

FFWPU Europe and Middle East: Gingrich Warns Against State Control of Faith

Knut Holdhus
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Newt Gingrich delivering his speech via video on Feb. 2, 2026 in Washington D.C.



Portrait of Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826), painting from 1805 by Rembrandt Peale (1778-1860)

It's particularly important this year

Newt Gingrich sends message to conference defending religious freedom in South Korea at a critical moment, "Rights come from God, not the state"

A speech by senior American politician Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the US House of Representatives 1995-1998. His message was delivered as a pre-recorded video at a Special Dinner on 2nd February during the [The International Religious Freedom \(IRF\) Summit 2026](#) at the Hilton Hotel in Washington DC.

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I want to thank everyone for allowing me to address this [International Religious Freedom Summit](#) from Bern, Switzerland, where, as you know, my wife Callista, is serving as ambassador.

When Callista was the ambassador to the Vatican, religious liberty was one of the most important topics that she worked on. And we both have a deep commitment to religious liberty.

because we're celebrating the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in which Thomas Jefferson wrote that our rights come from our Creator. Remember, it says we are endowed by our Creator with certain inalienable rights.

To me, that's central to the crisis that we're seeing grow in both Japan and South Korea, a crisis in which politicians are asserting that they have the right to come between [God](#) and the citizens. They have the right to determine whether or not a citizen is allowed to worship as they believe.

This is a terrible problem because it goes to the very heart of our system. We believe that rights come from [God](#), not from bureaucrats, not from lawyers, not from politicians, but from [God](#).

And if politician think that they have the power to come between [God](#) and the people, then you've just undermined the entire process.

That's why your summit is so important, because this is a crucial moment. I'm very encouraged that Prime Minister Takaichi is taking a new look at the way in which the [Church](#) has been mishandled in Japan. She's taking a new look at this whole issue of whether or not people can be forced to go to [God](#) only as the state allows it.

And I encourage her to continue to show that courage and to continue to raise that issue.

But I'm even more concerned about what I see happening in South Korea, a country which I feel very close to because my father fought there in [1953](#) and served again later in the 60s. And we've had a long family tie to watching the growth, the prosperity, the freedom and the safety of South Korea.



*Ailing and frail, legally blind
Dr, [Hak Ja Han](#) (soon 83)
failing several times recently
during detention, injuring
herself. Illustration: Chat GPT*

And it's very painful to me to imagine that you could have a governor of South Korea that would have an 83-year-old woman, Dr. [Hak Ja Han](#), going blind, with really difficult problems with her leg. So she's literally crawling and sleeping on the floor.

This is such a violent abuse of power to do this to somebody who has spent her entire life fighting Communism, encouraging religion and working worldwide in well over 150 countries for freedom and peace.

So I would encourage the government of South Korea to take a serious look at releasing her and recognizing that putting an 83-year-old woman in [those kinds of circumstances](#) is very inhumane and goes against everything those of us who believe in religious

liberty stand for.

I'm delighted you're meeting. It's a very important topic. It's at the heart of our entire system.

For this reason, if our rights don't come from [God](#), then they're not rights. They're just temporary grants by somebody who's powerful.

But if, in fact, our rights come from [God](#), then we can stand firm knowing that we are free, that we have the right to approach [God](#) the way we believe, that we can seek salvation, and that no government can come between us and religious liberty.

The work you're doing is very, very important, and I thank you for allowing me to share this with you.

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When Conscience Dies: Global War On God

- February 8, 2026
- Knut Holdhus

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South Korea: Echoes of evil in the war on the conscience of humanity as peace makers are treated as criminals

When Conscience Dies



Demian Dunkley delivering his speech on 2nd Feb. 2026 in Washington DC. Screenshot from video by FFWPU

A speech by Demian Dunkley, the President of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification in North America, delivered at a Special Dinner on 2nd February during the The International Religious Freedom (IRF) Summit 2026 in Washington DC.

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I've been to the killing fields. In Cambodia. Where you can still hear the echoes of the cries of those who fell at the hands of the Khmer Rouge. The religious. The intellectuals.

The mind of the nation destroyed. Millions butchered.

Why? Because one leader decided they did not believe the right way.

In the middle of the killing fields stands a special tree. A tree where unimaginable things were done to babies in front of their mothers, before both mothers and children



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mothers and children were thrown onto a heaping mound inside a ditch.

All while loud music blasted from speakers in the treetops so neighboring villages would not hear the howling cries of human slaughter.

There are signboards with depictions of the buildings that once stood there. The image that disturbed me the most was a single-story guard house on wooden stilts, where soldiers would rest while others took their turn killing.



The infamous Killing Tree. While the cruelty of the killings in Cambodia is disturbing enough, I could never get round the fact as to how humans can do this to human babies. Poor, innocent babies who have not even begun to walk or talk. Indeed, these humans (if I dare call them that) are crazy. Some (though not all) of the women killed there had been raped as well. Photo: shankar s from Dubai, UAE. License: CC Attr 2.0 Gen. Cropped

At the base of the steps was a hammock. I tried to imagine what kind of human being could lie back in a hammock to rest, while his fellow countrymen were being mutilated just a stone's throw away.

No matter what form it takes, we must acknowledge that evil exists. We must acknowledge that there is a central driving spirit with intent to bring ruin to humanity, especially by taking the freedoms of those who work for peace.

It was Dr. **Hak Ja Han** who sent me there, to Cambodia, so that I could learn and see with my own eyes. She had already visited herself, to pray for the liberation of those tormented souls, just as she has done in Africa to pray for the victims of the slave trade, and in Europe to pray over the lives lost at the hands of the Nazis.

These are merely drops in the ocean of a lifetime's work. Dr. **Hak Ja Han**, loved by millions around the world as **Holy Mother Han**, the Mother of Peace, has lived eight decades of her life dreaming of peace, living for peace, and sacrificing for the sake of humanity without regard for personal benefit.

And now, she sits in a **cement box** the size of a Mini Cooper.

Why? Because someone decided she doesn't believe the right way.

Though they hold her passport, she was considered a flight risk.

So now an 83-year-old great-grandmother, a world religious figure, barely able to see, barely able to walk, having already fallen down several times, has resorted to crawling on her hands and knees in near total isolation.



A typical cell at Seoul Detention Center where **Mother Han** has been held since 22nd September 2025 and may still be detained for many months. Image: Chat GPT, 10th October 2025.

And yet she is asking about you. And how you are doing. Still, she is praying. Still, she is dreaming of a world of peace.

On 18th July last year, 1000 agents and police officers in riot gear descended upon her sanctuary and her home in Gapyeong, South Korea.

Within weeks of opening an **international temple of peace** and prayer for all humankind, where even members of our own faith had not yet entered, hundreds of police boots trampled ignorantly across this threshold of heaven.

Prosecutors were seen taking great pleasure as they entered her bedroom, ripping out drawers and throwing all of her belongings onto the floor. This wasn't a search. It was humiliation.

Again we ask, how do people become this numb?

Presumption of guilt without evidence. Militarized raids. Failure to respect age and health concerns. Orchestrated exposure to mass media from prosecutors' offices. Failure to protect her from media mobs and chaotic crowds. Inadequate medical support. Psychological deprivation through isolation. Erasure of her humanitarian, interfaith, and peace-building record. The list goes on and on.

And then, after months in detention, when it appeared the prosecutors could find no evidence, the head of state personally entered the arena and began to speak openly of **dissolving our church** by replicating the proceedings now unfolding in Japan.

I tell you plainly. We are an inconvenient faith. Because, like all of you here, our passion for goodness cannot be controlled.

And this is happening to Christian organizations across South Korea today. How does a democratic nation become like this?

Each of us is here with a story of oppression, suppression, or abuse. But the root of all of this is evil. And it has been rightly described as a global war on **God**.



Pushing for new anti-religious legislation, even dissolving entire religious organizations: President Lee Jae Myung of the Republic of Korea, here on 29th October 2025, at the Hilton Hotel in

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I would like to leave you with a simple concept, a fundamental framework through which all of this can be understood. In the pamphlet, it says:

*Cyeongju, South Korea.
Official White House
Photo by Molly Riley.
Public domain image.
Cropped*

"The freedom to believe and worship, is one of the most fundamental human rights."

This is true. And yet I would go further. It is not simply one of the most fundamental human rights, it is the central, most essential human right given to us by God, our Creator.

So what is the proper relationship between church and state? The religious sphere acts as the conscience of a nation. The government serves as the body.

We all know the way an individual becomes evil is by stepping on one's conscience. And the way a state becomes evil is by stepping on the religious sphere which represents the conscience of the nation.

Anytime persons trample on their conscience, or a leader tramples on the conscience of a nation, the ability to discern goodness becomes numb, and the window to evil is opened wide.

However, we cannot push back against evil forces simply by demanding rights from our governments. We must strike at the root of evil by standing in our dignified roles as God's sons and daughters, knowing that our rights come from our Creator.

Because there is no democracy without freedom. And there is no freedom without God.

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