

FFWPU Europe and Middle East: Holy Mother Han Released 34 Days on Medical Grounds

Knut Holdhus
March 27, 2026



Artistic impression of [Hak Ja Han](#) being granted medical release. Illustration: ChatGPT,



Seoul court grants Hak Ja Han third detention suspension - the longest release yet - until 30th April for urgent medical treatment

On 27th March 2026, South Korean broadcaster [MBC News reported](#) that [Hak Ja Han](#) (한학자), the co-founder and current head of the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#) - in Korea also called [Unificationism](#) (통일교) - was granted a third suspension of detention by the Seoul Central District Court.



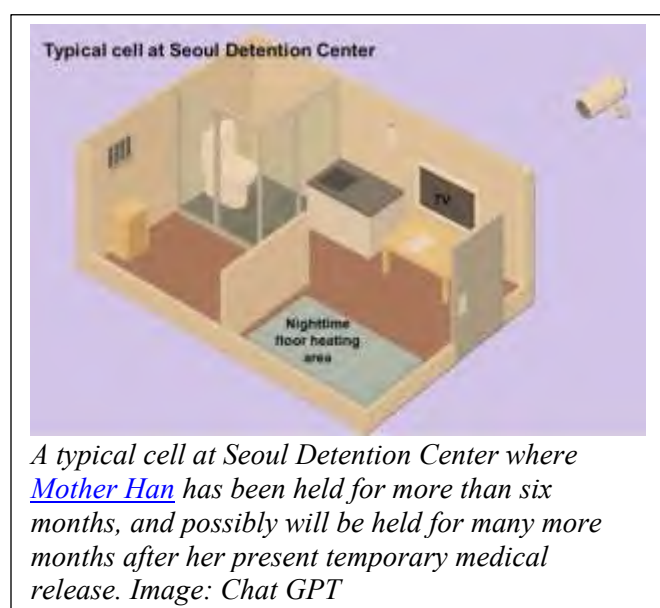
The gate to the Seoul Detention Center, where [Mother Han](#) has been held since September 22, 2025 Nov. 2025)

According to the [MBC News report](#) by Cha Hyeon-jin (차현진), the decision allows her temporary release until 30th April, marking the longest such suspension she has received to date. [Hak Ja Han](#) - also

called [Mother Han](#) - is widely regarded as a central figure in ongoing allegations of improper ties between religious organizations and political power, making the court's repeated decisions to grant release a matter of considerable public attention.

The court's 27th Criminal Division approved [Mother Han](#)'s request on a conditional basis, meaning that although she will be released from custody, her freedom is tightly restricted. According to the ruling, she must remain in the hospital where she is currently receiving treatment throughout the duration of the suspension. This type of conditional release reflects the court's attempt to balance humanitarian concerns with the need to preserve the integrity of ongoing legal proceedings.

In South Korea, a "suspension of detention" (구속집행정지) is a legal mechanism that permits the temporary release of a detained defendant under exceptional circumstances. It is most commonly granted when a defendant is suffering from a serious illness requiring sustained medical care, or when urgent personal matters - such as attending a close family member's funeral - make continued detention impractical or inhumane. Importantly, this measure does not terminate or weaken the underlying charges; rather, it pauses the physical detention while the judicial process continues. Courts typically impose strict conditions, such as confinement to a medical facility, restrictions on communication, or limits on travel, to mitigate risks of flight or evidence tampering.



[Mother Han](#)'s case illustrates how this mechanism can be used repeatedly when health concerns persist. Her [first suspension of detention](#) was granted in November 2025, when her legal team argued that she required immediate and ongoing medical treatment that could not be adequately provided in detention facilities. The court accepted this claim and allowed a short-term release, reportedly limited to a brief period necessary for stabilization and evaluation. A [second suspension](#) followed in February 2026, again on medical grounds. While similar in justification, that extension was also relatively short, suggesting that the court was proceeding cautiously and reassessing her condition at each stage.

The third suspension, granted on 27th March 2026, differs notably in its duration. Extending until 30th April, it is significantly longer than the earlier approvals. This likely reflects a combination of factors: the persistence or possible worsening of [Mother Han](#)'s medical condition, the accumulation of medical documentation supporting the need for sustained treatment, and the court's growing acceptance that short, incremental extensions may be insufficient. At the same time, by requiring her to remain hospitalized, the court maintains a controlled environment that limits the possibility of interference with the case.

The decision underscores the tension inherent in high-profile legal proceedings involving prominent figures. On one hand, courts must ensure that defendants receive adequate medical care and are treated in accordance with humanitarian standards. On the other, courts must safeguard public confidence in the fairness and rigor of the justice system, particularly in high-profile cases involving famous persons. [Mother Han](#)'s repeated suspensions of detention - culminating in this longer release - highlight how South Korean courts navigate these competing imperatives through conditional and closely monitored measures rather than outright release.

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Accelerated Trial Schedule For Mother Han (83)

March 27, 2026 • Knut Holdhus



Seoul court fast-tracks complex proceedings in Hak Ja Han trial as new phase with intensive hearings schedule is announced

The South Korean online religious news outlet Amen News, also known by its Korean name "Kyohe Wa Shinang" (교회와 신앙 - Church and Faith), published 26th March a



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[report](#) with details about the progression of the legal proceedings surrounding [Hak Ja Han](#) (한학자), the co-founder and current leader of the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#), formerly the [Unification Church](#).

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[Amen News](#), known for writing for Christian audiences about perceived theological “risks” within newer religious groups, explains that the trial against the detained [Hak Ja Han](#) – also called [Mother Han](#) – have entered a structured and closely monitored phase. [Seoul Central District Court](#) has formally announced an intensive trial schedule extending from late March through mid-June 2026. The case marks one of the most consequential legal challenges faced by a major religious figure in recent Korean history.

According to court arrangements, a total of thirteen hearings have been scheduled between 27th March and 12th June. This timetable seems to reflect a deliberate judicial strategy: proceedings will unfold at a relatively brisk pace, with one to two hearings per week, many of which will focus on witness examination. The structured cadence suggests that the court aims to avoid unnecessary procedural delays while maintaining continuity in evidentiary review.



- **Friday 27th March**
- **Tuesday 31st March**
- **Friday 10th April**
- **Friday 17th April**
- **Friday 24th April**
- **Tuesday 28th April**
- **Friday 1st May**
- **Friday 8th May**
- **Friday 15th May**
- **Friday 22nd May**
- **Friday 29th May**
- **Friday 5th June**
- **Friday 12th June**

The court hearings schedule for [Mother Han](#) from 27th March to 12th June 2026. Illustration: [FFWPU](#)

The early phase of the trial is particularly witness-heavy. Beginning with a single witness on 27th March, the schedule quickly escalates to multiple testimonies per session, including days with as many as five witnesses. Through April and into May, hearings consistently feature three to five witnesses at a time, indicating that the prosecution is likely front-loading testimonial evidence to establish a detailed factual record. This approach is typical in complex cases involving finance, where layered transactions, institutional structures, and chains of responsibility must be clarified through cumulative testimony.

According to the [Amen News report](#), by late May and early June, the schedule appears to shift slightly, with several dates listed without specified witness counts. This may indicate time reserved for cross-examination, evidentiary disputes, or preliminary closing arguments. It is also possible that the court is allowing flexibility for overruns or additional witnesses, a common necessity in multi-defendant cases involving organizational leadership.

From an analytical standpoint, the duration of the trial itself is unlikely to conclude strictly within the 12th June timeframe. While these thirteen hearings represent the initial evidentiary phase, comparable cases in South Korea – particularly those involving high-profile defendants and complex financial allegations – often extend beyond initial schedules. Additional hearings, procedural motions, and potential appeals could prolong the process into late 2026 or even beyond. Therefore, the current schedule should be interpreted as the opening segment of a longer judicial trajectory rather than a definitive endpoint.



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Layout of [Mother Han's](#) detention cell, compared to size of a Mini Cooper. Illustration: [The Monarch Report](#)

In South Korean criminal procedure, pre-trial detention can be extended in increments, subject to judicial review. Given the structured pace of hearings and the level of allegations, it is reasonable to anticipate that detention could continue at least through the primary evidentiary phase – that is, until mid-year – and potentially longer if the court determines that the risks of evidence tampering and flight outweigh the health risks posed by holding a frail octogenarian in poor health locked up in a tiny cell for a very long period.

However, it is not guaranteed that detention will last for the entirety of the trial. Defense counsel may file motions for bail or conditional release, particularly if the proceedings extend significantly or if the defense can argue that the risks justifying detention have diminished. Courts sometimes grant release under strict conditions, such as travel restrictions or financial guarantees, especially for elderly defendants or those with stable residences and limited flight risk. Whether such considerations will apply in this case remains uncertain.

Voices critical of the prolonged detention of and trial against the [83-year-old champion of world peace, family values](#), and Korean reunification tend to focus on harsh detention conditions, prolonged custody, or procedural intensity as concerns. The mainstream South Korean media tends, however, to interpret the long trial as an expression of a complex evidentiary record, or a high-stakes, carefully managed prosecution.

The announced trial schedule provides an important framework for what is likely to be a complex and extended legal process. Both the duration of the trial and the length of detention will ultimately depend on how the evidentiary phase unfolds, the volume of contested material, and judicial assessments of procedural fairness and risk. The coming months will therefore serve less as a conclusion and more as a critical foundation for the broader legal resolution of the case.

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