

“Singers in a Band”

Filmmaker

- Film not released yet
- 1st screening in the US
- Most challenging film in terms of time and funding to put together
- Want for it to be shared in educational focus and have a broad base in theatres

Film:

- There is a military discipline to submit will to authority
- There is a killing/sex dynamic (war and sex go hand-in-hand)
 - Buying prostitutes is an escape valve that the military allowed
- Military as a cult of masculinity
- The organized prostitution in the Philippines began in US military bases
 - “Comfort stations” set-up
 - Highly organized (ie. English is required of prostitutes)
 - Bars and clubs have arrangements with US military
 - Some are legal agencies
- Bush administration took a moral stance on this but not a human rights stance
- American military is the problem not the solution; they have no interest in making the soldiers do what is right

Panel discussion:

- If the institution of war is abolished violence against women will be abolished
- The machismo culture is an issue
- The military bases use and views the local community as a commodity
- There are issues of complicity
- There is not only issues about prostitution and trafficking but these issues also effect children and the community
- There has been an increase of sexual assaults in the military
- Currently 14% of US military forces are women (1 in 3 are sexually assaulted or raped)
- There are military rape civilians in international bases
- There is a convention against discrimination of women not yet ratified by the US government
- The impact of war disproportionately affects women
 - 90% of civilians negatively affected by war are women and children
- Sexual violence is used as a weapon of war
- Women must be seen as decision makers and policy makers
- We must win the peace vs. win the war