

FFWPU Europe and Middle East: Gingrich Pressures Seoul to Free Holy Mother Han Han

Knut Holdhus
November 25, 2025



Newt Gingrich (2016) - Above the image: The logos of the papers that carried the ad on Nov. 24, 2025. Besides the photo: The Korean ad and English translation of parts of it.

Placing large ads in South Korean media, Gingrich warns Seoul its values are at stake and urges Lee administration to free 82-year-old religious leader

In a paid print advertisement in major Korean outlets - the Chosun Ilbo, Kyunghyang Shinmun, and Hankook Ilbo - on 24th November, Newt Gingrich, former U.S. House Speaker, strongly urged the Korean government to release [Hak Ja Han](#), by many called [Mother Han](#), the 82-year-old leader of the [Family Federation](#), formerly the [Unification Church](#). The ad is titled "The Korea-U.S. Alliance Is a Values Alliance", and Gingrich frames his call in terms of religious freedom, democratic principles, and shared U.S.-Korea values.



Attorney Kang Shin-eop of "Kang Shin-eop TV", one of Korea's most influential legal commentators, declared the ad a bombshell

Gingrich argues that [Mother Han](#)'s detention is not just a religious matter, but a serious test of Korean democracy: in free societies, he says, religious leaders are not arrested for their religious activities or how they run their church. He describes the South Korean government's legal actions as a "direct infringement" on freedom of religion and conscience.

Newt Gingrich warns that state intervention into religious affairs risks shaking the foundations of Korean democracy and raises a "red flag" to U.S. leaders. He also contends that "selective justice" and the politicization of law enforcement threaten democratic legitimacy.

The former U.S. House Speaker emphasizes [Mother Han](#)'s role in peacebuilding, noting her decades-long leadership, her global work

to promote interfaith dialogue, and the [Family Federation](#)'s public-interest initiatives: peace advocacy, cultural exchange, volunteer programs, and inter-Korean reconciliation efforts. While acknowledging that the [Federation](#) has faced controversy, he argues that "hastily labeling" it as a criminal group would be a "grave misjudgment".

Gingrich points out practical concerns: [Mother Han](#)'s age (82) and the proportionality of detaining such an elderly religious figure. He urges that pre-trial detention should be a last resort, stressing humanitarian and societal consequences.

Newt Gingrich calls on Korean judicial authorities to withdraw excessive detention measures and release [Hak Ja Han](#) immediately, as she has not been convicted. He frames the issue as more than legal: it's a moral test of Korea's commitment to democratic values, religious liberty, and national dignity. He appeals directly to President Lee Jae-myung to "make the right decision".

Finally, Gingrich casts this as a matter of shared values: the U.S.-Korea alliance is not just strategic but bound by freedom. If South Korea sets a precedent of curbing religious freedom, he warns, it risks undermining those shared democratic ideals.



The economic newspaper [Chosun Biz](#) (조선비즈) reported on the ad extensively, summarizing Gingrich's key arguments: religious freedom, non-interference, the risk of politicized justice, and calls for [Mother Han](#)'s release.

Other Korean outlets also covered the ad, highlighting Gingrich's concerns about state overreach and his framing of the case as more than a criminal investigation.



The popular weekly newspaper [Ilyo Shinmun](#) (일요신문) published commentary from political pundits. Professor Shin Yul (Myeongji University) described Gingrich's ad as part of an "aftershock" following [Hak Ja Han](#)'s detention. He noted that the [Family Federation](#) has many foreign followers and significant international influence, but argued that strong foreign backlash (especially from U.S. conservative figures) could complicate the legal process.

Shin also warned of a "hot spot" in U.S.-Korea relations: the [Family Federation](#)'s political connections and backing by high-profile U.S. conservatives could make the case a diplomatic vulnerability.



A column in the major economic daily [Aju News](#) argues that while American conservatives (like Gingrich and Trump) are raising the alarm about religious freedom, Korean media and civic society should also reflect on the legitimacy of the investigations. The column suggests that these global conservative interventions might not just be about liberty - but also about political alliances and

power.



Mike Pompeo February 13, 2022

According to the Korea JoongAng Daily [on 5th September](#), Mike Pompeo, another high-profile U.S. conservative and former Secretary of State, previously condemned the special prosecutor's plans to summon [Mother Han](#), calling such moves a betrayal of democratic principles.

On the conservative commentary front, prominent media personalities and lawyers with conservative audiences for example, attorney Kang - Kang Shin-eop (강신업) - on his [YouTube/live channel](#) - discussed the ad and the legal/political questions surrounding the case; these segments generally echoed concerns about proportionality, the treatment of an elderly religious leader, and the international optics for Korea.

In U.S.-based commentary (e.g., [The Washington Times](#)), Gingrich's stance is framed as part of a broader campaign: that protecting [Mother Han](#) is not only defending religious freedom but safeguarding an international movement for peace.



Ad on front page of the Washington Times 25th November 2025, protesting the long-term detention of Pastor Son Hyun-bo of the large Segyero Church and [Mother Han](#). Ad sponsored by Coalition for Religious Freedom Korea.

Some South Korean analysts express unease about foreign political involvement: that a U.S. politician publicly pressuring South Korea's judiciary could be perceived as interference in domestic affairs.

Others point to the possibility that this is not purely about religious rights, but also about power networks: the [Family Federation](#)'s global reach, its ties to U.S. conservative politics, and potentially the use of Western political capital to defend its leader.

Gingrich's ad raises the stakes for U.S.-Korea relations by framing [Mother Han](#)'s case as a values issue, not just a legal case. It suggests that religious freedom is part of the alliance, not separate from it.

For the South Korean government, responding to such public pressure from a prominent U.S. conservative could be tricky: pushing back may risk accusations of undermining religious liberty, while capitulating could be seen as yielding sovereignty to external actors.

The debate is reigniting broader discussions in Korea about the line between regular law enforcement and politicized justice. Gingrich's "selective justice" warning taps into domestic anxieties about whether legal processes are being used for political ends.

For the [Family Federation](#) and [Hak Ja Han](#), the ad is not just a defense - it's a reaffirmation of their global legitimacy and mission. Support from figures like Gingrich and Pompeo bolsters their narrative of being persecuted for their beliefs and public good work.

Text: Knut Holdhus, editor

See also [Inside the Detention Center: A 10-Minute Visit](#)

See also [Health Concerns: 82-Year-Old Pretrial Detainee](#)

See also [Complaint Filed Against Lead Special Prosecutor](#)

See also [In Tiny Solitary Cell: Irreversible Harm Caused](#)

See also [Mother Han Briefly Released for Medical Reasons](#)

See also [Message of Religious Unity from Detention Cell](#)

See also [Over 50 Days in Vigil Outside Detention Center](#)

Related to Gingrich pressures Seoul: [Mother Han's December Trial: Long Detention Ahead](#)

Also related to Gingrich pressures Seoul: [A 10-Minute Visit to Mother Han in Detention](#)

Also related to Gingrich pressures Seoul: [Denying Allegations: Hak Ja Han \(82\) in Inquiry](#)

Also related to Gingrich pressures Seoul: [SKorean Court's Sharp Criticism of Prosecutors](#)

And also related to Gingrich pressures Seoul: [Detention: Harsh Cell Conditions Spark Outcry](#)

More, related to Gingrich pressures Seoul: [Ugly: Arrest Warrant Sought for Hak Ja Han \(82\)](#)

And more, related to Gingrich pressures Seoul: [Critics Warn of "Authoritarian Drift" in SKorea](#)

Even more, related to Gingrich pressures Seoul: [Court Decision to Prolong Detention Condemned](#)

Still more, related to Gingrich pressures Seoul: [Co-Founder, 82, Questioned 9 Hours by Prosecutors](#)

Also related to Gingrich pressures Seoul: [Democratic Party's Assault on Family Federation](#)

And even more, related to Gingrich pressures Seoul: [Mother Han \(82\) in Poor Health in Damp, Cold Cell](#)

And still more, related to Gingrich pressures Seoul: [Korean Crisis: "True Democracy Must Serve Heaven"](#)

And yet more, related to Gingrich pressures Seoul: [Faith Leaders Protest State Assault on Religion](#)

Also related to Gingrich pressures Seoul: [News Release Blasts Indictment of Hak Ja Han, 82](#)

More, related to Gingrich pressures Seoul: [70 Years On: Detention History Repeats Itself](#)

And more, related to Gingrich pressures Seoul: [Trump Raises Alarm Over Church Raids in Korea](#)

Even more, related to Gingrich pressures Seoul: [Mike Pompeo Calls Probe of Co-Founder "Lawfare"](#)

Still more, related to Gingrich pressures Seoul: [Korean Faith Crackdown: USA Urged to Confront It](#)

Yet more, related to Gingrich pressures Seoul: [Korean Bribery Scandal: Media Clears Federation](#)

And also related to Gingrich pressures Seoul: [Raids Blur Line Between Justice and Politics](#)

More, related to Gingrich pressures Seoul: [Heavy-Handed Raid on Sacred Sites Condemned](#)

And more, related to Gingrich pressures Seoul: [Scholar Sounds Alarm: State Raiding the Sacred](#)

Even more, related to Gingrich pressures Seoul: [Raids as Political Spectacle and Media Trials](#)

And even more, related to Gingrich pressures Seoul: [Religious Freedom: 330 Faith Leaders Speak Up](#)

Yet more, related to Gingrich pressures Seoul: [Yonhap: Repeated Allegations Create Public Bias](#)

Still more, related to Gingrich pressures Seoul: [Japan Following the Way of China](#)

And still more, related to Gingrich pressures Seoul: [Warning of Threat from CCP Fearing Korean Unity](#)

And also related to Gingrich pressures Seoul: [Japan's Dissolution Case Echoes China's Playbook](#)

It Began With One Flower But Became A Big Field

• November 24, 2025
• Knut Holdhus



“A small beginning can transform the whole just like one flower becomes a field”: Hoon-sook Moon’s message

Extracts from a message delivered by Hoon-sook Moon (문훈숙) at a prayer vigil in Gapyeong, South Korea 24th November 2025. Translated from the transcription of the original Korean. Slightly edited.

See also [Mother Han: Prosecutors’ Narrative Hard to Prove](#)

See also [Gingrich Pressures Seoul to Free Mother Han \(82\)](#)



Share:











More Posts



Gingrich Pressures Seoul To Free Mother Han (82)

November 25, 2025



Mother Han: Prosecutors’ Narrative Hard To Prove

November 22, 2025



Press Release: Final Submission To Appeal Court

November 21, 2025



Unlikely Alliances In Defense Of Mother Han (82)

November 19, 2025



Members Giving Strength To Detained Mother Han

November 18, 2025



Long-Running Donation Claims Settled In Japan

November 17, 2025



Bail Request Spotlights Injurious Detention

November 16, 2025

Search...



Categories



Artistic impression of **Mother Han** in detention cell. Illustration: Grok xAI, October 2025.

It has already been 63 days since **True Mother** entered the facility [Seoul Detention Center], and November now has only one week left. Hoping earnestly for **Mother's** swift return, I would like to share recent news about her with you.

[...] We entered the reception room first, and shortly afterward **Mother** came in by wheelchair. We offered our greetings.

Today as well, **Mother** looked peaceful. However, now that more than two months have passed, [...] and **Mother's** hair had grown noticeably longer down her neck.

When the clock started, Moon Shin-chul (문신출) reported that Moon Hoon-sook (문훈숙), Moon Shin-chul (문신출), Moon Shin-heung (문신흥), and two leaders – Director Kim Eun-sang (김은상), Director Kim Jin-chul (김진출) – had come.

Then **Mother** said to the two leaders,

"You've worked hard. You must be the witnesses and teach what the **Family Federation** has done so far throughout the life of the Mother of Peace, **Holy Mother Han**. The people of this nation must know this. World-renowned figures have come to see me, haven't they? Everyone said it was not right that the Mother of Peace should be in such a place. So, for their sake at least, I must continue my work."

She also said, "You must unite and let the Korean people know that they are the chosen people."

One of the leaders mentioned that at the Gangnam Church, Vice President Kim Dong-yeon (김동연) gave a lecture on **True Parents'** life course, and that senior blessed families were revived and 20 new members attended, all of whom were deeply moved.



Kim Dong-yeon, here speaking on 26th October 2025 in Gapyeong, South Korea. Screenshot from PeaceTV.

Mother listened and then said,

"I've heard that many young people in Korea are unemployed. We must witness to them, educate them, and open their eyes to the world. For that, language is important. Korean must become a world language. Right now, English is the global language, but the entire world is becoming interested in our culture. If Korean becomes a global language, a peaceful world will come more quickly. Haven't I often said how important the Korean language is? We must plant in young people a dream for the world."

[...] Members, **True Mother** said that now that K-culture has become globally influential, if Korean also becomes a world language, then unemployed young people could be trained in Korean-language teaching methods and go overseas. That would solve unemployment, give them dreams for the world, and – as not only K-culture but even further our spirit, our *K-spirit*, spreads globally – the realization of a peaceful world would come more quickly.

Listening to **Mother**, it was all about achieving three things at once,

"How can I help LGBTQ+ young people? How can I plant dreams in young people and open their eyes to the world? How can I hasten world peace?"

Mother is always thinking about this. Her mind and heart are always the same – always for the future generation's dreams and for world peace.



Send us a message

First Name *Last Name

Email *

Email Address

Your Message *

Submit



A flower field in Ijan, Armenia 6th June 2021. Photo: Ալկինիյա91 / Wikimedia Commons. License: [CC ASA 4.0 Int](#). Cropped

Recently, members, I read a poem that many of you may know. It is the poem "If I Bloom Alone" (나 하나 꽃피어) by Jo Dong-hwa (조동화). I will read from this short poem:

Don't say,
"What difference would it make
if just one flower – I – were to bloom?"

If you bloom,
and I bloom too,
then in the end, won't the whole field of grass
become a field full of flowers?

Don't say,
"What difference would it make
if just one person – I – were to be dyed with color?"

If I am colored,
and you are colored too,
then in the end, won't the whole mountain
burst into a blazing glow?

Members, as our [church](#)'s difficulties have continued for a long time, this poem deeply moved me. Its message is truly beautiful. A small beginning has the power to transform the whole.

One flower blooming seems to change nothing – but if two, then three bloom, eventually the entire meadow becomes a flower field.



Water drops. Photo: Madhulalu347723 / Wikimedia Commons. License: [CC ASA 4.0 Int](#)

One drop of water seems to vanish quickly – but if drops gather one by one, they become a great ocean.

I believe our faith and devotion are the same.

Will anything really change because I offer devotion alone? Can my one prayer truly bring meaningful change? As difficult times continue, such thoughts may arise. But the small devotion we offer to Heaven always connects, accumulates, and expands.

Each one of us is a microcosm – isn't that extraordinary? Each member's prayer becomes *us*, and we can move the universe. One person's tear, one person's gratitude, one person's dedication is surely added to the great flow of providence.

From a human perspective, my small devotion may seem insignificant. But when that small devotion awakens others, encourages others, colors others – then just as the whole mountain blazes when each leaf changes, our entire community will awaken warmly and powerfully.

It began with one flower but became a whole field. It began with one drop but became the sea. What began as the devotion of a few in early morning prayer has now become a time of devotion shared throughout the world. Through tonight's vigil, I hope that we can go beyond individual devotion and create one great flow of devotion

together.

May today also be a time in which we love our Heavenly Parent, love the [True Parents](#), love one another, and offer devotion in return.

Even now, thinking of our [True Mother](#) enduring the cold weather, let us be grateful for the precious daily life given to us and live with a heart of appreciation.

Wishing peace and happiness always upon your families, I will conclude here.

Thank you.

See also [Mother Han: Prosecutors' Narrative Hard to Prove](#)

See also [Gingrich Pressures Seoul to Free Mother Han \(82\)](#)

Featured image above: Hoon-sook Moon speaking 24th November 2025 in Gapyeong, South Korea. Screenshot from live transmission by [FFWPU](#).

See also [Inside the Detention Center: A 10-Minute Visit](#)

See also [Health Concerns: 82-Year-Old Pretrial Detainee](#)

See also [Complaint Filed Against Lead Special Prosecutor](#)

See also [In Tiny Solitary Cell: Irreversible Harm Caused](#)

See also [Mother Han Briefly Released for Medical Reasons](#)

See also [Message of Religious Unity from Detention Cell](#)

See also [Over 50 Days in Vigil Outside Detention Center](#)

Related to it began with one flower: [Mother Han's December Trial: Long Detention Ahead](#)

Also related to it began with one flower: [A 10-Minute Visit to Mother Han in Detention](#)

Also related to it began with one flower: [Denying Allegations: Hak Ja Han \(82\) in Inquiry](#)

Also related to it began with one flower: [SKorean Court's Sharp Criticism of Prosecutors](#)

And also related to it began with one flower: [Detention: Harsh Cell Conditions Spark Outcry](#)

More, related to it began with one flower: [Ugly: Arrest Warrant Sought for Hak Ja Han \(82\)](#)

And more, related to it began with one flower: [Critics Warn of "Authoritarian Drift" in SKorea](#)

Even more, related to it began with one flower: [Court Decision to Prolong Detention Condemned](#)

Still more, related to it began with one flower: [Co-Founder, 82, Questioned 9 Hours by Prosecutors](#)

Also related to it began with one flower: [Democratic Party's Assault on Family Federation](#)

And even more, related to it began with one flower: [Mother Han \(82\) in Poor Health in Damp, Cold Cell](#)

And still more, related to it began with one flower: [Korean Crisis: "True Democracy Must Serve Heaven"](#)

And yet more, related to it began with one flower: [Faith Leaders Protest State Assault on Religion](#)

Also related to it began with one flower: [News Release Blasts Indictment of Hak Ja Han, 82](#)

More, related to it began with one flower: [70 Years On: Detention History Repeats Itself](#)

And more, related to it began with one flower: [Trump Raises Alarm Over Church Raids in Korea](#)

Even more, related to it began with one flower: [Mike Pompeo Calls Probe of Co-Founder "Lawfare"](#)

Still more, related to it began with one flower: [Korean Faith Crackdown: USA Urged to Confront It](#)

Yet more, related to it began with one flower: [Korean Bribery Scandal: Media Clears Federation](#)

And also related to it began with one flower: [Raids Blur Line Between Justice and Politics](#)

More, related to it began with one flower: [Heavy-Handed Raid on Sacred Sites Condemned](#)

And more, related to it began with one flower: [Scholar Sounds Alarm: State Raiding the Sacred](#)

Even more, related to it began with one flower: [Raids as Political Spectacle and Media Trials](#)

And even more, related to it began with one flower: [Religious Freedom: 330 Faith Leaders Speak Up](#)

Yet more, related to it began with one flower: [Yonhap: Repeated Allegations Create Public Bias](#)

Still more, related to it began with one flower: [Japan Following the Way of China](#)

And still more, related to it began with one flower: [Warning of Threat from CCP Fearing Korean Unity](#)

And also related to it began with one flower: [Japan's Dissolution Case Echoes China's Playbook](#)

« Previous Mother Han: Prosecutors' Nar... Next Gingrich Pressures Seoul To F... »