

The Importance of Global Security and Religious Freedom

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November 12, 2022

Keynote Address -- Conference Of Hope For The Realization Of A Heavenly Unified World

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Distinguished leaders, ladies, and gentlemen!

As we discuss the importance of security and religious freedom today, it is my heartfelt and deep conviction that every human should have the most basic right of religious liberty.

One fundamental principle and truth is that our rights do not come from government. They come from God. It was with that spirit and belief as advisor to President Trump that I led the White House Faith and Opportunity Initiative, which established a faith-based office or liaison in every cabinet department and agency and worked hard to make sure that people of all faiths had a voice in their government. The president gave an executive order on advancing international religious freedom that solidifies America's own commitment to this critical issue by naming it as a foreign policy priority of the United States, and promising that we will respect and vigorously promote this freedom.

It is this deep conviction of standing for freedom of religion that has driven my life work of 38 years in ministry. With this in mind, I want to honor and encourage Mother Moon for her great work as a spiritual leader who loves the Lord and seeks to bring and comfort God's heart in all the conflict areas of the world. Mother Moon, your faith and courage is very moving, especially having passed through the many trials, persecution, and misunderstanding. You and your late husband, Rev. Moon, have led a life of unwavering faith, and never vacillated in your commitment to achieving peace through Jesus' fundamental teaching, to love your enemies, for this is one of the greatest secrets to achieving reconciliation and forgiveness.

The Summit 2022 last August was a tremendous success, and is growing stronger with each summit, as we see the leaders of the world understanding your great role for peace and strengthening families. Thank you, Dr. Young-ho Yun for helping fulfill Mother's dream. I've been honored to be a part of this great work, and to join Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, President Trump, Prime Minister Hun Sen, President Macky Sall, Prime Minister Brigi Rafini, and many heads of state from Africa, as well as Vice President Pence, Prime Minister Harper, Prime Minister Barroso, Secretary Pompeo, Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and the heads of state throughout the world, along with faith leaders who have expressed deep appreciation for the leadership of Mother Moon, for peace and for strengthening families.

That is why it is no surprise that Prime Minister Abe stood with many heads of state in appreciating this work, because it is good for Japan, good for the Republic of Korea and for America, and good for peace in Northeast Asia and the world. We are not surprised that so many current and former members of the liberal democratic party and other parties in Japan understood that her work with the Universal Peace Federation was so important and collaborated with it. President Trump was so keen on dialogue, and he met Kim Jong-un on two occasions directly.

Mother Moon went with her late husband to North Korea, after much prayer, and in 1991 they met Chairman Kim. Father and Mother Moon, who founded the Washington Times, were seen as a very strong anti-communist force, and the greatest enemy of North Korea. However, after they met, they were no longer seen as enemies, because they came to help North Korea realize peace and prosperity and to join as a member of the family of nations. When I was in South Korea last August for Father Moon's memorial, it was very meaningful that Chairman Kim Jong-un sent flowers and a letter recognizing Father Moon as a true peacemaker and has invited Mother Moon to North Korea.

In Japan, such a tragedy occurred when Prime Minister Abe was assassinated. He is so respected throughout the world and was deeply committed to a strong Japan in alliance with America. President Trump and all key leaders in America and throughout the world had the greatest respect for his leadership, and the critical role of Japan in relationship to peace in the whole Indo-Pacific. We know that Mother Moon and the work of her movement with UPF and the Family Federation, which many leaders of the world, including myself, respect, and support, has the greatest respect for Japan and its historic role at this time for peace.

We are confident that the current prime minister and all the leadership of Japan will uphold the high principles of defending religious freedom for all faiths. And we want you to know that the world was so deeply moved by the beautiful, deeply peaceful and honorable funeral of our beloved and cherished Prime Minister Abe. We pray that Mrs. Abe and her family were comforted by the great legacy and honor with which Prime Minister Abe was memorialized. We sincerely pray for peace in Northeast Asia, and that religious freedom will expand from Japan, the Republic of Korea, America and all democratic nations to all the nations of the world. God be with you, Mother Moon.