

Press release:

Last dying words: "Promise me to find Kyung Sook so you sisters take care of each other"

These were the dying father's last words to Kyung Sook Jung's 10 year older Korean sister. The dying father's last wish was granted 13 years later when the biological family was reunited, and the methods of the adoption agency Holt Childrens Services were revealed.

Kyung Sook Jung was adopted from South Korea to Norway in 1970 via the adoption agency Holt Childrens Services Inc. Kyung Sook Jung is one of the adoptees who have joined the Danish Korean Rights Group's (DKRG) request to South Korea's Truth and Reconciliation Commission for a thorough investigation into overseas adoption from South Korea regarding violations of human rights and suspected fraud and forgery in the adoption process.

DKRG has opened for all adoptees outside of Denmark who are adopted from Holt and KSS. In September, DKRG goes back to South Korea again to hand over more Danish cases and cases from the rest of the world to present to the Commission.

"I would very much like to join your case, since I know I was wrongfully taken and shipped to Norway", with these words 53-year-old Kyung Sook Jung contacts the Danish Korean Rights Group to announce her participation.

From Kyung Sook Jung's adoption documents, it appears that she is an orphan. She can present an orphan *Ho Juk* (호적) where she is the head of the family. From her adoption documents it appears that she was born in 1968.

Both pieces of information are not correct as many other pieces of information from Holt. Kyung Sook Jung was not an orphan, and she was born in 1969 and not in 1968. The adoption was also not voluntary on the part of the family. Here is Kyung Sook Jung's real story:

Kyung Sook Jung is born in 1969. Her mother dies soon after of illness, leaving her and her 3 older Korean siblings to the care of the father. Kyung Sook Jung falls seriously ill shortly after her mother's death, and the father goes to the local authorities for help.

Kyung Sook Jung is hospitalized and this is the last time the father sees Kyung Sook Jung. The father never got to see Kyung Sook Jung again.

What Kyung Sook Jung's father didn't know, was that she were put up for overseas adoption via the hospital's contacts with the adoption agency Holt, and the father never succeeded in getting Kyung Sook Jung back. In 1970, Kyung Sook Jung arrives to Norway without her father's knowledge, to a Norwegian adoptive family.

The father dies of illness in 1974. The father's last words to Kyung Sook Jung's 10-year-old sister are that the sister must promise to find Kyung Sook Jung so that the three sisters can take care of each other when the father is gone.

The loss of Kyung Sook Jung had affected her father greatly. In 1987, she reunited with her South Korean biological family. From her older sister, she has learned that in the intervening years until his death, the father searched for Kyung Sook Jung in all the orphanages in the area in South Korea.

Kyung Sook Jung's South Korean family has told her that they had in no way imagined that she was adopted out of the country to Norway, but that they had always believed that Kyung Sook Jung was somewhere in South Korea; but the truth would turn out to be different.

In 1987 her dying father's last wish was granted. Kyung Sook Jung came to South Korea for the first time. She visited her father's grave in 2017 to pay her respects to the father who had sought her and kept her in his heart until the very end.

"When I stood in front of my father's and mother's grave, I felt like my whole life was one big lie. I felt like I had been made a commodity for Holt to make a profit", Kyung Sook Jung tells.

Kyung Sook Jung's adoption process has been very traumatizing for her. Today she has been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress syndrome (PTSD) by medical doctors in Norway related to her adoption process.

"I have the same nightmare over and over again, where I dream that I am sitting on a bench with other children and scream that I want to go home", Kyung Sook Jung tells.

Kyung Sook Jung's post-traumatic stress syndrome doesn't just show up when she's sleeping.

"In everyday life, I can experience being completely paralyzed. I have the doctors' word that this and my repeated nightmares are due to PTSD as a direct result of the adoption", Kyung Sook Jung explains.

Kyung Sook Jung has tried to cancel the adoption from her side. But that is not easy. Kyung Sook Jung's life as an adoptee has not been the happy life that is stated in the brochures from Holt that "Adoption Is Love".

With her participation in DKRG's case at South Korea's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Kyung Sook Jung demands restitution and restoration.

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