

PRESS RELEASE
SEN. M.A. MADRIGAL
17 MARCH 2009

**STATEMENT OF SEN. MADRIGAL ON THE FILING OF RESOLUTION TO
INVESTIGATE THE ABUSE OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN CAUSED BY
FOREIGN MILITARY EXERCISES IN THE PHILIPPINES**

Junk VFA! Junk GMA!

This is my call as I file Resolution No.936 calling for the investigation of the abuse caused by the VFA due to the President's inadequacy to protect her people's rights especially that of women and children caused by the foreign military exercises conducted in the Philippines.

Since foreign military presence in the Philippines has been steadily increasing since 1999 due to the VFA, more than 3,000 cases of abuse against women and children were filed by individuals and groups against American soldiers in Clark and Subic from the years 1980 to 1988; and according to Bikolana Gabriela, 97 cases of rape and sexual assault were also filed by their group against American soldiers in Clark and Subic, of which 15 victims were children.

It is downright sad that aside from these cases, other incidents of abuse against Filipino women and children by foreign military servicemen were never reported nor documented but what is even more depressing is that none of these cases were ever resolved.

There have been appalling reports of physical, sexual, and psychological abuse by foreign military servicemen against Filipino women and children and it is disgusting that these reported acts of abuse against Filipino women and children are never even addressed by the Philippine government or courts.

What kind of a president, especially a woman at that, would allow these monstrosities to happen?

That is why I reiterate my call. Junk the VFA! ###