



Vidas Viequenses Valen

Vidas Viequenses Valen (VTV)  
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**PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**NAVY ANNOUNCES THE BEGINNING OF CLEAN UP OF TOXIC MILITARY  
WASTE FROM VIEQUES**

**PLACE AND DATE: April 2, 2019**  
**Plaza Pública de Vieques**  
**5:00 PM**

**TO:** Media,  
Community,  
Churches,  
Organizations,  
Municipalities,  
Tourist Industries,  
General Public.

**INVITATION:** VTV requests the presence of the Media and the community to express the concerns about the impact of the cleanup activities to be performed by the Navy in the removal of military toxic waste in Vieques.

The activities will impact the health, environment and economy of the island as the toxic dump cleanup gets under way.

The activity also affects the property values, the future of the tourist industry and the community health.

The right cleanup procedure with attention to environmental and health concerns is paramount to the future of the island.

The VVV is concerned with the utilization of the open-burning detonation (**OB-OD**) system for the cleanup which does not take into account the health and environmental costs.

**BACKGROUND:** The VVV seeks to protect human health and the environment by calling for the immediate implementation of safe alternatives to open- air burning detonation and non close loop incineration-combustion of military munitions. It is paramount to prevent to the greater extent possible the release of toxic emissions and pollutants, and advance the principles of environmental justice by assuring that the cleanup is done with the utmost care for the environment and all the inhabitants of the island.

The presence of DEPLETED URANIUM WASTE in Vieques is a real health issue that needs to be addressed immediately.

“There are alternatives for burning, such as chemical reduction in the gas phase, oxidation with supercritical water, detonation chamber, phyto-remediation, among others, which are also more economical for the government in the long and short terms. They continue to make us sick, this has not stopped since the arrival of the United States Navy to our lands,” claims Elda Guadalupe.

“After the six decades of bombing and pollution this town rises to denounce this practice (of open burning) and demands the use of existing alternatives for the cleanup of our lands and sea” said Myrna Pagán, spokesperson for Vidas Viequenses Valen (VVV).

“Puerto Rican children deserve a healthy future and the best available technology. The Navy has the capacity and the responsibility to make it a reality”, said Laura Olah, national organizer of the Cease Fire Campaign.

**ACTION REQUESTED:** Please attend and forward this press release to all your contacts and friends.

**VIDAS VIEQUENSES VALEN:** Is a grass root organization to protect the health and future of the island residents.