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Military Amerasian Human Travesty in Danger of Being Sidelined to “Dustbin of History” PARC-SPCF College Researcher Warns 2014 APSSC Conference in Seoul, South Korea

SEOUL, South Korea – The time window for liberalized immigration and social services relief for aging military Pan Amerasians, and particularly about 250,000 Filipino Amerasians alive today in the Philippines, is quickly passing by. “This largely at risk population is in danger of being rapidly relegated to the dustbin of history” a leading expert on the Amerasian diaspora warned participants at the Asia Pacific Social Science Conference (APSSC-2014) sponsored January 8-10, 2014 by the Taipei, Taiwan-based Higher Education Forum in Seoul, Korea. “Clearly, our challenge is to awaken new generation academicians and the research practitioners both in North America and East/Southeast Asia to the plight of these populations and how reoccurrences of the geo-political missteps which led to their formation may be avoided in the future,” declared P.C. “Pete” Kutschera, PhD, Director of the Luzon-based Philippine Amerasian Research Center at Systems Plus College Foundation in Angeles, Pampanga, the Philippines.

Dr. Kutschera, who was selected for membership on the APSSC Conference International Committee Board and also chaired and moderated, a 7 member oral presentation panel on “Society II” topics, presented a significant research paper titled “*Filipina Military Amerasian Motherhood: Stigma, Stereotypes, Truths and Realities.*” The paper asserted that Filipina national women mothers of Amerasian children were victimized and stigmatized by a stereotype, widely held by mainstream Filipino s and many foreigners, and in part contrived and/or promoted by the U.S. Defense Department, that most if not all Amerasian-bearing moms were prostituted women or sex industry workers. The paper asserted there is scientific evidence that the “prostitution myth” did considerable psychological and socioeconomic harm to both military Amerasian children and solo parent Amerasian bearing mothers. The paper was co-authored by Dr. Marie A. Caputi, PhD, a veteran social science researcher and contributing

faculty at the College of Social and Behavioral Services, Walden University, Minneapolis, MN USA and Professor Mary Grace Talamera-Sandico, MMPM, a Philippine social worker and faculty instructor at Don Honorio Ventura Technological State University, Bacolor, Pampanga, Luzon. Both Dr. Caputi and Professor Talamera-Sandico, along with SPCF College Psychology Professor Jose Maria G.Pelayo III have collaborated with Kutschera on many of the eight significant research papers PARC and the New York-based Amerasian Research Network, Ltd. have presented at major international academic conclaves and symposia since early 2012.

“We owe an immense debt of gratitude to Ms. Candice Chang, Associate Manager, and Ms. Chelsea Kao, Manager, Public Relations at the Higher Education Forum in Taiwan - APSSC-2014 conference sponsors - who are extraordinarily supportive of what PARC-SPCF College research is attempting to on behalf of abandoned and voiceless military Pan Amerasians,” Dr. Kutschera asserted. “They have worked to provide the Amerasian phenomena prominent attention both at APSSC-2014 in Seoul and the International Conference on Education and Social Sciences ICEASS-2013 last September in Singapore,” he noted.

The research paper took sharp rebuke with the position of the U.S. Defense Department and the Secretary of the Navy which claimed in a 1993 class action suit (*Acebedo vs. United States*), brought on behalf of Filipina native Amerasian mothers and their biracial children living around the Subic Bay naval base complex near Olongapo City, that the progeny fathered by U.S. servicemen including corporate contractors were ineligible for social services, day care, human services or immigration easements because the preponderance of Filipina mothers were prostituted women or sex laborers, that such conduct was illegal, the children were illegitimate and therefore ineligible for human services relief from the U.S. taxpayers. The paper pointed out:

“A seminal document for a transparent understanding of the military Amerasian prostituted woman stereotype is comprehension of the ramifications of *Acebedo vs. United States*, a class-action suit filed but summarily dismissed in the U.S, spearheaded by Preda, an Olongapo City-based non-profit. The suit seeking damages and social services support was filed on behalf of an estimated 8,600 Amerasian children near the Subic complex. It sought US \$68 Million to provide medical care and education for the children, fathered by U.S. military stationed there. The complainants maintained that by budgeting for a social health clinic which performed examinations for Olongapo sex industry laborers, the U.S. “created an implied-in-fact contract, the breach of which (was) grounds for damages.” The U.S. navy maintained in documents filed with the U.S. Court of Federal Claims there was no legal basis for the claim since the majority of mothers were sex laborers and their children illegitimate or born out of wedlock meaning there was no legal basis for action.

The suit, which never came to trial, is significant since it illustrates that statements and documents offered over Amerasian birth origins had no scientific or empirical basis and irresponsibly claimed most Amerasian mothers were prostituted women. The court ultimately dismissed the claim, essentially on a technicality, maintaining that the Amerasian complainants had failed to prove the legitimacy of the clinic. Nor did they offer evidence that a contract, real or implied, existed for the government to run the

clinic in question. The judge, according to Preda also weighed in on the prostitution issue, backing the navy by “saying that the mothers of the children were engaged in prostitution and that being illegal the court could not rule on an illegal act from which women would gain.” The judge also recommended Amerasians seek social services and human remedies through the U.S. Congress; which eventually recommended a comparatively paltry appropriation of \$2million, of which only approximately \$650,000 in payments were made available through USAID-Philippines; the bulk of it going to the Pearl S. Buck Foundation.”

The researchers maintained that neither the U.S. nor Philippine governments have ever seriously enumerated or researched the social origins of military Amerasians and specifically investigated what they described as the prostitution origin “myth” and “stereotype.” The topic has major psychosocial and socioeconomic significance given that two extant studies on socioeconomic and mental health issues facing Filipino Amerasians have strongly implied that the prostitution implication impacted heavily on stigmatization and discrimination against mixed race military Amerasians as they were growing up both in the Philippines and other East/Southeast Asian Pan Amerasian enclaves. There are sizeable and largely uncounted first and second military Amerasians also alive today in locales such as Japan, Okinawa, South Korea and the U.S. Territory of Guam where the U.S. still maintains a sizeable military presence.

The case study format research paper selected three case studies of purposely or judgmentally selected Amerasian mothers. They were selected to demonstrate the wide variance of scenarios leading to relationships between parents resulting in Amerasian offspring. The cases included: (1.) a confirmed prostituted mother of Amerasian children born from military personnel of different races, (2.) a mother of an Amerasian child who was a virgin working in an enlisted men’s go go club at Clark air base in Angeles in the 1980s who was subsequently impregnated by a U.S. air force serviceman, and then became his live-in partner. They planned a life together before his reassignment, and(3.) a non-sex industry working woman teenager who met her G.I. suitor in what authors described as one of the many flourishing “boy-girl” or “man-woman” romantic relationships that proliferated between military personnel and native Filipina marriageable age women. The study recommended that a larger probability or non-probability sample be selected in an effort to improve “the generalizability” of the smaller “pilot” sample provided in the current research.

Dr. Kutschera maintained that a continued study of the question would have a variety of contemporary values. The paper, for example, recommended, “the history of Amerasian diaspora formation and permutations of it including the prostitution myth need to be included in doctrinal training provided U.S. military officer cadets and students at the service academies and within various ROTC and National Guard officer candidate program training curricula. This is essential in order to adequately prepare future commissioned officers, the future leaders of the U.S. military or other national and international militaries including those of the United Nations, NATO and the African Union, and militarily active nations including France and Russia, to avoid reoccurrences of the policies and behaviors of military personnel that lead to creation of military Amerasian, Eurasian and other similar biracially victimized populations throughout history and to the present day.”

In addition to Dr. Kutschera, six other presenters briefed papers at the “Society II” oral presentation panel he chaired and moderated. Active participants included Dr. Isabell Handler of Taiwan’s I-Shou University, Maria Batishcheva of Lomonosov Moscow State University, Professor Hirohisa Takenoshita of Tokyo, Japan’s Sophia University, Professor Riruengrong Ratanavilaisakul of King Mongkuts University, Bangkok, Thailand; Dr. Dahlia Moore of the College of Management Academic Studies, Rishon DeZion, Israel and Professor Asrenee Ab Razak representing the Universiti Sains Malaysia and Australia’s Monash University. Ms. Change reiterated conference organizers were pleased to have a social researcher of Kutschera’s recent accomplishments promoting the APSSC conference and actively assisting in presentation scheduling and execution. She noted that the PARC-SPCF College researcher also moderated one of six education panels in September, 2013 at the first annual International Conference on Education and Social Sciences (ICEASS 2013) held at the Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel in the Republic of Singapore.

NOTE: The research paper is available to scholars and researchers at no cost at: www.amerAsianresearch.org/prostitutionmyth. **The suggested APA, Edition 6, reference citation for the paper is:**

Kutschera, P.C., Caputi, M.A. & Talamera-Sandico, M. G. (2014, January). *Filipina Military Amerasian Motherhood: Stigma, Stereotypes, Truths and Realities*. Research Paper presented at the Asia Pacific Social Science Conference (APSSC-2014), sponsored by the Higher Education Forum, Taipei, Taiwan conducted at the Korea Renaissance Hotel, Seoul, South Korea.

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Systems Plus College Foundation (SPCF College) in Angeles, Pampanga, the Philippines, has redirected a research paper originally accepted for presentation at a major Asian Studies conference at the University of Auckland in New Zealand in November to the Asia Pacific Social Sciences (APSSC-2014) Conference in Seoul 8-10 January 2014. PARC Director P.C. “Pete” Kutschera, PhD, LMSW, said the decision, in part, was based on a need that the subject of the paper would be more suitable for presentation in the Republic of Korea. “South Korea has a long history and a sizeable military Amerasian population of its own. It is also a nation-state which has felt the lash of world’s geo-political forces that led to formation of the Pan Amerasian diaspora in East/Southeast Asia in the first place.”

APSSC Conference Executive Administrator Candice Chang announced that the Taipei, Taiwan-based Higher Education Forum Association and Asia Pacific Education and Research Associates (APERA) - sponsors of the Seoul conference – appointed Dr. Kutschera to the APSSC 2014 International Committee Board and named him moderator/chair of the conference’s oral panel presentation of its “Society II” topics. Institutions represented on Society II panel presentations at the Seoul conclave will include Sophia University, Tokyo; King Mongkuts University, Bangkok; Lomonosov Moscow State University, Russia and I-Shou University, Kaohsiung, Taiwan. Ms. Chang said conference organizers were pleased to have a social researcher of Dr. Kutschera’s recent accomplishments promoting the APSSC conference and actively assisting in presentation scheduling and execution. She noted that the PARC-SPCF College researcher also moderated one of six education panels in September, 2013 at the first annual International Conference on Education and Social Sciences (ICEASS 2013) held at the Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel in the Republic of Singapore.

The research paper to be presented in Seoul entitled, “*Filipina Military Amerasian Motherhood: Stigma, Stereotypes, Truths and Realities*” was co-authored by Dr. Marie A. Caputi, PhD, a veteran social science researcher and contributing faculty at the College of Social and Behavioral Services, Walden University, Minneapolis, MN USA and Professor Mary Grace

Talamera-Sandico, MPPM, a Philippine social worker and faculty instructor at Don Honorio Ventura Technological State University, Bacolor, Pampanga, Luzon. Dr. Kutschera, who also heads the New York-based non-profit Amerasian Research Network, Ltd., said the paper, “aims to put a revolutionary, new perspective on the myth that most Amerasian mothers were prostituted women or sex laborers. The myth, which constitutes an active and dangerous stereotype to this day in the Philippines and other Western Pacific Basin nations, has never been empirically studied or seriously researched, much less confirmed. Nevertheless, the stigmatization from the scourge of military prostitution did incalculable psychosocial and psychological damage, not only to mothers, but also to their children.”

Many Filipino and Pan Amerasians, the progeny of U.S. military personnel including numerous civilian defense contractors hired by private corporations, have been abandoned, stranded, estranged, left under supported or orphaned by their military fathers who impregnated national born women before being reassigned or redeployed to their next overseas or U.S. mainland assignment. “Mixed-heritage, biracial Anglo (White), African (Black), Latino (Hispanic) and Native American Indian Amerasians have experienced tremendous stigmatization and discrimination over the years in part because of skin color variances, atypical facial and body features, differential physical demeanors or hair texture difference. However, some researchers, including the highly respected Philippine anthropologist, Dr. Carolyn I. Sobritchea of the University of the Philippines-Diliman, have concluded that the notion that the vast majority of Amerasian mothers were prostituted women probably did the most psychological damage to their young,” the PARC-SPCF College Director asserted.

The paper, a qualitative, multiple-case method “pilot study,” Dr. Kutschera stated, indicates that a tremendous number of Amerasian children were born of normal, nubile, child-bearing age mothers. These were “what one would term typical, every day ‘boy-girl,’ ‘man-woman,’ and often romantic relationships. The recurring and venal stereotype that all the mothers were prostitutes,” Dr. Kutschera continued, “was and remains the tap root of some of the most severe stigmatization, discrimination and stress brought against military Amerasian progeny by mainstream Filipinos and foreigners including U.S. American citizens residing in the Philippines. It is an unrelenting stigma and shame which negatively affects Amerasian lives to this day.”

“This topic has tremendous relevance, not only in East/Southeast Asia but worldwide given that it is not only U.S. troops or corporative privateers who are deployed at troubled flashpoints around the world – and from time to time responsible for bring unwanted or uncared for babies to life - but fighting men from other major world powers and forces including the United Nations, N.A.T.O., the European Union, the African Union, France and Russia. These or similar situations (troops exposed to vulnerable native females) go on every day in all corners of the world. This is a global issue – and not only an East/Southeast Asian or U.S. phenomena.”

The Amerasian motherhood research paper was originally accepted and scheduled for presentation at the prestigious 20th New Zealand Asian Studies Society (NZASIA 2013) Conference at the academically world-ranked University of Auckland 22-24 November 2013. The Biennial NZASIA conference is sponsored by the New Zealand Asia Studies Association. The University of Auckland (QS World University Ranking #83 in 2013) is one of the top research and learning institutions in the Asia Pacific region. “We are most grateful for their acceptance and look forward to an opportunity to present another meaningful research piece at an NZASIA Conference in the future. Hopefully at the University of Auckland, should the opportunity present itself,” Dr. Kutschera stated.

The Taiwan-based APERA and Higher Education Forum Association are major conference planners and organizers in the region and have scheduled major conferences in 2013-2014 attracting researchers, scientists, educators, college and university professors, doctoral and master degree student candidates and industry professionals and leaders to a wide variety of conference venues including Taipei, Singapore, Hong Kong, Seoul, Hainan Island and Beijing in the People’s Republic of China among numerous other locations. More than 175 participants worldwide will be present at the APSSC-2014 conference meeting in Seoul, Korea, Ms. Chang reported.