

WOMAN

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Struggle

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WOMEN MUST DECIDE OUR FATE

Chanting, "Not the Church, Not the State, Women must decide our fate". 100,000 women marched past the White House and assembled on the lawn of the Capitol in Washington D.C. on March 9, 1986

The rally is being seen as a massive show of solidarity among women in the face of threats to reproductive rights.

Women carried placards and banners asserting the right to choose abortion. Many of the messages were clearly directed at those groups seeking to ban legal abortions, who have succeeded in getting more anti-abortion legislation before the US House of Representatives and the Senate. One banner read, "We are your mothers, your daughters, your sisters, your friends, and abortion is a choice we've made".

New Directions For Women

Volume 15 #3 May/June 1986

US CIVIL RIGHTS ACT HELD BACK BY ANTI-ABORTIONISTS

On March 10, the day after a abortion rights march and rally in Washington was a National Lobby Day for the Civil Rights Restoration Act which has languished in the US House of Representatives and the Senate since May 1985.

The Act is being held in committee by a punitive anti-abortion amendment which has been described by one of the USA's National Organization of Women (NOW) leaders as "an attempt to get the abortion debate out on the floor of Congress", and to "cut it out from other rights."

The Civil Rights Restoration Act would undo the damage done by a 1984 Supreme Court ruling, *Grove City College v. Bell*, which now permits previously illegal discrimination against women in college sports programs, disabled persons seeking employment, and minority students in segregated ability groups.

In May 1985, the House Education and Labor Committee overwhelmingly approved the Restoration Act which would overturn the Grove City College decision. The Restoration Act, as approved by committee, was neutral on the issues of abortion and pregnancy - until the addition of an anti-choice amendment.

While the Act simply seeks the re-enactment of basic civil rights, the amendment has transformed the bill into an abortion debate. Argument has delayed action for many months.

The amendment would curtail the rights of students and educators to choose abortion and would permit educational institutions to discriminate against students and staff because they choose to have an abortion; would allow institutions to cut off student financial aid, to suspend or even expel students from classes or extracurricular activities such as athletics, or honorary societies, because of abortion; and would permit student health programs to exclude coverage for medical conditions relating to abortion.

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The International Feminist Network of Isis WICCE has made an appeal through Isis publication Women's World to women world wide to support the causes of women who are being persecuted.

INDONESIA

Maria Gorete Joaquim from Dili in East Timor disappeared in 1979. She was arrested for the first time at the age of 13 in 1975 and accused of being a member of Fretilin student organization which was opposing the Indonesian occupation of East Timor. She was arrested and released several times subsequently. In May 1979 she disappeared and it is strongly suspected that she was killed after being tortured. Please write requesting information on her whereabouts and demanding an immediate inquiry with published results, to: President Suharto, Istana Negara, Jalan Beteran, Djakarta, Indonesia.

USA

Big Mountain, Arizona: mineral deposits have been found on the land of Navajo and Hopi people and 40,000 people are facing forced relocation from their land, their sacred shrines and their way of life. The Navajo and Hopi people have called for a congressional investigation, but they need to know people around the world support them, in defense of peace and in honour of life. Write to: Jane Kelly, P.O. Box 42640, Portland, OR 97242, USA.

USA

Judith Penley was a US nuclear power plant worker at a warehouse at Watts Bar. A Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) power plant. She had the reputation for speaking out about safety violations. Investigations to hear workers' complaints were made, and Judith Penley testified. A few hours later she was shot dead. TVA shrugged off any connection between Judith Penley's statements about safety violations and her murder. (Information from Off Our Backs) (Ed. Note: This case bears similarities to the Karin Silkwood case, another young worker in the nuclear industry who protested conditions and died not long after.)

If you would like to help and participate in the IFN, write to: Isis-WICCE, C.P. 2471. 1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland. Isis-International, 30 via Maria dell'Anima 00186 Rome, Italy.

Women's World #9, March 1986

GESTURE FOR PEACE

The YWCA of Trinidad and Tobago dedicated its newly renovated office premises as a peace site October 24, United Nations Day. Over 100 people attended a dedication service, at which women from different faiths said prayers for peace. Carnival bandleader Peter Minshall delivered an address.

Common Concern #49, March 1986

JAPANESE CULTURAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR SUGGESTS

SUITABLE RAPE VICTIMS

The Tokyo Rape Crisis Center wants international pressure brought to bear for the removal of Shumon Miura, Director General for Cultural Affairs because of his attitude to rape. He recommended that rapists should choose "unchaste" victims because "such women would take rape as lightly as tumbling down in a puddle".

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