

FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: Osaka Rally demands Fair Media Coverage for Family Federation

Knut Holdhus
September 8, 2025



Masaki Kubota giving a speech at the rally prior to the demonstration (back row, fourth from left) - August 31, 2025, Kita Ward, Osaka, Japan



[Sekai Nippo](#)

"Hear Our Voices!" - Osaka march highlights one-sided media narrative as Family Federation demonstrators appeal for balanced and fair media

Tokyo, 1st September 2025 - Published as an article in the Japanese newspaper [Sekai Nippo](#). Republished with permission. Translated from Japanese. [Original article](#).

Masaki Kubota: "Communicate a Positive Image!"

Family Federation Holds 600-Person Demonstration March in Osaka

by the editorial department of [Sekai Nippo](#)

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Masaki Kubota

At the rally, freelance writer Masaki Kubota (窪田順生) pointed out that compared to two years ago - when criticism of the [Family Federation](#) was overwhelming - there have been noticeable changes in media perspectives. He revealed that several media professionals have begun to question whether "the claims of opposing lawyers and journalists are necessarily correct." He emphasized that "showing who you are as people is the most important thing for your group" and stressed the importance of projecting a positive image to society.

Kano Sakurai (櫻井香乃 - 27), whose mother is a [Family Federation](#) member and father is Muslim, shared that while her parents experienced conflict due to religious differences, she witnessed them praying for their children and thus "saw the reality of loving one another beyond differences." She expressed her wish to "see a world where people can understand each other beyond

nations and religions." Responding to criticism that the group is "anti-Japanese", she argued,

"([Family Federation](#) founder) Rev. [Sun Myung Moon](#) helped struggling Japanese students during his time studying in Japan, and after the war he made efforts so that Japanese persons left behind in Korea were able to return home."

Despite the scorching heat that made one sweat just by standing, believers marched through central Osaka

for 40 minutes that day. They appealed to passersby, questioning media coverage and the government's stance:

"The reports are full of opinions from former members pushing for the dissolution of the [religious organization](#), while the voices of current believers are not reflected at all."



[Family Federation](#) members marching in the demonstration - August 31, 2025, Kita Ward, Osaka, Japan

The demonstrators urged society to listen to the voices of active members.

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Mike Pompeo Calls Probe Of Co-Founder "Lawfare"

- September 6, 2025
- Knut Holdhus

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Mike Pompeo warns South Korea of religious freedom risks in current probe he calls "lawfare" against Dr. Hak Ja Han and the Family Federation

The South Korean daily [Segye Ilbo](#) published on 5th September an article which when translated into English carried the headline "Pompeo: 'Investigation into President Hak Ja Han Raises Concerns of Religious Freedom Violation'"

세계일보

The logo of the [Segye Ilbo](#)

The report highlights a striking intersection between international diplomacy, South Korean legal processes, and questions of religious freedom. Former U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo expressed on his X account (formerly Twitter) strong concerns regarding the South Korean special prosecutor's decision to summon Dr. [Hak Ja Han](#), co-founder and president of the [Family Federation](#), as part of an ongoing

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The lawfare being directed at religious leader Dr. Hak Ja Han in South Korea is deeply troubling.

The intensifying assaults on religious liberty are a betrayal of the democratic principles that South Korea is meant to espouse.

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Screenshot from Mike Pompeo's X account 3rd September 2025

According to the [Segye Ilbo](#), Pompeo wrote,

- "The lawfare being directed at religious leader Dr. [Hak Ja Han](#) in South Korea is deeply troubling."
- "The intensifying assaults on religious liberty are a betrayal of the democratic principles that South Korea is meant to espouse."

Pompeo's intervention – framed around the universal principle of protecting religious liberty – underscores the global dimension of the case and raises important questions about how democratic societies balance judicial integrity with the safeguarding of fundamental rights.

The immediate issue is the special prosecutor's request for [Dr. Han](#) (82) to appear for questioning in connection with the so-called "Geonjin Monk-[Family Federation](#) lobbying scandal". Allegations center on the claim that gifts, including luxury items, were delivered to former First Lady Kim Kun-hee (김건희) by an intermediary



Hak Ja Han, Holy Mother Han, here in Gapyeong, South Korea 20th July 2025. Screenshot from video recording by FFWPU

connected to the [Family Federation](#). While prosecutors suggest possible institutional involvement, the [Federation](#) firmly denies any directive role, stressing that the incident represents an individual's misconduct rather than an organized scheme. In its 31st August statement, the [religious organization](#) asserted that it never sanctioned illegal lobbying or financial transactions. [Dr. Han](#) herself, recovering from a medical procedure, has yet to confirm whether she will comply with the summons.

In a briefing to members on 5th September, Kim Dong-yeon (김동연), Vice President of the [Family Federation](#) in South Korea, explained,

"Given [her](#) advanced age and the strain of her recent schedule, it is necessary for her to have rest and recovery following the procedure."

Kim also stated,

"The special prosecutor's briefing stated that the September 8 summons will proceed as scheduled. The priority is [True Mother's](#) recovery, and her attendance may be adjusted based on medical advice and legal procedures. The prosecutor's office may also review medical records or consider enforcement measures.

Given these serious circumstances, there is concern that [True Mother](#) may not be guaranteed the absolute rest and care she needs. Our collective priority must remain her health and wellbeing.

We respectfully request that the special prosecutor's office postpone the summons until after [True Mother](#) has recovered from her cardiac procedure, and that the investigation be conducted via written responses or a voluntary visit, rather than through coercive measures."

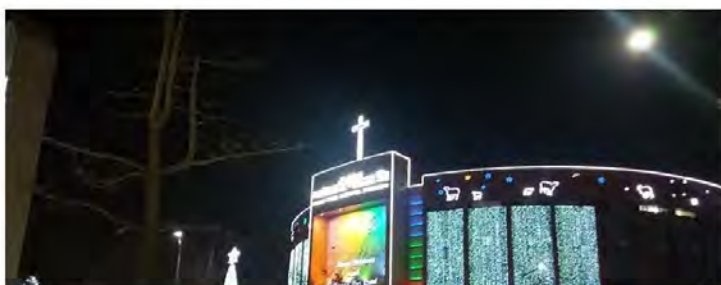
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Another religious organization being raided in South Korea: **Yoido Full Gospel Church**, here 4th Dec. 2016. Photo: [Striker9498 / Wikimedia Commons](#). [Public domain](#) image

Pompeo's remarks deserve particular attention. As America's top diplomat under Donald Trump, he was a vocal advocate of religious freedom worldwide, often linking it to democratic resilience and human dignity. His concern that South Korea's treatment of [Dr. Han](#) may constitute an "attack on religious freedom" situates the case in a broader international conversation. It is not merely a domestic legal matter but one with potential implications for South Korea's reputation as a democratic state committed to universal rights.

Pompeo's history of engagement with the *Universal Peace Federation* (an affiliated body of the [Family Federation](#)) further contextualizes his stance: while critics may interpret his remarks as partisan or personal, supporters see them as consistent with his long-standing defense of religious liberties.

Supportive responses to Pompeo's statement, reflected in comments such as "Religious oppression must be stopped," suggest that this case resonates beyond Korea's borders. Many observers fear that conflating allegations of political corruption with a wholesale targeting of a religious leader risks undermining the credibility of South Korea's democratic system. If the legal process is perceived as selectively punitive toward a religious institution, it may erode both domestic trust and international confidence in the country's rule of law.

At the heart of this controversy lies a delicate balance. On one hand, democratic governance requires robust mechanisms to investigate corruption and hold all citizens, including religious leaders, accountable under the law. On the other, democracy is equally rooted in the protection of religious freedom, ensuring that faith communities are not unduly criminalized or stigmatized. Pompeo's intervention reminds policymakers and prosecutors alike that safeguarding democratic legitimacy depends on honoring both principles simultaneously.

Ultimately, the [Segye Ilbo](#) article captures a moment of tension where international voices, domestic politics, and deeply held values collide. [Dr. Han's](#) case will not only shape the immediate future of the [Family Federation](#) but will also test South Korea's ability to demonstrate that its pursuit of justice can coexist with its commitment to religious freedom.

Text: Knut Holdhus, editor

Featured image above: Mike Pompeo addressing an international peace conference in Gapyeong, South Korea 13th February 2022. Screenshot from live transmission by PeaceTV.

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