

Bogdan Pammer
August 31, 2026



FAMILY FEDERATION
FOR WORLD PEACE AND UNIFICATION **UK**

Newsletter 31.08.2026

FFWPU-UK | LATEST UPDATE

**OFFICIAL STATEMENT
ON AUGUST 31 FIRST-INSTANCE VERDICT
DR. HAK JA HAN**

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FFWPU-UK | VIDEO UPDATE

**UPDATE BY DR BALCOMB
LIVE FROM KOREA**

WATCH VIDEO

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This afternoon, Fumiko and I and Umberto Angelucci were present at the Seoul Central District Court for the first-instance verdict regarding our beloved True Mother. Members of the True Family and other leaders were present.

Although we were not able to enter the courtroom, we were permitted to remain in the corridor just outside, where we sat in prayer.

The court session lasted only half an hour before Chief Judge Woo handed down a total two-year sentence to True Mother regarding the allegations of political funds violations and lobbying gifts. This was of course much less than the 13 years demanded by the prosecution. Other defendants received suspended sentences.

Though only briefly we were blessed to catch a glimpse of True Mother both as she entered and left the courthouse, and we offered our quiet greetings as rain fell continuously from the leaden Seoul skies.

For over six decades, our True Mother has devoted every breath of her life to reconciliation, interfaith cooperation, humanitarian service, and the peaceful reunification of the Korean Peninsula.

In this moment of trial, we call upon every family and community across Europe and the Middle East to remain steadfast. True Mother will surely appeal; and we must surely keep praying. Let us respond peacefully, with utmost dignity, and with undivided unity.

Let us hold True Mother continuously in our prayers for her health, protection, and complete vindication, while remaining dedicated to the work she has guided us in: building strong families, serving humanity, and advancing Heavenly Parent's providence of peace.

May God bless you and your families, and may our Heavenly Parent's grace guide True Mother and all of us in the days ahead.

In True Parents' Love

Michael & Fumiko Balcomb



FFWPU-UK | INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT TRUE MOTHER'S COURT PROCEEDINGS

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COMMS TEAM UK

August 31, 2026 | Announcements, Articles | Mother of Peace

August 31 Verdict – Dr. Hak Ja Han

The Family Federation for World Peace and Unification expresses deep regret over today's ruling of the Seoul Central District Court concerning Dr. Hak Ja Han.

Dr. Hak Ja Han, who was sentenced to a total of 2 years imprisonment for political collusion, is 83 years old. For more than six decades she has devoted her life to reconciliation, interfaith cooperation, humanitarian service and the pursuit of peace—most notably through sustained efforts toward peaceful reunification of the Korean Peninsula. She is widely known internationally as the Mother of Peace.

Throughout the proceedings Dr. Han has maintained her innocence. Her defence has consistently challenged the claim that she personally authorised, directed or knowingly participated in the unlawful actions alleged by the prosecution. Because important questions of evidence, individual responsibility and legal interpretation remain unresolved, her legal team will file an immediate appeal.

We are also deeply concerned by the humanitarian consequences of her prolonged detention and subsequent suspension of detention for hospitalization. An elderly religious leader was held for many months under conditions that seriously affected her health, including repeated falls and the eventual need for shoulder surgery, before any final determination of guilt. Whatever one's view of the legal case, the treatment of a person of advanced age and frail health before judgment raises serious questions, under the Constitution of the Republic of Korea, concerning the principle of proportionality, human dignity and the protection of fundamental rights.

human dignity and the protection of fundamental rights.

Today's ruling is not the end of the judicial process. We trust that the appellate court will carefully, fairly and independently examine the full evidentiary record, the question of Dr. Han's personal responsibility, and the legal issues raised by the defence.

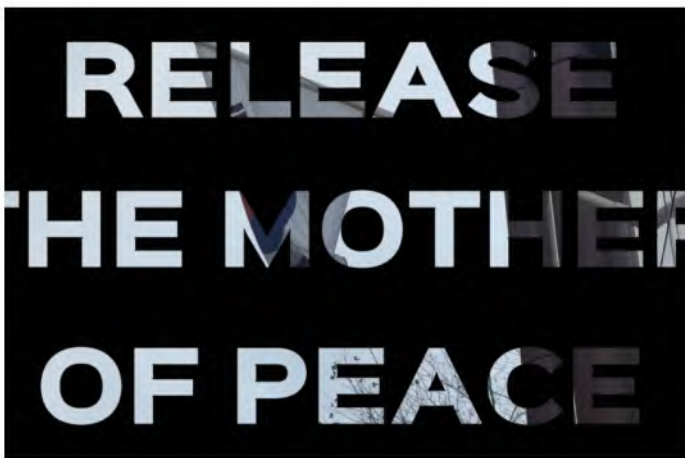
We ask our members and friends throughout the world to respond peacefully and with dignity, to remain steadfast in prayer, and to continue the work to which Dr. Han has dedicated her life: reconciliation, strong families, service to humanity and peace.

For further inquiries, please contact Bogdan Pammer 07763644575, or comms@ffwpu.org.uk

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Release The Mother Of Peace!

Comms Team UK | 29 November 2025

Bruno K and other members of FFWPU UK have been gathering twice a week in front of the Korean Embassy calling for the release of



Watch Highlight Reels From This Weekend's Pentecostal Festival!

Comms Team UK | 22 May 2024

A lot happened over the weekend at our Bloom! Pentecost With True Mother event in Munich. Here are some videos to get you up to



True Mother Is Coming To Europe!

Comms Team UK | 8 May 2024

The celebrated ShowPalace event arena in Munich has been selected as the location for our True Mother's much anticipated



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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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Questions and Answers about True Mother's Court Proceedings

Information for members

Prepared by Bogdan Pammer | Based on the EUME briefing for national leaders and further research

Updated 31 August 2026

Purpose and scope

This Q&A offers a concise overview for members. It distinguishes allegations from established facts and separates personal criminal responsibility, institutional legal responsibility and governance responsibility. Some proceedings remain ongoing and information may change. This document is not legal advice and does not seek to prejudge any court.

What court proceedings are currently taking place?

The EUME briefing described three separate sets of legal proceedings, as well as speculation about a possible further proceeding. Because the allegations, defendants and procedural stages differ, they should not be treated as one general case.

- **First case – alleged benefits to political figures.** The prosecution alleges that True Mother (Dr Hak Ja Han) bears personal responsibility. Her defence disputes this and maintains that she did not personally authorise, direct or knowingly participate in the alleged unlawful conduct. A first-instance judgment was issued on 31 August 2026. True Mother maintains her innocence and is considering her legal options, including an appeal.
- **Second case – political-party registration and church funds.** This concerns allegations relating to the registration of church members with a political party and the alleged improper use of church funds. True Mother is a defendant, and the trial is expected to continue for several months.
- **Related proceeding – political donations.** According to the briefing, True Mother had not been indicted in this proceeding at the time of the briefing. Nine other people, including former or current figures associated with FFWPU and UPF, were reported to have been indicted.
- **Separate investigation – gambling and embezzlement allegations.** At the time of the briefing, this investigation had not resulted in an indictment against True Mother. As the legal position may change, any public communication should be checked against the latest confirmed information before distribution.

Further reading: [True Mother's Court Appearance – FFWPU Mission Support](#)

What is the central question in the first case?

The central question is not simply whether people associated with the movement took certain actions. It is whether the prosecution has established, through admissible evidence and under the requirements of Korean law, that True Mother herself bears criminal responsibility for the offences alleged against her.

The court must therefore consider what she personally did, knew, intended, authorised or participated in, according to the legal requirements of each charge. The prosecution alleges personal involvement; her defence rejects that claim. The evidence and the question of personal responsibility must be tested through a fair and complete judicial process.

Does an unfavourable first-instance ruling conclude the matter?

No. A first-instance ruling is a formal judicial decision and must be treated seriously, but it does not necessarily conclude the full legal process. True Mother maintains her innocence and is considering her legal options, including an appeal. It would therefore be inaccurate either to dismiss the judgment or to describe the entire judicial process as concluded.

What is the difference between personal, institutional and governance responsibility?

The criminal proceedings concern the alleged personal responsibility of individual defendants. A finding about an individual does not automatically determine the legal liability of an organisation. Conversely, a weakness in organisational governance does not automatically establish the criminal guilt of the head of that organisation or of its senior leaders. These questions may arise from related facts, but they are determined by different standards.

Type of responsibility	Central question	How it is determined
Personal criminal responsibility	Did a particular person commit, authorise, knowingly participate in or otherwise become legally responsible for a criminal offence?	A criminal court applies the relevant law to admissible evidence concerning that individual.
Institutional legal responsibility	Does FFWPU or another legal entity bear liability under a law applicable to organisations?	This requires a separate legal analysis of the entity, the applicable law, the allegations and the evidence. It should not be assumed without legal advice.
Governance responsibility	Were the organisation’s structures, financial controls, supervision, delegation and reporting systems adequate?	This is considered through an honest organisational review based on verified facts, followed by appropriate policies, controls, training, audits and oversight.

How has the movement addressed governance responsibility?

Governance responsibility can be recognised and acted upon without prejudging personal criminal guilt or institutional legal liability. It asks whether organisational structures were adequate and what should be improved.

In her closing statement on 10 July 2026, True Mother spoke as the leader of the Family Federation, apologised for controversy caused unintentionally and stated that such an incident must not happen again. [Read True Mother’s full closing statement.](#)

Earlier, on 11 December 2025, FFWPU Korea President Song Yong-cheon publicly apologised and acknowledged management responsibility for the organisation’s failure to detect and prevent individual misconduct. He announced reforms focused on political neutrality, financial transparency, governance and social responsibility. [Watch President Song’s statement.](#)

FFWPU Korea subsequently documented a compliance declaration and measures intended to strengthen its governance and internal controls. These included revised decision-making

arrangements, third-party auditing, compliance education, stronger financial disclosure and clearer internal checks.

- **ISO 37001** – anti-bribery management system certification
- **ISO 37301** – compliance management system certification

FFWPU Korea states that it obtained both certifications in May 2026. [View the compliance declaration and certificates](#) or [read the report on the certification process](#).

Important distinction. These certifications show that management systems were assessed against international standards. They do not, by themselves, determine the facts or legal responsibility in any particular court case.

Why must communication about governance reform be precise?

In a high-profile legal case, expressions of regret or commitments to reform can be misinterpreted as admissions concerning disputed criminal allegations. Our communication should therefore be careful and exact: acknowledging governance responsibility is not the same as conceding personal criminal guilt or institutional legal liability. At the same time, legal caution should not prevent honest improvement, transparent governance or clear communication.

How can we understand spiritual responsibility in this context?

Spiritual responsibility is broader than criminal or institutional legal responsibility. True Mother has consistently accepted ultimate responsibility for God's providence and called members to attend Heavenly Parent and help realise God's dream. As blessed families we are called join her in this endeavour. Faithful British members have done so for many years and continue to do so today. Thank you!

This spiritual posture of taking responsibility should not be confused with an assertion of individual guilt of the general membership. For all of us, this moment invites prayer, unity, truthfulness and personal responsibility, together with support for transparent, lawful and ethical governance. Our love for True Parent calls us to neither to lose faith in the realization of God's dream nor to ignore necessary institutional learning as we work together towards this goal.

"In the 14th year of Cheon Il Guk, when we attend the Creator Heavenly Parent substantially, let us, the blessed families around the world, become true sons and daughters of Cheon Il Guk who fulfil our responsibility as the chosen people in unity with True Parents!"

This New Year motto was given in 2025 and consequently adapted for 2026. [Read the 2026 New Year message](#).

A note on sources

This document draws on the EUME briefing for national leaders and the linked public statements and reports. Where information is attributed to the briefing, it reflects the information available at that time.