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Introduced by Senator M.A. Madrigal

RESOLUTION

**DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH, WOMEN, AND
FAMILY RELATIONS TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF
LEGISLATION, THE ABUSE OF FILIPINO WOMEN AND
CHILDREN CAUSED BY THE FOREIGN MILITARY
EXERCISES CONDUCTED IN THE PHILIPPINES**

WHEREAS according to women's rights advocates, non-governmental organizations, members of civil society, and the families of victims themselves, a "culture of sexual abuse" has resulted from the continuing foreign military exercises in the Philippines;

WHEREAS this "culture of sexual abuse" was prevalent during the time when Subic and Clark were United States military bases in the Philippines;

WHEREAS according to Bikolana Gabriela, 97 cases of rape and sexual assault were filed by their group against American soldiers in Clark and Subic, of which 15 victims were children;

WHEREAS more than 3,000 cases of abuse against women and children were also filed by other individuals and groups against American soldiers in Clark and Subic from the years 1980 to 1988;

WHEREAS aside from these cases, other incidents of abuse against Filipino women and children by foreign military servicemen were never reported nor documented;

WHEREAS none of these cases were ever resolved;

WHEREAS since the year 1999, foreign military presence in the Philippines has been steadily increasing;

WHEREAS as of early 2008, at least 25 military exercises were conducted in Mindanao alone;

WHEREAS there have been reports of physical, sexual, and psychological abuse by foreign military servicemen against Filipino women and children;

WHEREAS reported acts of abuse against Filipino women and children are never even addressed by the Philippine government or courts;

WHEREAS the continued presence of foreign military in the Philippines conducting military exercises perpetuate the "culture of sexual abuse" in the country;


WHEREAS Filipino women and children are most susceptible to such abuse;

WHEREAS the Constitution values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights;

WHEREAS there is a need to ensure that Filipino women and children are protected from the abuse brought about by the continuing foreign military exercises in the Philippines;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, for the Committee on Youth, Women, and Family Relations to investigate, in aid of legislation, the abuse of Filipino women and children caused by the foreign military exercises conducted in the Philippines.

Adopted,


M.A. MADRIGAL