

Summit 2022 and Leadership Conference Freedom of Religion Special Session

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10th Anniversary Of The Holy Ascension Of Sun Myung Moon, True Parent Of Heaven, Earth, And Humankind



A special "Freedom of Religion" session was held at the Lotte Hotel World in Jamshil for the Summit 2022 and Leadership Conference. The theme was "Realization of a Heavenly Unified Korea and a World of Lasting Peace."

The event consisted of an opening announcement, welcoming remarks, keynote addresses and congratulatory remarks, special speeches, special presentations, and the adoption of the "Resolution on Religious Freedom."

In his congratulatory remarks, Jung Hee-taek, president of Segye Ilbo, spoke on the Religious Freedom in the World Report, which surveys 196 countries and is published every two years by an international Catholic pastoral aid organization, Aid to the Church in Need (ACN), a pontifical foundation, and how it shows that people 67% of the world population, or 5.2 billion people, are restricted in their religious activities. He continued and spoke on cases of suppression of religious freedom occurring all over the world, not only in places like North Korea where there is no religious freedom but even expressed concern on the neighboring country: Japan; sharing on unfortunate things happening that are seriously suppressing religious freedom.

Paula White, chair of the evangelical advisory board in Trump's administration, said, "Mother Moon, we all came here to this Summit 2022 because we want you to know you are succeeding, and the Peaceful Reunification of Korea is sure to come. I had the blessing of being with Mother Moon on different occasions and want to thank her for the courageous path that she and her husband, Rev. Moon began. Mother Moon, I believe in your assignment from Heaven and see your fruit for Peace and Family. By the Love of Jesus and the Healing power of God, we believe that key faith and political leaders will come together with Mother Moon to realize reconciliation."

In his opening remarks, Yoon Young-ho, general director of UPF International, said, "I would like to share our sympathy, especially concerning religious freedom, universal human rights, and cases of violent repression as defined by the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU). He continued, "I express my deepest condolences to Prime Minister Abe, who was killed in the unexpected accident. I also convey my consolations to the bereaved families and the Japanese people. The biased media coverage has led to personal attacks on the members of FFWPU, and at the center of these attacks are the lawyers who have tacitly approved the kidnapping and confinement of members." "The issue was taken up in 2014 by a UN human rights body, the United Nations Human Rights Committee, with several proposals to the Japanese government. The issue continues to be addressed in the U.S. State Department's Religious Freedom in the World Report."

"We express our deep regret at the recent media reports in Japan encouraging the 'forced kidnapping, confinement, and recapture' of our members." He continued, "Following the teachings of our Founder, FFWPU will make further progress in realizing the ideal of the true family, where the value of human

rights is alive based on the freedom of faith."

Norishige Kondo, director of the FFWPU-Japan Legal Affairs Office, stated, "Before the name was changed to the Family Federation, religious oppression was systematically carried out in Japan. At the time, there were three main opponents of the Unification Church, including "Christian pastors," the "Association of Parents Against the Unification Church," and even "leftist forces." The Christian pastors drove the Unification Church into heresy, and left-wing forces continued to engage in ideological conflict because of the International Federation for Victory over Communism, a group against communism of the Unification Church.



(From top left) Mr. Chung, Hee-Taek, President, Segye Ilbo daily newspaper giving a welcome speech, Mr. Thomas McDevitt, Chairman, The Washington Times giving a welcoming speech, Pastor Paula White-Cain, Senior Pastor, City of Destiny Church, USA giving a keynote speech, Yun Young-ho, Director-General, FFWPU International Headquarters giving a keynote speech, and Mr. Toru Goto, Chair, the Japanese Victims' Association Against Religious Kidnapping and Forced Conversion giving a keynote speech, Dr. Massimo Introvigne, Managing Director, Center for Studies on New Religions (CESNUR), Italy giving a keynote speech, Bishop Don Mearns, Senior Pastor, Evangel Cathedral, USA, giving a keynote speech, and Mr. Norishige Kondo, Director of FFWPU-Japan Legal Affairs Office, giving a keynote speech

Toru Goto, chair of the Japan Victims' Association against Religious Kidnapping and Forced Conversion, said, "The Japanese media has rarely reported on this issue. I will share about a case of kidnapping and confinement that lasted 12 years and 5 months." (Viewing of video) From 1966 to now, we have had over 4,300 cases of abductions and confinements of Family Federation members, even one last year." "After the shooting incident against former Prime Minister Abe, reports have even recommended the confinement and persuading of those involved in the Family Federation. As such religious freedom is now at stake.

Jan Figel, Slovakian politician and EU special envoy for the Promotion of Freedom of Religion, made remarks supporting what Massimo Introvigne, managing director of the Center for Studies on New Religions in Italy, spoke about on religious freedom. Bishop Don Mearns delivered a keynote address on religious freedom as a universal human right.

The special session concluded with a profound keynote address, a presentation on human rights and religious freedom as universal values, and the adoption of the "Resolution on Religious Freedom" by the prominent world leaders who attended.