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Home

(/index.php?option=com\_content&view=featured&Itemid=261)

About Isis

(/index.php?option=com\_content&view=article&id=29&Itemid=84)

Activist School

(/index.php?option=com\_content&view=article&id=1429&Itemid=354)

Isis Media Resources

(/index.php?option=com\_content&view=article&id=1592&Itemid=343)

Resource Center

(/index.php?option=com\_content&view=article&id=151&Itemid=251)

Links

(/index.php?option=com\_weblinks&view=category&id=209&Itemid=395)

## International Women's Network Against Militarism 8th Gathering: "Forging Nets for Demilitarization and Genuine Security" (/index.php?option=com\_content&view=article&id=1541:international-womens-network-against-militarism-8th-gathering-forging-nets-for-demilitarization-and-genuine-security&catid=22&Itemid=449)

Created: 05 April 2012

### DECLARATION

#### International Women's Network Against Militarism

#### 8th Gathering: "Forging Nets for Demilitarization and Genuine Security"

February 19-25, 2012 – Puerto Rico



The 8th Gathering of the International Women's Network Against Militarism, that occurred on February 19-25, 2012, reunited 26 women representing 8 countries gathered in Puerto Rico. Delegates from the Philippines, Guahan (Guam), Japan, Okinawa, South Korea, Hawaii, and the United States joined their counterparts in Puerto Rico to evaluate the growing military threat and develop strategies to counter the impact of militarism, military contamination, imperialism and systems of oppression and exploitation based on

gender, race, class, nationality and sexual orientation.

First, we express our dissatisfaction and anger at the situation faced by our colleague from the Philippines, Corazón Valdez Fabros, who was denied entry into the U.S. despite the fact that she was issued a valid visa beforehand. No adequate explanation has been given to justify this violation of her freedom of movement.

Ms. Fabros is an internationally known and highly respected advocate, researcher, and expert on conflict resolution, democratization process, human rights and security. She is a regular speaker at international conferences and meetings, particularly in the Asia-Pacific, on peace building, nuclear disarmament, and environmental clean-up of former U.S. bases in the Philippines.

Although Ms. Fabros was issued a multiple entry visa last October, Delta Airlines was instructed by the Immigration and Border Protection to not board the flight leaving Manila en route to Puerto Rico on February 17, 2012. We are grateful that the U.S. representative of Puerto Rican descent, Luis Gutierrez (D-IL), is investigating and requesting an explanation.

As a result of the discussion at our meeting we declare the following:

- The United States must demilitarize the Asia-Pacific region, clean up military environmental contamination, and compensate affected communities. Further, we advocate the creation of economies of peace rather than perpetual preparation for war.
- We, delegates of the 8th Gathering of the International Women's Network Against Militarism, have visited communities in Puerto Rico and are incensed at what we have learned about the commercial auction of land at the former Roosevelt Roads Navy Base and the exclusion of the people of Ceiba from future use and control of this land. We learned about the lack of cleanup and the ecologically hazardous detonation of unexploded ordnance used by the U.S. Navy on land and water on and surrounding the island of Vieques, Puerto Rico. We condemn the recent federal court ruling in Boston that dismissed the lives and health claims of 7,000 Viequeses injured by the Navy presence. Furthermore, we denounce the precarious situation that Viequeses confront. The negligence of the government has caused a maritime crisis that severely affects their health and quality of life.
- We oppose the repression and incarceration of people who fight for genuine peace and human rights. By unanimous resolution, we call on President Barak Obama to order the immediate release of Oscar López Rivera who has been unjustly imprisoned for over 31 years. The U.S. Parole Commission recently denied his application for parole and ordered that he serve an additional 15 years in prison. By that time, he will be 83 years old and will have been incarcerated for 45 years for politically motivated offenses where no



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## Isis International Women's House (Bahay ni Isis)



Isis International Women's House (Bahay ni Isis)

(<http://accommodation.isiswomen.org/>).

Bahay ni Isis provides a safe haven for guests visiting Manila, with lodgings, meeting rooms and facilities for workshops and other events. It is a comfortable women-friendly space and a gathering place for many non-governmental organisations engaged in issues affecting women around the globe. Welcome!

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### Feminist Activist School



The Isis Feminist Activist School

([index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=1429&Itemid=354](http://www.isiswomen.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1429&Itemid=354)) aims to strengthen the communication capacity of women from the Global South so that they can effectively articulate and take on leadership roles in organisations, communities, networks and/or social movements.

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we! ([index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=1297](http://www.isiswomen.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1297)), the Isis International e-newsletter, provides news and information on women's activism, campaigns and events around the globe as well as analyses and commentary on current issues affecting women.

### Women in Action (WiA)



WiA ([/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=382&Itemid=346](http://www.isiswomen.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=382&Itemid=346)) carries in-depth articles on issues facing women globally from a feminist perspective. This social movement publication links women's issues to larger social issues and features women writers from around the world.

### Featured Resources

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### Articles

- Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta has asserted that the U.S. military plans to remain in the Asia Pacific region as the primary center of its strategic positioning. We denounce the building of any new bases or military installations in the region. This includes the proposed Navy base at Jeju Island in South Korea that will house Aegis destroyers built at Bath Ironworks in Bangor (Maine), and will serve as a key component of the U.S. military's ballistic missile defense system. We call for the immediate closure of Futenma Marine Air Corps Station (Okinawa) and adamantly oppose the plan to replace this base with a new heliport facility at Henoko. We denounce the U.S.-Philippines Visiting Forces Agreement and the deployment of U.S. forces to the Philippines, which violates the terms of the Philippines constitution. We are against the plans to move 4,700 Marines and their dependents from Okinawa to Guahan. We object to the construction of a "Ballistic Missile Defense System," berthing docks for nuclear aircraft carriers at Apra Harbor, and "firing range complex" on ancient Chamorro lands. In Hawai'i, we oppose the use of Stryker Brigade tanks at Schofield Barracks (Lihue, O'ahu) and the basing of 48 aircraft at Kaneohe Marine Corps Airstation (Mokapu, O'ahu), including the Osprey. We also oppose the proposed influx of 1,000 Marines and their dependents to train at Bellows Airforce Station (Waimanalo, O'ahu), Kalaupapa (Moloka'i) and Pōakuloa (Hawai'i island). In all these locations, overwhelming numbers of local residents have used all available democratic means to dispute this military expansion that would cause contamination, overpopulation, over consumption of the islands' limited resources.
- Military training has a devastating impact on the environment and people's health, leading to serious illness and early death. Failure to clean up the hazardous toxics caused by military operations is an environmental justice issue and reflects the racist belief that some people are more valuable than others. It also shows deep disrespect for the earth.


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- Home (/index.php?option=com\_content&view=featured&Itemid=261)
- About Isis (/index.php?option=com\_content&view=article&id=29&Itemid=84)
- Activist School (/index.php?option=com\_content&view=article&id=1429&Itemid=354)
- Isis Media Resources (/index.php?option=com\_content&view=article&id=1592&Itemid=343)
- Resource Center (/index.php?option=com\_content&view=article&id=151&Itemid=251)

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## Philippines



([index.php?option=com\\_phocadownload&view=category&download=391:recognizing-womens-participation-in-sustainable-and-lasting-peace](index.php?option=com_phocadownload&view=category&download=391:recognizing-womens-participation-in-sustainable-and-lasting-peace)) *Recognising Women's Participation in Sustainable and Lasting Peace*. Isis International realised it is essential to initially find out to what extent or if any at all do peace advocates include or consider women and gender in their peace work with from ICCO foundation, Isis carried out a study on women peacemakers in the Philippines.

## Video



## Archives



Isis Resource Center holds one of the largest feminist collections of materials in the Global South. With 40 years of publication experience, Isis holds a vast collection.

Click here to see some of these historical treasures

([index.php?option=com\\_phocagallery&view=category&id=23](index.php?option=com_phocagallery&view=category&id=23)).

Relive the historical milestones of the women's movement with this Isis collection of posters.



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