

# How Militarization Threatens the Tradition of Peace in Costa Rica

*An analysis by Nicole Sault, Centro de Amigos Para la Paz, Costa Rica.*



The USS Iwo Jimo was among 46 US warships headed to Costa Rica.

Each December, Costa Ricans celebrate the abolition of the military in 1948—but the military is making a comeback. Under pressure to end drug trafficking and violence, the government has welcomed the arrival of military from other nations and is having the police trained in warfare. At the border with Nicaragua, they have stationed militarized police. Government leaders propose that the Constitution be changed and a military tax imposed. Right-wing hawks are frightening the population and overwhelming democratic peaceful resistance. Rather than a sudden coup toppling the government, democracy is being eroded by a creeping coup to which the government has assented by encouraging militarization, tolerating corruption, and welcoming foreign intervention.

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