AFFIRM/GABNet Statement:
In Solidarity with our Sisters and Brothers at UC San Diego

The members of AFFIRM/GABNet, an anti-imperialist, feminist organization, stand in solidarity with our sisters and brothers in the struggle at UC San Diego. We are saddened by the recent events, including and following the racist, classist, misogynist stereotyping of African American culture through the February 13th "Compton Cook-Out," which have insulted, denigrated, and maliciously targeted women, people of color, and the poor.

We are inspired by your resistance and the fierceness of your struggle, and we offer any support we are able to give. We call upon the UC San Diego community to uphold the rights and dignity of all those who have been affected by these acts of hatred and ignorance.

As women of Philippine ancestry, we have witnessed the devastating effects of misogyny, racism, class oppression, and xenophobia on our communities. We understand that incidents such as these are not isolated events. Racial, gender, and class hostility, blatantly expressed through both individual and collective actions, reflects the historic and present prejudices against women, communities of color and the working class in this so-called post-racial America.

These incidents are yet another example of how race, gender, and class oppression are inextricably linked. In this current economic crisis, to make fun of the poor is deplorable, and highlights the ignorance and insensitivity of those hyper-privileged few who make light of the pain and suffering of those they choose to "satirize." They think it is funny to live in abject poverty, with underfunded schools, police brutality, and violence around you. They find it amusing to live pay check to pay check or receive assistance from the government because there are no jobs available. They blame the poor and communities of color for the urban or rural blight because government or businesses don’t think our communities are a profitable investment. They laugh at our expense because they know that these burdens are disproportionally borne by women and people of color.

We must pursue our rights to be free from misogyny, racism, and class oppression. We must rally together in solidarity based on the collective rights of women and oppressed people struggling for liberation. This is at the core of our call to fiercely resist the depravity that dehumanizes us.

Together we cry out MAKIBAKA, HUWAG MATAKOT--Resist, Struggle, Be Not Afraid!

In Militant Sisterhood,

Association of Filipinas, Feminists Fighting Imperialism, Refuedalization, and Marginalization (formerly known as GABRIELA Network), San Diego Chapter