

FFWPU Europe and Middle East: Defense finally allowed to present Holy Mother Han's evidence

Knut Holdhus
June 15, 2026



Featured image above: Special prosecutors distorting the [Family Federation](#)'s distinctive religious concepts of "[Cheonil-guk](#)" and "national restoration". Illustration: ChatGPT



Kim Dong-yeon, Vice-President, [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#) in South Korea Jan. 17, 2026



Korean chapter of the [Family Federation](#) (FFWPU).

Court proceedings focus on key contradictions as defense presents evidence and witness accounts in 12th June hearing attended by Mother Han (83)

Extracts from a [briefing](#) 13th June 2026 by Rev. Kim Dong-yeon (김동연), Vice-President, [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#) in South Korea. Translated from Korean. Originally published by the Culture and Public Relations Office on the [website](#) of the Korean chapter of the [Family Federation](#) (FFWPU).

See also [Mother Han Delivers 10-Minute Court Statement](#)

See also [Mother Han Denies Charges, Declines to Testify](#)

[True Mother](#) has gradually regained strength and was finally able to appear in court on 12th June. We would like to provide a summary of her actions and the progress of the court proceedings, undertaken after she rose from her sickbed in order to reveal the truth.

[True Mother](#)'s Testimony and the Key Issues of the Hearing

Appearing in person at the 12th June hearing, [True Mother](#) stated immediately after taking the witness oath:

"I have never given 100 million won to Kweon Seong-dong (권성동). I have never given gifts to the President's wife, Kim Keon-hee (김건희). Nor have I ever provided money as political funds to politicians."

With these words, she firmly and clearly denied the core allegations contained in the indictment. She further made clear that the current situation originated from the false claims and misrepresentations of the

[former headquarters director](#).

The defense team then focused on demonstrating that the special prosecutors had distorted the [Family Federation](#)'s distinctive religious concepts of "[Cheonil-guk](#)" (천일국) and "national restoration" (국가복귀) [See editor's note below] into secular political lobbying.



Yoon Yeong-ho, former international HQ director of the [Family Federation](#) (Dec. 6, 2020)

The defense also concentrated on establishing, as a matter of law, that the case arose from the [former headquarters director](#)'s unilateral working methods and personal misconduct.

In particular, the defense argued that the [former headquarters director](#) habitually carried out actions without prior approval and then reported them afterward only if they produced results, maintaining an arbitrary and independent style of operation. Most significantly, they identified what they described as a decisive contradiction: the "Special Report" file from the relevant date, presented as key evidence, reportedly contains no reference whatsoever to providing funds to former lawmaker Kweon Seong-dong (권성동). Through this, the defense sought to undermine the opposing side's claims.

The defense continues to argue before the court that this case represents a crime committed independently by the [former headquarters director](#) - who was once the most powerful official of our [religious organization](#) - in order to maintain his influence and accumulate personal wealth through the misuse of funds of our [religious organization](#), and that there was no instruction from or conspiracy involving [True Mother](#).

Testimony from Key Individuals Supporting the Defense's Position

During the recent trial proceedings, the principal arguments advanced by the defense have been further substantiated through the detailed testimony of witnesses who were responsible for finances and practical operations at the time, making the factual circumstances of the case clearer.

A former executive who had worked closely with the [former headquarters director](#) in planning activities testified that "[True Mother](#)'s actual statements and the direction of activities of [Yoon Yeong-ho](#) (윤영호) did not align with one another." The witness further alleged that [Yoon](#) distributed a separate internal guideline called "Interpretation of the Word", which reinterpreted and imposed [True Mother](#)'s sincere religious messages according to his own preferences in order to justify his independent actions. According to the briefing, this testimony demonstrates that the affair resulted from personal misconduct carried out in [True Mother](#)'s name.

A former executive responsible for finances at the World Headquarters testified that funds disbursed immediately before the presidential election were executed not on [True Mother](#)'s instructions but on direct orders from the [former headquarters director](#). The witness further stated that, according to the regulations of the [religious organization](#), the amount in question could legally be approved solely by the headquarters director, reinforcing the argument that the actions were carried out independently.

Staff members who were responsible for accounting subsequently testified that the [former headquarters director](#) and his spouse received reimbursement twice for luxury purchases and personal expenses amounting to tens or even hundreds of millions of won [10 million won = ca. 7,250 US dollars]. They also alleged indications of personal embezzlement. Furthermore, it was pointed out that there had been a practice of requesting budget allocations for items such as mission-support expenses without attaching specific supporting documentation, resulting in opaque funding requests. It was also revealed that, within a rigid top-down hierarchical structure, non-transparent expenditures of funds were carried out among operational staff.

See also [Mother Han Delivers 10-Minute Court Statement](#)

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[Editor's note: In the context of [Hak Ja Han](#) and the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#) (FFWPU), "national restoration" (국가복귀, 국가복원, or related terms often translated as "restoration of the nation") is primarily a religious and [providential](#) concept, not simply a political one.

The challenge - and the point raised in the [briefing](#) - is that prosecutors and the defense appear to disagree about whether references to "national restoration" should be understood as religious objectives or as political activities.



Kept long-term in tiny cell under inhuman conditions: [Hak Ja Han](#), the [True Mother](#), here on 27th March 2026 after more than 6 months in detention cell

When [Hak Ja Han](#) speaks of "national restoration", she is generally referring to the goal of [Unificationism](#) to transform a nation so that it reflects [God's ideal](#) and becomes part of the realization of [Cheonil-guk \(Kingdom of Heaven\)](#), rather than simply winning political influence or supporting particular politicians. Whether specific activities undertaken in pursuit of that goal crossed into political lobbying is precisely what seems to be contested in the proceedings described in the [briefing](#).]

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[account](#) provides a more detailed description of what took place inside the courtroom and sheds additional light on the exchanges between [Hak Ja Han](#), prosecutors, and lawyers representing former [Family Federation](#) executive [Yoon Yeong-ho](#) (윤영호).

See also [Defense Challenges Core Claims of Indictment](#)

According to the [report](#), [Mother Han](#) appeared before the 27th Criminal Division of the *Seoul Central District Court* not as a defendant but as a witness in the ongoing proceedings involving herself, [Yoon](#), and other former [Family Federation](#) officials. As noted by other media outlets, she arrived in a wheelchair and required assistance during the oath procedure. However, OhmyNews places particular emphasis on what happened immediately after the oath was completed.

Rather than proceeding directly to questioning, [Mother Han](#) reportedly requested permission from the presiding judge to make a statement of her own. The judge allowed her to speak, and she then spent approximately ten minutes delivering what the [article](#) characterizes as a largely uninterrupted personal declaration. During this period, she not only repeated her denial of allegations that she had provided money to conservative politician Kweon Seong-dong (권성동) or gifts to former First Lady Kim Keon-hee (김건희), but also expanded on her view of how the case had arisen.

According to the [report](#), [Mother Han](#) argued that she had come to be involved in the proceedings because of actions taken by [Yoon Yeong-ho](#), a former senior official whom she had previously trusted. She accused him of having created numerous false accounts while acting in the name of both the [Family Federation](#) and its headquarters. In contrast to some other reports that summarized this accusation briefly, [OhmyNews](#) highlights it as a central theme of her statement.

The [report](#) also notes that [Mother Han](#)'s statement was not limited to the allegations currently before the court. After addressing the accusations, she reportedly moved into a discussion of religious themes and [Family Federation](#) teachings. According to [OhmyNews](#), she spoke about her lifelong mission to realize here on earth what she described as the dream of the Heavenly Parent, a theological concept central to [Family Federation](#) doctrine. This portion of her remarks occupied a significant part of the approximately ten-minute statement and distinguished her appearance from a conventional witness examination.

Another aspect emphasized by the [article](#) is the atmosphere inside the courtroom during [Mother Han](#)'s remarks. While she was speaking, [Yoon Yeong-ho](#) was seated behind the witness stand in the defendants' section. The [report](#) describes him as sitting silently and looking straight ahead while [Mother Han](#) attributed responsibility for the controversy to him. The [article](#) does not indicate that [Yoon](#) reacted publicly to her comments during the hearing.

Following her statement, the proceeding moved into questioning by [Yoon](#)'s legal team. It is here that [OhmyNews](#) provides some of its most distinctive details. According to the [report](#), defense lawyers confronted [Mother Han](#) with statements she had allegedly made during earlier interviews conducted by special prosecutors. They reportedly suggested that her previous remarks had included acknowledgements that gifts had been provided to political figures, not only to Kim Keon-hee (김건희) but to others as well. They also questioned her regarding previous comments concerning the authority exercised by [Yoon](#) within the [Family Federation](#) hierarchy.

The defense further raised an issue that received little attention elsewhere. According to the report, [Yoon](#)'s attorneys referred to an alleged written statement from 2025 in which [Yoon](#) had supposedly been asked to affirm that [Mother Han](#) had not directly ordered any wrongdoing and had merely granted approval after the fact. One attorney reportedly stated that he had personally reviewed the document and repeatedly asked [Hak Ja Han](#) whether she had any knowledge of it. She declined to respond, maintaining her refusal to testify.

The [OhmyNews report](#) additionally records several moments in which [Mother Han](#)



Yoon Yeong-ho, former director general of the international HQ of the [Family Federation](#), here 11th Feb. 2022. Screenshot from live transmission by [FFWPU](#)



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moments in which **Mother Han** departed from her otherwise consistent silence. During questioning by the special prosecution team, she briefly answered inquiries concerning political figures in Senegal and Nepal. Asked about her relationship with such individuals, she reportedly replied that they knew her as the “Mother of Peace”, a title often associated with her international activities.

Referring specifically to Macky Sall, Senegalese president 2012-2024, she said that she had



Known as the “Mother of Peace”, which is also the title of **Mother Han**’s memoirs.



Macky Sall speaking 11th April 2025, in Seoul. Photo: Screenshot from live transmission by Peace TV.

sought to help Africa and had resolved to do whatever she could for that purpose.

However, when prosecutors attempted to connect these relationships to allegations involving election-related financial support, **Mother Han** either denied providing such assistance or returned to her refusal to testify. When asked whether she had ever been informed that supporting election campaigns in

Senegal could be illegal, she reportedly answered in the negative and declined further comment. She similarly denied having provided election funds to political leaders in either Senegal or Nepal.

The **OhmyNews account** complements **earlier reporting** by offering a fuller picture of **Mother Han**’s conduct and statements during the 12th June hearing itself. Rather than focusing primarily on the underlying allegations, the **article** highlights her attempt to frame the controversy as the result of actions by a former associate, her willingness to discuss religious and international activities, and her continued refusal to engage substantively with many of the specific questions posed by both prosecutors and defense attorneys.

The next hearing in the case is scheduled for Friday 19th June.

See also **Defense Challenges Core Claims of Indictment**

Text: Knut Holdhus, editor

Featured image above: **Hak Ja Han**, aka. **Mother Han**, in Gapyeong, South Korea in 2025. Photo: Screenshot from video by **FFWPU**, improved for higher resolution and sharpness by Grok xAI, 13th June 2026.

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