

September 19, 2008

## **BLATANT RACISM COMPETES AT THE OLYMPICS IN BEIJING**

By Susan Uyemura

Visit the link below to bear witness to the above mentioned photo:

[http://sports.yahoo.com/olympics/beijing/blog/fourth\\_place\\_medal/post/Spanish-basketball-team-poses-for-offensive-pict?urn=oly\\_100152](http://sports.yahoo.com/olympics/beijing/blog/fourth_place_medal/post/Spanish-basketball-team-poses-for-offensive-pict?urn=oly_100152)

Ethnic prejudice prevails today and appears to garner tolerance from the international Olympic community. The Olympic basketball team from Spain posed for a Chinese sport apparel company's marketing photo in which they are making "slant eyes" to clearly ridicule an Asian physical feature. Any Asian who has experienced racism is well aware of this common and blatant act of prejudice. There is no place for this kind of impertinent behavior, especially during the Olympic games.

Los Angeles Laker, Pau Gasol, who regularly plays for thousands of Asian fans and is playing for the Spanish basketball team during these Olympic games, gave a token apology to the press and offered an excuse that the publicity stunt was never meant to be offensive. To make such a flippant remark about racist gestures and their clear perception by the targeted ethnic group staggers the imagination. How can they assert that ethnic prejudice had nothing to do with this act? The Spanish basketball team has proven their disregard for international equality and demonstrated their ignorance by participating in that photo. There has been no official admonishment or sanction against the Spanish basketball team by the Olympic committee for this offense at the time of this publication.

The Olympic games promote an international playing field ... a "level" playing field where athletes from around the world can be measured for their performance without the ugliness of prejudice. The Olympic theme this year is, "One World – One Dream." To have the reputation of the games smeared by the Spanish basketball team is a disgrace to the Olympic fans and Asians around the globe. This act of prejudice should not be tolerated.

Spain is one of the finalists to host the Summer Olympics in 2016 but it is apparent to this reader that Spain does not possess the racial tolerance to host an event that is geared toward representatives from different countries competing against each other in various athletic events.

We implore Asian communities to voice this injustice and communicate with the Olympic community to admonish the Spanish basketball team. Contact the Olympic committee for the Summer games at +86-10-66699185 or mishubu@beijing2008.cn for their general office.

Visit the link below to read the details of this photo:

[http://sports.yahoo.com/olympics/beijing/blog/fourth\\_place\\_medal/post/Another-Spanish-team-discovered-making-eye-slant?urn=oly\\_100968](http://sports.yahoo.com/olympics/beijing/blog/fourth_place_medal/post/Another-Spanish-team-discovered-making-eye-slant?urn=oly_100968)



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