Adapted:

In the last episode, I spoke to Peter Mueller of the Danish Korean Rights group. It was right after the announcement that a Korean Truth Commission had agreed to initiate an investigation on Korean adoption, starting with 34 cases out of more than 300 submitted, representing Korean adoptees from the United States, Australia, and from several European countries. This is part two of that conversation. So either the screening on a large scale did not happen, and, and, and, and possibly the checkups didn't happen.

Peter Möller:

Not in no. And listen. also very important that holds is not a, they they are not child professionals. They're businessmen, office workers and businessmen. They don't have any clue about child welfare. So again if you read Bertha Holt's book, they're a bunch of amateurs playing with kids, literally playing with kids, kids' lives. That is, they're amateurs. And, and if you read the different cases, I would say hold should never be allowed to have anything to do with children. If, if this was institution and institution in civilized countries like United States or Europe, they would be close down because they are not fit to have anything to do with children. That this is like even worse than having children looking after children. Because these people here, they are just

Adapted:

Profiteers.

Peter Möller:

Exactly. They're trying to make money on children. So you have all the nice words, all the nice procedures described, but hey, it takes time. Look at, look at hold as a factory. It takes time to make do good matching. It takes time to make this post adoption checkup. Everything extra takes time and time equals money. So there's so many things showing that this is all about getting the children out and getting the money in.

Adapted:

One of the things I heard when we talked previously, Peter, you had said that, you know, one of the, the points your, your, your cases you're making with the commission is about ethnic cleansing. Yes. do you have any cases asserting the, the ethnic cleansing issue in the initial batch of 51?

Peter Möller:

No. That is also something that has changed. we we notice it when we read by reading holds own 50 year anniversary book. I said, what is this? And I don't know if people have ever read the 50 years anniversary book from Holt. Then you really find out how extremely fundamental fundamentalistic Christian, they are religious, not Christian. They are religious fundamentalists. So if you read through the book, you find out what did they do, you know, the Harry Holt, the, this Harry Holt story when he took in a bunch of kids himself, and you realize this was the beginning of the ethnic cleansing.

Adapted:

The taking of the biracial kids.

Peter Möller:

Yes. And so this was the beginning.

Adapted:

Do you make anything of the fact that there are no seem to be no cases in that initial batch that were selected?

Peter Möller:

I've talked to I've talked to adoptees of mixed background, and they have already always had this feeling that there was some race issue in the adoption policy. But I, I don't think that anyone, even Koreans today knew about how systematic this was and how that adoption actually started with deportation of mixed children. And I was surprised too. I didn't know this part at all that, so it all started actually by being, it actually, let's call it what it is, racist policy to deport all mixed children. I didn't know that that was actually how it started. And I didn't know that hold actually was number one in executing on this thing here. And they knew about it. They actually knew about it. They write that they wanted to save the mixed black children that didn't fare well in the unique homogenous people of South Korea. They actually write this

Adapted:

Is this similar to let's say, a dictator of government who wants to disappear dissidents?

Peter Möller:

It's very similar to something we've seen in European history, and it is very hard to totally mention and compare. it is very similar to what Germany did to the Jews in the 1930s and forties.

Adapted:

Like a social engineering program.

Peter Möller:

Exactly. And also the handicapped children. So there are so many similarities, and I think that that is a thing that surprises me the most. So being probably the same as being an American, being a European must be the same as being an American. This is something that we have heard a lot about from history classes in school, what happened during Second World War and be reading that the same thing has actually happened many years later in the sixties, fifties, sixties, and in the seventies in South Korea. That gave, gives me goosebumps just thinking about this, because this is horrific.

Adapted:

So it's kind of like, if I'm, if I'm hearing what you're saying, let, it's a type of social engineering endeavor that has been disguised by this kind of child welfare program.

Peter Möller:

Yes. Yeah, exactly. So if you read the yearbook 50 year book of Holts, this is like, this is like meeting Adolf Eichmann this thing here. So they believe they did something good. They can't even see the racist element. They just did what they were told. I mean, sure. In during this case, they would come and say, huh, we just did what the government said we should do. We have no responsibility. At that time, hold was an American company, and it still partially is where partially is, I don't believe. And we, they, we, they tried to mask it into Korean culture in media and say that much be cultural differences. Hmm. My question is, when they talk about cultural differences, is that American Danish culture, they think there's a difference because Holt is carried by American culture. It was an American company and still is, partially is American company.

So take Holt as a business if they did the same. And that is what really I really find out is if you could make this comparison, if Holt did the same to children in the United States or in Denmark to the to children in the United States, what would happen then if we found out that they changed identity of children? That they have actually participated in stealing children? They would be closed down immediately, and the henchman and the people from hold would be sitting in Danish or American prisons today, it's only because it has been in Korea. We can't do anything about this. If they were from Denmark, they would not be running a business today. I'm sure people will be standing with torches outside the whole building if they were in Denmark.

Adapted:

Peter, when you said Holt Korea is still partially an American company, what do you mean by that? Are shareholders, Americans?

Peter Möller:

We don't know the structure. We don't know the structure, but there's definitely corporation between that. I mean, I think the, it is it is some kind of a local branch. So you have the holding company in United States, and then you have the local branch here in Korea, and they are both incorporated companies. So legally they are they are separated, but that is they are not more separated than McDonald's is is separated from McDonald's, Denmark.

Adapted:

Oh, you mean Holt usa

Peter Möller:

Yeah.

Adapted:

Okay. Which they hold. They

Peter Möller:

Have the, they have the same relationship between Holt, USA and Holt and sorry, McDonald's, USA and McDonald's, Denmark. They have the same relationship as Holt, United States, whole Korea.

Adapted:

But they do take great pains to always point out that they're separate from Holt.

Peter Möller:

Yeah, of course. Yes, of course. Yeah. And they, and McDonald's, USA and McDonald's Denmark, they are also two independent legal buddies. But if you, if you, if you come to Korea, try to look at the Holt museum. They've made themselves, it's paid by, it's paid by by Holt International (in the US).

Adapted:

In the United States.

Peter Möller:

Yes.

Adapted:

I know we're getting over an hour here, Peter. what, what would you like to say?

Peter Möller:

I would like to say thank you to the many editors. Also thank you to you Kaomi because you, you have really spread the word about adoptees so they could submit cases. Also say thank you to all the adoptees and, and also give a message to them to be patient. We are starting right now, get a lot of emails and messages. when is my case on what is the procedure and so on. I understand that people are very, they want this to their case on the commission. But be patient, take your time and also find the documentation in your, in your case file, because the commission is going to use, is going to use the documentation you have. So they're going to ask, what is your case about if it is abduction or it is sexual abuse or whatever. You have to be able to put evidence that something was not right.

Adapted:

Peter, you mentioned a very disturbing incident of, I wanted to go back. A disturbing incident of being essentially, it sounds like, threatened by Holt officials to Yes. to cease and assist your activities. Right. Is that a crime?

Peter Möller:

Yes, it is. Of course. It's crime. It's not, not legal to to, to threaten people. It's not. and to take a case down, I'm doing something legal. I have actually used my right to put in a case to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. And if they come and say, tell you, take down the case, or else we will do something bad to you, that is, that is a crime. I would say, I have told the Dan's embassy about this incident, and they take it very seriously. We actually have a tape recording from the time they threatened us. So they, if they are saying, this is not the truth, we have tape recording of the incident where they threatened me.

Adapted:

Are you, do you feel concerned for your safety?

Peter Möller:

No, I'm, I don't, I don't know what they up to but is clearly that they are trying with all their power to stop me and to mani manipulate s around the world, not to participate in the case.

Adapted:

You've heard of others that they've reached out to other adoptees to not

Peter Möller:

Oh, yes. Oh yes. Oh, yes.

Adapted:

Now, if they do that to, to tell people not to participate, is that in violation of the truth Commission's procedures?

Peter Möller:

I believe so. There's no, there's no legal procedure, no procedure in the world where you can go out and threaten the witnesses there no way. Because the whole, the whole system is built on that You have free people who can testify or can use cases. I'm not doing anything illegal. They're doing something illegal by trying to manipulate or threaten me to stop this case. I think they believe that they, if they stop me, this case would go away. But that's not how it works In Denmark. We are more than 500 members. So, and we are more than six people working with this case, and they have the same, same insight, same knowledge as I have. So they can use all the, all the methods from the dictator period when they were founded, but they are obsolete in nine, in 2022.

Adapted:

Pip. Do you feel like this is a, this movement is really, is really growing?

Peter Möller:

Yes. We started out especially <laugh>, we started out only two people a week later. We were 12 people, and now we are more than 550 people in, in just in Denmark alone. And now we have sister organization Norway, in Netherlands and in Australia. So this is fantastic. I didn't, I didn't I only thought it was the Danish group that would go with this case that never expected that hundreds of s would stand together like we do here.

Adapted:

Oh, so you, in your mind, you hadn't really envisioned that this was going to be a multinational type of thing?

Peter Möller:

No, this, this, that we are in fact, a movement now. I've never imagined that, never imagined that. I've never, I'm so happy to see in Netherlands, in Norway and Australia, that adapters inspired by, by what we've done in Denmark, that adapters go out themselves and take leadership of, at other adapters of in, in their home countries, to take the initiative to say, we are going the same direction as you. That is, that is actually the most touching part of this. To see that as the tills actually stand together, in this case here, take leadership in, in their own country that is fantastic. the most touching thing I've seen, and actually more touching than actually seeing <laugh> seeing the commission. I'm happy about to see the commission, but without this community, worldwide community, we, we couldn't have done this. So the community among adopts worldwide is actually, it does everything that makes the difference. And that's also why I'm not afraid that when hold comment threatens me and try to manipulate and do stuff also. So think never again. Hold doesn't run at anymore. We shouldn't be afraid of them. We are enough people.

Adapted:

Peter, I wanna one more thing I wanted to ask you. the issue of the privacy law in the case of a deceased parent, now I've heard some legal opinion that the Korean privacy law does not protect the personal identity, the, the privacy of a person who's deceased. It, it protects a living person.

Peter Möller:

Oh, yes, yes. And you, you, you, that's correct. you have the, you have it in, in Korean, actually in Korean adoption law. article 36 3, article 36, 3 states that if a person is deceased, let see there could be a biological parent, then the privacy laws are not existing for the rt. So we can have full disclosure of the case if your biological parent is dead. Also, if you are suffering from serious illness, you can also have this it's the same

Adapted:

But has it been your understanding that the government does not disclose the identity when a parent has died?

Peter Möller:

It is I have seen cases where this happens usually because the adoption agencies, they don't know the law or will not act as they know the law, because they are actually obliged to give, obligated to give you information if your biological parent is dead. But they, they don't do it. they, we have had three cases where the N C S C has actually give full disclosure by documenting that parent is dead

Adapted:

And given the name,

Peter Möller:

The full name, the full documents without the, the black pens.

Adapted:

But but you said that was one of your cases in the, in the three, in three cases. Three

Cases in the Truth Commission no, to the, to the Ncse.

Okay. So you don't have any cases that are saying that are a attempting to

Peter Möller:

No, the, the commission can see everything. So if we have ca documents we have things in, in the, in the commission, they can actually see everything, the commission. But if you are, if you, if you have documents, adoption papers or something where you want to look into something in, in Korea, if the parent is there, you can have full dis disclosure because the, the protection of the privacy rules it's about protecting living people. The, the minute a person dies privacy is of the deceased person is not that strong anymore. You have to also, in, in court cases, you have the Yaga case, probably the human rights the Court of Human Rights in, in Europe it actually states that the that identity weighs higher than and then privacy. That is the Yk case where a is an adoptee wants inside into deceased biological father.

Adapted:

Well, you know, Peter, I, I, I asked National Center for the Rights of the Child (NCRC) when I was in Korea mm-hmm. <affirmative> for, to release the identity of my father's deceased, and they said, no, they can't.

Peter Möller:

Okay. Who did you add? Who, who did you talk to?

Adapted:

the two case workers. One for Eastern and one for Holt. And then the French adoptee who works there? Philip.

Peter Möller:

Oh, the French. Oh, Philip. I've heard a lot about him. <inaudible>. So is the, I would go one step up if if I, I wish you, because they have done it before. Okay. And at in c c they are usually very, very, very friendly with adoptees and they understand the law.

Adapted:

Okay. So they, the, that's not, that's improper for them to say that to me, that mm-hmm. I can't or to deny that. Yeah. Yeah, because they did, they did they did confirm that they have his name. So

Peter Möller:

Yes, they have to disclose this.

Adapted:

Okay.

Peter Möller:

100% sure. And again, you can take yourself, check yourself article 36 3. It's clear that it says

Adapted:

36 3 in the privacy,

Peter Möller:

No adoption adoption law, law special adoption act. Okay.

Adapted:

Al Adoption Act. Yeah. Okay.

Peter Möller:

And and I what you say here, I would actually take that and ask some of the Koreans here and also talk to NCRC, but we're going to take it with the management in

Adapted:

Go above ntc. Okay.

Peter Möller:

Yeah. because NCRC, they have really, really, really, really good people, and we are through the, this whole thing with the case. We've talked to the nnc SSE a couple of times, and they understand what we are doing. And they also said that they followed the, the, the case, and I think it's, they want the best for their s. So I find it hard to believe that this is been, that they're doing this also, also cases where sils have been sick they could, yeah, they have something they could have inherited from biological family. The law also. Yeah. Also denied disclosure. So I think we should go to nnc, s c and ask what is the, the law, what does the law says, and what do you do actually do

Adapted:

Mm-hmm. <affirmative> and that they're denying.

Peter Möller:

Yes, that is because they don't know anything about the concept about privacy. So the deceased father, it is his privacy things that we are talking about here and privacy, suddenly uncles aren't if they have a dog, it was also applies to the dog and so on. They don't have a clue on what privacy rules actually is, what privacy rules, what, what did. Yeah. Because

Adapted:

What they, they offered to do is to go to the father's family for

Peter Möller:

Can't,

Adapted:

Because how can a family member be heavily like power of attorney for your privacy, right?

Peter Möller:

Yeah. Yeah. And they don't, they've, they've just said that they don't accept power of attorneys. And then we said then Korea should be the only place in the whole world, whole world where power of attorney doesn't apply. So we had an adoptee to have to ask a question to Nnc s c to travel from the other power side of the world, just to have a then adopt living in Korea. They have said we can take, bring the question to the answer. I see. Because we live here and they don't accept power of attorneys. They want the adoptee to be there in person, just on simple questions. And that is also, that is a questions similar to your question. So, um-huh

Adapted:

<affirmative>. And that's how they kind of also can, I mean, it, it, it makes it so that only people who can afford to fly to Korea.

Peter Möller:

Exactly. That is, that is big problem.

Adapted:

So if, if I've, I've actually gotten them to de they've, they said to me at my meeting that they d they, they cannot give me, disclose a name without consent from leaving relatives. Do I have grounds for a lawsuit?

Peter Möller:

Yeah, but it is, it is so expensive to do this. but there would be there would be grounds to take this to court, to have it defined what is privacy, but there's also possibility that Korea don't know about privacy. So, so, so the people you are asking, then they, they, they don't know the definition of their privacy. So they are making up rules as they go. We have to change the services, the post adoption services, we have to change it. We, we shouldn't have people, if they use money, taxpayers money to have post adoption services. At least they can put in people who knows what they're talking about. Hire people who knows about adoption, who are willing to look into how to solve things. There's too much Korean public, a typical public employee, public servant in Korea. If they, if there is some places they want to, where they have to interpret it, where the law doesn't fit in or their interpretation of the law doesn't fit in, then you don't give any to do, get any solution.

They will try to discuss. No, you can't just say, no, you can't. Also to use this case also to use that, we are now a network worldwide to have these things changed. In Korea, you actually have a, this a public servant test to take a test, and you can, you can work in the, in the public sector, but there's no demand of the content of what you are, you are. And that's alarming. And that it took me a long time, actually to a long time to find out it was like this, that the person that you are, you're dealing with doesn't know anything about what, what you're talking about. And they don't give permission. If they're not 100% sure it, it is put into a manual, then you'll update it.

Adapted:

Okay, Peter, well, thank you so much for your time again. And so I guess you just, your message to tall adoptees is just to be patient and see this,

Peter Möller:

Be patient go through your papers, your documents, find the things that you want to show the, the investigators yeah, be patient because all cases are going to be, they're going to look through all cases and put them in groups, take them to the sub commission and start investigation. That is how it was described to us by the investigators.

Adapted:

And you said that the commission, they have the power to see all of our identification that the government might have on us. So they, they they'll be able to see if our documents are false. Yes.

Peter Möller:

They have the power to, to look through everything. So that is okay. That is the amazing thing about the commission. They can see everything and they have, they can demand to, to see.

Adapted:

So this is really kind of a referendum on the agencies

Peter Möller:

You could call it that

Speaker 4:

You

Peter Möller:

You could call it that. And also the political part also is highly political. And we also feel that we can, we can see the, the hands of HOLT reaching in and trying to influence politicians to have them influence us.

Adapted:

That's ha that's happening.

Peter Möller:

Oh, yes. Oh yes. Oh yes. The only thing is is if I'm afraid that if they also, I don't know if they pay people to do it or, or what, but definitely, definitely, definitely, definitely. And the last four weeks, the last four weeks we have, we have really, really, really experienced this. We've experienced even people in in site that is, we have a post-adoption service in Denmarks where you can you can have a counseling with adoption issues. And we've even found that one of the counselors was asking a specific counselor have asked in this counseling situation. He's a psychologist about me and about the case. And we have found out that the person here is actually a former board member in the Danish agency connected to hold. So Oh, yes. The long, dark, sticky fingers. They are reaching out all over the world at the moment.

Adapted:

Do you think they're panicking?

Peter Möller:

I think they are very, very concerned, and maybe I am panicking. Sure. You wouldn't threaten me like this if you wasn't. this is a, this is a panic thing to do. we also know from the Danish agency that they have been in contact with each other. and right now we are, we are going through Danish authorities to actually get hold of the conversation between hold and the Danish agency because this conversation was about me and the Dkg case. so definitely they're doing something. So this is just a matter of time that we find out what, what hold actually agreed on with with the Danish agency. And this is just a matter of time when we get this, and of course we will, we will make it public what they have talked about.

Adapted:

Oh, you mean there was a correspondence or there was a phone call between Holt and

Peter Möller:

Yeah, the Holt was so was waving with a piece of, with a memo saying, meeting with the Danish partners, and there was a date, and then we went to the only Danish two, two groups in Denmark that could be this partner. And one of them said, yes, we actually had a meeting about you on this date, and then about me and D K R G and looking at the number of pages in the memo. and we have a public administration law in Denmark, so I have full insight into what, when it's about me, and they've said it's about me, then I full insight into the document. So I would have the doc document, and also when I get the document, show people what, how they speak to each other, what the communication was about.

Adapted:

Okay.

Peter Möller:

It is, it is over with those methods that Holt, what Holt does, these method, the methods, they are passed. And now when this case is running, if Holt or other influencers try to manipulate adoptees, they will be reported to the commission and they will be reported to Danish police. If it happens in Denmark, Danish police, Danish authorities, and they will be reported to the commission. So any attempts from Holt again will be reported to Danish police and it will be reported to the commission

Adapted:

In, are you talking to the Danish embassy in Korea to

Peter Möller:

Yes, yes.

Adapted:

Okay. To sort of secure your, your safety while you're in Korea?

Peter Möller:

We have, we, we have, we have no. I've told them about the incidents and I'm going to tell them again because they've been at development since since then. But yeah, if you try to manipulate and influence attitudes, we will make you responsible for this, because the adoptees and I and the D KR G who have not done anything illegal. We just asked the commission to make investigation into adoption, and that is not illegal to do that.

Adapted:

Thank you, Peter, members of the D K R G and to sister movements taking place. Thanks. Also goes to JaeJin for our theme music. For more, go to jaejinmusic.com. Lastly, I want to thank the individuals who are supporting this podcast. Each month. The money goes only towards production of the podcast. And for maintaining an online presence, you have allowed this podcast to grow and for more adoptive voices to be heard. To find out more about how you can join in this support, go to patreon.com/adapted podcast. Until next time, take care.