

True Mother is not being persecuted because of her religion

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There is currently much confusion - and very careful language - surrounding current events in Korea.

Here is what is clear.

Former First Lady Kim Keon Hee, wife of former President Yoon Suk Yeol, was recently arrested in a bribery probe. Her arrest is tied to gifts she received that far exceeded South Korea's legal limit for gifts to officials. In this case, Yoon Young-ho presented her with gifts valued at several hundred thousand dollars. The legal limit is a maximum sum of KRW 100,000 (about \$90). This is according to the Improper Solicitation and Graft Act, also known as the Kim Young-ran Act, that sets limits on gifts to public officials.

Yoon Young-ho previously served as the International Headquarters Secretary-General of the FFWPU (Unification Church) - a high-ranking role, not merely an informal association. He is now under investigation by South Korean prosecutors for alleged bribery and related financial crimes, including efforts to solicit political favors for the Church in exchange for gifts and cash. He has been formally arrested and detained as the probe continues.

Yoon claims that "everything [he] did was ordered by Han Hak-ja."

Yoon was elevated to his high-ranking position with the support of Wonju McDevitt, who recommended him to True Mother. The two worked closely together, and McDevitt herself has been brought in for questioning by investigators. Both she and True Mother are currently under a travel ban - a strong indication that authorities believe they have substantial evidence.

It is therefore highly likely that True Mother herself will be brought in for questioning soon.

The reason I am writing this is simple: this is not a religious liberty case. It has nothing to do with religious freedom. No one is above the law simply because they belong to a church.

Yoon admits to the bribery charges but says he acted on behalf of Han Hak-ja. Either that is true, or it is not - and that is at the core of this case.

This did not happen because the family is "disunited" from their mother, as some have claimed. I know firsthand that several attempts were made - including by my wife (In Jin Moon) - to warn their mother about placing too much trust in Wonju McDevitt and Yoon Young-ho. Those warnings were ignored. Other family members also raised concerns, seeing how the two isolated her from the rest of the family and other leaders and worried about her well-being, including her eyesight.

Serious questions remain: Did True Mother know what she was signing? Did she fully understand the matters presented to her? Did she receive proper second opinions? Were there adequate checks and balances around her?

These are the questions the family has wrestled with - and warned about - for years. We are all gravely troubled by how events have unfolded.