NOVEMBER 6, 2026 • ANNOUNCEMENTS

Update: True Mother's Situation



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I write to you with a heavy heart following the unexpected and unwelcome news that our beloved True Mother has now returned to the Seoul Detention Centre after the High Court revoked her bail yesterday. I know that all of us are feeling sorrow, shock, confusion and deep concern.

Fumiko and I share that pain, and we are praying for God's guidance. Above all, our hearts turn to True Mother. Let us surround her with our love and pray for her health, strength, and peace. Let us also care for one another, especially those who are finding this news particularly difficult to bear.

I encourage you to take time to read or watch the apologies offered last night during the Vigil Prayer by Shin Chul Moon and President Song, and to receive them in a spirit of prayer and reflection. This afternoon, during today's Vigil Prayer, we expect to hear a further report from Yeon Ah Nim, who visited True Mother in detention earlier today.

These messages shared from Korea invite us not only to consider what has happened, but also to look within ourselves and renew our own prayer and devotion. Of course, we have many questions. How could this have happened? What has brought us to this point? Who is responsible? It is natural to seek answers, and we need not pretend that our concerns do not exist. Nor should we ever feel that honest and difficult questions in any way diminish our faith or our love for True Mother.

In the coming days, there will surely be an opportunity to reflect carefully on what has happened, to seek a clearer understanding, and to consider what we can do better. That reflection matters. Our call to unity now is not a call to set aside truth or responsibility, but to approach this crisis with humility, care, and the right spirit.

Rather than allowing uncertainty to draw us into speculation or blame, let us deepen our devotion, strengthen the bonds of our community, and bring our concerns honestly before Heavenly Parent. Each of us can offer something: a quiet daily prayer, a moment of sincere reflection, or a compassionate word to someone who is struggling.

We are confident that our families and communities throughout Europe will stand together in love. And as we do, let us pray for True Mother, for those carrying responsibilities in Korea, and for wisdom and compassion for all who are involved. May our unity be expressed not only in words, but in patience, kindness, and practical care for one another.

We do not yet have answers to all our questions. But we can choose how we respond today: with humble hearts, renewed devotion, and steadfast love. Let us walk through this difficult time together.

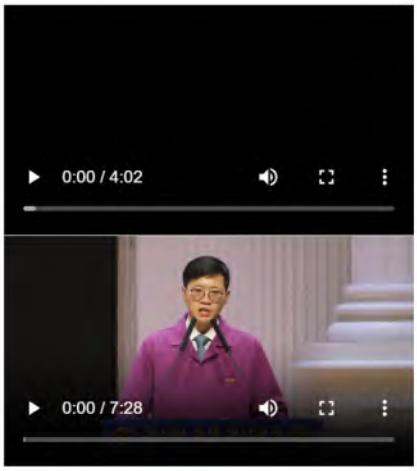
Sincerely

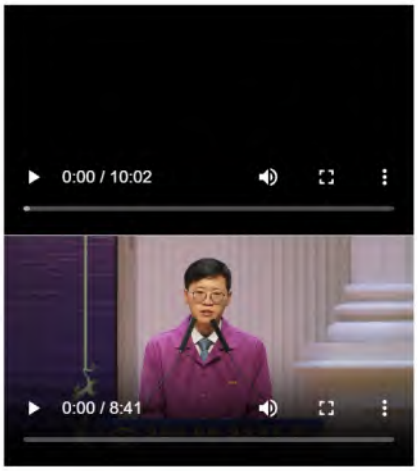
Michael & Fumiko Balcomb

Continental Director, FFWPU Heavenly Europe & the Middle East

Words on True Mother's Situation

Director Shinchul Moon, Dr Yeonah Moon, and Dr Yongcheon Song spoke at the Vigil Prayer meetings on Tuesday, 3 November, and Wednesday, 4 November 2026, to our international community.





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Questions and Answers about True Mother's Court Proceedings

Information for members | Updated 6 November 2026

Prepared by Bogdan Pammer | Updated from the earlier EUME-based briefing using the public sources listed at the end.

Current position
True Mother (Dr Hak Ja Han / Han Hak-ja) is in custody following the cancellation of her bail on 3 November. Her appeal against the two-year first-instance sentence remains ongoing. No appeal judgment or formally filed challenge to the bail cancellation has been verified for this update. [2][4][5]

What court proceedings are currently taking place?

The proceedings involve different allegations and stages. They should not be described as one general case or assumed to have the same outcome.

1. Political funds and gifts case – now on appeal. On 31 August 2026, the Seoul Central District Court imposed sentences totalling two years: one year for Political Funds Act offences and one year on counts under the Improper Solicitation and Graft Act and counts concerning alleged misuse of church funds. The prosecution had sought 13 years. Some counts resulted in acquittal or dismissal; the outcome was not a conviction on every allegation. [1]

Defence counsel filed an appeal on **4 September**, reported by Yonhap on 7 September. The prosecution also appealed. [2]

2. Mass political-party enrolment case. Separate proceedings name True Mother alongside Kim Keon-hee, Yoon Young-ho and Jeong Won-ju. Newsis listed a ninth hearing for 6 November. A hearing listing is not a judgment; no material outcome of that hearing has been verified for this update. [3]

3. Separate case concerning alleged misuse of church funds. True Mother and others have been indicted over alleged misappropriation of approximately 10.5 billion won. A first preparatory hearing is scheduled for **12 November at 11:00 KST**, before Seoul Central District Court Criminal Division 22. These remain allegations, not findings of guilt. [6]

What is the central question in the first case?

It concerns True Mother's personal criminal responsibility under the law applicable to each charge. The trial court made findings against her on several counts; the defence disputes her responsibility and is challenging the judgment. The appeal must address those findings and the evidence, rather than treating responsibility as established simply by association with others. [1][2]

When was bail granted and revoked, and is True Mother now in custody?

On **19 October 2026**, the appeal court granted conditional bail for medical treatment, restricting residence to Seoul Asan Medical Center and limiting contact to specified people, including medical personnel, lawyers and mobility assistants. [4]

Court decision: Following visits from the hospital to Cheon Jeong Gung in Gapyeong, Seoul High Court Criminal Division 13 revoked bail on **3 November 2026**, citing breach of the conditions and concern about possible destruction of evidence. It also ordered forfeiture of the **200 million won bail deposit**. In plain language, the state keeps the deposit rather than returning it. [4]

Defence position: Counsel said they understood the residence restriction but had interpreted temporary daytime outings as permissible. They said True Mother returned to hospital and had not stayed out overnight. The court did not accept that interpretation as a basis for maintaining bail. [4][7]

Custody: MBC reported that she returned to Seoul Detention Center on the night of **3 November, Korean time**. Its report was published shortly after midnight on 4 November; SBS also reported the return. [5][4]

> The bail decision concerns custody and compliance with bail conditions. It is **not an appeal judgment**. A judicial concern about possible destruction of evidence must not be described as a finding that evidence was actually destroyed.

Does the first-instance ruling conclude the matter?

No. It is a formal judicial decision and must be treated seriously, but it is being challenged on appeal. The court found personal criminal responsibility on the counts resulting in conviction; the defence disputes the case against True Mother. It would be inaccurate either to describe all matters as untested allegations or to say the appeal process has ended. [1][2]

What happens next?

The Seoul High Court's **5 November notice** confirms appeal hearings on **16 and 23 November, both at 15:30 KST**. Newsis describes the latter as the closing hearing, for final submissions, the prosecution's sentencing request and the defence's closing statements. **23 November is not a confirmed judgment date.** Hearing arrangements can change. [7][13]

A possible challenge to the bail cancellation has been mentioned in reporting. This update has not verified an actual filing. The appeal against the conviction and any challenge to the bail decision are separate procedural matters. [8]

What is the difference between personal, institutional and governance responsibility?

These questions may arise from related facts but require separate assessment. A weakness in governance does not automatically establish a leader's criminal guilt. Equally, findings against an individual should not be extended to organisations the court has not adjudicated.

Responsibility	Question to keep distinct
Personal criminal responsibility	What did the individual do, know, authorise or participate in, and what has the court found under the law applicable to each charge?
Institutional legal responsibility	Does a particular legal entity bear liability under the law applicable to it? An individual's conviction does not by itself settle that question.
Governance responsibility	Were financial controls, delegation, supervision and reporting adequate? What practical improvements and oversight are needed?

How has leadership responded?

In her **10 July 2026** closing statement, True Mother apologised as the leader of the Family Federation for controversy caused unintentionally and said such an incident must not happen again. This is her attributed statement, not a substitute for the court's assessment of the charges. [9]

At the **3 November prayer vigil**, Moon Shin-chul apologised to members for shortcomings in the leadership, according to JTBC's report published on 4 November. The apology should not be treated as an admission of the charges on True Mother's behalf. [8]

Korean association president **Song Yong-cheon** also apologised to members and pastors on 3 November. He said the Korean association respects the court's bail decision, acknowledged that it should have checked the conditions more carefully, and promised further information once counsel confirmed the next steps. FFWPU Korea published his remarks on **6 November**; Segye Ilbo had reported them on 4 November. The publication date does not make this a new 6 November statement. [10]

What governance commitments have been made?

On **11 December 2025**, Song Yong-cheon publicly apologised and acknowledged management responsibility for failing to detect and prevent misconduct. He announced reforms in political neutrality, financial transparency, governance and social responsibility. Kyunghyang, 11 December 2025; EUME reproduction of his statement, 13 December 2025.

FFWPU Korea's compliance declaration, dated **7 January 2026**, rejects unlawful political funding, calls for collective decision-making and internal challenge to improper instructions, and promises transparent financial records. It describes third-party auditing, financial disclosure and internal controls. FFWPU Korea states that it received **ISO 37001** anti-bribery and **ISO 37301** compliance management-system certification in May 2026. [11]

Certification report, posted 27 May 2026.

Certification concerns management systems; it does not determine the facts or legal responsibility in a particular court case. Acknowledging governance responsibility is not the same as admitting disputed criminal charges. Legal caution should not prevent honest improvement or clear communication.

How can we understand spiritual responsibility in this context?

Spiritual responsibility is broader than criminal or institutional legal responsibility. True Mother has consistently accepted ultimate responsibility for God's providence and called members to attend Heavenly Parent and help realise God's dream. As blessed families, we are called to join her in this endeavour. Faithful British members have done so for many years and continue to do so today. Thank you!

This spiritual posture of taking responsibility should not be confused with an assertion of individual guilt on the part of the general membership. For all of us, this moment invites prayer, unity, truthfulness and personal responsibility, together with support for transparent, lawful and ethical governance. Our love for True Parents calls us both to maintain faith in the realisation of God's dream and to embrace necessary institutional learning as we work together towards this goal.

> "In the 14th year of Cheon Il Guk, when we attend the Creator Heavenly Parent substantially, let us, the blessed families around the world, become true sons and daughters of Cheon Il Guk who fulfil our responsibility as the chosen people in unity with True Parents!"

The 2026 adaptation retained from the original Q&A. The motto was first proclaimed in 2025; the International Headquarters' New Year message explains its continuing relevance in 2026. Read the message (2 January 2026).

How should we describe the current position?

> **Suggested short description**
> "True Mother (Han Hak-ja) is appealing a first-instance judgment that imposed a total two-year prison sentence. She returned to custody on 3 November 2026 after the appeal court cancelled her bail. The appeal remains ongoing. FFWPU Korea's president has said the Korean association respects the bail decision and will update members when defence counsel confirms further steps."

Use "convicted at first instance; appeal ongoing", rather than "finally convicted" or "cleared". Do not describe the bail cancellation as a new conviction, a leadership apology as an admission of the underlying charges, or a possible legal challenge as a filed appeal.

Purpose and limits. This Q&A; provides member information, not legal advice. Procedural details rely on the sources below; the full court judgments, bail order and complete case files were not obtained. Future dates and custody arrangements should be checked again before distribution.

What have observers said about the political context and human-rights concerns?

International freedom-of-religion or belief advocates place True Mother's prosecution within South Korea's polarised post-Yoon political environment. Reuters reported on **31 August 2026** that her case was among investigations launched after Yoon Suk Yeol's removal following his declaration of martial law. That context does not itself establish improper political motivation. [14]

On **7 August 2026**, Human Rights Without Frontiers, CAP Liberté de Conscience, FOREF, CESNUR and Bitter Winter called for neutral, proportionate and humane treatment of elderly religious leaders, including True Mother and Shincheonji founder Lee Man-hee. They raised concerns about pretrial detention, due process and the treatment of religious minorities. [12]

These concerns must be read alongside subsequent events: True Mother was granted conditional bail on **19 October**; it was revoked on **3 November**. Earlier accounts must not imply uninterrupted detention. Her health, appropriate medical care and fair treatment remain legitimate concerns. [4]

Bitter Winter's position. Massimo Introvigne challenged the necessity of her arrest in September 2025. In July 2026, he criticised Justice Minister Jeong Seong-ho's reported references to inevitable "strict punishment" and "false prophets", arguing that such language prejudged proceedings and stigmatised religious leaders. After the 31 August verdict, he maintained that True Mother should have been acquitted. These are attributed advocacy and commentary positions, distinct from judicial findings. [15][16][17]

Other religious leaders. Lee Man-hee was detained over allegations of forcing followers to join the People Power Party. His defence denied coercion, intent and collusion at his first hearing on **21 September**; temporary release on health grounds was also authorised for 22 September. Pastor Son Hyun-bo received a six-month sentence, suspended for one year, on **30 January** for unlawful electioneering, including through church activities. Advocates see a wider pattern of pressure on conservative and minority religions; each case nevertheless requires separate examination of its evidence. [18][19][17]

Proposed dissolution powers. The National Assembly record checked on **6 November 2026** lists Civil Code Amendment Bill No. **2215932** at committee examination. It remains a proposal, not enacted law. The World Evangelical Alliance's **1 June statement**, reported on 19 June, warned that the bill could enable extensive administrative investigation, suspension or dissolution of religious organisations and transfer of their assets to the state. It questioned the precision of political-involvement criteria and the adequacy of safeguards. Korean Protestant organisations have also warned that ambiguous provisions could restrict legitimate civic expression. These are concerns about the proposal's possible effects. [20][21][22]

Wider scrutiny. In a **31 August opinion article**, Newt Gingrich described the conviction as a threat to religious liberty worldwide. The sources reviewed do not establish a court or international human-rights body's finding that these proceedings constitute religious persecution. This distinction does not diminish the seriousness of the concerns: due process, humane treatment, religious freedom and proportionate state action merit continuing independent scrutiny. [23]

Sources and further reading

Links are clickable. Dates below are publication or statement dates as indicated. Sources were checked on 6 November 2026. Agency and news reports describe proceedings; FFWPU statements express party positions; advocacy sources express their authors' assessments.

1. Newsis, 31 August 2026
First-instance sentence, findings and defence position.

2. Yonhap / Korea JoongAng Daily, 7 September 2026
Defence appeal filed 4 September; prosecution also appealed.

3. Newsis, 6 November 2026
Daily court schedule: separate mass party-enrolment proceedings.

4. Yonhap, 3 November; SBS, 4 November 2026
Bail revocation, deposit forfeiture and custody reporting.

5. MBC, 4 November 2026, 00:29 KST
Return to Seoul Detention Center on the night of 3 November.

6. Yonhap, 19 October 2026
Separate indictment for alleged misuse of church funds (10.5 billion won); 12 November preparatory hearing.

7. Newsis, 2 November 2026
Bail hearing, counsel's position and planned 16/23 November appeal hearings.

8. JTBC, 4 November 2026
Moon Shin-chul's 3 November apology; possible challenge to bail cancellation.

9. FFWPU-UK, statement dated 10 July 2026
True Mother's closing statement in Korean and English.

10. FFWPU Korea, posted 6 November 2026
Song Yong-cheon's apology at the 3 November vigil.

11. FFWPU Korea, compliance declaration dated 7 January 2026
Governance commitments and certification information on its official website.

12. Human Rights Without Frontiers, 7 August 2026
Joint advocacy statement on religious freedom and due process.

13. Seoul High Court, 5 November 2026
Official hearing notice for case 2026-no-2173: 16 and 23 November, 15:30 KST.

14. Reuters, 31 August 2026
Political context; full report syndicated by MarketScreener.

15. Bitter Winter, 22 September 2025
Introvigne's commentary on detention.

16. Bitter Winter, 2 July 2026
Commentary on the minister's reported remarks.

17. Bitter Winter, 31 August 2026
Introvigne's opinion on the verdict and wider religious context.

18. Asia Business Daily, 21 September 2026
Lee Man-hee's hearing and temporary medical release.

19. Chosun, 30 January 2026
Son Hyun-bo's suspended sentence for electioneering.

20. National Assembly, checked 6 November 2026
Official record: Bill 2215932, committee examination.

21. World Evangelical Alliance, 19 June 2026
Report of its 1 June statement on Bill 2215932.

22. The Korea Times, 17 April 2026
Korean Protestant objections to the proposed legislation.

23. Newt Gingrich, 31 August 2026
Washington Times opinion, republished by Familyfed Media on 1 September.

Additional corroboration: SBS English, 4 November (automated translation); Segye Ilbo, 4 November (Song's remarks). Governance and motto sources are also linked beside the relevant passages.