

FFWPU Europe and Middle East: 50 Years Since Huge 1.2 Million Rally in Yeouido, Seoul

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[Sun Myung Moon](#) speaking 7th June 1975 in Yeouido, Seoul

One of the largest rallies ever held in South Korea took place 50 years ago voicing opposition to the North's communist "religion"



The 1,2 million rally in Yeouido, Seoul 7th June 1975

It's today 50 years since a monumental event in the history of the [Family Federation](#), then called the [Unification Church](#). On 7th June 1975, the World Rally for Korean Freedom was held at [Yeouido](#) (Korean: 여의도) Plaza in Seoul. It was a massive public event organized by the [church](#). It was part of a broader international campaign during the 1970s to rally support for South Korea during a critical period

in its history and a time of intense Cold War tension and ongoing threat from communist North Korea.

Yeouido (Yoido) Plaza is a prominent area in Seoul which was often used for large political and religious gatherings. It is estimated that 1,2 million people attended the event, making it one of the largest gatherings in South Korea at the time.

The main speaker was Rev. [Sun Myung Moon](#). He delivered a powerful speech titled "Korea in the World". In his address, he:

Emphasized Korea's divine mission to lead the world spiritually.

Warned against the spread of communism and urged the free world to unite in defense of democratic values.

Presented the [Unification Church](#)'s teachings as a path to resolving global ideological conflict.

Called for moral and family-centered renewal as the foundation for peace.



In his speech, [Father Moon](#) said,

"Today we can find the reason why we must oppose Communism and annihilate its criminal actions from the face of the earth. Communism is not only the enemy of mankind, but more significantly it is the enemy of [God](#). Communism is not only an ideological system of politics and economics, but it is also a form of religion based on atheism.

Communism completely controls human thinking, action and way of life, which is the unique force that only a religion can have. And Communism is a religion insisting that there is no [God](#). Moreover, the ideology itself takes the place of [God](#) in human thinking, action and way of life, making human beings into slaves and machines.

Therefore, Communism is an unforgivable enemy which opposes [God](#). It is a satanic religion wanting to annihilate [God](#) from the face of the earth. For Communism to win victory on the earth is for [God](#) to be defeated completely on the earth. It is [God](#)'s defeat before it is the defeat of democracy and the free world. Therefore, Communism is [God](#)'s enemy even before it is the enemy of mankind.

However, omniscient and omnipotent [God](#) cannot be defeated. [God](#) will not merely watch Communism win victory over the whole world.

Therefore, in today's rally we must realize that the [Unification Church](#) and other virtuous religions who believe in [God](#) will surely win victory over Communism, the satanic religion denying God. I sincerely declare that the [Unification Church](#), who calls [God](#) our Father, and all the other religious people with their obedience and faith should defeat [God](#)'s enemy, Communism, which is trying to kill [God](#)." (Translated from Korean)

According to the organizers, the rally was intended to show support for the anti-communist stance of South Korea and promote Korean reunification under democratic values. The goal was to highlight the need for spiritual and moral renewal in confronting communism and emphasize the importance of global solidarity in protecting freedom and peace.

The rally took place during a period of dictatorship in South Korea under President Park Chung-hee, who had declared martial law and enacted the authoritarian Yushin Constitution in 1972. It marked the beginning of the Fourth Republic of Korea and is widely regarded as one of the most autocratic legal frameworks in modern Korean history.

The large rally organized by the [Unification Church](#) was seen both as a religious event and a demonstration of loyalty to the South Korean government's anti-communist stance. The event drew attention internationally due to the size of the crowd and the participation of foreign delegates from 60 countries - according to the organizers. The rally certainly helped raise the international profile of the [Unification Church](#) and reinforced [Rev. Moon](#)'s image as a global anti-communist religious leader.



The 1,2 million rally in Yeouido, Seoul June 7, 1975

The Yeouido Plaza event received substantial media coverage, particularly within South Korea.

Statements of encouragement were delivered by representatives of Buddhism, Confucianism, Christianity, and the Korean faiths Cheondo-gyo, Weonbul-gyo, and Daejong-gyo.

Rally statements were read by Neil Albert Salonen from the USA, Osami Kuboki from Japan, Paul Werner from Germany, and Henri Blanchard from France.



Some European and American participants at the World Rally for Korean Freedom 7th June 1975 at Yeouido, Seoul

The World Rally for Korean Freedom was a landmark moment both for South Korean nationalism during the Cold War and for the [Unification Church](#)'s rise as a global religious-political movement.

Text: Knut Holdhus

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50 Years Since Communist Crackdown

- November 27, 2023
- Knut Holdhus

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Communist crackdown in 1973 commemorated in Bratislava


by Barbara Grabner

50 years ago, dozens of early members of the **Unification Church**, now called the **Family Federation**, in Czechoslovakia were arrested. To commemorate the unfolding drama unknown to the wider public, an event was organized 13th November 2023 in Bratislava, Slovakia for members and friends. Despite bad weather




Slovakia (in red). Photo: TUBS / Wikimedia Commons. License: CC ASA 3.0 Unp. Cropped

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Despite bad weather, the hall in the “Ambasáda Mieru” (Peace Embassy) was filled to its maximum capacity. In the audience was former Prime Minister Ján Čarnogurský, a renowned human rights advocate during the communist era.



Historian Lubomir Morbacher (left) and early member Anton Uhnák 13th Nov. 2023. Photo: Laurenc Klas

The introductory message was given by early member Miloš Klas. Historian Lubomír Morbacher from the Slovak Nation’s Memory Institute (UPN) outlined the persecution of believers during the 1970’s until 1989. After the

end of the Prague Spring in 1968, churches and committed believers were put under incredible pressure. Communist agents infiltrated many dissident groups. Dr. Morbacher praised the courage of the first members of the **Unification Church**. He condemned their mistreatment by state authorities and lamented the lack of acknowledgement until today.

In 1971 and 1972, the movement was thriving, with pioneers being sent to numerous towns. Everything seemed to be going well – until September 1973. The communist regime had not known about the **young movement** until priests warned their congregants from the pulpits, and some parents wrote to the secret police to intervene!

Then, a drama of historic dimensions took its course: Secret policemen raided apartments throughout the nation. Within a few weeks, nearly 30 members were imprisoned. 200 persons were interrogated, while nearly 40 members were prosecuted. In 1974 the courts sentenced 37 members to imprisonment, about one third of them conditional; they served a total of 50 years in several prisons.

A power point presentation was shown during the commemorative event in Bratislava, portraying individual members telling how and where they had been arrested.

The second speaker was Štefan Detvai, former President of the Slovak Bar Association. He served as defence attorney for our members. In 1973, he was an advocate with few years of experience, but a huge enthusiasm. He was an acquaintance of Anton Uhnák, one of the members, before the troubles started.



Dr. Štefan Detvai 13th Nov. 2023. Photo: Erna Mae Leskovjansky

Dr. Detvai explained in detail how he was surprised to find no evidence for any crime whatsoever and was shocked that such pure minded, excellent students were treated like criminals. His sincere effort to prove the innocence of our members almost landed himself in jail! The today renowned lawyer revealed fascinating facts which kept the audience captive. He remarked several times, that for years he himself was traumatized by the verdict. He realized that the persecution was politically motivated and sheer injustice.



Betka Danišková, the first **Unification Church** leader in Czechoslovakia. Photo: Erna Mae Leskovjansky

Afterwards a panel discussion with some of the persecuted members took place: the first **church** leader Betka Danišková, Dorota Šimeková, Miloš Klas, Anton Uhnák and his wife Maria, Juraj Lajda and his wife Erika, and Štefan Jakubáč explained how they felt when they were arrested, what worried them most during the interrogations, the reaction of their family and friends, and how they today view their imprisonment and its impact on their life from then on.

The participants had the chance to buy the book “The Faith that Broke the Iron Curtain” written by Julian Gray. Gifts and

letters of thanks were given to the persecuted. Tasty food was served,



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and picture-taking completed the evening. Dr. Morbacher said that he felt honored to have been part of the commemoration.



Featured image above: Some of the members on the panel in Bratislava 13th November 2023. From left to right: Dorota Šimeková, Betka Danišková, Jakubáč Štefan, Juraj Lajda, Erika Lajdová, Anton Uhnák. Photo: Erna Mae Leskovjansky

Text: Barbara Grabner, journalist

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