

TRANSCRIPT

"INSIDE NORTH KOREA WITH ISHIMARU JIRO"

A Conversation With Ishimaru Jiro

Moderated by Marine Buissonnière

TRANSCRIBER'S NOTE: SPEAKERS' SLIGHT ACCENTS ARE SOMETIMES DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND.

ANNOUNCER:

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THOMAS KELLOGG:

We're very excited-- to have with us-- Japanese journalist Ishimaru Jiro, I think one of-- fair to say, one of the leading experts (APPLAUSE) on-- North Korean-- affairs. I ha-- you have his bio so I won't-- waste your time reproducing-- that material. In addition-- we have-- Mr.-- Henry Soong (PH), who will act as translator. He is obviously-- an experienced activist-- in his own right and has worked extensively with North Korean defectors, including-- Shin Dong-Hyuk-- who is-- a long-time defector-- activist based-- in Seoul. Then of course-- interviewing-- Mr. Ishimaru, we have a face that you all recognize-- Marine Buissonnière -- who's the head of the public health program.

As-- some of you-- may know but some of you may not know, in addition to her vast global expertise on-- expertise, excuse me, on public health-- Marine is also an expert on North Korea. And I believe-- one of only three OSF-affiliated people who have been to-- North-- Korea, including our fellow Suki Kim (PH), who is here-- today.

And-- one of-- now, if we add Ishimaru-san, then one of four people in this room who have been to North Korea. So-- it is difficult in the United States to get four people

on a room who have been to North Korea. (LAUGH) But we have achieved that-- here-- today. So I very much-- look forward-- to-- your-- presentation-- Ishimaru-san. What-- just to let you know about the structure of this conversation-- what we will do is, we've asked Mr. Ishimaru to make a few opening remarks and then show some footage-- from inside-- North Korea from some of its citizens, journalists that he-- works with. And then-- we will go to-- the interview and then of course-- to your-- questions and comments. And with that, I turn it over to you. Thank you, sir.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

Hello, everybody.

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

Hello, my name is Ishimaru, and I'm from Japan.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And I'm very grateful and I'm thankful to OSF for inviting me and giving me this opportunity to speak for you today, so thank you.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And I am a reporter.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And as you know, North Korea is one of the most-- closed-off societies-- countries in the world today.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And I've been to North Korea three times myself.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And even being inside the country, I really cannot see what is around me. It is very-- hard to see the reality of North Korea, even being in North Korea.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And-- except for sleeping time-- during the time when I sleep-- a guide is with me-- at all hours.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And so I gave up-- actually filming, or reporting from North Korea. And I decided to team up with citizen journalists, with citizens-- within North Korea and-- do reporting-- that way.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And I would guess I've met so far up to now, about 900 North Korean-- citizens during my-- time-- doing this-- work.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And I will show you-- a map-- first of all.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

That's the Tumen River.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And the-- Yalu River over there.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And I've been-- very active going back and forth in the-- China/North Korea border

for the past 20 years.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And so I've had many opportunities to meet with North Korean citizens who have-- come out of North Korea through the border and who have shown interest in wanting to-- bring-- reporting from North Korea. And I've met-- many people-- through that.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And my main-- purpose right now is-- my work right now is for the purpose of developing and-- fostering the-- reporters within-- North Korea, the (UNINTEL) within North Korea.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And the reason for that is, even if foreigners go into North Korea, it is-- impossible for those foreigners, for those visitors, to report from-- within North Korea.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And no matter how hard-- one tries to overcome or to scale that wall-- it is very difficult in North Korea-- to be able to do that.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And you will see the video soon. And-- you're gonna meet-- the-- some people-- in the video-- that are doing the reporting for-- us here.

(OFF-MIC CONVERSATION)

(VIDEO NOT TRANSCRIBED)

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And so I'll just briefly talk about-- so I'll just briefly introduce to you the-- the work that I'm doing.

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

MARINE BUISSONNIÈRE:

Ishimaru-san, thank you very much.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

You're welcome.

MARINE BUISSONNIÈRE:

For this-- initial (UNINTEL) introduction, I think you're starting to get a sense about (UNINTEL) the complexity and the creativity of what-- Ishimaru-san and his team have been doing. But let's go back, Ishimaru-san, to-- the first question, which is, you've described how difficult it is to access any information on North Korea that is uncensored. Fifteen years ago when you set this up, what made you think that you would be able to do it and that you could contribute to open up a little bit, the opacity around North Korea?

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

I am a Japanese citizen. But I went to South Korean in 1988 as an exchange student.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And I learned-- Korean language-- when I went to South Korea.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So-- to the point, I had a bit of a socialist-- leanings in my own-- ideology or outlook. So I had a bit of-- sympathy, if you will, towards the-- North Korean-- system or North Korean-- the North Korea as a country.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And-- during the late-- '80s and '90s-- the system-- whereby the North Korea was depended upon for its survival and for its continuing existence. So those system-- that began to crumble and-- began to-- break down.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And people also began to wonder-- even if-- North Korea itself-- would-- crumble as well, the country.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And because I did not know how people inside North Korea had lived, I wanted to find out. So I kept on applying for visas-- to go to North Korea-- with the North Korean government.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

But I did not receive-- any-- replies, whether I could go or I could not go. And only time went by.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And because I received no replies from the North Korean government, I went to the border area that I pointed out before-- in July of 1993, the first time.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And the border area is about 1,400 kilometers.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And so for a period of two months, I went-- the whole length of the-- the border area.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And during this time, I received a great shock during my travels in the area.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And at that time, it was-- in its-- small numbers back then. But I met-- many North Korean refugees and defectors who have come out of North Korea who were in that area.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And I also met the North Korea-- soldiers, or North Korean-- people in the military, who are begging for, and asking for, food. And I came across those people as well.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And the fact that the people in the military, soldiers, would be asking and begging for food, that really made me-- wonder-- to a great extent-- what the situation was internally in North Korea.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

However, I still cannot-- go into North Korea. But in '95, I went-- to North Korea, to Pyongyang-- as an official tourist, visitor to North Korea.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And-- I noticed it then when I visited. But-- the surve-- the-- guide and the surveillance-- that was-- put on me-- made it impossible for me to do any reporting, any type of reporting or journalistic work-- while I was there for my visit.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And in between '97 and 1998, I also had the opportunity to visit-- the outlying-- smaller cities and towns for about three weeks.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And when I went to Pyongyang in '95, I did not see any-- situations where there-- there was-- any-- malnutrition or starvation or any-- difficult situation-- in Pyongyang while I was there in '95.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And I found out later that the beginning in '95 was when a lot of-- North Korea citizens began to actually die from hunger and starvation in North Korea.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So I was-- I came to the realization for sure that even-- no matter how many times a foreigner visited North Korea, dozens of times, or how many times-- it would be impossible for that person to bring out-- real-- news, a reality of North Korea outside of the country.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So I began to spend more time in the border area. And I kept on meeting and interacting with North Korean-- people who have come out of North Korean-- in the border area.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So that was the only-- method or only venue for me to-- meet or to find out information about North Korea.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And so-- I kept on-- meeting the people. But one thing you have to realize is that even North Korean citizens in North Korea do not really know about what's going on in their own country.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So they only know about their immediate surroundings, their-- workplace and their immediate-- circle of-- of friends and-- and that-- that-- area. So they don't know anything else about-- what's going-- goes on in other parts of the country.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And there's no freedom of travel. So the citizens of North Korea cannot travel freely anywhere in the country.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And the media obviously is-- totally controlled by the state.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And obviously-- anything that's related to-- politics or political discussions cannot be-- discussed openly-- freely among the people.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So it's a society where-- back then-- the flow of information, exchange of information, was very-- very constricted and limited.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So even if I met one North Korean person, I really could not find out about the reality of what was going on inside North Korea.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

Because that person would only know about what-- happens or what's going on between-- him and the immediate-- people around him.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So I kept on meeting-- the-- the people and interviewing them, making-- videos and doing that sorta work. But I found that-- that work to be-- very lacking-- as well.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And-- because of the many people that I met and the interviews that I did, I began to-- began to know a little bit-- little by little-- just how serious the situation was inside North Korea.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

However-- how can the world, the rest of the world, mee-- believe what I had to say regarding North Korea?

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So I decided that I needed to show the world-- something with the-- the big-- with-- strong enough-- proof or s-- strong enough-- conviction that people can see and-- believe what was coming outta North Korea.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

However, I as a foreigner, even if I went into North Korea-- I cannot-- not really see the reality of what was going on.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

That's why--

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

That's why in 2003, I began-- forming teams of North Korean citizens where they would bring out footage, video footage, and-- photos and documents-- telling-- the world about what was going on inside North Korea. And that began in 2003.

MARINE BUISSONNIÈRE:

So Ishimaru-san, how do you select the people you worked with? How did you train them and why did they choose to work with you, knowing that the risks they're taking by doing that is incredibly high both for themselves (SIC) and their family if they are found?

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

Well, so-- when I-- went out to China, I-- made it a point to meet as many North Koreans as possible.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And we also have-- among our team members-- Chinese citizens.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So in the Yang-- Yangtze area.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And in the Dandong area.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And so these Chinese-- team members-- Chinese citizens-- of our team members, they would go out and seek and meet-- North Korean-- refugees or defectors that are living in the-- border area.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So-- if they-- determined that-- this particular North Korean-- person, citizen-- is a good candidate to be a reporter, then-- they would go into what's-- what I would call interview mode of talking and interviewing-- these-- potential North Korean reporters.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So if we continue and repeatedly meet-- with these North Koreans-- then they would-- we would obviously become very close. And they too-- would-- begin to show interest and curiosity regarding the work that we're tryin' to do.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And so-- if-- it's-- determined that the-- it would be worth it for me to actually meet-- this particular North Korean, then I would actually travel myself to China to meet with-- North Korean person.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And so among the people that-- we (UNINTEL) over a period of time, there are North Koreans who can go in and out of North Korea.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So the-- these are North Koreans who have-- permission to go in and out of-- the country, and also North Koreans who are illegally crossing the border back and forth.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And as we meet-- these North Koreans-- we begin to-- find out that the-- these people, they'd show interest. They want to-- be involved with the work that we're tryin' to do.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And so it's not--
(OVERTALK)

HENRY:

So it's not where when we meet these North Koreans, we say, "Hey, let's-- do this reporting work together, let's be journalists." It's not-- a situation like that. But we-- do some-- a bit of a waiting and-- and seeing and investigating what the situation is with this particular North Korean.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So for example, we would ask this particular North Korean, "Can you find out about the price-- in the black markets-- what a particular item would cost-- currently-- in the market?" And we will ask them. And this would be sort of-- a test or a task that we would give to these North Koreans.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And so as we keep on-- meeting like this and-- I ask him-- these-- task (?)-- with these North Koreans that promises are made and promises are kept, and we become closer. And-- the-- our-- our relationship-- grows more and more between us and the North Koreans.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So through the continual-- meeting with these North Koreans-- we-- try to ramp up, or we try to increase, the level of importance or-- the complexity of the tasks that we require of-- these North Koreans.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And besides-- continuing this deve-- developing the relationship with-- with these North Koreans, we also meet-- new people as well.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So we have this cycle, this-- the regular cycle that goes on-- the-- in terms of meeting and developing-- the relationship between the North Koreans.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And so as we continue meeting these people, and as the-- credibility, and as the trust-- begins to build up, and as we see that these people can keep their promise of going into North Korea and bringing back information about-- what is currently going on-- then we-- begin to-- develop more and more, the relationships that we have-- between us and-- these particular North Korean citizen reporters.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

However, I also-- let's say that-- in this cycle of meeting-- the North Korean-- citizens and reporters-- doing work for us, we've been scammed many times. We've had many-- North Koreans-- break-- promises. And also they would just-- take our equipment and-- steal it and-- and not come back. So we've had more instance of those-- kinda things happening than of-- people-- of working with us and building the trust with us.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So I would say-- in answer to the question, there's no special formula or-- or-- or method. It's just-- repeatedly meeting and meeting and continue to meet and developing a relationship with-- the people that we come across-- in the border area.

MARINE BUISSONNIÈRE:

And so Ishimaru-san, why do people take the risk to work with you? Because they are exposing themselves to significant repercussion both for them and their family-- if they are found out.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So the people that insi-- who are inside North Korea that-- that do-- do the reporting for us, we call them-- partners. And we have-- about a dozen or so-- of those people in North Korea.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So-- in terms of-- our perspective or the way we-- think-- in terms of doing this work and dealing with these people, there's a vast difference between-- our point of view and-- and-- and the others.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And truthfully speaking-- many of these people, they start-- this work because they want to make money. They want to see the financial gain of doing this sorta work for us.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

Obviously, we cannot say, "Well, this is such dangerous work so we will pay to do this work." We cannot do that as a journalist.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So we begin with simple task-- tasks. And-- we try to elevate or to-- increase the level of-- difficulty and that cannot happen unless there is a trust and credibility that is built between us and our partners.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And so we-- are very-- adamant. Or we are very-- clear about the-- the journalistic-- principles that must be kept when we-- deal with these-- partners-- in North Korea.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And our principle is that we keep our promise. Whatever promise is made to the North Korean partners, we keep.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So even-- for North Koreans who are-- have-- grown up in an environment of not

trusting and being suspicious of everything around them-- when they meet and when they have their relationship with us where the trust is built, even these North Koreans will begin to trust and-- and show-- and-- and have faith-- in working with us.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And when they--

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And-- when they come out to North Korea, we show-- these-- partners-- how their footage and the work that they did-- is being disseminated-- through the world's media, through various-- video clips or-- magazines and newspaper clippings.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And so we show-- try to show that. For example-- your work or your video-- seen by a million or ten million-- viewers or readers in Japan, and when we show the proof of-- this-- sort of-- development, then these North Korean partners, they develop a sense of-- pride or happiness that-- they have influence-- the work is being-- very influential in terms of bringing out information from North Korea.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And even that-- there's no special formula or method. That also just takes a lot of time and just-- continue to meet and build that relationship with-- these partners.

MARINE BUISSONNIÈRE:

And so it's a nice segue into the next question. But what do you think the impact of your work has been? There are very few source of uncensored information and images from North Korea. So what is your assessment of what impact your work is having both in South Korea and Japan, but also beyond?

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So the-- footage that our North Korean partners bring out of North Korea-- these are images, scenes that the people outside of North Korea-- cannot see. They would have never-- be able to-- access or see-- the footage that is brought out by our partners.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And in Japan, South Korea, the U.S., there are many-- Korean peninsula-- experts-- Korea experts.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And-- this applies to me as well. But these experts are-- doing research or talking about or-- researching about a North Korea that they've never really seen.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And of course-- we can visit North Korea. We can visit the clean and sanitized version of North Korea by visiting Pyongyang.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And now, we have-- almost 26,000 North Korean defectors who have resettled in South Korea.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And-- it's a situation where even-- about five years ago, many experts not really-- the-- really believe or trust-- the testimonies or-- or the sayings of North Korean defectors.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And I can say-- for sure that-- through the-- the video footage and the footage that's-- been brought out of North Korea by our partners, that many Korea and North Korea experts-- have been helped in terms of their understanding and research of North Korea.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And I believe that they've also-- revised or corrected many of the thoughts or ideas that-- or opinions that they've had of North Korea previously.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And I believe the same applies for the politicians, as well.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And because-- up to-- up until we brought out the footage from North Korea, people really did not know what the citizens, the average people, look like-- in North Korea.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And how really hungry they were.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And how much of a persecution and-- and-- and-- misery that they were living under.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And-- I believe that so what was previously hidden or unseen, we've been able to bring it to the forefront to show to the world. And so many people throughout the world have been-- have come to the realization that in North Korea, there are human beings-- people-- that are living in North Korea.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And secondly-- the whole-- issue of the Korean peninsula-- politically it's been a very-- very-- it's an issue that's-- very-- controversial and-- and very-- noisy in the sense that-- many people talk about it.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So there has been-- a lot of-- discussion or debate between those who support the north, those who-- support the south.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And so these two sides-- would-- often attack each other in debate and a discussion. And people would really not-- talk about-- what's going on among the people in North Korea.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And I believe that-- in this-- debate between-- the different ideological-- divides of-- how to approach the-- peninsula issue, I believe that our footage and our work-- has been able to-- give some-- in a sense, answers or-- solutions, to the-- the debate-- in the-- international scene regarding the-- Korean peninsula.

(OFF-MIC CONVERSATION)

MARINE BUISSONNIÈRE:

Ishimaru-san, you-- you're talking about some of this-- wrong perception you're trying to redress about North Korea through the information you bring out. So today, as we all know, we're in the third generation of leadership in North Korea. When Kim Il-Sung died in '94, everybody said the regime will not survive his death. When Kim Jong-Il died in 2011, everybody said the regime will not survive his death. (LAUGH) So what are people saying based on what you're gathering from the network of informants inside? What is the situation today?

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So in answer-- to your question, I will-- briefly talk about how-- we bring about the information from-- North Korea regarding the question that you just asked.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So this is a recording of a phone conversation that we had with somebody in North Korea.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So we received calls about-- twice a week from inside North Korea.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And so we get calls from-- people who are in-- various regions of North Korea.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So I am not an activist. I am a journalist. And I want to know the-- the real-- the reality, the-- the-- something that is-- for sure that can be-- reported as a journalist.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So this is something that I've-- realized-- as I kept on receiving these phone calls-- regarding-- what's going on, and-- related to the (UNINTEL) Kim Jong-Un as the new leader.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So I think there are three unique-- aspects-- regarding the question and-- of-- Kim Jong-Un.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So-- number one, he is a very young-- person who's a leader. So-- many people say that he is-- acting out. He is-- being immature, immaturity acting out.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And so that sort of-- criticism-- can be seen overall through-- the many phone calls that I received.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And since the two years that Kim Jong-Un has come to power, the overall-- the situation for everyday life of citizens-- has-- deteriorated. It's become-- worse and worse.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So the level of-- complaint and-- frustration-- of-- among the people regarding the-- quality of life, that has increased in North Korea.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And also the level of-- control and surveillance-- in society, North Korea society, has increased-- markedly-- since Kim Jong-Un came to power.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So-- last year-- there has been many cases of-- public-- executions by-- by-- gun-- by-- gunfire-- in North Korea.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And every one of our contacts who have called us from North Korea, they have stated to us, to me, that-- they know-- many people around them that have been-- public executed and have been killed-- through-- this method.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And we all know the-- the purge of-- pardon me, of Chang Song-Taek-- last year, late

last year.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And he killed his-- uncle. He purged his uncle.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And through that, many people say that-- the purge-- the purging, the killing of his uncle-- that is such-- a violent and such-- a wild act by this young-- young man, young leader.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

That-- many people say that-- and think that he is just a little punk who doesn't even possess basic-- ethics regarding family and-- and-- and of people.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So-- first of all, so he's too young and he's not worthy of-- showing-- loyalty and-- showing loyt-- loyalty to somebody who is so young.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And second is that the life-- the situation-- the living situation has-- become a lot worse since he came to power.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So third-- there is this overall sense of fear and-- apprehension.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

However-- the whole regime in Kim Jong-Un is demanding-- absolute loyalty and-- and-- loyalty to-- Kim Jong-Un right now.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And I believe that right now-- people in North Korea see north-- Kim Jong-Un not as (UNINTEL) a leader, but more as-- a controller or a dictator-- of the-- the people.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

However, if I think about it-- I pity-- Kim Jong-Un and I feel-- sorry for him.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

He probably did not-- come into this world wanting to be a dictator.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

But he is-- was put in a situation where because of his father's-- passing away, he-- was-- brought into the-- the position-- as a dictator.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And also with-- the U.N., the COI and all the-- talks of the-- the-- the investigation into human rights violations in North Korea, there has-- been talks of-- putting Kim Jong-Un-- responsible for all the human rights violations in North Korea and putting him on trial.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So in North Korea, among the people-- compared to the grandfather and father-- the-- perception, or the image of Kim Jong-Un, the current leader, is very-- very, very bad

right now.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So in terms of-- continuing the-- the-- the level of control and-- in that society, there's nothing left but to continue hitting (?) and continue-- the-- the clamping down more on the people in North Korea.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So it's a very difficult situation and I must say that-- there isn't that much hope that I see in terms of-- the situation in North Korea with-- Kim Jong-Un.

MARINE BUISSONNIÈRE:

So we'll ask one last question, and then I'll ask you to prepare for yours-- for Ishimaru-san. Ishimaru-san, you mentioned the commission of investigation on the DPRK, which just concluded its report last month-- and which actually the report is gonna be presented in New York on Wednesday at the U.N. with-- Commissioner Kirby-- repeating what he said in Geneva last month, which is the list of crimes-- of which they found-- North Korean (UNINTEL) guilty of, including a range of crime against-- humanity. What do you think the impact of the commission of the investigation will be on North Korea?

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So in North Korea-- there's no other country in the world-- that we see such a dictatorship, a real dictatorship-- in power right now.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

However, the-- leaders, the elites, the people in power in North Korea, they pay-- very close attention to what the outside role thinks of-- them and of-- of the-- of the North Korean regime.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

For example, so in the early 2000s, there was talk about-- a delegation from the U.N.-
- investigative delegation from the U.N., visiting-- if possible, the political prison camps in North Korea.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And after this-- news came out-- there were orders given out where the-- prison-- political prison camp guards-- would-- should not-- abuse or hit-- or physically-- torture or hit the-- prison inmates that were in the prison camps.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So the North Korean regime, they know that-- it-- it's embarrassing for the outside world to criticize and to investigate and to talk about the human rights situation in North Korea.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So this U.N. COI and the-- the report that's coming out and also-- the sort of talk about-- this-- human rights violations going on, how this cannot continue in North Korea-- this is a great-- point of pressure and-- and something that can be very-- useful-- regarding dealing with the North Korean regime.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And I believe that-- this sort of talk of having the U.N. visit and investigate the prison camps-- that's a great way to pressure the North Korean regime.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

However, I think that the talk of-- actually personally-- holding Kim Jong-Un or the leader-- responsible, that might have-- somewhat of a negative effect in terms of dealing with North Korea.

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And it is because North Korean society is one where the leader-- can do no wrong. The leaders-- can do-- cannot do anything negative. And that sort of-- system and ideology permeates throughout whole of North Korean society.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So in North Korea, if a person talks about, "How can we-- talk about how the leader-- did-- the leader in North Korea can improve-- the way he-- leads the country," or talks about anything-- that would attach a negative connotation to the leader-- that person would instantly become a political prisoner and will be sent-- to prison camp.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So I believe that-- the U.N. COI, the investigation and report-- it was very effective in terms of-- raising awareness and increasing awareness-- in the international community-- among the people of-- regarding the human rights situation in North Korea.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

But I believe that-- in order to have actual, realistic-- results to happen from this-- U.N. COI report-- I think-- we need to do more than just-- put pressure and more discussion should be-- held regarding this-- particular question.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And I believe that is very important for North Korean defectors and-- North Korea and Korea experts-- to really discuss and research into what sort of-- how effective-- this could be used, how def-- effectively this can be used in terms of-- dealing with-- the North Korea-- government-- through this U.N. COI report.

MARINE BUISSONNIÈRE:

I'd like to open it up for questions to make sure that we get a chance. There is a mic in the back. If you'd like to come and-- to the mic and speak, please. Thanks.

MALE VOICE:

Thank you so much. I was wondering if you had to guess over all of the years that you've been doing citizen journalism in North Korea, how many people do you think have been doing this research with you? Like, your understanding of North Korea is based on things you've gleaned from talking to citizen journalists there. How many of those people have you worked with? Like, how wide is the experience that these people have had?

MALE VOICE:

So how many people Ishimaru-san has worked with--

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So-- I would guess that-- I've met up to about 900 North Koreans-- through-- the many years that I've done it work.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And people who have actually done work-- for us and with us-- that would number about 50 people.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And we've also had people that just-- disappeared, that-- stopped working for us, that just went away.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And we've-- have-- people who work for us who are able to only contact us maybe once a year at most.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

But despite all that, the-- right now we have about-- 15-- people, partners, who work with us.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

However, I make a distinction among the-- clear disti-- distinction among the 15 people that are working-- with us and for us right now.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So among the 15 people, the-- only the people that I've met personally and who have shown a desire to be-- working as journalists and that I would call journalists-- it

would be only the-- only be the people that I personally meet and talk with.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So-- and in terms of people who I'm s-- quite unsure about whether they want to be a journalist-- but who still-- wanna help out, I would just-- term them-- part-- f-- helpers.

MARINE BUISSONNIÈRE:

Great. (UNINTEL)?

FEMALE VOICE:

Hi, and thank you very much. Those are extremely-- instructive. Appreciate everything you've gone through to bring us-- the information that you've brought us. I have two questions. One-- is to what extent do you get the sense that there is any differentiation through the country in terms of the fear and the feelings toward the liter-- leadership? Can you tell from your sources if there's any cities or-- or parts of the-- country that feel slightly differently?

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

FEMALE VOICE:

And the second question is--

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

He's not that smart so he has to answer the question--

(OFF-MIC CONVERSATION)

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

There is a difference in terms of the region or the different parts of-- North Korea where our-- network is based.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So the-- definitely the region that's closer to the Chinese border, the living situation, the quality of life, is much, much better compared to the other parts of North Korea.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And that is because obviously there's more opportunities for people in the border area to do more illegal trade or-- black-market-- trade back and forth between the-- the-- the border area, between the two-- countries.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So the region that's furthest from the b-- Chinese border area is-- Pyongyang d-- Pyongyang province.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So-- so the people that live in the northern-- provinces, they sort of-- have a name or they make fun of the people that live in the-- the southern provinces.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

That they call them-- a bunch of ignoramuses in a sense, that they don't know anything about what's going on in--

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

That they're-- they're-- that they're dumb, yeah.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And obviously, Pyongyang is a very special-- district, zone.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And the-- previously in the past-- throughout the whole region of North Korea, things were pretty much-- the same, similar. But now-- there is-- definitely a difference between different regions because of-- the development of the market system, the-- the black markets in North Korea.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

'Cause in the past, the-- the border area within China, that used to be a area where it was very poor and it was a very bad place to live. But now it has completely-- become opposite.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And the coastal-- towns and provinces, cities-- it's-- still somewhat-- a lot better than the other (UNINTEL) because they couldn't fish and they could trade and sell and buy-- seafood and-- and-- and other stuff that they catch from the ocean.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So it's quite interesting for me to see the difference-- in terms of the-- the regional differences and the-- the-- the different-- developments among the different parts of North Korea that I hear from the various-- networks in North Korea.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

But obviously we don't have that many partners as we would like to have in North Korea. So there are some regions where we don't have any contacts or information coming-- out of from (?). And then second.

FEMALE VOICE:

Can I ask very quickly one more question, sorry. 'Cause you said something very interesting about people feeling-- that the current leader is too young and that-- not worthy of loyalty. And I wonder if you see any openings there for-- if the population starts to feel embarrassed by the leadership-- what-- what-- might happen.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So I think-- the-- the way I look at it, there probably isn't anyone who is not complaining or has a negative-- feeling about Kim Jong-Un in North Korea right now.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So it's not particularly a complaint about that-- towards Kim Jong-Un. But it's overall the North Korean society and North Korean-- elites, the regime, the government.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So obviously its citizens cannot-- vocalize or they cannot say-- those complaints out loud-- in public in North Korea.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So-- in North Korea, there isn't a specific-- part-- set rule-- that says that you cannot-- outwardly-- criticize or-- complain about-- the regime or the leader-- of the leader.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

However, there is something that-- goes beyond-- even any rules or any regulations about complaining about the regime or the leader, and that's what's called the-- the ten-- great principles-- that's been-- put up by the government.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And regards of any country or any society you go to-- if there are rules, then that rule or that regulation has to be followed. And if it's broken-- there is punishment. There's something that-- one has to pay for not following or keeping those rules.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So in-- May or June of last year, there were new orders that were passed around where-- absolute loyalty and-- devotion to Kim Jong-Un-- must be shown-- by the people to Kim Jong-Un. This was passed around, around that time of the year last year.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And there were many conferences and meetings and many banners and slogans that went up-- throughout the country-- proclaiming this.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And many of the people that called us, our networks, they complained of how annoying and how time consuming this was when they were-- so busy as it was tryin' to-- sell stuff in the market and-- live their own lives and that this was an additional annoyance, another burden on their lives.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

However, around-- August or September-- around the same year 2013-- when a lot of these public executions and these-- purges happened was because the regime carried out their threats of punishing those who did not obey or who acted out-- among the people.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And-- I have information that--

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So many in the police and-- lot of the other-- the people, some people who are in-- positions of power, they were-- purged and executed, as well.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And so the average citizen, when they see and hear about all these things happening, they-- go into state of fear and great apprehension.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And so even though people have so much complaint and-- problems with-- North Korean regime and society-- and the government overall, especially after the purge of Chang Song-Taek, even though many people are-- are-- are very-- full of complaints, they cannot outwardly-- vocalize or complain-- in the open.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So the best word I would use to describe the current atmosphere in North Korea is a atmosphere of fear.

MARINE BUISSONNIÈRE:

Jonathan?

JONATHAN:

My question is, what instructions do you give your partners for how to stay out of danger and how to maintain the security of the information that they collect?

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So-- there are different levels of-- partners-- among our network. But one thing that I always stress is that-- let us-- investigate or let us-- report-- together.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And to be honest with you-- in ch-- we can-- we cannot do-- work regarding bringing that information about-- military secrets or for example political prison camps or the-- information about the-- deeds (?). Those are things that we cannot really do-- that well.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

Obviously-- bringing out information about those things, about-- military secrets, prison camps and elites-- it has (UNINTEL) worth obviously in bringing information about those things.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

But-- we've deemed it that-- we don't need information about-- those things.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

However, what I w-- what I would s-- what I stress with our partners is that-- find out about-- what the situation is for everyday life, for everyday situation, for everyday people, for the normal people, where-- what area, what city has-- food lacking, food shortage. What-- city is going through what-- situation. So we want to investigate, go and find out and talk to people that are living in these particular towns and-- and villages and find out about what's going on among the everyday people.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

Can we-- can I show a short-- a video clip?

MALE VOICE (OFF-MIC):

Yeah.

FEMALE VOICE (OFF-MIC):

Please.

MALE VOICE (OFF-MIC):

Yes, yeah.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So North Korea, even the military, the soldiers-- are hungry. They are starving right now.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And I've heard that-- for quite-- some time-- news of-- soldiers being hungry.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

Can we get the-- the sound come out?

(OFF-MIC CONVERSATION)

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So North Korea, 5% of the population is in the military.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So the yellow caption is the-- questions being asked, and the white one is the soldiers answering.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So there are military units-- soldiers housed-- based-- all throughout the regions-- in North Korea.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And many defectors have testified and given testimony that many soldiers are hungry but we've never seen or heard why they're hungry and how much-- they are hungry.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So we said okay, fine, let's investigate. Let's bring out information.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So we could meet and ask them, ask the soldiers.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So we could just meet, talk to them and then obviously we would-- use-- hidden cameras to-- videotape the encounters.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So this is not inherently dangerous. It's just meeting-- our partners would just be an average citizen and just meeting the soldiers and engaging in conversation with-- the soldiers who are starving and hungry.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So in the military in North Korea, there are the soldiers who are actually dying from malnutrition.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

Because they only have the food given by the-- the state, by the regime, to the military units. That's the only food that they can depend on.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So these soldiers are part of the units that are doing construction work.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So because these are soldiers who are the construction brigade-- they were left-- alone, they would just literally die from-- over-exhaustion and-- and work. So the-- commanders actually are sending these soldiers to the hospital so that they can get-- taken care of.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So I'm repeating myself again but--

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So there's nothing special or-- or-- or-- anything unique about what we do. We just wanna bring out-- footage, video footage, photos and documents relating to the everyday life of the common-- man, citizens-- even soldiers-- in North Korea who are suffering.

MARINE BUISSONNIÈRE:

Matt?

MATT:

Hi, thank you very much. That's so interesting. What role do you feel there is for the defector community, particularly in South Korea-- in improving the situation-- in North Korea? What-- what role can they play or are they playing now, particularly the-- younger generation of defectors who have-- have come more recently?

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So in South Korea, there are 26,000 North Korean defectors who have resettled in South Korea.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So in terms of North Korean (UNINTEL) you have two great effects (?) that-- that these defectors have on north-- on North Korea.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And first one obviously is that they've been able to tell the whole world-- through their testimony and through their talks-- the reality of what's going on in North Korea through their own experiences.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So they're living witnesses to what-- it's-- going on in North Korea.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And secondly, these defectors, they maintain a communication line with people in North Korea.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

Because they have relatives, family members, friends who are still living in North Korea. So they have this-- communication network of-- relationship with-- those in North Korea.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And these defectors, some-- lotta them, they wire money-- via brokers to their-- loved ones in North Korea.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And of course, they also wanna reach out to these-- family members, loved ones, to bring them out of North Korea as well.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And I think-- their methods-- is similar, same, to what I'm doing-- through my work.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So they talk-- with their relatives and loved ones in North Korea via Chinese brokers with-- cell phones in the border area in China, between China and North Korea.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And through that method, incredible amount of information has gone into North Korea.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And also incredible amount of information has come out of North Korea as well, through this method.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And I believe that the-- and I know that the North Korean regime considers this a very dangerous-- threat to their existence.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

However, information that has come out or gotten into North Korea-- that information cannot be deleted or erased or forgotten about.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

It will build up, up and up.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And I believe that the more-- defectors come out and the more defectors that (UNINTEL) in South Korea, the more information is-- going to North Korea-- the amount of information that's (UNINTEL) by-- by the citizens in North Korea, that will only increase more and more.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So I believe that those two things are-- the-- the two great-- effects-- of-- defectors--

that they have-- on North Korea.

MARINE BUISSONNIÈRE:

Krista?

KRISTA:

Ishimaru-san, thank you. Fascinating presentation. You said a couple of times, "I'm not an activist, I am a journalist." And you seem very thoughtful about that frame. When you're faced with soldiers who are starving and hunger and so much oppression, can you tell us more about why you feel journalism is really the right frame for you, 'cause it-- it potentially could bleed into activism. But you seem very focused on journalism. Thank you.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

Yes. Activism, activists, we-- we need-- them as well. (LAUGH)

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

But I believe that-- when it comes to-- information about North Korea-- there is a lack of understanding-- throughout the world. So the one thing that I can do very well, the one thing that I can do-- diligently and effectively-- is to just run around and-- do this and meet people and develop this network. And as a journalist-- do this work. And that's-- what my opinion is regarding the question.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And I believe many American viewers here in the U.S.-- saw the PBS Frontline-- episode-- featuring North Korea and the work that I do.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And I believe that it's not so much me saying that well, look at this, look how bad and terrible the situation in North Korea. As long as I just show and present the evidence, people can see and come to their own conclusion about-- the situation of the reality in North Korea.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And the second-- reason is-- regarding Korea, North Korea and the whole peninsula issue-- there is a lot of politicization and lot of-- debate that goes on-- regarding that issue.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So-- in-- thank you. In-- South Korea and Japan, when people-- make announcements or-- the-- the-- put forth their opinions or ideas-- then-- then opposing views and other-- things would come right back at-- these people that make-- these sort of statements.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So I believe that-- I myself-- don't like to be involved with all that-- back and forth-- debate. So I believe that just-- continuing-- diligently bringing out information-- would-- and presenting the evidence of the-- the-- the video footage and pictures and whatnot, would be the most effective and best way to-- show the world about the reality of North Korea.

(MARINE BUISSONNIÈRE: UNINTEL)

MALE VOICE:

Yes. What are your relations like with the Chinese authorities in the-- the border area? (LAUGH) Do they make your work more difficult?

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

I will show one more-- video clip regarding the question about-- my relationship with the people in the border area in China.

FEMALE VOICE (OFF-MIC):

And Chinese authorities as well--

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So that's-- as you can see from the-- caption, the 2009-- footage-- video footage taken-- at the Tumen River.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So across the river is North Korea.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So it's that close.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

About 30 meters from where the road is China is to where--

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And that's Muzan Gun (PH), Muzan City in North Korea.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And that's the Tumen River right there.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So if North Korean-- if the (UNINTEL) determination to cross the river, it wasn't that difficult to go across the river into China.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

But now I will show what the situation looks like-- in the border area now.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So you can see. This is photo taken in 2012. You can see the barbed wire fence put along on the Chinese side of the border.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So North Korean side, they have no money to put up any fence, so there's no fencing on the North Korean side.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So that's what the-- the new-- newly put-up-- barbed-wire fence looks like on the Chinese side of the border. (CLEAR THROAT)

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So-- it obviously makes it more-- time-consuming and difficult for-- the defectors to cross back and forth.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And-- 2012-- as I was-- in the border area, the reporting and doing research and-- and meeting, doing all sorts of work, I was arrested-- by the Chinese authorities.

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So that was my tenth arrest by Chinese authorities. (LAUGH)

FEMALE VOICE (OFF-MIC):

So it's a good relationship-- (LAUGH)

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And I've been-- deported once-- before.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

From my point of view, the Chinese government, they don't really-- they're not-- really that strict-- with-- us journalists, it seems like. At least from my experience.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

Because-- the North Korea-- issue from the Chinese-- government perspective, it's-- it's a foreign, it's-- it's a international-- issue problem.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

But (UNINTEL) journalist was involved at Tibet or the Uyghur or the-- democratization-- movement issue, of course they would come down on me very, very hard.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And so if-- in the past-- if I was arrested-- by the Chinese authorities, probably the worst-- suffering that I went through under the Chinese authorities would be just at most a couple of months maybe, of-- incarceration. For other reporters, as well.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So-- in particular, on the border area-- for the Chinese border police, border guards, there are a lot of ethnic-- Korean Chinese who are part of the police force, the border guard force.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

Even among these ethnic Korean Chinese-- the (UNINTEL) police officers or police-- officials or border guards, they take pity-- on the North Korean-- refugees and the citizens that are-- across the border.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And of course, they are very strict after all, the-- when-- there's anything from their point of view that's done illegally or-- out of order. But-- but there have been many times when there has been much-- leeway in terms of-- their treatment or their-- the response to what the-- I've been doing.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So-- but in recent-- months-- I've-- found out information that-- the-- whole-- the police and the border guard-- units have been replaced on the Chinese side as well.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And-- the ethnic Korean (UNINTEL)-- Chinese citizens have been replaced with ethnic Haan (PH) Chinese-- officials.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So I-- must remind myself to be more careful on my-- future visits to the border area.

MALE VOICE:

So-- one last-- question for you, Ishimaru-san. First, let me thank you for an excellent, excellent presentation. I think you've given us all a deeper understanding of what's going on-- both inside North Korea and in the-- border area. My question is to sorta follow up on-- Machreen's question about-- regime stability-- and sort of at the end of the day, how stable is the regime and will they still be here in five years?
(LAUGH)

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So this is obviously very, very difficult-- area to predict or to-- talk about.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

However, I feel that-- since Kim Jong-Un came to power, the regime as a whole has become a lot weaker.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So it's become a situation where-- in terms of controlling the people, unless they become-- too-- violent or-- quote, unquote hitting the people, unless they do that, they cannot control the people. It's become that-- sort of situation in North Korea now.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And two years since he-- came to power, Kim Jong-Un has-- purged top military officials-- purged-- his uncle, Chang Song-Taek.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And of course, many-- experts will defer in their opinions about this. But I believe that within-- the core regime (UNINTEL), there is a lot of instability and a lot of doubt among the regime-- leaders.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And I don't see the situation improving in the future for the regime.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And obviously-- answering the question-- when and how is-- nearly impossible to answer that question.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And I would say that-- if something great, something-- big were to happen next year or two years from now, I would not be surprised to see something like that happening in a year-- two years.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And I will also li-- also like to say that-- the regime-- still be in existence-- ten years from now. That possibility is very, very, very low.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So my opinion is that the international community-- the U.S.-- South Korea, Japan, China-- should in a sense-- control or to manage quietly if possible-- North Korea in the sense that they cannot continue in their-- outlandish behavior in terms of-- creating-- trouble here and there from time to time. So in that sense, the international community should try to control and manage-- in any way possible with the-- the North Korean government-- not acting out.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So there are some on the South Korea government-- there are saying that-- let's-- weaken-- the-- the sense that North Korean-- government-- their-- their ability to continue-- creating-- trouble. But let's weaken them, but let's inve-- (UNINTEL PHRASE) control and to manage-- their behavior. And that's-- the voice that's coming out of-- many in the South Korean government.

MARINE BUISSONNIÈRE:

Final, final. (LAUGH)

FEMALE VOICE:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

I think you're doing...

(OFF-MIC CONVERSATION)

FEMALE VOICE:

You're doing incredible, very important work.

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

My first question is, do you think reunification between the two Koreas is possible?

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

And if you think it is possible--

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

I believe that-- reunification is unavoidable. And even if-- one-- person were to not desire, it's something that's-- going to happen regardless.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

North Korea one day, it will collapse, the regime.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And of course if the regime collapses, there is no reason for two separate states to exist in the peninsula.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And I believe that-- in sou-- from the South Korean perspective, even whether they like it or not-- the reunification will happen in the peninsula.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

But when this happens, I believe that the understanding and the cooperation from the international community must-- come forth.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So obviously-- the-- we would need money, but also politically speaking, we would need a South Korea-centric-- cooperation among-- the international community to-- help with the reunification in the peninsula.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So we see in China-- they are distancing themselves slowly from North Korea and developing further their relationship with South Korea.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And I believe that this is the strategy on the part of-- (UNINTEL) administration of South Korea to-- try to-- get the-- the favor, or the-- the influence of the Chinese government. And I believe this is something that's-- that's a new strategy of the South Korean government.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And I believe in the sense of what the Americans-- can offer from the United States-- there is a limit or-- to what-- how much the U.S. can do.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And of course-- militarily speaking, the U.S. has-- the most-- influence or-- or say in this-- matter when it comes to North Korea. But economically, in that sense-- China would have the most-- effect or-- influence in North Korea.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And I believe that the-- the cooperation of the Japanese government, of Japan, is-- very important and needed as well.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And of course-- the Japanese government-- still has not come to terms in terms of its-- colonial-- past and history regarding the creative (?) peninsula in North Korea.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And so-- in terms of-- Japan and North Korea establishing-- diplomatic relations, once that happens-- then-- then the-- the-- the reparations, or-- that would come in the form of-- giving aid-- to-- North Korea in the amount of-- can't interpret that right now. It's (UNINTEL) so it's-- it's-- it's a big amount of money. (LAUGH)

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

MALE VOICE (OFF-MIC):

Billion?

FEMALE VOICE (OFF-MIC):

Billion.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So in the past-- that-- reparations or that aid money was something that-- Japan should obviously give to North Korea. But right now because of the deteriorating relationship between South Korea and Japan and overall-- between the Korean peninsula-- there are many in Japan who say that the money (UNINTEL) should not be given to North Korea.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And-- that the-- the voice calling out for that sort of-- opinion or that perspective is growing more and more in Japan right now.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And as you know, the relationship right now between Japan and South Korea is at its lowest.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And I believe that the-- the-- Japan is responsible for it, as well.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So-- there's the historical-- issue as well.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And of course, when it comes to the East-- Asian regime-- region-- the North Korea issue is very important. It's very big.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And I believe that-- the-- reunification must happen with-- South Korea-- at the forefront, leading (?) it.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So I believe that-- starting from now-- there should be an awareness or a sense-- among the Americans and Japanese and others-- in the region that-- that South Korea should be the ones that-- should be-- the-- leading the call for unification under South Korean-- leadership.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

And-- if this were to fail, then I believe that the-- the Korean peninsula will just-- become very messy, very-- difficult situation to deal with.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So it's what's called a soft landing, whereby reunification will happen without any blood-- being shed in the Korean peninsula.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

I believe that the-- the-- the two sides, North and South Korea talking with one another and discussing a peaceful unification, I think that opportunity has passed right now.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

As long as the-- the-- the-- Kim Jong-Un-- regime is in power.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

Yeah, so-- there's what's-- called-- (UNINTEL) coined a term--
(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

FEMALE VOICE (OFF-MIC):

Euthanasia.

HENRY:

Euthanasia, thank you.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So that concept should be applied to dealing with North Korea-- from the--
surrounding-- nations.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

So I-- that's basically my-- perspective regarding that question.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

That is why the relationship between Japan and Korea must-- improve.

ISHIMARU JIRO:

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

HENRY:

I feel a bit responsible for that, as well, as a Japanese--

MARINE BUISSONNIÈRE:

Great. So I want to-- thank-- Ishimaru-san-- and his translator for-- this wonderful presentation. I think it's fair to say that there's only a few people in the world that actually have that access, that information and have been striving for years in and out against all challenges to bring information out of North Korea.

I probably know of three, is one of them. And it is because of-- the work that he's been doing that we know a little bit more-- and that the commission of his investigation was able to do its work-- and that, you know, George Kirby was able to say at the end of his presentation of the commission of investigation report, "Now we cannot say we didn't know."

And so I really encourage you to-- go to the (UNINTEL) website-- (UNINTEL) link if you want to see much more of the videos, the information that-- Ishimaru-san's network are bringing out. And please join me in thanking them for (APPLAUSE) (UNINTEL).

* * *END OF TRANSCRIPT* * *