



Bogotá, agosto 15 al 20 de 2011

## XV INTERNATIONAL ENCOUNTER OF WOMEN IN BLACK

Bogota, 15-20 August 2011

PRESS RELEASE  
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Fifty international WiB are registered; we are awaiting more

### Colombia will be the setting for the XV Encounter of Women in Black

- Women in Black from all over America, Asia, Africa, Europe and the Middle East will come together in Colombia 15 – 20 August 2011.
- Registration is now open.
- Ruta Pacífica de las Mujeres is hosting the Gathering.

**Bogota – Colombia, 20 June 2011.** With the goal of highlighting and denouncing before national and international public opinion the various forms of violence that war and militarization of society have generated against women, and to formulate work agendas through the international movement of women for the purpose of achieving peace and respect for the rights of women worldwide; Women in Black will come together from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> of August meeting at the XV International Gathering of Women in Black Against War.

In Africa, Asia, America and the Middle East there are currently approximately 28 armed conflicts, among which 19 conflicts have been going on for more than 20 years. In Colombia, the armed conflict has been in progress more than 40 years. In the framework of these war situations, violence against women is exacerbated, inasmuch as the militants have appropriated women's bodies, their reproductive and productive capacities, their thoughts and sexuality. Today, women and women's organizations continue to be pursued and threatened and experience countless acts of violence. All this has caused women's organizations in various countries to express their resounding no to war, militarism and violence.

This year in Colombia, and for the first time in a Latin American country, international Women in Black are coming from Israel, Palestine, Italy, Spain, Serbia, India, Belgium, Tunisia, Nepal, United States and Uruguay, among others, and, along with women representing Ruta Pacífica and other organizations, are meeting to analyze the effects on

women and the civil population of war, militarism and buildup of weapons and to highlight and establish actions for resistance of women against war.

International and national registration is now open and we hope for a large attendance from international women so that together with the women of Colombia we can exchange and share experiences, sisterhood and learn from one another, and together we can demand an end to war and violence against women.

***“Bodies and land without war or violence”***