

contact are known: the vicinity of big hotels like Hotel International, Metallurg, Dom Penzionera, and other central places like the main bridge or Radakovo.

It seems that most clients are Internationals, i.e. male members of humanitarian and other international organisations whose task it should be to help improve the living conditions in Bosnia. Instead, by buying sex they take advantage of economical need and inexperience of young women and girls. This fact itself is a scandal. It is outraging considering that thousands of women have been subject to rape, sexual violation and torture in this country during the war.

The increase of prostitution is a typical symptom of post war times. Especially in places where there are a lot of international male staff and soldiers. This is known from other countries like Germany or the Philippines, where women and girls are forced to prostitute themselves in order to survive.

Medica will start to monitor and observe the situation in Zenica. We ask all organisations working with women and girls to provide us with whatever information they have on this subject to mobilise their donators and head offices for setting up income generating projects especially for women and girls.

Last but not least we urge all head of offices to look into this matter with due care and dismiss immediately all male staff members having sex with minors or taking advantage of the miserable situation of many women in Zenica. Sexual exploitation is not a matter of

privacy!

Contact apcadmin@ax.apc.org or the Association for Progressive Communication International Secretariat, Rua Vicente de Souza, 29 Botafogo, Rio de Janeiro, RJ 22251-070 Brazil

A FILIPINA BATTERED IN KOREA

(The following is excerpted from a letter that came into our office that dramatizes the lack of protection for Filipinas married to men in South Korea.-Ed.)

"On 10 November 1995, my friend Mylene Luminarias-Park, a Filipina based in Tejon, Korea, almost lost her life. Her Korean husband, Chan-gyu Park had repeatedly banged her head to the wall and a steel door, slapped her several times, dragged her by the hair out of the house while trying to undress her, tried to choke her and throw her down the stairs, and almost forced her to jump from the fourth floor of their apartment building.

"Irked by his lack of concern at their son's illness, Mylene had berated her husband and told him that it might be best for her and the child to go home to the Philippines. The argument continued until the following morning. At this point, her husband brought up the subject of divorce, which they had been discussing for the past few months. When she inquired about the son, he told her that she would have to ask the judge. Knowing fully well that Korean courts would favor the father, Mylene insisted that he give her their son's passport.

Wanting to avoid further arguments, she asked him to leave the house and not to come back unless he could give her the necessary papers.

"Later that evening, Mylene's husband returned drunk and with a male companion. Mylene was on the phone with her friend when his husband started arguing with her again, with his friend joining him. Not wanting to argue, Mylene locked herself in the bedroom with her son. Her husband, enraged, kicked down the door and began beating her. While he beat her, Chan-gyu Park also repeatedly threatened to make true his earlier threats to commit suicide by jumping off the fourth floor and taking her along with him. Thinking of her child, Mylene tried to hang on to anything she could hold on to.

"It was a good thing that Mylene, fearing for her safety, did not hang up the phone so her friend could hear what was going on. After hearing what was going on, Mylene's friend left her dormitory residence and summoned the police.

"The police arrived only to first ask for Mylene's name, nationality and passport. They were more concerned about her husband whose foot was bleeding because he shattered their glass sliding door. By this time too, Chan-gyu's sister and Mylene's friend had also arrived. The sister lived nearby and immediately became worried about her brother's self-inflicted injuries. As Mylene



Sandra Torrijos

was leaving to find shelter elsewhere, Chan-gyu shouted at her: "Your husband is heaven. You are but earth."

Mylene has sought assistance from the Philippine embassy which has responded positively and supported her needs. But the problem of child custody remains. Many Filipinas who have gone to South Korea to marry—many through arranged marriages—end up battered and wanting to escape with their children but are unaware of the biases in South Korean laws. Those who did manage to get out of the cycle of domestic violence have found it impossible to bring their children.

Mylene Luminarias-Park is requesting for letters of support appealing to the South Korean authorities to allow her to go home with her child. In addition, she is asking for assistance from women's groups in Korea. Send letters to your Korean Embassy.

RALLY AROUND IRENE

Irene Fernandez, Director of Tenaganita, is being charged by the Malaysian government of violating the 1984 Printing Presses and Publications Act. Her trial started last 10 to 14 June 1996 at the Magistrates Court (5A) in Kuala Lumpur.

Irene made an application to the High Court on 30 May 1996 to transfer the case from the Magistrates Court to the High Court. One of the key reasons for this application is to challenge the validity of Section 8A of the Printing Presses and Publications Act as it may be *ultra vires* to the Constitution under Article 10 which guarantees the right to freedom of expression. Thus, because of this unusual difficulty in the law, the case is better heard at a High Court level. However, the application for transfer to High Court was

dismissed by the judge on 5 June 1996. Thus the trial took place as scheduled from 10-14 June 1996, at the Magistrates Court (5A), in Kuala Lumpur.

We would like to request your support in the following ways:

1. Hold visible forms of protest in your country especially where the Malaysian Embassy is situated. Please continue to send letters of protest to the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia.
2. Get hold and disseminate this information. We have printed pamphlets for distribution. Please refer to the E-Mail address given below for requests for pamphlets and for further information related to necessary actions.
3. Make independent press statements stating our fundamental right to freedom of expression and concern over treatment of migrant workers. Thank you.

Yours Sincerely,
Catherine A.

Those wishing to join the campaign for Irene Fernandez can contact: panap@geo2.poptel.org.uk



Sandra Torrijos

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Isis International-Chile has launched a post Beijing Newsletter monitoring the Platform for Action on health issues.

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