

Posted by Joan Russow

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Friday August 25, 2017

5:00 PM EST

Co-Hosted by Women Cross DMZ and the International Women's Network Against Militarism

For ten days starting August 21, 2017, U.S. and South Korean forces will carry out the Ulchi Freedom Guardian war drills involving tens of thousands of soldiers from both militaries simulating an invasion of North Korea. Proponents say they are needed to deter aggression from Pyongyang, whereas North Korea views these rehearsals for war as highly threatening and justification for its nuclear and missile program. These war drills have been going on since 1953 when the Korean War was halted with a ceasefire, but not a peace treaty.

Most people in the United States have no idea that these massive war drills are carried out twice a year. What are these war drills how should we view them, especially in light of statements from Washington that the US military is "locked and loaded" and prepared for a "preventive war." Also how do these rehearsals for war impact neighboring US allies like Japan, and other highly militarized US territories and states, like Guam and Hawai'i? How does this militarism influence hyper-masculinity and our perceptions of how conflicts should be resolved?

Join Women Cross DMZ and the International Women's Network Against Militarism for an hour-long webinar on the US-South Korean war drills. We will hear from longtime activists who will share how the ongoing state of war has led to the increased militarization of their communities.

Terri Kekoolani, Women's Voices, Women Speak

Gwyn Kirk, Women for Genuine Security

Hyun Lee, Zoom in Korea

Lisa Natividad, Guahan Coalition for Peace and Justice

Moderated by Christine Ahn, Women Cross DMZ

This is part of a National Action for Peace with North Korea "Stop the War Drills! Begin

Join Us for an Online Teach-In Webinar U.S. 'Preventive War' on North Korea and Regional Impacts

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Peace Talks!" For more information, visit the Korea Peace Network Page Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/koreapeacenetwork>