

## FFWPU Europe and Middle East: D Dunkley's The Persecuted Is The Peacemaker

Knut Holdhus  
September 10, 2026



*Rev. Demian Dunkley speaking in New York on September 6, 2026*

### **Message of Demian Dunkley: Stand up for the Mother of Peace! We're called to be peacemakers even in a time of trial and persecution**

On 6th September, Demian Dunkley, President of the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#) in North America, delivered a passionate address in the Grand Ballroom of the New Yorker Hotel in New York City. He advocated for a global "higher ground" by embracing the role of a peacemaker, exemplified by the life and current plight of [Hak Ja Han](#), referred to as "Mother of Peace" or [Mother Han](#).

Dunkley urged the attendees to rise to a higher ground by becoming true peacemakers, defining this role through spiritual commitment and a willingness to confront discomfort and injustice. His core message revolves around standing up for faith, freedom, and peace, particularly in solidarity with [Mother Han](#), who is presented as a living embodiment of these principles and is currently suffering unjust [detention](#).



*Rev. Demian Dunkley speaking in New York on September 6, 2026*

### **The Call to Be Peacemakers**

Jesus calls humanity to a "higher ground", requiring a willingness to change. Peacemakers, as described in Matthew 5, are "children of [God](#)" who are willing to enter uncomfortable places and speak the truth, even if it causes discomfort.

A peacemaker is a "change maker" and, historically, change makers are often not welcomed by those they seek to change, frequently facing persecution. Persecution, therefore, can be a sign of a true peacemaker.

Introducing [Mother Han](#) - The Mother of Peace

Born Hak-ja (crane child) in the northern part of Korea in 1943, her name symbolizes beauty, longevity, and peace. She was raised in a family deeply devoted to [God](#), viewing [God](#) as her Father. Her core identity is a "daughter of [God](#)", a peacemaker from birth.

Her mother had prophetic dreams of the devil attempting to take Hak-ja's life, and an angel instructing her to protect Hak-ja for a heavenly assignment.

At age five, her mother and grandmother were jailed in communist North Korea for their faith. Hak-ja's purity melted the guards' hearts, allowing visits.

At age six, she, her mother, and grandmother fled North Korea, enduring a dangerous 250km journey across muddy marshes and a heavily guarded border, where soldiers were ordered to shoot on sight. Her innocent singing led a soldier to lower his rifle and even offer them money to escape.

### **Defining Moment - The Korean War (Age 7)**



*The destroyed Han River Bridge, February 11, 1951*

During the Korean War, she witnessed the Han River bridge explosion in Seoul, where thousands of civilians and soldiers were killed as the South Korean army blew the bridge up to impede the North's advance.

This experience of being so close to death, narrowly escaping the blast, instilled in her a profound conviction: "War has to vanish forever from this world" and a resolve to "bring an end to this madness". This moment, Demian Dunkley suggests, solidified her determination to become the Mother of Peace.

### **The "Fruits" of a Peacemaker:**

[Mother Han](#) dedicated her life to faith, freedom, and peace, transcending racial, religious, and national divides.

She facilitated marriages between individuals from "enemy nations" and united religious, civic, and national leaders in the name of peace, based on the belief that [God](#) is our Heavenly Parent and we are all [God](#)'s children.

### **Addressing Historical Injustice**

Deeply heartbroken by atrocities like slavery committed in the name of Jesus, she journeyed to the "House of Slaves" on Goree Island, Senegal, weeping and praying in the "Door of No Return", through which the slaves were shipped across the Atlantic Ocean.

[Mother Han](#)'s act was a personal appeal to [God](#) for forgiveness and humanity's liberation from historical pain, aiming to "liberate Jesus" from false associations and foster global brotherhood and sisterhood.

### **Current Situation and Call to Action:**

For 482 days, the 83-year-old Mother of Peace has faced a travel ban, simultaneous [raids on her churches](#), [interrogation](#), [indictment](#), and [detention in a tiny cell](#) - likened to a Mini Cooper - leading to

hospitalization. Prosecutors sought a 13-year sentence; a judge issued two years, but prosecutors are appealing for more.

Reverend Dunkley asserts that her suffering is not just about her freedom, but a test of our faith, freedom, and willingness to stand for peace. She is not praying for herself, but for the world, hoping righteous people will stand up.



*Layout of [Mother Han's](#) detention cell, compared to size of a Mini Cooper, Illustration*

Dunkley implores all believers, particularly Unificationists, to break their silence and unite across political and theological divides. They must stand up with the Mother of Peace, exercise their freedom, speak the truth, and loudly declare: "Let her go!" This collective action is necessary to achieve true freedom and peace for all.

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Text: Knut Holdhus, editor

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# Preserve The FFWPU Bridge To North Korea

September 9, 2026 • The News Desk

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North Korea expert and special US envoy urges South Korea to preserve the bridge to North Korea built by the Family Federation and its founders

Tokyo, 7<sup>th</sup> September 2026 – Published as an article in the Japanese newspaper *Sekai Nippo*.  
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## Op-Ed

# Family Federation Built Special Ties with North Korea

## South Korean Government Should Cooperate Toward Inter-Korean Reconciliation

by the editorial department of *Sekai Nippo*

**Joseph DeTrani, former U.S. special envoy for negotiations with North Korea**

In 2005, the *Family Federation for World Peace and Unification* (formerly the *Unification Church*), founded by Rev. Sun Myung Moon and his wife, *Hak Ja Han*, established the NGO *Universal Peace Federation* (UPF). UPF has maintained close relations with North Korea.

See also *Embracing Role of Peacemaker When Persecuted*

Since Rev. Moon's death in 2012, *Hak Ja Han* has led the *Family Federation*. Her recent sentencing to two years in prison on bribery charges must surely have caused some consternation among the North Korean leadership.



*Father Moon* (1920-2012) and *Mother Han* with North Korean President *Kim Il-sung* (1912-1994) at his presidential residence in Heungnam, North Korea on 6<sup>th</sup> December 1991. Photo: FFWPU

In 1991, the couple visited North Korea and developed a close relationship with its then-leader, *Kim Il-sung* (1912-1994). When Rev. Moon died, *Kim Il-sung*'s grandson, North Korean leader *Kim Jong-un*, expressed his condolences to the bereaved family and sent a wreath. He also posthumously awarded Rev. Moon the *Fatherland Reunification Prize*.

At the UPF World Summit held in 2022, marking the 10th anniversary of Rev. Moon's death, *Kim Jong-un* again sent a wreath to *Hak Ja Han* and conveyed his condolences. His message stated: "Rev. Moon devoted



Logo of the *Sekai Nippo*

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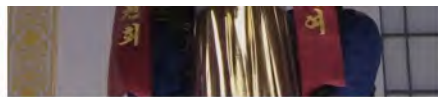
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himself to world peace. [...] His achievements and legacy will be remembered forever."



*Large floral display from North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, presented to [Mother Han](#) at the [celebration of her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday](#) on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2023. Screenshot from live transmission via [PeaceLink TV](#)*

One of [UPF's](#) principal objectives is the peaceful reunification of North and South Korea. This was demonstrated by [Rev.](#) and [Mrs. Moon's](#) meeting with Kim Il-sung in 1991 and was reaffirmed when Kim Jong-un conveyed his condolences in 2022.

The following year, however, North Korea formally adopted its policy of regarding the two Koreas as "two hostile states". In 2026, it enshrined this principle in its Constitution. This means that North Korea has officially abandoned the goal of reunification and has since defined inter-Korean relations as relations between two separate and hostile entities.

Attempts by the South Korean government under President Lee Jae-myung to resume dialogue with North Korea have failed.

The [Family Federation](#) has believers in more than 140 countries. Its members look to [Hak Ja Han](#) as their leader and support [UPF's](#) mission of promoting world peace and the peaceful reunification of North and South Korea.

[Hak Ja Han's prison sentence](#) has also raised another question: What will be the future status of the [Family Federation](#) and [UPF](#)?

Indeed, if the South Korean government were to consider dissolving these organizations, it would be perceived as an obvious attack on freedom of religion.

Regardless of whether one is religious or not, the democratic societies in which we live guarantee the right to practice one's faith freely.

Given that [UPF](#) has built good relations with North Korea, the South Korean government should cooperate with the [Family Federation](#) and [UPF](#) in order to rebuild relations with North Korea.

Tensions on the Korean Peninsula are extremely high. North Korea is currently cooperating militarily with Russia. North Korean combat troops have been deployed to Russia to support President Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine. North Korea is also supplying Russia with artillery shells and ballistic missiles, while it is believed to be receiving military-technology assistance from Russia in return.

This situation is by no means favorable to peace on the Korean Peninsula or stability in Northeast Asia.

[UPF](#) and [Hak Ja Han](#) have established unique relationships with North Korea and its leader, Kim Jong-un. The South Korean government should make use of these relationships and seek to resume dialogue with North Korea. Ultimately, it should aim for the peaceful reunification of the Korean Peninsula.

See also [Embracing Role of Peacemaker When Persecuted](#)

**Featured image** above: Official portrait of Ambassador Joseph R. DeTrani, former Associate Director of National Intelligence and former member of the Senior Intelligence Service of the CIA. He served as special envoy for the Six-Party Talks with North Korea from 2003 to 2006. Photo (2006): United States Department of State. [Public domain](#) image. Cropped

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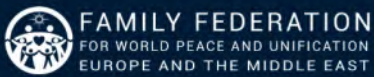
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