

Substantial Disruption



An Honorable Man

By Mike Tully

On April 24th, Donald Trump referred to North Korean Dictator Kim Jong-un as “[very honorable](#).” That’s an upgrade for a despot Trump threatened with “fire and fury” [and derided](#) as “Little Rocket Man.” There is reason to question Trump’s ability to judge character, as evidenced by his surrounding himself with con men and grifters (Pruitt, Zinke, Cohen, Sater, Kushner, Price, etc.), his history of questionable liaisons (Marla Maples, Stormy Daniels, Karen McDougal, etc.) and choice of mentor ([Roy Cohn](#)). The President has clearly demonstrated infatuation with dictators, praising the Filipino maniac [Rodrigo Duterte](#) and acting as Vladimir Putin’s [Fan Boy in Chief](#). But Trump is the President and if he believes Kim is an honorable man, then that’s important.

Kim Jong-un is the grandson of the founder of the modern prison-state of North Korea and its reliance on gulag governance. “Kim Il-Sung’s rule was based on ruthless rights abuses,” [stated Phil Robertson](#), Deputy Asia Director of Human Rights Watch in 2016, “including frequent use of enforced disappearances and deadly prison camps to inflict fear and repress any voices challenging his rule.” “The man is dead,” he added, “but his brainwashing and horrific abuses live on. Kim Jong-Un is following right along in his grandfather’s footsteps.” But Kim Jong-un is an honorable man.

Kim Il-Sung was succeeded by his son, Kim Jong-Il, who governed in the family’s despotic tradition. After he died in 2011, Human Rights Watch [summarized](#) what it referred to as his “legacy of mass atrocity,” noting Kim Jong-Il ruled for 17 years and “was responsible for the deaths of hundreds of thousands, and perhaps millions, of North Koreans through widespread preventable starvation, horrendous prisons and forced labor camps, and public executions.” Kenneth Roth, the organization’s Executive Director, said “Kim Jong-Il will be remembered as the brutal overseer of massive and systematic oppression that included a willingness to let his people starve.” He called on his son and successor, Kim Jong-un, to “break with the past and put the human rights of North Koreans first, not last.” Kim Jong-un demonstrates no concern for the human rights of his people, who struggle to survive in a land where political prisoners are jailed by the thousands and the masses live within a crumb’s toss of starvation. But Kim Jong-un is an honorable man.

While North Korea is the most opaque nation on earth, a handful of defectors have described what life is like under the corpulent young dictator, Kim Jong-un. One of them, using the pseudonym Hee Yeon Lim, [told The Mirror in 2017](#) she was a member of a privileged family when she defected in 2015. She related being forced to watch a public execution in a stadium, along with her classmates. The victims were eleven musicians accused of making a pornographic video. She said they were lashed to the barrel end of anti-aircraft guns approximately 200 feet from where she stood. “Their bodies were blown to bits,” she said, “totally destroyed, blood and bits flying everywhere.” Some of her classmates were forcibly

taken from school to serve as Kim Jong-un's sex slaves. Another defector, May Joo, [told *United Press International* earlier this year](#) she was raped in prison before she escaped in 2005. She said North Korean women do not realize rape is a crime because North Koreans have no concept of human rights. "It never occurs to them to speak up or seek justice," she said. A third defector, Joo-II Kim, [told *The Express* last year](#) that Kim Jong-un is the most dangerous leader in the family dynasty, citing his treatment of family members. He noted that Kim's father and grandfather ordered the execution of people "for standing against them but they didn't kill their family or their close cronies." He added that "Kim Jong-un killed his uncle." "That is a crime against humanity," he said. "His madness is beyond explanation." Kim also [killed his own half-brother](#), Kim Jong Nam, with a chemical attack in Kuala Lumpur. Kim Jong Nam's son, Kim Han Sol, has gone into hiding because of his outspoken support for democracy, peace, and diplomacy. He knows his life is in danger. But Kim Jong-un is an honorable man.

President Trump [just announced](#) that he and Kim will meet on June 12th in Singapore, Malaysia, a meeting that was first proposed by Kim. The announcement coincided with the release of three American citizens who had been detained by North Korean authorities without cause and were, in fact, political hostages. The men returned in the early morning hours and Trump met them personally when they arrived at Andrews Air Force Base, later [tweeting video clips](#) of himself greeting the men. He wrapped Kim in his glow, [telling the gathering](#), "We want to thank Kim Jong-un, who really was excellent to these three incredible people." Former New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson, who has brought back American prisoners from North Korea, was more realistic, [telling *Vox*](#) the three were held on phony charges "because the North Koreans see them as a potential bargaining chip to trade in for the future." The release was a cynical move by a despot who regards human life as a disposable commodity, but Trump does not see it that way because Kim Jong-un is an honorable man.

Trump is optimistic about the talks with Kim. The *New York Times* [reported](#) Trump told the media "his proudest achievement will be 'when we denuclearize that entire peninsula.'" He's already [suggesting he deserves the Nobel Peace Prize](#), telling the media, "Everyone thinks so, but I would never say it." Of course, he will bring peace to Korea and win the Prize. After all, his negotiating partner is Kim Jong-un, and Kim Jong-un is an honorable man.