

FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: Holy Mother Han's Condition and Words In South Korean Jail

Knut Holdhus
October 11, 2025



Yeon-a Moon delivering her message at a prayer vigil in [Gapyeong](#), South Korea 10th October 25, 2025

"I am in a lot of pain, but I will get through it thanks to your love": Yeon-a Moon speaks on Mother Han's suffering condition during prolonged detention



A group of demonstrators in front of Seoul Detention Center Oct. 1, 2025, protesting the detention of [Mother Han](#)

Extracts from a message delivered by Yeon-a Moon at a prayer vigil in [Gapyeong](#), South Korea 10th October. She had the day before visited her mother-in-law, [Hak Ja Han](#), known as [Holy Mother Han](#), at the Seoul Detention Center, where she has been held since 23rd September while investigations are going on into alleged violations of political funding and anti-graft laws. Translated from the transcription of the original Korean. Slightly edited.

See also [Arbitrary Detention of Mother Han, Pastor Son](#)

See also [Firsthand Account of Ordeal of Mother Han \(82\)](#)

See also [Law as Weapon: Old Age and Frail Health Ignored](#)

See also [Mother Han's Arrest and Purge of Faith in SKorea](#)

See also [News Release Blasts Indictment of Hak Ja Han, 82](#)

Today, I visited [True Mother](#) for the first time in six days. [...] Only five people were allowed in, so I joined them in order to report back to all of you.



A group of demonstrators in front of Seoul Detention Center Oct. 1, 2025, protesting the detention of [Mother Han](#)



Photo of Eun-jin Moon's painting of [Mother Han](#), September 2025. In the painter's words: "It is just my interpretation of what is going on right now. In this darkness, the heavens are shining light upon her. I had to put the podium on there because it represents her speaking the truth."

When [Mother](#) entered, we could see her complexion and how she was moving. She came in and left in a wheelchair, so it was hard to judge how comfortable her movements were. Still, just by seeing her face, I could tell she was in much more pain and exhaustion than before. I remember hearing before that she was very tired, but this time it was even clearer.

Even when she hadn't slept for hours, [Mother's](#) face had always remained bright and graceful. But this time, there were deep bluish shadows under her eyes - something I had never seen before - and it made me feel how difficult things truly are for her.

Her once-radiant complexion looked dull and sunken, and her cheeks seemed hollow.

I know that our family members have been offering prayers and devotion outside the detention center, wanting to share in [Mother's](#) hardship and give her strength, but seeing her today truly broke my heart.

I want to share this on behalf of everyone who couldn't be there. I can't claim to feel everything that she is enduring, but through what I could see, I realized just how hard it's been for her. [...]

Eun-jin Moon then asked about [Mother's](#) eyes and knees, whether she was in pain. [Mother](#) replied that her eyes have been giving her trouble - as you all probably know - and that her knees also hurt when she sits

and stands, especially given her age.

She has to live sitting on the floor in a small space, so her movements are limited. Still, even though it's difficult, she said she tries to move around a little bit and exercise as much as she can.

[...] [Mother](#) looked at us and said:

"Do not worry. Heaven is alive. The truth will be revealed. I didn't expect something like this to happen, but the truth will surely be revealed."

Those were her first words to us. You've heard her say this before. [Mother](#) knows the truth and believes that it will be made known not only in Korea but throughout the world. It may take time, but she is certain of it.

So we must wait patiently, work diligently, and unite so that the truth can be revealed as soon as possible. That is the path of true filial piety.

[Mother](#) also said,

"Through this time, the members have become one. The whole world has become united."

She believes in us that much. Even though we feel sorry for not being enough, she keeps encouraging and trusting us.

"Brothers and sisters", there are many painful rumors circulating, both outside and within our community. But please remember - [Mother](#) believes in us. She knows that we are becoming even more united through this trial. So let us focus only on our Heavenly Parent and [True Parents](#). Let's set aside unnecessary talk and follow [Mother](#)'s words and wishes, so we can overcome this period together.

At the end, I must also say this: [Mother](#)'s once-clear, beautiful skin now has red, rash-like patches, almost like heat bumps. She said it might be from sweating due to poor ventilation and the damp, cold floors (since the heating wasn't on yet).

It made me realize how much her immune system has weakened. And yet, despite everything, she smiled and encouraged us. Her final words were:

"I am in a lot of pain, but I will get through it thanks to your love."



From a spontaneous prayer vigil September 25, 2025 outside Seoul Detention Center, where [Mother Han](#) has been held since September 22, 2025

"Brothers and sisters", we all love [Mother](#) deeply. We know she suffers, and we feel frustrated and angry that we can't do more. But let us hold onto her words. Let's stay calm, trust one another, and do our best with sincere hearts.

This past week, I kept thinking how frustrated you all must feel - wanting to know more, wanting to help, wondering why there isn't more information.

I too struggled with whether to speak or stay silent. I worried that if I spoke carelessly, my words could be twisted and end up hurting [Mother](#) rather than helping her. Because the outside world is watching us closely and ready to distort anything. So I decided: better to stay cautious, even if people misunderstand or blame us for not speaking. We even agreed among the leaders: Let people complain that we are silent - our priority is [Mother's](#) safety. Even if we are misunderstood for a while, we will endure it for her sake.

Dear "family", though the news about [Mother](#) is painful, we are now entering a more serious stage of preparing for the trial. Until the special investigation period fully ends, we must move forward carefully, one step at a time, aligning our hearts with Heaven and [Mother's](#) heart - not with what we think she wants, but what she has truly asked of us.

Please endure just a little longer, give a little more strength and devotion. [Mother](#) believes in the power of the spiritual world and in [Father's](#) support from the other side. Let us also believe that our sincerity will empower them to help her.

There's so much I want to say, but I'll stop here. Let's express our faith not only in words but through our actions - by living honorably, working sincerely, and serving society. [...] You've endured so much already. Let's hold on a little longer, recharge our hearts, and move forward together with renewed strength.

Thank you.

See also [Court Decision to Prolong Detention Condemned](#)

See also [Co-Founder, 82, Questioned 9 Hours by Prosecutors](#)

See also [Korean Crisis: "True Democracy Must Serve Heaven"](#)

See also [News Release Blasts Indictment of Hak Ja Han, 82](#)

Related to Mother Han's condition and words: [Denying Allegations: Hak Ja Han \(82\) in Inquiry](#)

Also related to Mother Han's condition and words: [Ugly: Arrest Warrant Sought for Hak Ja Han \(82\)](#)

And also related to Mother Han's condition and words: [Critics Warn of "Authoritarian Drift" in SKorea](#)

More, related to Mother Han's condition and words: [70 Years On: Detention History Repeats Itself](#)

And more, related to Mother Han's condition and words: [Trump Raises Alarm Over Church Raids in Korea](#)

Even more, related to Mother Han's condition and words: [Mike Pompeo Calls Probe of Co-Founder "Lawfare"](#)

Still more, related to Mother Han's condition and words: [Korean Faith Crackdown: USA Urged to Confront It](#)

Yet more, related to Mother Han's condition and words: [Korean Bribery Scandal: Media Clears Federation](#)

And also related to Mother Han's condition and words: [Raids Blur Line Between Justice and Politics](#)

More, related to Mother Han's condition and words: [Heavy-Handed Raid on Sacred Sites Condemned](#)

And more, related to Mother Han's condition and words: [Scholar Sounds Alarm: State Raiding the Sacred](#)

Even more, related to Mother Han's condition and words: [Raids as Political Spectacle and Media Trials](#)

And even more, related to Mother Han's condition and words: [Religious Freedom: 330 Faith](#)

[Leaders Speak Up](#)

Yet more, related to Mother Han's condition and words: [Yonhap: Repeated Allegations Create Public Bias](#)

Still more, related to Mother Han's condition and words: [Japan Following the Way of China](#)

And still more, related to Mother Han's condition and words: [Warning of Threat from CCP Fearing Korean Unity](#)

And also related to Mother Han's condition and words: [Japan's Dissolution Case Echoes China's Playbook](#)

Also related to Mother Han's condition and words: [Communists of China Exploiting Assassination](#)

And also related to Mother Han's condition and words: ["Lawyers Lying and Shaming Japan" for 50 Years](#)

More, related to Mother Han's condition and words: [Lawfare: State Uses Legal System in War on Faith](#)



Mother Han, here on 31st August 2025, soon before her detention. Screenshot from video by FFWPU.

Treatment of its Founder and Respect for Religious

Freedom in South Korea

See also [In Detention: Mother Han's Condition and Words](#)

See also [Arbitrary Detention of Mother Han, Pastor Son](#)

See also [Firsthand Account of Ordeal of Mother Han \(82\)](#)

See also [Law as Weapon: Old Age and Frail Health Ignored](#)

See also [Mother Han's Arrest and Purge of Faith in SKorea](#)

See also [Court Decision to Prolong Detention Condemned](#)

The [Family Federation](#) of Europe and the Middle East ([Unification Church](#)) expresses deep concern over today's indictment [[See editor's note below](#)] by South Korean authorities of Dr. [Hak Ja Han](#), co-founder of [our movement](#) and widow of the late Rev. Dr. [Sun Myung Moon](#).

At 82 and recovering from heart surgery, [Dr. Han](#) has been held alone in a tiny cell for nearly three weeks – raising serious concerns for her health, rights, and due process.

"We believe these charges are unfounded," said Dr. Michael Balcomb, President of the [Family Federation](#) of Europe and the Middle East. "[Mother Han](#), known widely as the Mother of Peace, has dedicated her entire life to peace, interfaith harmony, and moral renewal. She deserves fairness, dignity, and full respect for her religious freedom."



Dr. Michael Balcomb, here on 8th Aug. 2025. Screenshot from video by FFWPU



Dr. Massimo Introvigne, here at the UN Office at Geneva 16th June 2025. Screenshot from video by UPF

Although government officials maintain that the prosecution is based on legal grounds, not ideology, human rights advocates are worried. "This is not just about one woman," writes religious freedom scholar Dr. Massimo Introvigne in the Human Rights journal [Bitter Winter](#) today,

"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 state where faith is punished, and dissent is criminalized."

The [Family Federation](#) urges people of goodwill everywhere to stand in solidarity and prayer for [Dr. Han](#)'s swift release and for the protection of freedom of belief in South Korea.

Featured image above: A typical cell at Seoul Detention Center where [Mother Han](#) is being held, possibly for many months. Image: Chat GPT, 10th October 2025.

See also [In Detention: Mother Han's Condition and Words](#)

See also [Arbitrary Detention of Mother Han, Pastor Son](#)

See also [Firsthand Account of Ordeal of Mother Han \(82\)](#)

See also [Law as Weapon: Old Age and Frail Health Ignored](#)

See also [Mother Han's Arrest and Purge of Faith in SKorea](#)

See also [Court Decision to Prolong Detention Condemned](#)



Send us a message

First Name *

Last Name

Email *

Email Address

Your Message *

Submit



A group of demonstrators in front of Seoul Detention Center 1st Oct. 2025, protesting the detention of *Mother Han*. Photo. Masataka Asaoka.

[Editor's note: When *Hak Ja Han* was indicted today on 10th October 2025, in principle the South Korean authorities **could** continue to detain her pending trial even though she is of advanced age and with frail health – if a court finds sufficient grounds. However, in practice there are legal limits and procedural protections that may make it more difficult or subject to challenge.

Once indicted, the standard maximum detention period is **2 months**, which may be extended **twice** (i.e. two renewals of 2 months each) – giving a maximum of **6 months** in custody at the first-instance trial stage.

If the case goes to appeal, further detention periods may be extended, though typically those are shorter (4–6 months, depending on the appellate court and special evidence hearings).

In cases handled by a **special prosecutor**, the law mandates that a **final judgment at first instance must be delivered within six months** after public prosecution begins.

Because this case is being handled by a **special prosecutor** (rather than ordinary prosecutors), additional rules apply:

The special prosecutor's **investigation period** is 60 days from the end of an initial preparation period, with the possibility of one extension of 30 days, subject to presidential approval.

Once the public prosecution is filed (i.e. indictment), the law requires that the trial under the special prosecutor must be given **priority** and that **judgment** at the first instance must be rendered **within six months**.

With this legal framework in mind, here is how things could play out in practice for *Hak Ja Han*, given her age and health:

Her age and health condition do not automatically mandate non-detention under Korean law, but they are relevant factors that her defense can present to argue for release (or for special custody conditions).

The courts may be more reluctant to deny release/bail or to impose strict detention on someone in fragile health unless the prosecutors can convincingly show strong risk factors (e.g. flight risk, destruction of evidence, interference).

In fact, media reports in *Korea Joongang Daily* have already noted that her detention period (as of 10th October) was due to expire imminently, implying that her ongoing detention had been under judicial scrutiny.

She sought a **court review of her arrest** on September 29, which the court rejected. According to the same paper, this indicates that she already has used procedural remedy options.

Thus, while there is a legal basis for continued detention, her defense may contest it strongly, and health concerns may bolster arguments for release or leniency.

Estimating the interval until trial is speculative, but given the procedural limits, and because the special prosecutor regime applies, the investigation should complete within 60 days (with one possible 30-day extension).

Once the indictment is handed over to the court, the trial preparation begins. After indictment, the court and defense may engage in preparatory steps: document exchange, motions, perhaps pretrial hearings or conferences. Korea's "overview of criminal system" materials suggest that in many cases the **first trial hearing** is often scheduled within **2–4 weeks** of induction of the public prosecution. But in a high-profile, complex corruption case, scheduling might be delayed by logistical constraints, defense motions, or backlog.

Under the special prosecutor law, the first-instance court must deliver judgment within six months from the start of public prosecution.

The **start** of the public prosecution is the date of the formal indictment into court. So even if the defense or court delays procedural steps, the six-month statutory cap should apply to the **judgment**, not necessarily the **very first hearing**.

Under favorable conditions, one might expect a trial to **begin** within 2–4 months, with a **verdict** by six months from indictment; in a complicated high-profile case, that might stretch somewhat, but those

statutory limits act as a constraint.]

See also [Co-Founder, 82, Questioned 9 Hours by Prosecutors](#)

See also [Korean Crisis: "True Democracy Must Serve Heaven"](#)

Related to concern over indictment and detention: [Denying Allegations: Hak Ja Han \(82\) in Inquiry](#)

Also related to concern over indictment and detention: [Ugly: Arrest Warrant Sought for Hak Ja Han \(82\)](#)

And also related to concern over indictment and detention: [Critics Warn of "Authoritarian Drift" in SKorea](#)

More, related to concern over indictment and detention: [70 Years On: Detention History Repeats Itself](#)

And more, related to concern over indictment and detention: [Trump Raises Alarm Over Church Raids in Korea](#)

Even more, related to concern over indictment and detention: [Mike Pompeo Calls Probe of Co-Founder "Lawfare"](#)

Still more, related to concern over indictment and detention: [Korean Faith Crackdown: USA Urged to Confront It](#)

Yet more, related to concern over indictment and detention: [Korean Bribery Scandal: Media Clears Federation](#)

And also related to concern over indictment and detention: [Raids Blur Line Between Justice and Politics](#)

More, related to concern over indictment and detention: [Heavy-Handed Raid on Sacred Sites Condemned](#)

And more, related to concern over indictment and detention: [Scholar Sounds Alarm: State Raiding the Sacred](#)

Even more, related to concern over indictment and detention: [Raids as Political Spectacle and Media Trials](#)

And even more, related to concern over indictment and detention: [Religious Freedom: 330 Faith Leaders Speak Up](#)

Yet more, related to concern over indictment and detention: [Yonhap: Repeated Allegations Create Public Bias](#)

Still more, related to concern over indictment and detention: [Japan Following the Way of China](#)

And still more, related to concern over indictment and detention: [Warning of Threat from CCP Fearing Korean Unity](#)

And also related to concern over indictment and detention: [Japan's Dissolution Case Echoes China's Playbook](#)

Also related to concern over indictment and detention: [Communists of China Exploiting Assassination](#)

And also related to concern over indictment and detention: ["Lawyers Lying and Shaming Japan" for 50 Years](#)

More, related to concern over indictment and detention: [Lawfare: State Uses Legal System in War on Faith](#)

« Previous In Detention: Mother Han's Co... Next »

Follow us



your Email Address

Subscribe

☐ I consent to FFWPU website using my personal information. I hereby accept the privacy policy.

