

Oral statement on the situation of Chairman Lee Man-hee in pretrial detention in the Republic of Korea

General Debate under Item 3, 63rd session of the Human Rights Council **STATEMENT BY**
CAP Liberté de Conscience (NGO with UN ECOSOC consultative status)



Liberté de Conscience

NGO with ECOSOC consultative status

NGO with ECOSOC consultative status at the United Nations

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Civil society platform of Fundamental Rights created by the EU FRA

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Brisbane, Queensland Sep 30, 2026 ([Issuewire.com](https://www.issuewire.com)) - The case of Chairman Lee Man-hee before the Human Rights Council

On 18 September 2026, **CAP Freedom of Conscience** delivered an oral statement during the general

debate under Item 3 of the 63rd session of the UN Human Rights Council, devoted to the promotion and protection of all human rights.

The statement raises the case of **Chairman Lee Man-hee**, the 95-year-old founder and leader of the Shincheonji Church of Jesus and a veteran of the Korean War, who is currently held in pretrial detention at the Seoul Detention Center in the Republic of Korea on non-violent charges.

CAP Freedom of Conscience expresses serious concern regarding what appears to be a politically driven and discriminatory investigation targeting a religious minority, as well as the conditions of detention. Despite his fixed residence and the absence of any flight risk, Chairman Lee was held in cells without air conditioning during Seoul's most severe heatwave, raising grave concerns for the health of a 95-year-old detainee.

The statement recalls that such treatment runs counter to the Republic of Korea's international obligations: Article 9 of the ICCPR requires detention to be necessary and proportionate; Article 10 guarantees humane treatment; the Nelson Mandela Rules entitle detainees to healthcare equivalent to that available in the community; the Tokyo Rules make pretrial detention a measure of last resort; and Article 18 protects freedom of religion or belief — a right CAP Freedom of Conscience considers disregarded in this case.

CAP Freedom of Conscience urges the Council to call on the Republic of Korea to honour its treaty obligations by offering alternatives to detention, allowing an independent medical assessment, and ensuring a fair and impartial trial.

CAP Liberté de Conscience (CAP LC)

Coordination des Associations et des Particuliers pour la Liberté de Conscience

CAP Freedom of Conscience is a secular European **NGO with United Nations Consultative Status**, created in 1995 and dedicated to protect the Right of Freedom of Religion and Belief.

CAP Freedom of Conscience combats all forms of discrimination based on religion or belief by alerting European and International bodies.

CAP Freedom of Conscience collects testimonies of discrimination and human rights violations affecting religious or belief communities in order to disseminate them to international bodies, and in order to raise awareness and inform them as well as to generate debate on the protection of Freedom of Religion and Belief.

CAP Freedom of Conscience also advocates for any religious or spiritual group facing discrimination to have their right to Freedom of Religion and Belief recognized.

CAP Freedom of Conscience is a member of the **European Federation for Freedom of Belief (FOB)**, **European Network Of Religion and Belief (ENORB)** and participate to the [Civil Society Platform of Fundamental Rights](#) created by the EU Fundamental Rights Agency.

Statement Source & Video

CAP LC Video (YouTube)

CAP LC's own video of the full oral statement, as published on its website.

youtube.com/watch?v=IFdF4cvfSqE

UN Web TV (Source)

The official UN recording of the General Debate session.

webtv.un.org/en/asset/k11/k118fegrj7

Source Article

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Source : CAP Liberté de Conscience (CAP LC)

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