



Recognition of Injustice and Apology

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President Family Federation for World Peace, USA

This is an appeal to recognize and apologize for an injustice that was carried out against the Founder of our Church, Rev. Sun Myung Moon. Thirty years ago, Rev. Moon was unjustly prosecuted and imprisoned. His conviction was a culmination of persecution of our faith and our members based on prejudice and misunderstanding. After Rev. Moon's conviction, more than 30 civic and religious groups stood up for his defense. However, despite this outpouring of support, there has never been a public recognition of or an apology for this injustice.

Our Founder passed away almost 2 years ago, and his funeral was attended by hundreds of thousands including heads of state. Our effort today is to collect signatures and offer them to his widow as a belated but very significant expression of apology and regret.

Stand up for a Just America

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Sign the Petition

RECOGNITION OF INJUSTICE AND APOLOGY

Thirty years have passed since Reverend Sun Myung Moon endured unjust prosecution and imprisonment in Danbury, Connecticut. We cannot allow this injustice to remain unaddressed.

Reverend Sun Myung Moon came to the United States in 1965 and worked for more than 40 years to revive its God-centered spirit. In the early 1980s, at a time when Reverend Moon and the Unification Church were spending millions of dollars to encourage America to fulfill God's will, the United States Government charged Reverend Moon with conspiring to file false income tax returns. Reverend Moon voluntarily returned from Korea to face trial. He maintained that the disputed funds were not his personal property but were held by him in trust for the worldwide Unification Church movement, as was the express intent of the thousands who donated funds to the Church. No allegation was ever made that Reverend Moon misused funds in a manner contrary to the intent of the donors. Because he believed that a jurist with an understanding of relevant laws should decide the matter, Reverend Moon requested a bench trial where a judge would decide all issues of fact and law. The defense argued that widespread prejudice against Reverend Moon made a fair jury trial impossible, but the federal prosecutors insisted on it. Although the trial judge stated on the record that a bench trial would be fairer, a jury trial was forced on Reverend Moon, and the jury convicted him. In mid-1982, he received a prison sentence of 18 months.

Reverend Moon petitioned the Supreme Court of the United States to review his case. More than 30 groups and individuals, including the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the American Baptist Churches in the USA, the American Civil Liberties Union, the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, the Institute for the Study of American Religion,

the National Association of Evangelicals, the National Bar Association, the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA, the Presbyterian Church (USA), the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and several states, representing an estimated 125 million people of the United States, filed 16 amicus briefs in support of Reverend Moon. The Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on The Constitution wrote that he strongly felt that “injustice rather than justice” was served in Reverend Moon’s case, and that no one, “no matter how innocent, could realistically prevail against the combined forces of the Justice Department and the judicial branch in a case such as Rev. Moon’s.” But the Supreme Court declined to review the case.

During his incarceration in Danbury, Connecticut in 1984 and following his release in 1985, Reverend Moon prayed that God would continue to bless and guide America. On September 3, 2012, after devoting his life to the service of God and humankind, and finishing his earthly work as a True Parent, Reverend Sun Myung Moon was called home by God.

WHEREFORE, we the undersigned, as representatives of the 50 States and the People of the United States of America, in appreciation and respect for Reverend Moon and his service to this country and acknowledging the fundamental injustice of his prosecution and imprisonment, do hereby apologize for this unjust treatment and offer our appreciation to Reverend Moon for his tireless work and sacrifices for this country; and each of us does hereby set our hand:

Signature

Full Name

Affiliation

Email