



**STATEMENT BY
THE PHILIPPINE WORKING GROUP AGAINST MILITARISM
on the reported rape of Filipino women by US military personnel**

The Philippine Working Group (PWG) of the International Women's Network Against Militarism (formerly called East Asia-US-Puerto Rico Women's Network Against Militarism) calls for the immediate investigation on the report of 6 US marines who raped a 22-year old Filipino woman in Subic, Olongapo City (Philippine Daily Inquirer, 4 November 2005), and the prosecution of the American personnel. The US personnel were part of the contingent on board the aircraft carrier USS Essex which "departed yesterday along with the dock landing ship USS McHenry and the amphibious transport dock USS Juneau."

This is not the first time that sexual crimes against Filipino women and youth have been reported. Unfortunately, in the past and particularly during the presence of the US military bases in the country, many of these sexual crimes and other crimes committed not only against women but of Filipino nationals had not been resolved. In many instances, the erring US personnel simply disappeared and secretly taken out of the country.

The Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) under which the presence of the US personnel and US military vessels and aircrafts are contextualized has provisions that any offense or crime committed by American military personnel that violates the laws of both the US and the Philippines, and that the Philippines as the host country has the primary right to exercise jurisdiction over the prosecution.

We expect the Philippine Government to exercise this right, and to uphold the laws of the land.

We condemn in the strongest term possible the continuing violations and crimes being committed by the US military personnel and other military institutions against Filipino women and youth.

We expect the Philippine Government to uphold the dignity of and respect for all Filipinos that are being trampled by foreign powers and in particular by the militarist ethos of the US military establishment.

We condemn all forms of militarism and violence perpetrated by all military establishments. We demand justice for the women violated by the US military personnel.

Amnesty (AI) International – Pilipinas
BUKLOD Women's Center
KAISA – Ka
People's Task Force on Bases Clean Up (PTFBC)
WomanHealth - Philippines
Women's Education, Development, Productivity Research & Advocacy Organization
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