

FFWPU Europe and Middle East: Ahn Ho-yeol says S Korea in Crisis – Democracy Must Serve Heaven

Knut Holdhus
October 9, 2025



Ahn Ho-yeol, former media spokesperson of the [Family Federation](#) in South Korea, delivering his message in gapyeong, South Korea October 9, 2025

In comment on South Korean crisis, "Godism" is held up as path to true democracy and peace

Part 1 of a speech by Ahn Ho-yeol (안호열), former media spokesperson of the [Family Federation](#) in South Korea, at a prayer vigil in [Gapyeong](#), South Korea on 9th October 2025. Translated from the transcription of the original Korean.

A photograph of an elderly couple, Father Moon and Mother Han, smiling. Father Moon is on the left, wearing a grey suit and a patterned tie. Mother Han is on the right, wearing a light-colored top. They are both looking towards the camera.

[Father Moon](#) and [Mother Han](#) devoted their entire life to peace, promoting "Godism" [See editor's note 1 below] as solution not only for Korea, but the world

- 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](#)
- Today's topic is "A True Democracy That Serves Heaven."
- Our [True Mother](#) has dedicated her entire life

to realizing a world of peace, yet she said,

"Korean democracy should not treat me this way. Is this all that Korean democracy amounts to?"

Those words are profoundly serious. Why? Because throughout his life, [True Father](#) did not advocate a democracy centered on human beings, but one centered on [God](#).

He proclaimed "Godism" [See editor's note 1 below] - a form of democracy guided by divine principles.

When Korea was in turmoil - divided between the left and the right, between pro-America and anti-America, between pro-Japan and anti-Japan, and endlessly entangled in the issue of "cleansing old evils" - [True Father](#) was not concerned merely about the physical division of the land. He worried far more about the division of thought, the division of the nation, and the division of faith.

Therefore, he continuously proclaimed Godism [See editor's note 1 below], Head-wing thought (두익사상 - 頭翼思想) [See editor's note 2 below], and the vision of a world of interdependence, mutual prosperity, and universally shared values.

In that context, Heaven - our Heavenly Parent who loves and has chosen this nation - sent us the [Only Begotten Daughter](#), the embodiment of the Holy Spirit, the [True Mother](#).

Heaven believed that if this nation could just follow and attend the [True Parents](#), it could surely become the nation that Heaven desires. But now, we ask:

"Why is this happening to our [True Mother](#), who has lived her entire life for the liberation of our Heavenly Parent, for human peace, and for the salvation of humanity? Why is this happening?"

We will remember, and we will not forget. We must never forget. On the morning of 18th July, I heard the news and drove up here. There were about twenty people gathered, and I joined them. We prayed, sang the holy songs of [Cheonil-Guk](#), and declared that we would guard [Heaven's lineage](#). We shouted our determination with tears in our eyes.



Police buses arrived one after another at the [Family Federation](#) HQ in [Gapeong](#), South Korea July 18, 2025, each one full of police

But even as we stood there praying, police buses arrived one after another, surrounding the area like a blockade. One officer came up and asked,

"Who are you people? Why are you here?"

We said,

"We are here to pray for [True Mother](#)'s safety."

He looked puzzled and said,

"You can't be here."

I replied,

"We are not protesting, we are praying."

But they pushed us back, saying we were causing obstruction.

At that moment, my heart broke. Is this what Korean democracy has come to? Have we now reached a point where even prayer - a simple act of faith - is treated like a crime?

The [True Mother](#), the embodiment of [God's ideal](#) of love, is being treated as though she were a criminal. She, who has built schools, media foundations, peace organizations, and relief movements across the world - who has fed the hungry, rebuilt war-torn nations, and embraced the despised and the forgotten - now finds herself confined by the very nation she has loved and served.



From a prayer vigil in front of Seoul Detention Center September 28. 2025

"Brothers and sisters", we must ask:

"What kind of democracy is this?"

A true democracy must protect the rights of faith, of conscience, and of love. It must serve Heaven first. But when the media twist the truth, when the prosecutors distort the law, and when politicians remain silent - we must ask ourselves,

"Then who truly governs this country today? Is it the politicians? Is it the prosecutors? Is it the media?"



A group of demonstrators protesting the detention of [Mother Han](#) outside Seoul Detention Center October 3, 2025

If we know Heaven's will, and we know the [True Parents](#), yet we remain silent, then we are committing a sin before Heaven. Silence in the face of injustice is not neutrality - it is complicity. When the righteous are silent, evil gains power. [True Father](#) always said:

"When you see injustice, you must speak out even if your voice trembles. When you see unrighteousness, you must stand against it even if you stand alone."

That is the path of Heaven's sons and daughters. That is the path of those who have inherited [True Parents'](#) heart.

Do you think [True Mother](#) is enduring this situation because she is powerless? No. She is enduring because she is protecting Heaven's [providence](#). Just as Jesus silently endured the cross to fulfill [God's](#) will, [True Mother](#) is now walking a path of indescribable sorrow to protect Heaven's foundation on earth.

But Heaven is watching. The ancestors who toiled for this nation's restoration are watching. And the entire spirit world is watching to see who among us will stand with Heaven, and who will remain silent out of fear.

Therefore, brothers and sisters, we must choose. Will we bow to worldly power, or will we uphold Heavenly law? Will we remain silent, or will we testify to the truth of the [True Parents](#)?

The road may be narrow, and we may face persecution. But that road - the road of loyalty to Heaven - is the path of [God's](#) will, the path of the [True Parents](#), and the path of a true democracy.

To be continued. Part 2 coming soon.

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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](#)

[Editor's note 1: "Godism" (하나님주의) is one of the central philosophical and theological ideas associated with [Sun Myung Moon](#) (문선명) and the Unification movement. 하나님 (Hananim) = "[God](#)" (the personal, loving Creator). 주의 (主義) = "-ism" or "principle/ideology". So 하나님주의 (Godism) literally means "the ideology centered on [God](#)".

[Sun Myung Moon](#) presented Godism as a third ideological alternative to capitalism and communism, especially during the Cold War. It was meant to be a moral and spiritual worldview that could reconcile left and right, transcending materialistic and human-centered ideologies.

This is closely connected with his idea of Head-Wing Thought (두익사상) [See editor's note 2 below] - where Godism serves as the core spiritual content, and Head-Wing Thought serves as the social-political application.

The core principles of Godism:

[God](#)-centered humanism - Humanity's ultimate purpose is not self-centered fulfillment but living for the sake of others, reflecting [God's](#) heart of love.

Dual purpose of life - Each individual exists both for personal perfection (becoming one with [God](#) in love) and for the good of others (family, society, and the world).

[Family as the school of love](#) - [True love](#) begins in the family and expands to all levels of human relationships, reflecting [God's](#) parental heart.

Unity of [science and religion](#) - Godism seeks to harmonize spiritual truth and scientific understanding under a divine purpose.

Overcoming ideological conflict - By centering politics and economics on [God's](#) love, Godism proposes peace through moral renewal, not domination or class struggle.]

[Editor's note 2: Head-wing thought (두익사상 - 頭翼思想) is a concept coined by [Sun Myung Moon](#). 두 (頭) = "head", 익 (翼) = "wing", 사상 (思想) = "thought" or "ideology". So 두익사상 literally means "Head-Wing Thought."

It was developed by [Sun Myung Moon](#) (Co-Founder of the [Family Federation](#)) and his followers as a philosophical framework intended to transcend and harmonize left-wing (liberal/socialist) and right-wing (conservative/capitalist) ideologies - hence the "head" guiding both "wings".]

[Editor's note 3: "Interdependence, mutual prosperity, and universally shared values" (상호의존, 상생, 공의) is one of the most important expressions of [Sun Myung Moon](#)'s and [Hak Ja Han](#)'s social philosophy, and it encapsulates the ethical foundation of their "Head-Wing Thought" (두익사상) [See editor's note 2].

Literally, 상호의존 (相互依存) means "mutual dependence". All beings exist in relationship, not isolation. Human society and the universe are based on interdependence.

The literal meaning of 상생 (相生) is mutual giving life / co-prosperity. True prosperity arises when all parties benefit - not through competition, but cooperation.

A literal translation of 공의 (公義) would be "public justice" or "universal righteousness". This is the moral foundation that aligns individual and collective good with [God](#)'s love and truth.

Together, they form a trinity of social principles that describe the ideal structure of relationships in a [God](#)-centered world. This threefold ideal - interdependence, mutual prosperity, and universally shared values - expresses the ethical and structural order of a society grounded in Godism (하나님주의) [See editor's note 1] and Head-Wing Thought (두익사상) [See editor's note 2].

Interdependence means that society and the cosmos operate through harmonious give-and-take. It rejects the materialist idea of conflict (as in Marxism) and instead sees cooperation as the essence of existence.

Mutual prosperity signifies that economic life should aim for shared benefit, not exploitation. True prosperity comes from [living for the sake of others](#), ensuring everyone's well-being.

The meaning of "universally shared values" is that moral and social systems must reflect [God](#)'s universal principles of justice and love. This provides a common moral ground transcending ideology, race, and religion.

The concept is sometimes described as the ideological foundation for the "[Kingdom of Heaven](#) on Earth" envisioned by [Sun Myung Moon](#) and [Hak Ja Han](#).]

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Media-Driven Religious Cleansing In Japan Today

- October 8, 2025
- Knut Holdhus



Evil media-driven religious cleansing: How public opinion was turned against the large faith minority the Family Federation



The head table at the side event 26th September in Room 11 in the UN Office at Geneva, Switzerland organized by the Universal Peace Federation (UPF). Photo: UPF

A message by **Norishige Kondo**, Legal Affairs Director of the **Family Federation** in Japan, delivered at a civil society side event 26th September organized by the NGO the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) in conjunction with the 60th regular session of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC60) in Geneva. The side event had as theme “Japan and Human Rights – Religious Cleansing in Japan:

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My topic today is "The Danger of Religious Eradication Based on Public Opinion Manipulation".

The official name of our church is [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#). However, I think you are familiar with the former name the [Unification Church](#). So in my presentation, I will use the abbreviation of the former name: "UC". [\[See editor's note 1 below\]](#)

On 8th



Both opposed by left-leaning mainstream media: Here, former Prime Minister Shinzō Abe meeting with then President-elect Donald Trump at Trump Tower, 17th November 2016. Photo: [首相官邸ホームページ](#) / Wikimedia Commons. License: [CC Attr 4.0 Int](#)

July 2022, former Prime Minister Abe was assassinated. The suspect claimed his motive was his mother's donations to the [UC](#) two decades earlier, which had "led to the collapse of his family." He also resented Abe for sending a video message to UPF, an affiliated organization of the [UC](#).

But can such an excuse for murder really be accepted?

Nevertheless, an anti-[UC](#) lawyers network immediately took advantage of this incident to launch attacks on the [UC](#).

Let me explain the basic stance of the major media in Japan. Japan's major media outlets are in general left-leaning. They tend to be hostile to conservative politicians such as former Prime Minister Abe. In fact, just as the mainstream media in the United States strongly opposed President Trump, the Japanese major media consistently opposed Prime Minister Abe.

Minority religions also became convenient targets for such attacks since criticizing "cults" was a way to boost rankings.

Because the [UC](#) and its affiliated organizations took an anti-communist stance and actively campaigned for the enactment of an anti-espionage law, the media were particularly eager to criticize the [UC](#).



3 leading activist leftwing lawyers from the anti-UC lawyers' network called National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales – from left: Masaki Kito, Hiroshi Watanabe, Hiroshi Yamaguchi. Photo: Screenshot / [Bitter Winter](#)

Knowing the tendencies of the media, the anti-[UC](#) lawyers' network exploited the Abe incident to attack the [UC](#), creating a false impression of the [UC](#). They categorically labeled the [UC](#) as a "great evil" and the cause of Abe's assassination. They gave the impression that the [UC](#) was still causing massive economic damage nationwide. The lawyers' network spread propaganda that the [UC](#) was a "dangerous cult", that all [UC](#) members were victims under "mind control", and that all donations constituted victimization.

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The lawyers' manipulation of public opinion succeeded, and the Japanese society came to be dominated by the perception that the UC was nothing less than a heinous criminal organization.

In Japan, being an island nation, society places strong pressure on individuals to conform. During World War II, anyone who opposed the war was condemned as unpatriotic.

Likewise, after the Abe incident, members of the Diet who had attended UC-related events or even just sent a simple congratulatory message, were harshly criticized in the media and pressured to issue apologies.

Under this sustained campaign, Prime Minister Kishida finally declared that the *Liberal Democrat Party* (LDP) would cut ties to the UC.

Later, we found a table published on the website of the *Consumer Affairs Agency*, showing the number of consultations received by consumer centers concerning the UC compared to the total number of consultations.

According to this data, in June 2022, just before the Abe incident, consultations concerning the UC accounted for merely 0.003% of the total.

This bar chart compares the number of consultations handled by consumer centers regarding Japanese major new religious groups, including the UC.

Our lawyer recently researched it and according to it, in 2021, the year before the Abe assassination incident, the number of consultations concerning the UC was 27, whereas Japan's largest new religious group accounted for 67 cases, more than twice as many as the UC. The UC was only third or fourth among them.

Later, a periodical [Consumer Law News] was found in which a major lawyer of the anti-UC network stated that the number of consultations related to the UC had declined. He said they were struggling, being overwhelmed with consultations from small unfamiliar groups rather than UC-related consultations.

The fact that only the UC became the target of attacks can be explained by nothing else than political motives.

In principle, when the government finds its decision was wrong, it should correct its course. However, like large objects such as a train, once it begins to move, it cannot stop easily. And the government didn't stop.

In October 2022, the government abruptly changed its interpretation of the *Religious Corporations Act* overnight, declaring that even civil torts [civil wrongs causing alleged harm] could constitute grounds for dissolution.

The government enacted new laws and policies:

- a new law to restrict solicitation of donations
- a new law to promote claims against the UC
- a governmental decision on anti-UC instruction in schools.



Finally, on 13th October 2023, the government filed a lawsuit seeking the dissolution of the UC. They even submitted fabricated evidence to the court.

Instead of giving up the lawsuit, in court, the UC exposed the fabrication of evidence.

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Consumer Affairs Agency, Government of Japan
Logo of the Consumer Affairs Agency (CAA) of Japan, an administrative agency under the Ministry for Consumer Affairs and Food Safety. Under a law enacted on 10th December 2022, the Consumer Affairs Agency gained authority over matters related to donations between religious organizations and their followers. Previously, the Agency for Cultural Affairs held sole jurisdiction over all administrative matters involving religious organizations. This legislation aims to address issues such as donations to new religious movements like the *Unification Church*. Photo: 消費者庁 / Wikimedia Commons. Public domain image



Changing the law overnight: Former Prime Minister **Fumio Kishida**. Here, at press conference 14th August 2024. Photo: 首相官邸 (PMO) / Wikimedia Commons. License: CC Attr 4.0 Int. Cropped



Taro Kono, government minister who brought extreme leftwing lawyer Masaki Kito, who is hostile to the [Family Federation](#), in as special advisor to the Kishida government. Photo (2019): Kuhlmann / MSC / Wikimedia Commons.
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Normally, the courts should have dismissed the dissolution petition (request).

Instead, it recognized as ground for dissolution – based merely on speculation – that there must be unknown victims, while it recognized that there were few actual civil cases. Thus, they valued false impression over facts.

The manipulation of public opinion also reached local governments. Several local assemblies adopted resolutions declaring the cutting of ties with the [UC](#).

In Fukuoka City, the government decided not to allow [UC](#) and its related groups to [rent public facilities](#). As a result, the [UC](#) could no longer hold Christmas gatherings and even

peaceful marches were considered obstructive.

In Shimane Prefecture, support for volunteer activities by [UC](#) members was terminated. In fact, local authorities went as far as to order the removal of flowers planted by children as part of their volunteer work.

In Yamaguchi Prefecture, [UC](#) members were refused to eat at a restaurant.

When the [UC](#) or its affiliated organizations filed defamation lawsuits to restore their honor, the courts dismissed them all.



Protesting the coercive faith-breaking (deprogramming) business in Japan. Toru Goto (second from the right, front row) and others from the [National Association of Abduction, Confinement, and Forced Deconversion Victims](#) participating in a protest march, 10th February 2025, Sugunami Ward, Tokyo. Photo: Yasuhiro Uno (宇野泰弘)

One of the abnormal cases was [UC](#) member Toru Goto's case. He had been a victim of deprogramming [\[See editor's note 2 below\]](#) for 12 years and five months and he sued the deprogrammers. In 2014, during his case, the UN recommended that Japan act against deprogramming [\[See editor's note 2 below\]](#).

As a result, he ultimately won his case at the Supreme Court in 2015. However, after the Abe assassination case, an anti-[UC](#) journalist announced in a TV program that Mr. Goto had simply been a social recluse (hikikomori), which meant that he had won the deprogramming [\[See editor's note 2 below\]](#) case by a false claim.

Mr. Goto [filed a defamation lawsuit](#). At the [first instance](#), he won, but at the second instance, the court [reversed the ruling](#) based on the testimonies of the very defendants of the deprogramming [\[See editor's note 2 below\]](#) case – the deprogrammers.

It can be said that Japan as a whole is completely dominated by false impressions of the [UC](#). This problem has even influenced actions in a neighboring country. Under the prevailing social climate that "cults" must not be allowed to influence politics, even Mrs. [Hak Ja Han](#), the Co-Founder of the [UC](#), was [arrested](#) in South Korea.

Persecuting people who hold a certain faith based solely on manipulated impressions is like the Holocaust.

We sincerely request the protection of our human rights from the international community.

Thank you for your attention.

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Featured image above: Norishige Kondo, Legal Affairs Director of the [Family Federation](#) in Japan, delivering his message at a civil society side event 26th September in room 11 in the UN Office at Geneva, Switzerland.

[Editor's note 1: In Japan, the approval by the authorities for the [Unification Church](#) to change its name to [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#) was given in 2015.]

[Editor's note 2: Coercive faith-breaking ("deprogramming") in Japan refers to the practice of coercively attempting to separate individuals from their religious affiliations or beliefs, typically through intervention by family members, professional faith-breakers (deprogrammers) or organizations hostile to new religious movements (NRMs). This phenomenon often targets members of such movements, e.g. relatively large faiths like the [Family Federation](#) or Jehovah's Witnesses, but also smaller groups like Happy Science (Kōfuku no Kagaku) and other newer religious movements.



Also subject to faith-breaking attempts: Members of [Soka Gakkai](#). Here students belonging to the faith in 2001. Photo: Wikimedia Commons. License: [CC ASA 3.0 Unp](#). Cropped

However, also Soka Gakkai, a Buddhist-based lay organization with more than 8 million Japanese members, and affiliated with Nichiren Buddhism, has occasionally been subject to faith-breaking attempts.

The practice gained attention in the latter half of the 20th century, particularly in the 1980s and 1990s. Parents or concerned family members often hired faith-breakers who taught them how to abduct and forcibly detain believers. Almost all such cases involved confining the individual believer and cutting him or her off from the religious community. During the confinement, the believer was subjected to intense questioning or indoctrination designed to break his or her faith. The aim was to "rescue" the person from what the family often had been tricked by faith-breakers or lawyers to regard as harmful influence from the religious organization.

Critics of forced de-conversion argue that it violates fundamental human rights, including freedom of thought, religion, and association. Reports of psychological trauma and accusations of unlawful detention have sparked debates over its ethical and legal implications. In response, some religious groups, particularly NRMs, have lobbied for greater protections against such practices.

Japanese courts have been inconsistent in addressing cases of coercive faith-breaking. While some verdicts have condemned the practice as illegal detention, others have been more lenient, citing family concerns about "mental health" or alleged "exploitation" as mitigating factors.]

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