

# WOMAN

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## Struggle

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### ADULT EDUCATION ACTIVIST MURDERED

Nabila Breir, an active supporter of the International Council of Adult Education and a key member of the Women's Network, was killed by gunmen who stopped her taxi on her way to work and shot her in the head and chest. Nabila was the UNICEF official responsible for the welfare of children in Palestinian camps, and played a role in the establishment of daycare centres, health care clinics and literacy classes in the refugee camps in Southern Lebanon. Nabila's husband had previously been kidnapped and held for a short time and her daughter was once trapped in a lift with gunmen. Her friends say that months before she was killed she had been aware of being in danger. However, she remained committed to her work. The situation of the Palestinians in Lebanon has been desperate since 1982 when the city's infrastructure of schools welfare and employment projects folded up when the PLO was forced out. A few aid agencies and NGO's are the only organisations providing some material support to the Palestinian population.

Nabila was killed on December 18, 1986. She was 42 years old.

(From ICAE newsletter #4, 1986  
and Outwrite Issue 56, March 1987)

### SCHOOLGIRLS PROTEST HARRASSMENT

Hundreds of New Delhi schoolgirls and teachers blocked that city's busiest street protesting sexual harrassment on the buses. Protests have been made about this issue before. A few years ago women took over a bus and forced the driver to deliver the culprits straight to the police station.

Outwrite Issue 56, March 1987

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### NEW REGULATIONS TO GOVERN MEXICAN ADS

A new regulation in Mexico recommends that advertising which "contains elements that denigrate humans, especially women be banned." The law forbids advertisements which "promote discrimination by race or social condition" or which "feature war-like ideas, images or instruments". The law also bans "obscene images, phrases or scenes which hold double meanings ... or the use of subliminal messages".

The Secretary of Health plans to enforce the law through fines, closure of businesses and even jail sentences.

Outwrite Issue 56, March 1987

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### CANADIANS FORM NEW CAMPAIGN AGAINST NUCLEAR WAR

A Canada wide organization against nuclear war hopes to build upon the work of anti nuclear lobbyists and the declaration of cities and provinces as "Nuclear Weapons Free Zones" through a unity of major peace groups.

The Canadian Peace Alliance is a combined effort to make Canada "a voice for peace in the world." The Alliance will help launch national peace campaigns, increase co-ordination among disarmament organizations and strengthen the work for peace in Canada. The umbrella organization will help co-ordinate the activities of thousands of groups working for the prevention of nuclear war.

At a convention held recently delegates from groups across the country agreed to advocate a ban on nuclear weapons testing, and for complete opposition to the Star Wars space weapons plan. The CPA sees a comprehensive strategy for disarmament a priority during the next federal election.

(From appeal letter by Erica Pitter  
March, 1987

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## ACADEMICS AND ACTIVISTS TRY TO BRIDGE THE GAP

The Shanghai Women's Study Association - the ninth of its kind - was set up late last year to bridge the gap between female academics and activists. The association hopes to promote closer liaison between the two and encourage research into issues affecting grassroots women. It also intends developing women's studies by shifting the emphasis from sociology to law, economics, philosophy, psychology, anthropology, literature and education.

At its inaugural meeting the Association discussed the impact of the economic reforms on the women's movement. There was extensive participation by both academics and activists who have since submitted 95 papers on various issues concerning women. One quarter of the papers were written by non-academic activists.

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## RECORD NUMBER OF STERILISATIONS IN COLOMBIA

Over 100,000 Colombian women had their fallopian tubes tied last year according to statistics released by 'Profamilia' - a Colombian institute specialising in birth control methods. It is the highest figure ever recorded in Latin America. With more than 45 per cent of Colombian families living below the poverty line specified by UNICEF, sterilisation of the fallopian tubes is higher amongst the poorest of urban and rural women.

More than 60 per cent of Colombian households depend on women economically. But figures released by the National Department of statistics show that unemployment amongst women is 12 per cent as opposed to 8.4 per cent amongst men. Profamilia believe that this accounts for sterilisation being higher amongst women between the ages of 25 and 35 who have more than three children. Colombia's rate of population growth has decreased over the years. From 7 per cent in 1960 it fell to 1.8 per cent last year. However, this is as much due to birth control as it is to a high mortality rate.

Maria Isabel Garcia

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