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200,000-250,000 or More Military Filipino Amerasians Alive Today in Republic of the Philippines according to USA-RP Joint Research Paper Finding

EAST LANSING, Michigan USA/ANGELES CITY, Pampanga, Philippines – An academic research paper presented in the U.S. by a Angeles, Pampanga, Philippines Amerasian college research study unit claims that preliminary analysis shows that the number of military origin, biracial Filipino Amerasians may be as high as a quarter-million (250,000) or more and expanding slowly but exponentially. The finding was contained in a paper accepted and presented by P.C. Kutschera, PhD, of the Philippine Amerasian Research Center, at the prestigious 9th International Conference on the Philippines, conducted 28-30 October 2012 at the Asian Studies Center, Michigan State University, E. Lansing, MI, USA.

The paper maintained that the number of Filipino Amerasians, the progeny of U.S. servicemen, private corporate contractor and government employees stationed over the years in the Philippines, is so significant that mixed-heritage Anglo, African and Latino Amerasians qualify as a genuine human diaspora. More than other Pan Amerasian populations in the East-Southeast Asia region, including those in Japan (Okinawa), South Korea, Thailand and Vietnam, Filipino Amerasians qualify for diasporic designation, in part, because they are among the most isolated of any of the other Amerasian enclaves, the clear majority are English speakers since birth and the intensity of their strong cultural and historic ties to the U.S. which date to the Philippine colonial-commonwealth era (1898-1946).

The paper titled, *“The Case for Categorization of Military Filipino Amerasians as Diaspora,”* amplified on an earlier theme Dr. Kutschera surfaced in his 2010 doctorate dissertation which focused on stigmatization, discrimination and psychosocial risk and mental disorder among a sample of African and Anglo Amerasians residing in Angeles, site of the Clark air force base. He co-authored the current paper with Marie A. Caputi, PhD, a Columbia University (Barnard College) educated social worker who is a licensed social worker and senior faculty member at the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences at Walden University, Minnesota, USA. Kutschera, a New York social worker, is director of the Philippine Amerasian Research Center and a visiting social work professor at Systems Plus College Foundation in Angeles City, a fast rising undergraduate and graduate college which lies inside the notorious “AMO” or Angeles- Manila-Olongapo Triangle. The AMO triangle is believed to contain the highest concentration of biracial Anglo, African and Latino Amerasians on the globe.

[NOTE: The full paper text is available on the Amerasian Research Network, Ltd. Website at URL link www.AmerasianResearch.org/diaspora]

The paper avers that the commonly accepted and most publicized number of Amerasians residing in the Philippines is approximately 50,000 – a figure widely reported in the world press 20 years ago - in November 1992 - when huge Cold War-Vietnam War Era bases, including Clark, the Crow Valley Bombing and Gunnery Range in Tarlac and Subic Bay naval base in Olongapo were ejected from Luzon after the Philippine senate refused to ratify a bases agreement extension. But the research paper maintains that no official or reliable Philippine or U.S. government census or deliberative, independent scientific studies have ever been conducted on precise or comprehensive numbers of Amerasians. Most highly limited counts have primarily focused on infants, children and adolescents. “They’ve never considered the elderly or geriatrics and they surely have never considered second generation or beyond Amerasians who are still being stigmatized and discriminated against in some provinces, municipalities and barangays in the Philippines today,” Dr. Kutschera stated. The paper maintained, “the outright failure of both the U.S. or Philippine government to enumerate this population in any professional or scientific sense, and the history of the figures attributed to fecund Pan Amerasian populations dating to the beginning of the 20th Century, (mean) it would be plausible to project that the number of present day Amerasians of various generations residing in the Philippine archipelago probably lie between 200 and 250,000, and possibly substantially more.”

Continued study and ultimate designation of Filipino Amerasians as a human diaspora, Dr. Kutschera maintained, would sensitize the U.S. and East/Southeast Asian academic research communities, both at the university and foundational level, to the at risk, socioeconomic plight of present day Filipino Amerasians. The clear majority of Amerasians in the Philippines live in abject poverty, including high incidence of joblessness or underemployment, homelessness or housing insecurity, alcohol, drug or familial abuse, identity confusion, unresolved grief issues over the loss of their fathers, social isolation and low self-esteem according to Kutschera’s 2010 study and an earlier (1999) study, titled “*Filipino Amerasians: Living in the Margins*” co-authored by Dr. Carolyn I. Sobritchea, now Dean of the University of the Philippines-Dilman Asian Center, Quezon City.

The study maintained that the Amerasians in the Philippines were large enough to be considered under most definitions of the term diaspora including their 50 percent blood ties to U.S. national servicemen or military contractor fathers, their forced forfeiture of citizenship rights when their father’s abandoned them, Amerasian human dispersal patterns which include a half-dozen other nation-states in East Asia, their absolute inability ever to return to their American homeland mostly because of their poverty- like conditions and expressed desire by many Filipino Amerasians to return to their paternal homeland.

In an earlier paper presented September 29 at the 3rd International Conference on the Humanities, History and Social Science (CHSS-2012) in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, and reiterated in the latest paper, Dr. Kutschera maintained that the population of Amerasians in the Philippines is actually expanding today. In the paper titled, “*The Continuing Conundrum of Southeast Asia’s 50,000 Military Filipino Amerasians*” Kutschera and two other authors from SPCF College’s Philippine Amerasian Research Center in Angeles held that that new biracial, mixed heritage Anglo, African and Latino Amerasians infants are being born to Filipina mothers, most of whom have difficult times supporting them, from “three ongoing feeder sources”: (A) Joint, US-RP *Balikitan* military exercises conducted annually in central Luzon including the former Clark air force base and the Crow Valley Bombing Range, (B) Sporadic but apparently permanent U.S. military operations reinforcing the Philippine armed forces role in the US led War on Terror involving suspected Muslim subversives and al-Qaeda and Abu Sayyaf

operatives in southern Mindanao, and (C) Filipina sex industry entertainers who are impregnated by U.S. military contractors and servicemen in clubs and juice bars surrounding U.S. bases in Japan (Okinawa), South Korea and the U.S. Territory of Guam, and whom are forced to return home with their babies because they can no longer work . “Although these numbers of fresh generation Amerasians hardly approach the plethora of biracial Amerasians born during the Vietnam American War Era (1964-1975) and the time until the bases were pulled from Luzon in 1992,” Dr. Kutschera maintained, “the fact is smaller but persistent numbers of unsupported Amerasian children are being born in the Philippines – particularly since the 1999 Status of Forces Agreement reopened the Philippines to U.S. ‘boots on the ground’ troop access.”

Both the Michigan State and Phnom Penh papers were presented just prior to the 20th anniversary of the lowering of the U.S. flag at the sprawling former Subic Bay naval base in Olongapo, Zambales which occurred on November 24, 1992. “Multiple human problems for those who were left behind and their immediate family circles remain immense,” Dr. Kutschera maintained.