

FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: Colm Ó Cionnaith on Rev. Moon's Anticommunism Warning 50 Years Ago and Today

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[Sun Myung Moon](#) and [Hak Ja Han](#) at the World Rally for Korean Freedom June 7, 1975 at Yeouido, Seoul

Red menace still haunting Asia as we witness the Abe assassination and South Korea and Japan moving leftward - the legacy of anti-communism warnings from Cold War-era resurfaces



[Sun Myung Moon](#) speaking at the 1.2 million rally at Yeouido Island June 7, 1975

Opinion

Rev Moon's Yeouido Anti-Communism Rally 50 Years On

By [Colm Ó Cionnaith](#), Universal Peace Federation Ireland Secretary General.

50 years ago this week, Rev. [Sun Myung Moon](#) rallied 1.2 million patriots concerned about the fate of Korea in an unprecedented [freedom rally](#) at Yeouido (Yoido) Island, near Seoul, Korea.

The [demonstration](#) was to play a large part in saving fragile South Korea, under military administration since the Korean War, from the atheistic Marxist ideology still threatening the South of the peninsula and Southeast Asia.

With the collapse of the Nixon Administration in the Watergate scandal and the US retreat from Vietnam, [Rev. Moon](#) was determined that neither South Korea nor Japan would become a Communist client like North Korea. A few years later he would be imprisoned for his convictions in a Congressional "KCIA" witch-hunt led by Democratic Senator Donald Fraser on trumped up tax evasion charges^[1].

As the fictional Roger "Verbal" Kint said about another character "Kaizer Soze"^[2] in 1995's "The Usual Suspects" movie, the biggest trick the devil ever played was to "convince the world that he didn't exist." Shades of today, when we hear guffaws from some on the left that the "red menace" is just a figment of conservative and populist imaginations or a straw man set up to distract everyone from President Trump's latest antics.

Similarly, today it's easy to believe that Marxism doesn't exist or that it somehow was defanged in the 1990s and is not making a comeback - not just in spirit through so called Woke values of moral relativism, or in substance, especially through its promotion by a Chinese Communist Party (CCP) devoid of any sort of higher purpose of value apart from selfish ethno-nationalism. One may well wonder if the masses there live off the opium of resentment for a century of Western humiliation. A century which should be long consigned to history given the modern economic success story that is China today.



[Sun Myung Moon](#) writing calligraphy at the founding of the International Federation for Victory over Communism (IFVOC) January 13, 1968 in Cheongpa, Seoul, South Korea.

Isn't it somewhat ironic then that despite the defeat of Communism and the Soviet Union in the 1990s, today we see the rise of threats to democracy and freedom similar to those which brought 1.2 million people to the above-mentioned [Yeouido Rally](#) 50 years ago?

[Rev. Moon](#) started the fight back in 1968 when he in his native Korea established a movement called International Federation for Victory over Communism (IFVOC). In 1980, at his suggestion, members of the [Unification Church](#) in the USA founded CAUSA, an educational anti-communist organization which became active throughout the Americas. Over time, this movement played an important role in the battle to win the Cold War on an ideological level, helping educate the public and especially politicians and policymakers about the dangers of the Marxist dialectic to a values-based society and to democracy and

freedom of religion.

50 years later it seems that the Communists have had the last laugh. We see this in the way they have infiltrated the media and governments, and especially in the chilling way that the [Family Federation](#) has been blamed by leftist media and politicians eager to kow-tow to the CCP for the assassination of former Japanese Prime Minister Abe in 2022. Abe was considered an anti-communist both in ideology and policy, and a supporter of [Rev. Moon](#)'s anti-communist work.



Tetsuya Yamagami, the man who killed Shinzo Abe, the former prime minister of Japan

Tetsuya Yamagami, the chief suspect behind the assassination, is the son of a [Family Federation](#) member and holds a grudge against his mother for donating to the [religious organization](#). He has been charged with the murder of Abe. However, a proper investigation has yet to take place, especially as to whether or not he acted alone or was part of a conspiracy to "take out" Abe. This is surely a credible line of enquiry given the victim's views on Marxist China and the subsequent shift to the left in Japan, and now South Korea since Abe's murder.

Today we face situation where the [Family Federation](#) is on the precipice of dissolution in

Japan pending an appeal because of this assassination. It seems like what passes for a legal system in Japan buries its head in the sand to any cries of injustice or religious intolerance or persecution. One wonders if the murder of Shinzo Abe and the subsequent events leading towards the dissolution weren't orchestrated by the very Communist forces that are now attempting to subvert and turn Japan into a client state of the People's Republic of China (PRC).



South Korea's new president Lee Jae-myung the day after winning the election on 3rd June 2025. According to Korea Times, experts see Lee as rejecting a binary choice between U.S. and China, opting for "equidistance." He believes South Korea has enough economic and military power to choose independently. Asia Times writes that U.S. policymakers, especially conservatives, express concern that Lee's tilt could signal a softer approach toward Beijing, and worry about Chinese influence in South Korean politics.

Those who have directly benefitted the most up to now, are long-time enemies of the [Family Federation](#) - the "National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales" (NNLASS)[3]. They've been lining their pockets with substantial earnings from numerous civil cases brought against the [religious organization](#), while at the same time riding a wave of media-generated hysteria and serving as convenient allies of a media determined to demonize the [Family Federation](#) as a "cult".

Eliminating religious freedom, especially for the [Family Federation](#) which preaches the sanctity of heterosexual [marriage](#) and family will allow Marxism to thrive in Japan and seriously hamper this coherent opposition to it there.

Korea similarly is under threat today by the same forces and has just elected a more pro-Beijing government than before. This follows on the impeachment crisis there earlier in the year and threatens to undermine all the good work done by [Rev. Moon](#) in his anti-communist activities the past 50 years and more.

If this trend continues, will we see the US military being banished even though it has been protecting the peninsula and Japan from the influence of these nefarious forces?

The [Yeouido rally](#) back in 1975 became synonymous with a patriotic nation, taking a

stand against subversion and potential destruction by a poisonous, Godless ideology.

Since his passing in 2012, [Rev. Moon](#)'s wife "[Holy Mother Han](#)" ([Hak Ja Han](#)) has also similarly taken a

stand against Communism with her Korean Unification "Rallies of Hope" and "Think Tanks".

Will Korea and Japan again respond patriotically to the message of [Sun Myung Moon](#) and [Hak Ja Han](#) for the sake of the world's freedom and peace, as well as a future unification of the Korean peninsula? Let's hope so.

Disclaimer: This is an opinion piece. The views expressed do not necessarily reflect the official position of the [Family Federation](#).

[1] Sherwood, Carlton. Inquisition: The persecution and prosecution of the Reverend Sun Myung Moon. Washington, D.C: Regnery Gateway, 1991

[2] "The Usual Suspects." IMDb, August 16, 1995.
https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0114814/?ref_=ext_shr_lnk

[3] "Toru Goto, Unification Church Member Held by Deprogrammers for over 12 Years, Publishes His Autobiography". Bitter Winter, February 26, 2025. <https://bitterwinter.org/toru-goto-unification-church-member-held-by-deprogrammers-for-over-12-years-publishes-his-autobiography/>.

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Years in Hell of Concentration Camp

Amazing attitude of Father Moon when going through the toughest test of his life in North Korean concentration camp

[Sun Myung Moon](#) also decided to have the right attitude towards the work in the camp and always took on the heaviest task, which was to fill the fertilizer in the bags and carry them to the scale.

Once, he got malaria, but he still continued to work every day, even with a high fever. He worked so hard that the task of the other prisoners became easier. The others knew that on his team they always managed to fulfill the daily quota.

On 15th August 1948, the third anniversary of Korea's liberation from Japan, the camp commander gave [Moon](#) an award as an exemplary worker. On 1st January and 15th August the following year, he received the same award again. [Moon](#) saw it as getting his will to win recognized by Satan himself.

On 9th September 1948, the day the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) was officially established, with Kim Il-sung as leader, all prisoners had their sentences reduced. [Moon's](#) sentence was reduced to three years, without this having any practical significance for the length of time he served.

Prisoners were allowed visits once a month. Those occasions were extremely important. The inmates were allowed to speak only ten minutes with those who came to visit. But relatives or others who came usually brought something vital with them: rice powder. It was almost impossible to survive on the food they were served in the camp. This rice powder was therefore a precious gift indeed.

But [Sun Myung Moon](#) always shared with others the rice powder his mother brought him, or he gave it away. This made her cry in despair. She really wanted him to have it himself.

The stay in the concentration camp represented the toughest test [Moon](#) ever faced. To overcome the ordeal, he could not be concerned with his own situation, but had to think of [God](#) and the other prisoners. But every time his mother came to visit, she begged him to think of himself:

"When you have served your sentence, you must stop preaching and instead think of your family. You cannot continue to get yourself into trouble all the time. You have to come home."

In the end, he had to tell her that it was better she did not come if it was just to make him feel sorry for himself. He loved his mother, but still, he knew that he could never give up the task [God](#) had given him. Every time she brought him something, he gave it to his fellow prisoners.

One of the prisoners once stole half of some rice powder that belonged to [Moon](#). The other prisoners were about to give the guilty one a good beating, but [Sun Myung Moon](#) intervened and asked them to leave the thief alone. "Think about how hungry he must have been!" said [Moon](#), "If I leave the rice powder there, the same thing will happen again. So let's share it with each other now right away."



40 kg bags of ammonium sulfate being carried in Heungnam. Picture taken in the 1930s when the large factory was run by a Japanese company – Nippon Nitrogen Fertilizer Co., Tokyo. Photo: Nippon Nitrogen Fertilizer Co. [Public domain](#) image



Kim Kyeong-gye (김경계, 金慶繼-1888-1968), [Sun Myung Moon's](#) mother. Photo: [FFWPU](#)



In this hell of a concentration camp, many prisoners began to regard [Moon](#) as their natural leader. Several had spiritual experiences where they were guided to him. One of them was Cheong-hwa Pak, lieutenant colonel in the North Korean military police, convicted of incompetence in service and for not obeying orders. He had previously been a deacon in a church



Bags of ammonium sulfate being transported from the fertilizer factory to the harbour in Heungnam, North Korea. Picture taken in the 1930s when the large factory was run by a Japanese company – Nippon Nitrogen Fertilizer Co., Tokyo. Photo: Nippon Nitrogen Fertilizer Co. [Public domain](#) image

had a morning meeting. "You had a dream a couple of nights ago, didn't you?" asked [Sun Myung Moon](#). Pak was speechless. Later he arranged for the two to talk together on several occasions. [Moon](#) taught him many things.

One night, the old man dressed in white appeared again in Pak's dream and said:

"From now on you must follow him. Do not doubt him any longer."

As camp leader, Pak could move freely among the prisoners. Therefore, [Moon](#) asked him to find twelve others who could become disciples. Pak eventually got seven of the work leaders with him, after he had told them about his dream and what [Moon](#) had told him. [Moon](#) himself managed to get five others with him. Among the twelve, there was a priest, two military leaders, three public officials, three political leaders, two businessmen, and a fisherman. [Sun Myung Moon](#) later said that it was because he had a basis consisting of twelve disciples, that [God](#) managed to free him from the hell of the death camp.

"Amazing Attitude in Hell of Concentration Camp" – text written by Knut Holdhus based on historical materials.

More about Sun Myung Moon in the concentration camp: [Sent to Death Camp to Die](#)

How Sun Myung Moon was liberated from the concentration camp: [Liberated by UN Forces](#)

in Pyongyang. The hunger in the camp was about to drive him mad. Unaccustomed as he was to physical work, he could not perform the simplest tasks. But [Moon](#) helped him and showed him how to do it.

Because of his officer background, Pak was appointed camp leader and supervised the work leaders among the prisoners. One night he dreamed that an old man, dressed in white, in traditional Korean clothes, came to him and said:

"Do you know who he is who helped you recently? The young man is him you have been looking for since you were little. He is the Messiah."

The dream made a deep impression on Pak. For two nights he lay awake for a long time and pondered the dream. One day he sat right behind [Moon](#) when they