

should avoid exposing their hair because this could tempt the opposite sex," he said.

Source: Today
1 February 1996

INDONESIAN WOMEN ACTIVISTS: TARGETS OF RAPE AND TORTURE - AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

The human rights group Amnesty International said Indonesian women, particularly activists, were targets of arbitrary rape, torture, execution and other rights violations by security forces.

In a report entitled "Women in Indonesia and East Timor, Standing Against Repression," Amnesty International said torture has become institutionalized within the security forces."

Indonesian Foreign Ministry spokesman Ghaffar Fadyl said the report was "biased" and the allegations were not new. "Amnesty International has always been engaged in the distortion of facts on human rights in Indonesia," Fadyl said.

But Amnesty International spokeswoman Nalyni Mohamed said, in releasing the report, that "those who challenge Indonesian authorities frequently suffer human rights violations, including arbitrary arrest, rape, torture and extrajudicial executions," Mohamed said.

Amnesty International's report said women most at risk were those involved in land disputes, Islamic or other religious activities or those criticizing the central rule in the provinces of Aceh, Irian Jaya and East Timor. The report lists a number of allegations of imprisonment, rape, torture and executions of women in Indonesia in the 1990s.

Amnesty International said

it had received 40 testimonies from women describing torture since 1993. Torture methods included electric shock, cigarette burns, sleep and food deprivation, and bashing with iron bars, wood and bottles. "Torture is frequently used to obtain information, to intimidate detainees and to obtain confessions," Amnesty International said. "In many cases, the attitude of government and security officials appears to condone the human rights violations," it added.

The human rights group added that since the Indonesian invasion of East Timor in 1975, independence supporters had been routinely tortured and maltreated by Indonesian military personnel.

FILIPINO WOMEN TARGETED BY MOONIES

Philippine immigration authorities stopped 984 Filipinas from leaving Manila for South Korea as brides. The agency alleged that the women, who were married to mostly South Korean men in mass wedding rites of the Unification Church, are victims of a mail order bride scheme by the church.

Rodolfo Dumapias, an embassy counsellor in Seoul, said that, "To the Korean Unification men, marrying a Filipina or any foreign woman is like a business transaction [because] he pays more than \$2,000 to get a housemaid, who can also be a sex partner."

Reports have come to the Philippine embassy in Seoul that Filipina women were being brought to Seoul by the Unification Church and deployed as domestic workers and prostitutes. Reports also included the testimony of a

woman who was married to a member of the Unification Church. She said that her husband kept her at home as a prisoner and passed her around to other men.

The Unification Church, founded by Reverend Moon and whose members are called Moonies, has been a controversial religious sect in many countries. It is known internationally for its mass weddings. The mass weddings that were held in the Philippines have been found by authorities to be nothing more than "mass blessings" for the hundreds of couples that were matched by Reverend Moon in the Philippines.

Believers of the Unification Church claim that the church is a blend of many religions and that it is a peace-loving organization. They believe that their Church is being attacked for not being part of established religions.

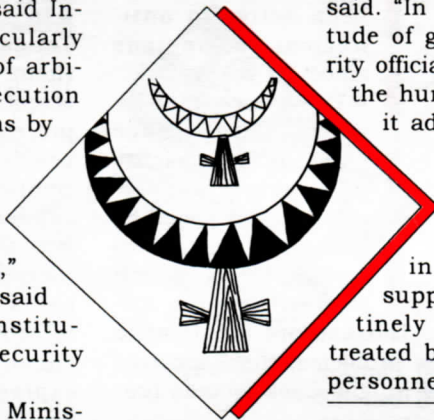
Women who support the match-making of the Unification Church claim that they are under no coercion to leave their countries and to settle elsewhere. They added that the match-making process is with their participation.

Authorities counter that it is no coincidence that Filipinas are being targeted as brides. The Korean government has announced the need for 40,000 more workers to help small companies. Women also question why the Unification Church is targeting only Filipina women to become brides to mostly South Korean men. Why not Filipino men as grooms to foreign women?

Source: The Philippine Daily Inquirer and Today
25 January 1996

AFRICAN LEADER AWARDED

The 1995 Africa Prize for Leadership for the Sustainable



End of Hunger went to Joyce F. Munghera, Vice-President of the World Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) and the National Executive Director of the YWCA of Uganda.

Ms. Munghera has led the Uganda branch of the YWCA for 30 years. In the '70s, she went underground after she was directly threatened with execution by then Ugandan dictator Idi Amin. But Ms. Munghera continued to work even after going underground.

Ms. Munghera is credited as a key person in the establishment of one of the world's strongest networks for women's literacy. She is the manager of the country's first successful revolving credit scheme for rural women. Now, Ms. Munghera is also establishing a rural women's bank in Uganda.

Ms. Munghera joins the distinguished list of awardees of the Africa Prize for Leadership for the Sustainable End of Hunger. The 1994 prize went to H.E. Nelson Mandela, President of the Republic of South Africa. The prize is a project of the Hunger Project Organization.

Source: World Young Women's Christian Association

SOUTH PACIFIC WOMEN IN THE FOREFRONT OF ANTI-NUCLEAR PROTESTS

Women from throughout the Pacific Islands demonstrated their solidarity with one another as France carried out its nuclear tests at Moruroa Atoll

sis International-Manila joins human rights groups around the world in denouncing the Nigerian military dictatorship that executed Nobel Peace Prize nominee Saro-Wiwa and eight other human rights activists.

Saro-Wiwa, a noted writer, had led a campaign for self-determination for the Ogoni people who have suffered under the Nigerian military regime. Saro-wiwa fought to protect the environment which has been exploited by foreign oil companies.

Finau Tabakaucoro led. Despite engine problems, the Kaunitoni joined in the Cook Islands protest.

The Cook Islands, which is geographically closest to the Atoll, sent a *vaka*, a traditional canoe, for which one quarter of the population gathered for a national farewell. The *vaka* is an important symbol to the French Polynesians because a thousand years ago, populations moved from Polynesia through the Cooks to New Zealand on it.

● In Western Samoa, women's organizations visited the Prime Minister. Subsequently, the government decided to boycott the South Pacific Games in Tahiti.

Individual athletes also boycotted the South Pacific Games, including Fijian young female swimmer Angela Birch.

● Women led "a very hostile" demonstration at the Cook Islands airport when the leader of French Polynesia arrived to "explain" the French testing. This was considered an unusual

in August and October 1995.

● In Fiji, 5,000, including a woman member of Parliament and the woman Minister of Education, marched in protest of the French nuclear testing. The two government women have been active in anti-nuclear campaigns since 30 years back.

● The Peace Flotilla where Greenpeace ships, private yachts and vessels participated in was joined by the MV Kaunitoni from Fiji which

woman Senator Adi

event as the Cook Islands have, in the past, tended to defend French Polynesia.

● "Peace Women" from New Zealand and Cook Islands on board a chartered plane were refused landing in Papeete. Not giving up, the women went back on a commercial plane just to establish ties with their Maori sisters.

● In politically conservative Tonga, 500 people, most of them women, marched in the streets in an unusual show of protest. Most of the time, the people of Tonga will not speak contrary to the King who did not condemn the nuclear testings.

● In the Women and the Environment meeting in Fiji, participants resolved to lobby France to stop nuclear testing in the Pacific. Women at the meeting expressed concern for the impact nuclear testing would have on tuna fishing in the region, for possible climate changes, and for the stability of the atoll.

● In Suva, Fiji, Katerina Teaiwa, a young Fijian designer, staged the first ever anti-nuclear fashion show. Teresita Teaiwa, sister of Katerina, said the concept was inspired by the launching in 1946 of the bikini, the two-piece bathing suit named after the Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands where the U.S. held nuclear testings. While the bikini became immortal, history has tended to ignore the suffering, displacement and degradation of Bikini Atoll's Islanders, Teresita Teaiwa said.

French President Chirac went ahead with the testing despite global protests. However, the people and the governments of the Pacific are not letting things end there. At the Annual South Pacific Forum of Prime Ministers, France was suspended from the observer list. Other governments, with

