

Grave human rights issue involving the inhumane treatment and apparent religious persecution of Dr. Hak Ja Han

Hans Moyer
February 26, 2026

Dear friends of Freedom, Faith and Family,

I am writing to you as a concerned citizen of the United States, to urgently bring to your attention a grave human rights issue involving an 83-year-old religious leader and co-founder of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU), in South Korea. As a key ally of the United States, South Korea's actions in this case raise serious questions about religious freedom, elder abuse, and the rule of law, which directly impact U.S. foreign policy interests in promoting human rights globally.

Dr. Han, often referred to as the "Mother of Peace" for her lifelong work in interfaith dialogue, peacebuilding, and cultural bridging, has been detained in the Seoul Detention Center under circumstances that many view as politically motivated and unjust. Recent reports highlight her deteriorating health, including repeated falls leading to injuries and a severe nosebleed on February 22, 2026, just one day after her return to detention following a temporary medical suspension. During this incident, no on-site medical officer was available, resulting in an emergency situation where a trash bin was reportedly filled with blood-soaked tissues. Her legal team's request to extend the suspension for further treatment was denied by the court, despite documented health concerns.

This treatment of an elderly woman - who has dedicated her life to fostering peace and unity - appears intentional and negligent, potentially amounting to a form of slow endangerment. Supporters argue that the charges against her are baseless and stem from internal disputes within the religious community, exploited by political figures for personal gain. Such actions not only violate basic human dignity but also undermine religious freedoms, echoing historical patterns of persecution against minority faiths. As the posts from The Monarch Report on X (formerly Twitter) detail, this case has sparked international outcry, with calls for her immediate release to prevent further harm.

Please ask your local public officials to take immediate action on this matter. Specifically, ask them to:

- Contact the Department of State to press for diplomatic intervention, including urging South Korean authorities to release Dr. Han on humanitarian grounds and ensure her access to proper medical care.
- Support or introduce resolutions condemning religious persecution in South Korea and advocating for the protection of vulnerable elderly individuals in custody.
- Raise awareness among your colleagues about this issue to build bipartisan support for monitoring human rights in allied nations.

The United States and its allies have a long-standing commitment to defending religious freedom and human rights worldwide, as enshrined in the International Religious Freedom Act. Allowing this injustice to continue unchecked could erode trust in our alliances and set a dangerous precedent. I kindly request a response outlining the steps you plan to take.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter and for your service to our community. See sample letters attached for your local public officials.

Sincerely,

Hans Moyer