

FFWPU International: The footsteps of our members go to Seoul Detention Center

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Beloved Brothers and Sisters,

This weekend, footsteps of our members continue toward the Seoul Detention Center, where True Mother is being held. Gazing upon the sign above the firmly closed gates that reads "Establishment of Law and Order, Seoul Detention Center", our members ceaselessly gather, shedding tears and offering prayers. Seventy Years Ago Today, as I look upon our members, I imagine the same scene 70 years ago.

In 1955, True Father was imprisoned in Seodaemun Prison for three months as an untried detainee under false accusations. Seodaemun Prison, originally built as Gyeongseong Prison during the Japanese colonial period, was renamed several times after liberation as Seoul Prison and Seoul Penitentiary, housing both convicted prisoners and those awaiting trial. While True Father was held there awaiting trial, newspapers and magazines across the country ceaselessly published slanderous articles against the "Unification Church." Though society hurled accusations and criticism, our members flocked to Seodaemun Prison every day, yearning to see True Father.

In 1967, Korea's Judicial System was restructured, and the Seoul Detention Center was newly established in Anyang as a facility exclusively for pre-trial detainees.

In 1987, Seodaemun Prison closed, and the Seoul Detention Center in Anyang was relocated to its current site in Uiwang.

And now, seventy years later, this year 2025, True Mother has been imprisoned in the Seoul Detention Center.

We Who Live in 2025, it feels as though history is repeating itself, as if the suffering True Father has endured has now happened again upon us, with the Republic of Korea condemning the "Unification Church." To see True Parents walking this path of unjust confinement amid the prejudice of an unrighteous age fills us only with sorrow and remorse.

In 1955, the Unification Church was an unknown, tiny congregation, but seventy years later the Family Federation has grown into a Global Religion, with Blessed Families around the world attending True Parents. Yet even now, there are so many who do not know True Parents, who do not know the Family Federation. As we face ridicule and contempt from others, we realize all the more how much work remains for us to do.

Just as the tribulation at Seodaemun Prison became the foundation that allowed the roots of the Korean Church to grow deeper, so too must we overcome this present trial and march forward unwaveringly toward Heaven's Providence. Anchored in the words of True Parents "Forgive, Love, Unite" we must plant unshakable roots of faith. By practicing true love, we must draw near to those who still do not know us, who ridicule and despise us.

Beloved Brothers and Sisters,

When True Father was released from Seodaemun Prison, acquitted and free, True Father emerged with the "brightest smile" of all. We envision the day when True Mother, too, will stand among us with a "radiant smile." Let us pray and offer our utmost devotion so that the day that we all envision for may come swiftly!

With Love and Prayers,

Kim Dong Yeon

Vice President, Family Federation for World Peace and Unification.