

WHO IS STEVEN MOSHER?

Background:

For its 2003 budget, Congress has earmarked \$34 million for key reproductive health and family planning programs conducted by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in 140 countries across the globe. Most of this assistance is targeted for the world's poorest families in developing nations and women in refugee camps. But the Bush Administration has held up this crucial funding as a result of accusations promulgated by a divisive, anti-family planning splinter group known as the Population Research Institute (PRI). For years, PRI and its director, Steven Mosher, have attempted to disrupt and shut down the crucial work of the UNFPA.

PRI is a spin-off of Human Life International (HLI). Both groups are based in Front Royal, Virginia and were founded by anti-family planning extremist Father Paul Marx. Tax documents filed for PRI in fiscal year 1999 establish PRI's direct link to HLI, with the same people serving on the boards of directors of the two organizations. ¹

Father Marx has well-documented racist views. He has been quoted linking Jews to a "holocaust" on unborn babies ², and questioned the political goals of black South Africans, saying that it is "difficult...to get tribal peoples one step away from the bush to manage a modern economy and to rule themselves peaceably and democratically." ³

Mosher Has Misled Congress

As an April 10, 2002 editorial in the *Trenton Times* (NJ) explained, Steven Mosher and PRI provided testimony to the U.S. Congress about UNFPA activities in China in February 2002. PRI states that its mission is to "objectively present the truth about population-related issues." ⁴ Yet, PRI has produced and published material designed to counter extensive mainstream scientific research data supporting global efforts to combine population planning, reproductive rights, and social development. ⁵

As the *Trenton Times* article stated, "Human Life International...has characterized abortion, birth control and sex education as the 'Unholy Trinity.' Its founder, Father Paul Marx, has asserted that wider access to contraception is at the root of most social evils and inevitably leads to abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, homosexuality, teen pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, sterilization, divorce and family breakdown." ⁶

Such views cast doubt on the objectivity or legitimacy of the PRI-sponsored team of "experts" who hold no academic or research credentials. In fact, Mosher revealed his intentions to destroy UNFPA in a recent PRI fundraising letter in which he asks members to "dig deep...because this investigation of the UN Population Fund is so extra-special - *it could very well be the final nail in the UNFPA's coffin!*" ⁷ (emphasis included).

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT:

A PUBLIC INFORMATION CAMPAIGN SPONSORED BY THE U.S. COMMITTEE FOR
UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND



Steven Mosher's History as a Pseudo-Expert

As a Ph.D. student at Stanford University, Mosher repeatedly violated the rules of China as a new host country for Western academic researchers and was ejected from the country in 1981. ⁸

Mosher does not hold a doctorate in China studies, population studies or, for that matter, any other field of research, and yet is often touted as an "expert," a sociologist, or an anthropologist by proponents and interviewers. Stanford University expelled Mosher in 1983 for "illegal and unethical conduct" prior to the completion of his doctoral degree. ⁹

Mosher, who claims to value human life, seriously jeopardized the lives of many Chinese peasants in 1979 and 1980. As part of his "studies" in Mainland China, Mosher took photos of semi-nude Chinese women in Guangdong Province allegedly being prepared to receive abortions. ¹⁰ These photos were then published - with no effort made to conceal the women's identities - in a mainstream Taiwanese newsmagazine the following year, putting these women at considerable risk of repercussion from the Chinese government authorities. ¹¹

1 1997, 1999 Internal Revenue Service Tax Forms 990, Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax.

2 *Confessions of a Pro-Life Missionary*, Marx, Paul. 1998. p.268.

3 *The Flying Monk*, Marx, Paul. 1990. p.22

4 PRI website, "Why We Exist" page (<http://www.pop.org/missionst.html>).

5 *The Global Assault on Reproductive Rights: A Crucial Turning Point*, Institute for Democracy Studies, 2000, p. 15.

6 "Stalling on family planning aid," *Trenton Times*, April 10, 2002.

7 Population Research Institute

8 "The mysterious expulsion of Steven Mosher," Sun, Marjorie. *Science*, May 13, 1983. Vol. 220, Pg. 692.

9 "Stanford ousts a Ph.D. candidate over his use of data on China," Turner, Wallace. *New York Times*. February 26, 1983. Section 1, Page 7, Column 1.

10 "A dismissed Stanford Ph.D. candidate's wrong protest forum," Letter to the Editor, *New York Times*. April 1, 1983. Section A, Page 26, Column 4, Editorial Desk.

11 "Stanford expels student faulted on China study," Mathews, Jay. *Washington Post*. February 25, 1983. A2.