

Holy Mother Moon indicted by South Korea on charges of bribery, embezzlement and other alleged offenses

Michael Jenkins and Larry Moffitt
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Hak Ja Han, center, the leader of South Korea's Unification Church, arrives at a special prosecutor's office in Seoul, South Korea, Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2025. (AP Photo/Lee Jin-man)

Dear all, this is a terrible turn of events. Mother Moon, a great-grandmother of 82 who was recently released from the hospital following heart surgery, has been indicted and sent back to detention.

South Korea's new far-left government is sliding into a dictatorship with active persecution of all mainstream religions, especially those who campaigned against the newly elected president. Ministers of Korea's largest Christian churches have been arrested. The opposition party headquarters is being raided constantly, in search of incriminating evidence, for the crime of being the opposition party.

Attached are two articles, one from Bitter Winter magazine and one from The Washington Times. Please share with any person of conscience you know.

Thank you,

Dr. Michael Jenkins and Larry Moffitt

Universal Peace Federation

WashingtonTimes.com link: https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2025/oct/10/south-korean-investigators-indict-hak-ja-han-moon-head-family/?utm_source=pushly

South Korean investigators indict Hak Ja Han Moon, head of Family Federation



Hak Ja Han, center, the leader of South Korea's Unification Church, arrives at a special prosecutor's office in Seoul, South Korea, Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2025. (AP Photo/Lee Jin-man)

By Ben Wolfgang - The Washington Times – Friday, October 10, 2025 (update 9:36 a.m.)

South Korean authorities indicted Hak Ja Han Moon, the 82-year-old matriarch of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification, on Friday on charges of bribery, embezzlement and other alleged offenses.

The case against Mrs. Moon, the widow of the Rev. Sun Myung Moon, is part of an expanding probe into prominent South Korean figures linked to imprisoned ex-President Yoon Suk Yeol. The investigation into Mrs. Moon specifically has raised concerns that the Asian democracy's recently installed liberal president, Lee Jae-myung, is overseeing a purge of his party's political opponents. It's also drawn intense criticism from religious freedom advocates across the globe.

Mrs. Moon, who was arrested on Sept. 23, has denied the allegations against her and has maintained that she neither ordered nor permitted the alleged bribery.

In a statement Friday, Demian Dunkley, the president of Family Federation USA, condemned the indictment of Mrs. Moon.

“Nelson Mandela was imprisoned for believing in equality. Mahatma Gandhi was jailed for teaching nonviolence. Mother Teresa was condemned for her compassion among the poor. And now, today leaves no doubt — the indictment and detention [of Mrs. Moon] places South Korea on the wrong side of history with so many others,” he said.

“Persecutions based on Koreans’ faith, not their conduct, can never be condoned. And yet, that is where we are. As such, it marks yet another tragic moment for faith and freedom,” he said. An investigative team led by South Korean special prosecutor Min Joong-ki said it indicted Mrs. Moon and her former chief secretary on charges of bribery, violating political funding laws, embezzling church funds, and instructing the destruction of evidence.

The special counsel engaged in investigating Mr. Yoon’s wife, Kim Keon-hee, requested the court issue a custody warrant last month to prevent Mrs. Moon from destroying evidence. She has been in custody since her Sept. 23 arrest.

Mrs. Moon stands accused of embezzlement, suborning, the destruction of evidence and violating the Political Funds Act and anti-graft law, charges she has denied.

Investigators have seized data showing that federation members — exact numbers unknown — joined Mr. Yoon’s conservative People Power Party in order to help empower lawmaker Kweon Seong-dong, a top supporter of Mr. Yoon. Investigators say the federation paid \$72,000 to Mr. Kweon as a bribe. Mr. Kweon, who is also in jail, has denied all charges.

The aim of the bribes, it is claimed, was to earn political favors for the federation, including official assistance with a project in Cambodia and a takeover of Korean news channel YTN, in addition to a seat at the presidential inauguration.

Neither deal eventually transpired, nor did Mrs. Moon attend Mr. Yoon’s inauguration. Leading religious freedom advocates and foreign affairs analysts have strongly criticized the case against Mrs. Moon.

“This is a disgrace,” said Alexandre Mansourov, a professor at Georgetown University’s Center for Security Studies.

“A religious leader of global stature is kept in horrible conditions. She may become a martyr, much like Jesus in his time,” Mr. Mansourov said earlier this week during The Washington Brief, a monthly virtual forum hosted by The Washington Times Foundation.

“The unification movement could grow stronger as a result. This prosecution damages South Korea’s international reputation, already criticized for religious and free speech restrictions. I hope important international cooperation projects and Korea’s soft power will not be frozen,” he said.

Ms. Moon’s husband, the late Rev. Moon, founded the Unification Church in South Korea in 1954 and went on to make it a global movement. She inherited the organization’s leadership after Rev. Moon died in 2012.

The foundation pursues the unification of religions worldwide while promoting conservative family values. It also operates several businesses, including The Washington Times.

Andrew Salmon contributed to this article, which is based in part on wire service reports.

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South Korea Indicts Mother Han: A Democratic Nation's Descent into Religious Repression

10/10/2025 MASSIMO INTROVIGNE

The question is now whether South Korea will remain a democracy that respects religious freedom—or become a satellite of China and a state where faith is punished.



Mother Han, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon

On October 10, 2025, South Korea formally indicted Hak Ja Han Moon—known globally as “Mother Han”—on charges that include bribery, embezzlement, illegal political donations, and destruction of evidence. The indictment, delivered by special prosecutor Min Joong-ki, marks a

dark milestone in the country's escalating campaign against conservative religious movements. It is not merely a legal maneuver—it is a political earthquake, and a moral disgrace.

Mother Han, 82, is the co-founder and spiritual leader of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification, a movement with millions of followers worldwide. She has spent decades promoting peace, interfaith dialogue, and humanitarian cooperation. Her arrest and now formal indictment are not just attacks on her person—they are attacks on religious liberty, on democratic norms, and on the very idea that faith can coexist with dissent.

The charges are a house of cards. The prosecution alleges that Mother Han directed the gifting of luxury items to former First Lady Kim Keon Hee and made political donations to conservative lawmaker Kweon Seong-dong in 2022. These acts, they claim, were intended to curry favor with then-President Yoon Suk Yeol. But the evidence is non-existing, and the narrative increasingly resembles a political screenplay.

Another feature of the case—the accusation that Mother Han orchestrated mass political enrollment of Family Federation members into the People Power Party (PPP)—has already collapsed. Prosecutors initially claimed that 110,000 members had joined en masse. That figure has now been quietly revised to 3,500, as reported by local media.

There is no evidence that the gifts to the First Lady and the politician—whose value is laughably low compared to bribes reported in other Korean cases—were given under the direction of Mrs. Moon herself, rather than as a personal initiative of a rogue Family Federation bureaucrat.

The addition of embezzlement and evidence tampering charges appears to be a desperate attempt to justify her prolonged detention. It's a classic prosecutorial tactic: when the original narrative begins to unravel, pile on new accusations to keep the target boxed in.

Mother Han's indictment is not an isolated event. It is part of a broader pattern under President Lee's administration—a pattern of targeting conservative religious voices that challenge the state's ideological agenda. The continued detention of Pastor Son Hyun-Bo, a vocal critic of the government, is a case in point. His imprisonment remains a chilling reminder of what happens to those who refuse to conform.

This crackdown is not about justice. It is about control. It is about silencing dissent, dismantling institutions that resist ideological homogenization, and sending a message to every religious leader in South Korea: your faith must serve the new government, or it will be criminalized.

The Family Federation is often caricatured in the media, reduced to headlines about mass weddings and political controversy. But beneath the surface lies a global movement rooted in principles of peace, family unity, and interfaith cooperation. Mother Han, known as the Mother of Peace to millions, has met with world leaders, spoken at the United Nations, and launched humanitarian initiatives across continents. To treat her as a criminal mastermind is not only absurd—it is dangerous.

Her arrest has already sent shockwaves through the international religious community. Faith leaders from multiple traditions have expressed concern, noting that South Korea—once a beacon of religious freedom in East Asia—is now teetering on the edge of authoritarianism.

The indictment of Mother Han raises urgent questions about the politicization of South Korea's judiciary. Is the legal system being used to settle ideological scores? Are prosecutors acting independently, or are they serving the interests of a regime increasingly hostile to religious pluralism?

The optics are damning. An elderly woman, recovering from heart surgery, is paraded through courtrooms while prosecutors leak sensational claims to the press. Her followers are vilified. Her movement is smeared. And the rule of law is bent to accommodate political expediency. This is not how democracies behave. This is how democracies die.

We call for the immediate release of Mother Han. We call for the restoration of due process. We call for an end to the ideological persecution of religious leaders in South Korea. This is not just about one woman. It is about the soul of a nation. It is about whether South Korea will remain a democracy that respects religious freedom—or become a satellite of China, a state where faith is punished, and dissent is criminalized.

Let the world watch. Let the world speak. And let South Korea remember: the true strength of a nation lies not in its power to prosecute, but in its courage to protect the freedoms that make it whole.



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 California 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.