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Our deepest thanks to the United Nations Human Rights Special Procedures for offering us an opportunity to re-examine our case. Actually, we had lodged our case to the United Nations office in Fiji on 10 November 2019, which was forwarded to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

GR Group has carefully reviewed the communication from the United Nations Human Rights Special Procedures. We deny all distorted, exaggerated, false and one-sided allegations asserted by those who claim to be victims, and we would hereby like to take this opportunity to reveal the truth of the matter as below:

Reverend Okjoo Shin was arrested without warrant in Incheon Airport on 24 July 2018. She was sentenced to 6 years at her first court hearing on 29 July 2019 and later sentenced to 7 years at her appellate court hearing on 5 November 2019. Her final appeal was dismissed on 27 February 2020.

This case involved exaggerated perjury of 11 plaintiffs adding lies to a planned investigation executed with a specific agenda for the previous 11 months. The police and the media formed a close relationship in this case to frame Reverend Okjoo Shin with charges of assault, special assault, bodily harm, aggravated confinement, special confinement, fraud, violation of commercial law, violation of child welfare law (neglect, abuse) and abetment. This is a clear act of religious repression and a breach of her human rights by abusing public power.

**- Who are the ones claiming to be victims?**

The plaintiffs, composed of former pastors, evangelists, ordained deacons, and exhorters who came to Grace Road Church on their own, were fervent followers who attended Grace Road Church for several years. They had also brought their family members to join the church and then moved all together to Fiji of their own will. In Fiji, every one of the plaintiffs was engaged in managing positions as team leaders of GR Group's agriculture, construction and purchasing departments, where they played substantial and pivotal roles. However, when they were dismissed of their status by acting against the objectives of the community (acting only on the interests and needs of the individual instead of the collective whole), they returned to Korea holding a grudge over this. Thus they started to revile Grace Road Church and Grace Road Group by making up all manner of lies to accuse Reverend Okjoo Shin. They are falsely claiming that the biblical threshing floor which they also voluntarily participated in is bodily harm and special assault. They came to Fiji in a 10-hour flight at their own expense, yet are now claiming that their move is aggravated confinement and special confinement. They are also claiming that their offering made to the church is fraud and a violation of commercial law. Furthermore, they are accusing Reverend Okjoo Shin and Grace Road Church of violation of child welfare law, which was actually a voluntary school absence officially requested by parents to hear the word of God together with their children. These accusers are shameless liars, traitors and apostates.

## **- The Korean Police and their failure to uphold the principle of presumption of innocence, their abuse of power and breach of human rights**

With the exaggerated, false statements of those who claim to be victims as mentioned above, the 11 months of the planned investigation was spearheaded by Investigator [REDACTED] of Gyeonggi Nambu Police Agency Foreign Affairs Department. The prosecution arrested Reverend Okjoo Shin on 24 July 2018 at the terminal of Incheon International Airport without warrant; they imprisoned her as they would a serious felon when concerns of her fleeing or destroying evidence were completely unwarranted.

The police filmed the moment of arrest without any authority or consent by using Seoul Broadcasting System (SBS) media agency to shape public opinion. The indictment that they wrote was merely a fictional story fabricated with the use of words in the Bible such as “the end,” “eternal life,” “threshing,” and “pleasant land.” Yet they forbade Reverend Shin from even mentioning the Bible. As soon as they arrested her (at 6 p.m. of 24 July 2018), they took a photo of her and threatened her in their car. The investigator threatened her to stay quiet while the investigator himself used her cellphone to directly send a text message to Grace Road Group Church members telling them to stay still. They confiscated everything, denied her from seeing anyone, and immediately put her through coercive questioning at Gyeonggi Nambu Police Agency until 2 a.m. of the next day (25 July). Not only was the principle of presumption of innocence disregarded from the very beginning, Reverend Shin's human rights were also violated with threats, such as threatening to summon about 70 Grace Road Church members in Fiji to return to Korea for questioning.

Also on 14 August 2018, at 9 p.m. in Fiji, INTERPOL, the Fijian Police, the Korean Ministry of Health and Welfare, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and 20 other government officials raided Grace Road farm in Navua. They searched Reverend Shin's residence, my room and the entire office, and searched through every drawer. They confiscated all records, documents and broadcast video material. They confiscated the passports and personal effects (including cellphones) of all 400 members of GR Group and carried out a thorough investigation.

Moreover, they detained the so-called leaders of GR Group, including myself for 3 days, and rigorously investigated the group. They held individual interviews of all members, from the children to the elderly, to see if there indeed was a violation of human rights or child abuse as asserted by the so-called victims. They questioned in detail about whether we came voluntarily, or whether we were oppressed. They probed us by offering to help us return to Korea if we so desired. In the process of their investigation, they separated our children from the parents and imposed fear and threat through the isolated questioning. They detained six of us whom they deemed as 'leadership' for 3 days in order to forcibly send us to Korea, but their illegal efforts without proper legal procedures were stopped by court order of the High Court in Fiji.

## **- The inquisition by the police joined with the media to shape public opinion**

The Korean Police illegally leaked the seized evidence to the media, and the producer of the TV Show SBS “Unanswered Questions” used it to describe Reverend Shin as the leader of a doomsday cult with violent and coercive leadership, and made other allegations such as unpaid exploitation of labour, child abuse, neglect and abetment. The maliciously edited compilation has had a profoundly negative effect on public opinion and has greatly influenced the biased and unlawful decisions of the Korean court system.

Before the first instance court (29 July 2019) even passed a sentence, the SBS platform aired malicious, biased and deliberately edited videos, the first on 25 August 2018, the second on 20 October 2018, and with the appeals pending, the third on 21 September 2019, all of which viciously shaped the public opinion. This is undeniable proof of a collusive relationship between the prosecution and the media, a clear violation of the principle of presumption of innocence, a breach of Broadcasting and Communications Act, and a grave breach of portrait rights, defamation and human rights.

This resulted in notices of suspension of bank transactions, boycotts, protests, intimidation, dissemination of false facts about a collusive relationship with the Fijian government, political abuse and attacks from certain political parties in Fiji, the cancellation of building contracts, the cancellation of ongoing projects, and the suspension of delivery transactions rendering enormous damage in our actual business operations.

Local staff members (employees) of GR Group were also subjected to numerous discriminations, personal attacks, threats, and verbal abuse. Despite all the damage and threats that we have received, we have not taken any legal action, because we are true Christians.

#### **- The heinous deeds of the Korean Embassy in Fiji**

Roughly 1,000 Korean nationals reside in Fiji, of which GR Group constitutes the majority of the Korean community as a single entity. The Korean Embassy in Fiji gained a distorted view because of the baseless allegation of being a cult raised by Korean churches and missionaries in Fiji. The embassy never approached us since the founding of GR Group, nor did they carry out their duty of protecting or supporting their fellow nationals.

Why did the Korean embassy not once visit GR Group or perform an inquiry when they heard the allegations raised by those who claim to be victims?

For nearly a year, they neglected to reclaim the passports of GR Group members which were confiscated during the raid by the Fijian Police. In doing so, they abandoned their duty and responsibility to protect their fellow nationals.

Not only that, after the arrest of Reverend Shin, the embassy sent an official note to Fiji Immigration to cease visa renewal of GR Group members. They also disseminated false information to the respective foreign embassies of GR Group members of other nationalities. This is grave defamation and a breach of our human rights.

We wish to have the Korean Embassy in Fiji tried by the United Nations Human Rights Council on the grounds of wrongful and discriminatory treatment of their fellow nationals with their official and intentional actions.

#### **- Lawless judiciary erases the principle of trial by evidence**

We have been deprived of the rights that all humans must have: liberty, justice and equality.

During the course of all three trials, there was no justice. All trials, from the first instance to the second instance, and the Supreme Court, relied solely on the false statements of the plaintiff's side; the clear video evidence we submitted, the statements of witnesses, and the thousands of petitions filed by the defendant and the members of Grace Road Church were outright ignored. A trial should proceed on the basis of evidence, yet the Korean judiciary cherry-picked only the evidence that supports their agenda. It is deplorable how corrupt the Korean judiciary has become. Instead of holding a fair trial, which is the right of all citizens of the Republic of Korea, they unlawfully accepted only the evidence that fit their objectives, and the trial was only a procedure for them to imprison Reverend Okjoo Shin.

During the appeals process after a six-year sentence in the first trial, we had come to an agreement with one of the plaintiffs, and he had submitted a notice of discontinuance of his case. Yet the second instance court rejected the plaintiff's notice and sentenced Reverend Shin to seven years, and the Supreme Court dismissed our appeal.

In the second instance court, the judge stated, "I do not know the law of God; I will adjudicate in general opinion."



The South Korean Court of Justice, which imposed a heavy penalty of seven years to Reverend Okjoo Shin without basing their judgment on true facts and evidence, and instead based it on false exaggeration of public opinion through the media, shows that they held a lawless trial that trampled upon: 1) the right of all citizens to be treated equally before the law, 2) freedom of religion 3) the right to personal liberty; 4) freedom of residence and the right to move at will.

### **- Threshing floor, group beating? Physical and psychological abuse?**

All members of GR Group community agreed to the threshing floor, for it is written in the Bible, and by doing so, we have kept the commandment of God based on the Bible. We confessed our sins and held the threshing floor in the church after understanding the word of God, as a resolution to ourselves to never again commit our sins. The threshing floor was an act of faith of living up to God's commandment; it cannot be seen as assault by the fundamentally different law of the world. Those who claim to be victims knew from the beginning about the threshing floor and they volunteered to participate, but after leaving Grace Road Church, they claimed that they had been subjected to group beatings and special assault by making false, exaggerated, and untrue statements about everything.

The court turned a blind eye to the truth, although the evidence, material, and statements of witnesses revealed that the statements regarding the threshing floor submitted by the people claiming to be victims were exaggerated and false.

The threshing floor is the last resort and is an act of love of waking up a person who is insensitive to sin. It is spiritual warfare to save the soul caught up in sin and biblical rebuke. This is written throughout the whole Bible. We are not ashamed of this expression of our surpassing brotherly love, and we are confident about it before God and men.

We would like to ask the United Nations Human Rights Council: It is not against the laws of the world to pay and watch acts of violence committed in the name of sports with social consent, but why do you regard the biblical threshing floor as violence, which is in other words, the biblical rebuke that we carry out by following the word of God?

Explain the definition of violence that you speak of.

Our freedom of religion has been clearly breached. The appeals judge said that he does not know the law of God, therefore he will adjudicate by general opinion. This is a clear breach of the freedom of religion that we as citizens of the Republic of Korea should enjoy.

### **- Exploitation of labour? Withholding of pay and fraud?**

We would like to ask the United Nations Human Rights Council to clarify the definition of exploitation of labour. The communication from the United Nations Human Rights Special Procedures describes GR Group as if there are two classes of people: the leadership and the employees. Your perspective of our group is that of a ruling class ruling over a non-ruling class.

All members of GR Group are fellow brothers and one family. We are all equal shareholders and owners of the group. The policies of the company's operations are enacted by the agreement of all members of GR Group, and there are no exceptions. Do the shareholders with full authority over the operations of the company have no right to decide their own work hours and pay?

We have all volunteered to keep and carry out the commandment of God. We have immigrated to Fiji with all of our livelihood, and we have biblically formed a holy community. All of us are registered as equal shareholders without taking into account the amount of contribution.

It is the company rule of GR Group that all assets of GR Group be used for the objectives of the community that GR Group strives for, and that no person can transfer the asset of the group.

The shareholder list and company rules can be easily verified at the Registrar of Companies Office in Fiji.

**- Restricted freedom of movement? Retention of passports?**

GR Group operates about 50 shops, 11 farms, several construction sites and respective residences throughout Fiji, and our members move to and fro all 365 days of the year via vehicles numbering roughly 60. How could our movements be restricted, and how would that be possible?

A significant amount of time is required for all members of GR Group to register as shareholders and apply for visas by going through the complicated administrative procedure of submitting original passports to Fiji Immigration or to Investment Fiji. Since more than 400 GR members were scattered throughout Fiji, one person took care of the passports to deal with the administrative process, but now each person carries his/her own passport. In Fiji, one's driver's license or TIN card can act as his/her proof of identity, so it is not mandatory to carry his/her passport. However, we have submitted the list of all GR Group members and their contacts to the embassy in order to clear all suspicion, so that anyone can freely communicate with the embassy at any time.

**- Discouraging or obstructing access to medical care?**

We do not wish to waste time in writing about such a ridiculous allegation, so we have attached a long list of our medical use.

**- Child abuse? Neglect? Forced labour?**

It is the best education and God's law for all Christians to educate their children by the word of God. Grace Road Church students made their own decisions after consulting with their parents to attend church to receive the Word of God, or to move to Fiji, and did not attend school for a few days. How can school absence of a few days be considered as child abuse, neglect and abetment? All of this was a voluntary decision by the church members themselves, and Reverend Okjoo Shin never told the children not to go to school.

Rather, Reverend Shin arranged for the children who moved to Fiji to be educated in one of the top schools in Fiji located in Savu Savu on the beautiful Northern Island called Vanua Levu, where the educational environment was perfect for our children. She even arranged a private English teacher to get extra help for language education to tutor our children. Moreover, a man who claims to be a victim had brought his son with autism to Fiji. He too schooled together in Vanua Levu island, and we cared for him dearly with love.

Despite these facts, saying that the children were somehow forcibly separated from their parents is a malicious lie, and it couldn't be further from the truth.

In addition, our children, who were excellent students with top grades at the local schools, were put at risk of school violence because of the biased and malicious reports SBS aired. Teachers and classmates deliberately showed footage of the malicious Korean broadcasts by SBS to our young children (age 7~11), and threatened to deport them to Korea. A teacher even made statements such as, "I will put you in a box and throw you into the river." Older students made statements that they would come after them with weapons, which was mentally and physically harming our children to the extent that they were no longer safe at school and could no longer attend school.

As parents, we were forced to immediately withdraw our children from school and had no other option but to keep our children safe at home and start homeschooling to protect our children. Through home schooling, we are teaching our children the basic curriculum required by the school, as well as language and field study,

and achieving the ultimate objective of a well-rounded education. How can this be called child abuse, neglect, and abetment?

### **- Relationship with the Government of Fiji**

Please explain on what basis you suggest of a collusive link between GR Group and the Fiji Government. We don't feel the need to answer to such a baseless false claim.

### **- Measures for compensation for GR Group**

Rather, how can we be compensated for the psychological and physical damage imparted by those who claim to be victims?

### **- Is Grace Road Church a cult?**

Reverend Shin has been carrying out the perfect biblical reformation [Heb. 9:10] to stop people from preaching all lies different from the Bible [Rev. 12:8]. This was the reason why Reverend Shin is being hated and framed as a cult.

What is a cult? A cult is the one who does not acknowledge Jesus as coming in the flesh [2Jo. 1:7], and the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ" [1Jo. 2:22, 1Jo. 4:2~3].

Those who framed Reverend Okjoo Shin as a cult without even knowing the biblical definition of a cult are the self-proclaimed pastors, self-proclaimed exhorter, self-proclaimed church elders, self-proclaimed church deacons, Nadi Korean Church, Full Gospel Church, Methodist Church, and even Korean missionaries. They were pivotal in influencing the public opinion about Reverend Shin negatively and handed her over to the Korean court, where the judge sentenced her to a heavy penalty of 7 years of imprisonment.

This is the same as 2,000 years ago when the Jews who claimed to believe in God handed Jesus over to the world's law and sentenced him to the most brutal penalty of crucifixion [Joh. 19].

### **- About GR Group**

GR Group sees, hears, believes, and acts perfectly by the Bible. All of us voluntarily immigrated to Fiji, the country that God will raise up as the capital of the world in which He has prepared from before time began, with one heart and mind to prepare for the coming great famine as clearly written in the Bible. We began with rice farming in 2014, and we cultivated desolate lands to increase the food security of Fiji. Our endeavours in agriculture were well acknowledged and brought us the Primary Industry Business Excellence Award at the Prime Minister's International Business Award in 2017. Also since the founding of GR Group, we have entered into construction, food processing, restaurant, health care, and so on. We were able to achieve this success in such a short time because we operated under the motto, 'Honesty, sincerity and diligence before God and men' by following the word of God proclaimed through Reverend Okjoo Shin, which is based on the Bible. All of our group's good deeds and achievements are publicized in the Fiji media.

Our Reverend Okjoo Shin was framed as a cult for proclaiming the Bible as the Bible and the Truth as the Truth for the past 13 years. Yet, she did not sue the perpetrators to the world's law, and she has been patient with them. However, the revilers who went out from us and the investigator who calls himself a Christian, the prosecutors, the judges, and the media joined hands, wrongfully imprisoned, and persecuted Reverend Shin and the members of Grace Road Church for living out the Bible. Because of their actions for the past 2 years, the 400 of us GR Group members have received unspeakable physical and psychological damage.

Reverend Okjoo Shin is our dear mother of all GR Group members. Words cannot tell the pain that children feel for not being able to see their dear mother, knowing that she is imprisoned. We all tried to the best of our

abilities for the past 2 years to prove our Reverend's innocence and the truth, but all of our voices were ignored because we were being framed as a cult. Now we openly file a report to the United Nations Human Rights Council of the breach of human rights and religious repression exacted against our Reverend and our GR Group. We will gladly co-operate to have the truth spread to the world. We ask for a special rapporteur to come to Fiji and investigate thoroughly and establish the truth of the matter once and for all. Until the truth is revealed, all members of GR Group shall fight for justice to the end.

Yours Faithfully,

GR Group

Daniel Kim

President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Daniel Kim', written in a cursive style.