

# WOMAN

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

# Struggle

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### FIRST PUBLICATION OF GUYANA WOMEN'S HISTORY PROJECT

Itwaria - Her Story (Guyanese Woman Sugar Worker - A Red Thread Publication, 1987) is off the press. The first in a series of life stories of women sugar workers in Guyana, Itwaria is an account of her experiences in childhood in Windsor Forest, Demarara after the ending of Indian indentureship and later as a worker on the East Bank at Diamond Estate.

Daruta Radzik, a member of Red Thread, a Women's Development Project, worked with Itwaria on the recording, writing and editing of the edition. The project has invited readers "to treat this edition as a sort of first printing and comment freely on it." Contact Red Thread, 45 Croal Street, Georgetown, Guyana.

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### BOTHA'S REGIME ATTACKS UNIONISTS

The South African regime has begun to mobilise against many women by virtue of their membership of the Namibian Food and Allied Union (NAFAU).

NAFAU is the largest of the three unions under the umbrella of the National Union of Namibian Workers (NUNW) whose recent show of strength has provoked a clamp-down.

Although the unions are less than a year old, 25,000 people took part in NUNW May Day rallies, and NAFAU has led a successful strike at the Swavleis meat factory. By the time the dispute ended, reprisals had begun, resulting in the killing of Elias Shikongo, the injury of 76 people, and the detention of 46 more - including the leader of NAFAU.

Despite the difficulty for women in going to meetings, attendance has been good, and women's representation of the Steering Committee will rise from 1/3 to 1/2 if NUNW unions survive this attempt to break them.

The affiliated unions are the first to be organised in Namibia since 1979 when South African forces seized union assets and detained leaders. As militants against oppression NUNW has an avowed policy against the subjugation of women, in view of the inequality between women's and men's earnings in Namibia.

SWAPO and the Namibia Support Committee are calling on trade unionists to protest against this oppression. Contact NSC on 01 267 1941.

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#### NOT A COMPLIMENT

During a meeting of the Palestine Liberation Organizations Parliament-in-exile (PNC) in Algiers earlier this year, Yasser Arafat was guest of honor at a women's dinner. The Palestinian leader got off to a bad start when he was booed for saying he thought of his hosts "not as women, but as men".

Later he said, "The first president of Palestine will be a woman" to which Issam Abdelhaadi, who chairs the General Union of Palestinian Women, replied, "I'll believe that when we have a woman on the Executive Committee."

Issam is campaigning for better representation for her organization which currently has 25 of the 250 seats in the General Assembly and only three on the newly enlarged 75-strong Central Council. These figures do not include the women delegates who represent other unions, such as the medical, lawyers and teachers unions.

Demands for five more seats on the Council, plus one of the 15-member Executive Committee will be debated in the next session of the PNC.

In Algiers Issam spoke of the plight of Palestinian women. She said: "Our situation is different, even from other Third World Women. We have the same struggle, but we are denied even the warmth of the family, which has been taken from us by the Israeli aggressors."

Optimistic about the role being played by younger women, she said, "They have been born in the struggle and they are the generation of victory".

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HARD PORN QUEEN JOINS ITALIAN PARLIAMENT

On 14 June the Italian 'queen of hard porn' was elected as deputy in the Italian parliament.

Cicciolina which means little cabbage, whose real name is Llona Staller is 38 years old. She has ran on the list of a small radical leftist party, and won with a big majority. One of her campaigning strong points was that she could do the job just as well as anyone else without being hypocritical about it.

Cicciolina is not giving up her work in pornography, which she will carry out on week ends. In the meantime, she attends parliament in 'decent' attire every day of the working week.

Italian feminists are outraged by the election of Cicciolina and by the amazing amount of publicity she has had.

From TATIANA WAHBE, Spare Rib No 181

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ANGLICAN SYNOD DEPLORES EXPLOITATION OF WOMEN

Concern for what's perceived as a growing trend of exploitation of women, particularly through negative media images in general and the advertising medium in particular, was expressed by the 117th annual Anglican Synod in April.

A resolution noted the 'evident' need for the church community to educate its members on ways to counteract this negative trend, and called on the Anglican Lord Bishop, the Rt. Revd. Neville DeScuza to commend the matter for the attention of the relevant Diocesan organisations for urgent study and action'.

The resolution noted the media's growing use of semi-nude and nude females for editorial and advertising purposes, pointing out that repeated calls on the guilty parties to desist from these practises had gone unheeded. A similar situation was noted in the music industry where manifestations of 'disrespect and exploitations of female imagery is reflected in the distasteful lyrics in many of the popular Jamaican dance hall songs'.

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