawful political contribution to **People Power Party** lawmaker Kweon Seong-dong (권성동), allegedly violating the *Political Funds Act*

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Seoul's [Gyeonggi-do](#) (Gyeonggi), allegedly violating the [Foreign Funds Act](#).

They also accuse her of directing the distribution of approximately 144 million won in [Unificationism](#) funds through so-called “split donations” to multiple ruling party legislators. In addition, prosecutors allege that [Mother Han](#) and former [Federation](#) executive [Yoon Yeong-ho](#) (윤영호) arranged for luxury gifts – including a Graff diamond necklace valued together at around 80 million won – to be presented to then-First Lady Kim Keon Hee (김건희). The indictment further alleges that [Unificationism](#) funds were embezzled to finance both the political donations and the luxury gifts.

According to [News1](#), citing South Korean legal sources, the *Seoul Central District Court* approved [Mother Han](#)'s latest application for suspension of detention on 29th June. The decision follows earlier extensions granted on the same grounds after the court accepted that her medical condition warranted continued temporary release. Mother Han had been scheduled to return to custody on 30th June, but the new ruling postpones that deadline until 31st July while her trial continues.

As reported by [News1](#), South Korean law requires defendants granted a suspension of detention to comply with conditions imposed by the court. In [Mother Han](#)'s case, those restrictions confine her to the medical facility where she is undergoing treatment and prohibit her from contacting witnesses or anyone else involved in the proceedings. The suspension takes legal effect immediately upon the court's decision and represents a procedural accommodation for health-related concerns rather than a judgment on the merits of the prosecution's allegations. The criminal case itself remains ongoing, with [Mother Han](#) continuing to face trial on all charges.

See also [South Korea's Slide Toward Authoritarianism](#)

See also [Shocking Pretrial Detention of Faith Leader \(95\)](#)

Text. *Knut Holdhus, editor*

Featured image above: *Hak Ja Han, aka. Mother Han, here speaking in Seoul on 3rd May 2023. Photo: Screenshot from PeaceTV, improved resolution by Grok xAI, 29th June 2026.*

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