



Press release:

## "In fact, it was made up just for adoption procedure"...

For years, adoptees have suspected that the adoption agencies have falsified the adoptees' background information. Now it's clear! The collection of cases before Korea's Truth and Reconciliation Commission sheds new light on the practices of the adoption agencies, and now it is clear that the adoptees' background information was falsified.

*"First of all, I would like to apologize for the mistake in your adoption file written in English. It says you were transferred from Namkwang Children's Home in Pusan to KSS for international adoption. In fact, it was made up just for adoption procedure, and now I would like to share your adoption background as written in the original paper".*

This is how the adoption agency Korean Social Services, Incorporated (KSS) begins their apology to the Danish adoptee Louise Kwang (the letter can be read here).

Louise Kwang is told that the information in her adoption papers, that she is an orphan and has been in an orphanage, is wrong, but that it was actually fabricated by the adoption agency itself: *"In fact, it was made up just for adoption procedure"*.

Adoptees from Denmark and all over the world have told the Danish Korean Rights Group (DKRG) similar stories that the adoption agencies in Korea have acknowledged that they have made up the background stories, but this has taken place orally at meetings with the adoptees.

Now letters and emails are emerging documenting that the adoption agencies admit to having falsified background information.

*- "When I first saw the letter from the adoption agency, I was about to drop my jaw in astonishment. Not only do they apologize for the false information. The adoption agency explains that they made up false background information to facilitate the adoption procedure. It is nothing less than a confession!",* says Peter Møller, co-founder of the Danish Korean Rights Group

A similar letter is received by Danish adoptee Birthe Ladehoff: *"This is in response to your request to search for your birth family and I would like to share the information on your adoption background first because the information that you were from Nam Kwang Children's Home in Pusan City **was just for the official adoption procedure at the time. Your real background is that you were from a midwife's clinic in Seoul**".* The letter is written by Ms. Kim, the director of KSS.

DKRG has asked the two adoptees why these letters are appearing now, and not earlier. Both explain that there was nowhere to go with this type of information before DKRG submitted the case to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Now there is an address for these kinds of information.

*"This is a smoking gun! We hope that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission can get to the bottom of what has been going on in the two adoption agencies Holt and KSS.", Peter Møller says.*

*"This is starting to look like a farce! I hope that the two adoption agencies realize, that this is serious and it will suit them to release the information of the adoptees. Day by day it becomes more and more embarrassing. We can see in black and white text what they have done. Even though we have only been a commodity for them", says Peter Møller.*

DKRG have collected 283 requests to the commission. The two letters are among the thousands of pages sent to the commission.