

FRONTLINE FEMINISMS: WOMEN, WAR AND RESISTANCE.

JANUARY 16-18 1997

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, RIVERSIDE

This statement is issued by the participants of a three-day international conference, entitled "Frontline Feminisms: Women, War and Resistance," held at the University of California—Riverside, from 16-18 January 1997.

We have heard the voices of activists and scholars speaking of the disastrous effects of war and military policies in many countries, including Algeria, Brazil, Cambodia, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, El Salvador, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Mexico, Mozambique, Northern Ireland, Palestine, the Philippines, Serbia, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tibet, Tunisia, Vietnam, the United States, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and Zaire.

We understand the complex connections among capitalism, imperialism, militarism, religious fundamentalism, and the oppression of women.

As a result of our deliberations we go on record opposing:

- the oppression of women and children through beatings and rape, poverty, inadequate opportunities for literacy and education, customs of male-domination, lack of access to political power, and the upheavals of community violence, war, imprisonment, migration, and as refugees;
- the role of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, together with the governments and banks of countries of the North in imposing "structural adjustment programs in very many countries, worsening the hardship of poor people, especially women and children;
- the world-wide trade in arms, particularly the role of countries of the north as arms-sellers;
- the devastation of inner-city areas and other poor communities in the U.S., caused by inadequate resources for education, health, and socially-useful programs, while the military budget stands at some \$260 billion this year, or 52% of federal tax dollars;
- the fact that many young people of color in the U.S. have little opportunity beyond the military, the drug economy, or incarceration as part of the growing "prison industrial complex";
- the militarization of the U.S. border with Mexico;
- the re-legitimation of the U.S. military presence in Central and South America, and the Caribbean region in terms of "the war on drugs";
- the devastating effects of the U.S. military presence in many countries, including South Korea, Mexico, the Philippines, and Okinawa (Japan). This devastation has environmental, economic, political, cultural, and moral dimensions.
- the self-defined role of the U.S. as "the world's policeman."

Those of us who live in the United States, and benefit from its dominant position in the world, recognize our special responsibility to oppose U.S. militarism at home and abroad.

We call for a worldwide redistribution of resources away from militarism and corporate control to benefit the every-day lives of women and children.

Specifically, we demand the closing of the School of the Americas and other military installations that train military personnel from other countries to fight their own people, for against indigenous people in Mexico; also the use of U.S.-made helicopters against these

indigenous communities. We call for public recognition of the role of the U.S. military in the Kwangju massacre in South Korea.

We issue this statement to the governments of all our countries. We celebrate women's brave and courageous efforts to speak out and work to end these oppressions through our community organizations, schools and colleges, religious settings, prisons, and so on.

We pledge that we will continue this work for women's self-determination, respect, and liberation.