

NOVEMBER 8, 2009
Granny Peace Brigade TEACH-IN

CLOSE U.S. MILITARY BASES IN THE PACIFIC

The Grannies 4th Teach-in focuses on the Pentagon's presence in Japan/Okinawa, the Korean Peninsula and the Philippines. Speakers will discuss the destructive impact of U.S. military bases on the region's environmental, economic and social development. Popular movements in host countries protest and resist the U.S. military presence. We join them in that struggle.



PRESENTERS

Dr. Joseph Gerson, Director of Programs and of the Peace and Economic Security Program for American Friends Service Committee, author, lecturer, international activist

Ninotchka Rosca, Philippine-born novelist and activist, former political prisoner, member of the Mariposa Alliance Initiating Committee

Virginia Rodino, Asia Pacific Freeze Campaign Steering Committee; Senior Campaigns Communications Strategist, SEIU

Moderator: Vinie Burrows, actress, author and UN representative for the Women's International Democratic Federation

and **Pete Bronson**, Korean War Veteran, Veterans for Peace

DATE: Sunday, November 8, 2009
TIME: 1:30 – 5:00 pm Refreshments 1:00 pm
PLACE: Hunter College/CUNY – West Building
68th St & Lexington Ave, 7th fl Lecture Hall

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Wheelchair accessible

Endorsers (partial list) Women and Gender Studies Program, Hunter College CUNY; Black Radical Congress; Code Pink; Peace Action; Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

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FACT SHEET

- ❖ In 2008 the Pentagon's budget was over \$976 billion.
- ❖ Of that sum, \$102 billion was the cost of U. S foreign military bases.
- ❖ U.S. military bases in Japan/Okinawa, the Philippines and South Korea create horrific environmental, physical, social and economic conditions.
- ❖ Military vehicles, warships, weaponry and aircraft at these bases contaminate the air, soil and groundwater with hazardous chemicals, which often lead to life threatening and debilitating diseases.
- ❖ Crimes committed by the military are outside the jurisdiction of the host country.
- ❖ In Okinawa "in the past 62 years, there have been 400 reported cases of women who have been attacked, kidnapped, abused, gang-raped or murdered by U.S.troops."*
- ❖ In South Korea the government itself conspired with the U.S. military to provide prostitutes for the "recreational system" of U.S. soldiers.**
- ❖ In the Philippines an estimated 50,000 children were fathered by US soldiers since 1945, none of whom receive benefits of US military families, such as healthcare, housing and education.
- ❖ The economic damage to the host countries is pervasive in addition to the cost-sharing responsibilities they must assume
- ❖ The cost to the U.S. of maintaining its network of foreign military bases diverts funds from addressing urgent domestic needs in healthcare, education, housing, employment, transportation and climate change.

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* *Foreign Policy in Focus*, Gender and U.S. Bases in Asia-Pacific March 14, 2008

** *New York Times*, January 8, 2009

The Granny Peace Brigade organizes Teach-Ins dedicated to closing the more than 1000 U.S. foreign military bases/installations worldwide.