

## **FFWPU USA: When Conscience Dies**

Demian Dunkley  
February 6, 2026



**FAMILY FEDERATION**

# The Newsletter

February 6, 2025

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Hello family. Quick Connect update. Rev. Dunkley's speech at IRF. Crackdown on religious freedom in Korea and Japan. US House Foreign Affairs Committee on religious freedom. Sunday service in Boston.

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## *News*

### **Quick Connect: When Conscience Dies**



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# WHEN CONSCIENCE DIES

A correction from last episode, Rev. Dunkley's speech at the IRF Summit, The

Washington Times article on Japan and Korea's crackdown on religious freedom, and the US House Foreign Affairs Committee hears about the persecution of Family Federation, on today's Quick Connect.

[watch here](#)

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## Rev. Dunkely's Speech at the IRF Summit



I've been to the killing fields. In Cambodia. Where you can still hear the echoes of the cries of those who fell at the hands of the Khmer Rouge.

The religious. The intellectuals. The mind of the nation destroyed. Millions butchered. Why? Because one leader decided they did not believe the right way.

In the middle of the killing fields stands a special tree. A tree where unimaginable things were done to babies in front of their mothers, before both mothers and children were thrown onto a heaping mound inside a ditch.

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## Crackdown on Religious Freedom in Japan and South Korea



Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi could be a key ally for the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification in its ongoing legal battle against the Japanese government and could help the organization score a major victory for global religious freedom, former House Speaker Newt Gingrich said in a speech this week.

Mr. Gingrich and other international religious and political leaders told the annual International Religious Freedom Summit in Washington that recent legal attacks on the federation, formerly known as the Unification Church, in Japan and South Korea are setbacks for free spiritual expression and could mark the beginning of a dangerous crackdown on religious freedom around the globe.

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## US House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing on Global Religious Freedom



US House Hearing Raises Alarms Over Religious Persecution in Japan and South

Korea On February 4, 2026, the US House Foreign Affairs Committee held a hearing on global religious freedom in Washington. Former Ambassador Sam Brownback testified that China, as the "mastermind," is building a "dark alliance" of authoritarian states by exporting advanced surveillance tech to suppress faiths like Uyghurs, Tibetans, Christians, and Falun Gong.

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# Join Higher Ground Sunday Service from Boston



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@DEMIANDUNKLEY

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Share this injustice and your personal testimony on social media. Facts and articles to share about her detention can be found in the News section of [MotherOfPeace.com](https://MotherOfPeace.com) and by following Rev. Dunkley on X.

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## *Support religious freedom*

Your generosity is helping us fight this injustice. Help us promote religious freedom in South Korea by making a donation below.

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 **Demian Dunkley**   
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## When Conscience Dies

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*Below is a transcript of the full speech given by Rev. Demian Dunkley at the 2026 IRF Summit in Washington DC.*



"I've been to the killing fields. In Cambodia. Where you can still hear the echoes of the cries of those who fell at the hands of the Khmer Rouge.

The religious. The intellectuals. The mind of the nation destroyed. Millions butchered.

Why? Because one leader decided they did not believe the right way.

In the middle of the killing fields stands a special tree. A tree where unimaginable things were done to babies in front of their mothers, before both mothers and children were thrown onto a heaping mound inside a ditch.



This tree was used in the ending of children's lives

All while loud music blasted from speakers in the treetops so neighboring villages would not hear the howling cries of human slaughter.

There are signboards with depictions of the buildings that once stood there. The image that disturbed me the most was a single-story guard house on wooden stilts, where soldiers would rest while others took their turn killing.

At the base of the steps was a hammock.

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 **Demian Dunkley**   
@DemianDunkley

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Chairman & President - Family Federation USA. Husband, father, pastor. Working for peace that starts with God, grows through family, and reaches the world.

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Guard House (Executioners Office)

I tried to imagine what kind of human being could lie back in a hammock to rest, while his fellow countrymen were being mutilated just a stone's throw away.

No matter what form it takes, we must acknowledge that evil exists.

We must acknowledge that there is a central driving spirit with intent to bring ruin to humanity, especially by taking the freedoms of those who work for peace.

It was Dr. Hak Ja Han who sent me there, to Cambodia, so that I could learn and see with my own eyes.

She had already visited herself, to pray for the liberation of those tormented souls, just as she has done in Africa to pray for the victims of the slave trade, and in Europe to pray over the lives lost at the hands of the Nazis.

These are merely drops in the ocean of a lifetime's work.



Dr. Hak Ja Han, loved by millions as Holy Mother Han, the Mother of Peace

Dr. Hak Ja Han, loved by millions around the world as Holy Mother Han, the Mother of Peace, has lived eight decades of her life dreaming of peace, living for peace, and sacrificing for the sake of humanity without regard for personal benefit.

And now, she sits in a cement box the size of a Mini Cooper.

Why? Because someone decided she doesn't believe the right way.

Though they hold her passport, she was considered a flight risk.

Though they hold her passport, she was considered a high risk.

So now an 83-year-old great-grandmother, a world religious figure, barely able to see, barely able to walk, having already fallen down several times, has resorted to crawling on her hands and knees in near total isolation.

And yet she is asking about you. And how you are doing.

Still, she is praying. Still, she is dreaming of a world of peace.

On July 18 of last year, 1000 agents and police officers in riot gear descended upon her sanctuary and her home in Gapyeong, Korea.

Within weeks of opening an international temple of peace and prayer for all humankind, where even members of our own faith had not yet entered, hundreds of police boots trampled ignorantly across this threshold of heaven.

Prosecutors were seen taking great pleasure as they entered her bedroom, ripping out drawers and throwing all of her belongings onto the floor.

This wasn't a search. It was humiliation.

Again we ask, how do people become this numb?

Presumption of guilt without evidence. Militarized raids. Failure to respect age and health concerns. Orchestrated exposure to mass media from prosecutors' offices. Failure to protect her from media mobs and chaotic crowds. Inadequate medical support. Psychological deprivation through isolation. Erasure of her humanitarian, interfaith, and peace-building record.

The list goes on and on.

And then, after months in detention, when it appeared the prosecutors could find no evidence, the head of state personally entered the arena and began to speak openly of dissolving our church by replicating the proceedings now unfolding in Japan.

I tell you plainly. We are an inconvenient faith. Because, like all of you here, our passion for goodness cannot be controlled.



And this is happening to Christian organizations across South Korea today. How does a democratic nation become like this?

Each of us is here with a story of oppression, suppression, or abuse.

But the root of all of this is evil. And it has been rightly described as a global war on God.

I would like to leave you with a simple concept, a fundamental framework through which all of this can be understood.

In the pamphlet, it says:

"The freedom to believe and worship, is one of the most fundamental

human rights.”

This is true. And yet I would go further.

It is not simply one of the most fundamental human rights, it is the central, most essential human right given to us by God, our Creator.

So what is the proper relationship between church and state?

The religious sphere acts as the conscience of a nation. The government serves the body.

We all know the way an individual becomes evil is by stepping on one’s conscience.

And the way a state becomes evil is by stepping on the religious sphere which represents the conscience of the nation.

Anytime a person tramples on their conscience, or a leader tramples on the conscience of a nation, the ability to discern goodness becomes numb, and the window to evil is opened wide.

However, we cannot push back against evil forces simply by demanding rights from our governments.

We must strike at the root of evil by standing in our dignified roles as God’s sons and daughters, knowing that our rights come from our Creator.

Because there is no democracy without freedom.

And there is no freedom without God.



Dinner. Clockwise from center top: Amb. Richard Swett, Dr. Katrina Lantos Swett, Rev. Demian Dunkley, Yumiko Dunkley, Amb. Randy Evans, Dr. Michael Jenkins, Min. Rejko Jenkins, Jonathan Caine, Pastor Paula White, Amb. Sam Brownback.

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**Mitchell Canak** @CanakMitch54577 · Feb 4



Thank you Rev. Dunkley for your gripping speech! God's in such agony, to see our True Mother in this place. May we continue to speak the truth, raising peoples consciences, defending True Mother. 🙏 # ReleaseTheMotherOfPeace #GodsDreamOneFamily #ReligiousFreedom



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**Mario Magaz** @MarioMagaz23274 · Feb 5



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# Crackdown on religious freedom in Japan, South Korea shocking, say spiritual and political figures

### Arrests of Hak Ja Han Moon, pastor Son Hyun-bo in spotlight at annual International Religious Freedom Summit



Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, left, and a lawmaker speak before dissolving the lower house, during an extraordinary Diet session at the lower house of parliament Friday, Jan. 23, 2026, in Tokyo. (AP Photo/Eugene Hoshiko) \*\* FILE \*\*  
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By Vaughn Cockayne - The Washington Times - Wednesday, February 4, 2026

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi could be a key ally for the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification in its ongoing legal battle against the Japanese government and could help the organization score a major victory for global religious freedom, former House Speaker **Newt Gingrich** said in a speech this week.

Mr. **Gingrich** and other international religious and political leaders told the annual International Religious Freedom Summit in Washington that recent legal attacks on the federation, formerly known as the **Unification Church**, in Japan and **South Korea** are setbacks for free spiritual expression and could mark the beginning of a dangerous crackdown on religious freedom around the globe.

“This is a terrible problem because it goes to the very heart of our system. We believe that rights come from God, not from bureaucrats, not from lawyers, not from politicians, from God,” Mr. **Gingrich** said in a prerecorded video address to the conference. “And if a politician thinks that they have the power to come between God and the people, then you’ve just undermined the entire process.”

The former Republican congressman praised Ms. Takaichi for what he described as “taking a new look at the way in which the **church** has been mishandled in Japan.” He

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said he hopes Ms. Takaichi continues “to show that courage and to continue to raise that issue.”



The logo of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification, is seen at its building's entrance on Nov. 7, 2023, in Tokyo. (AP Photo/Shuji Kajiyama) \*\* FILE \*\*  
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Ms. Takaichi, who was elected prime minister in October, was a close political ally of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who had ties to the [Unification Church](#). Abe was assassinated in 2022 by a lone gunman who blamed the [church](#) for his family's financial woes.

Since her election, Ms. Takaichi, who leads Japan's Liberal Democratic Party, has faced intense pressure from critics who characterize the [church's](#) previous support of the LDP as unethical. The [Unification Church](#) has held staunchly anti-communist positions since its founding more than 70 years ago.

In March, a Japanese court issued a dissolution order against the [Unification Church](#), citing allegations of illegal and deceptive donation solicitation practices. The order strips the [church](#) of its classification as a religious corporation and of its tax-exempt status in Japan.

In 2022, Japanese law restricted religious organizations from soliciting donations from political figures and groups.

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The law, which [Unification Church](#) attorneys have said was designed specifically to target the organization, has also drawn condemnation from international religious freedom watchdogs who say it would severely limit free expression.

[Unification Church](#) leaders have appealed the dissolution order to the High Court of Japan, arguing that the move flagrantly violates religious freedom.



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Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich speaks before former President Donald Trump at an America First Policy Institute agenda summit at the Marriott Marquis in Washington, July 26, 2022. (AP Photo/Andrew Harnik, File) [more >](#)

Other leading religious freedom advocates say the Japanese government’s approach is dangerous.

“The right answer is not what we are seeing unfold now so cruelly in Japan and [South Korea](#),” said Katrina Lantos Swett, president of the Lantos Foundation for Human Rights and Justice. She served as co-chair of the International Religious Freedom Summit, along with former Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback, a former U.S. ambassador-at-large for international religious freedom.

“It is a blanket violation under their own terms. And it is just shocking, but again, you find this lack of outrage because of the propaganda efforts to target, characterize, marginalize and otherize the community,” Ms. Swett said during remarks at the event.

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### An expanding crackdown

The targeting of the Family Federation and other religious institutions has spread beyond Japan.

[South Korea](#) last year arrested 82-year-old Family Federation leader Hak Ja Han Moon and prominent Presbyterian pastor Son Hyun-bo. Both arrests represented blows to religious freedom, Mr. [Gingrich](#) said, and the developments in [South Korea](#) are potentially even more dire than those in Japan.

“I’m even more concerned about what I see happening in [South Korea](#). This is such a violent abuse of power to do this to somebody who has spent their entire life fighting communism, encouraging religion and working worldwide,” Mr. [Gingrich](#) said. “I would encourage the government of [South Korea](#) to take a serious look at releasing her and recognizing that putting an 83-year-old woman in those kinds of circumstances is very inhumane and goes against everything those of us who believe in religious liberty stand for.”

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Mrs. Han turns 83 on Tuesday.

South Korean authorities arrested Mrs. Han in September over fears she would destroy evidence connected to a bribery case involving the religious leader and the country’s former first lady, Kim Keon Hee.

Mrs. Han and the Unification Church in South Korea have been accused of illegally using funds to gain influence during the tenure of President Yoon Suk Yeol, who resigned last year. Specifically, Mrs. Han and her former chief secretary were indicted on charges of bribery, violating political funding laws, embezzling church funds and ~~instigating the destruction of evidence~~

instructing the destruction of evidence.

They have strongly denied the allegations. Mrs. Han's trial is continuing in Seoul Central District Court. She appeared in a wheelchair at a hearing in early December.

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Mrs. Han is the widow of the Rev. Sun Myung Moon, the founder of the [Unification Church](#). She has led the movement since Rev. Moon's death in 2012.

Since its founding in 1954, the [Unification Church](#) has expanded dramatically around the world and has fostered a successful commercial empire that includes The Washington Times.

Several prominent officials and Mrs. Han's family say the religious leader is not in excellent health and that her detention by South Korean authorities may be making her condition worse.

"It's very painful to me to imagine that you could have a government of [South Korea](#) that would have an 83-year-old woman, Dr. Hak Ja Han, 83 years old, going blind, with real difficult problems with her life. So she's literally crawling, sleeping on the floor," Mr. [Gingrich](#) said.

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### **Prominent Christian pastor released**

Mr. Son, the prominent Presbyterian minister in [South Korea](#), frequently used his pulpit to criticize the actions of South Korean President Lee Jae-myung's government. Mr. Son's arrest in September on charges of violating [South Korea's](#) Public Official Election Act alarmed those already concerned about the country's legal actions against the [Unification Church](#).

Mr. Son was sentenced to six months in prison Friday after a detention of almost five months. The sentence was suspended for one year, allowing his release.

His arrest caught the attention of Vice President J.D. Vance, who expressed concern over Mr. Son's well-being during a White House meeting late last month with South Korean Prime Minister Kim Min-seok, according to South Korean media.

After his release, Mr. Son thanked the vice president and Secretary of State Marco Rubio for drawing attention to his case. He also thanked the "10,000 American pastors who helped secure my release," according to The Chosun Daily.

Pastor Paula White, senior adviser to the White House Faith Office, praised the efforts of U.S. officials in raising awareness of Mr. Son's case.

"I was so proud of the team and Vice President Vance, who made very clear lines that religious liberties must be enforced, and we saw the release of pastor Son," Ms. White said during remarks at the religious freedom conference. "This persistence reminds us that when people of God and people of conscience stand together, chains can break and freedom will prevail."

• *Vaughn Cockayne can be reached at [vcockayne@washingtontimes.com](mailto:vcockayne@washingtontimes.com).*

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I really appreciate Mr. Gingrich assessment and call to release the Mother of Peace.

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**BREAKING: US House Hearing Raises Alarms Over Religious Persecution in Japan and South Korea**

On February 4, 2026, the US House Foreign Affairs Committee held a hearing on global religious freedom in Washington.

Former Ambassador Sam Brownback testified that China, as the "mastermind," is building a "dark alliance" of authoritarian states by exporting advanced surveillance tech to suppress faiths like Uyghurs, Tibetans, Christians, and Falun Gong.

He highlighted concerns in South Korea, where Family Federation (Unification Church) leaders and Christians face arrests, including the detention of Hak Ja Han, and noted similar pressures in Japan.

Witnesses urged sustained US action to counter this threat.

The hearing coincides with ongoing international scrutiny of religious minority protections amid geopolitical tensions.

Source: [worldtimes.co.jp/global/north-a...](https://worldtimes.co.jp/global/north-a...)



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**OR. For justice, and Peace** @Rush166116 · 7h



Religious freedom is a fundamental human right, not a geopolitical bargaining chip. It's time for the U.S. to take decisive action to protect believers everywhere. #ReligiousFreedom #HumanRights #HouseForeignAffairs



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