

PROTESTING THE
RP-US VISITING FORCES AGREEMENT
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The VFA is an unequal treaty fashioned to keep American hegemony over our region. It serves no purpose other than the protection of US military and economic interests in our country. An assessment of the prolonged stay of US troops in Philippine territory should not take eons to finish. Simply, we can ask the AFP what benefits they have incurred for the last ten years under the VFA, in addition to the five decades of the US military bases' presence in the Philippines.

What lessons did our Armed Forces learn from those regular joint military exercises under the VFA? Did AFP elements learn to assassinate progressive leaders in the countryside from the Balikatan exercises?

In these times of worldwide economic recession and paradigm shifts in conflict resolution, we find lesser reasons for the VFA and the Balikatan exercises to continue. Our government should prioritize expenditures for the poor rather than playing expensive war games. Government should also take up the option of peaceful negotiations as the most viable way to resolve internal conflicts rather than preemption and aggression which the VFA essentially is.

What is at stake here is our sovereignty and dignity – our freedom and rights as a free country that have been negated by our government's submission to US interests. Let us reclaim our country's dignity with the termination of the VFA. There is no other way. NO PHONE CALL FROM PRESIDENT OBAMA TO A GLEEFUL PRESIDENT IS WORTH THE SACRIFICE.