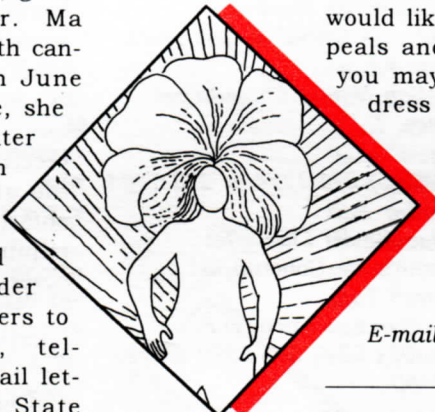


According to reports, gathered by AAASHRAN, Dr. Ma Thida was diagnosed with cancer and tuberculosis in June 1995. For a short time, she was hospitalized but later returned to her prison cell where conditions are reported to be poor.

The AAASHRAN and the Women Living Under Muslim Laws urge readers to please send telexes, telegrams, faxes or air mail letters to officials of the State Law and Order Restoration Council in Burma to express concern about Dr. Ma Thida, request information about her hospital stay in mid-June and the treatment she received, seek information regarding her current state of health, and urge her immediate and unconditional release from prison. Please address your letters to:



In addition, the AAASHRAN would like copies of your appeals and any responses that you may receive. Please address them to:

*Elisa Munoz, AAAS
Science and Human
Rights Program
1333 H. St. NW
Washington DC 20005
Tel: (202) 326-6797
Fax: (202) 289-4950
E-mail: EMUNOZ@AAAS.ORG
(Internet system)*

closely involved in the project. Information is being collected according to state, type of media organisation and employer.

A small group of women journalists assumed to have an understanding and interest in the issues involved in the research have been approached to form a focus group and to assist in offering an insider's perspective on the issues to be surveyed.

*Source: The Alliance
September 1995*

FOCUS ON WOMEN IN THE MEDIA

The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) has initiated a major project aimed at researching and documenting issues confronting women working in the media industry in Asia. One of these issues is equal opportunity in promotion.

The project also aims to investigate and report on the portrayal of women in the media. The project, Women in the Media in Asia, focuses on five countries: Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia and Australia.

The research will gauge the extent of discrimination, both direct and indirect, still being suffered by women. Information on job access, recruitment, pay, and women's promotional chances will be collated. The survey aims to elicit responses on the extent of job segregation, type of training and development, prevalence of sexual harassment and the nature of working conditions, including childcare provisions, at the workplace. Positive changes at workplaces and in women's employment conditions will be identified and credited to the organisation concerned.

The research will be conducted in journalists' workplaces. This will facilitate the prompt completion of the project and allow journalists to be

**MEXICAN MILITARY USE
GANG RAPE TO INTIMIDATE
PROTESTERS**

Alarming reports from Mexico say that women are being gang raped by the military in San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas. The area is in the grips of a low intensity war being waged by Mexican military against Zapatista peasants protesting the deplorable conditions of the region. The military is using gang rape as a tool of violence and intimidation.

On 25 October 1993, Cecilia Rodriguez, Coordinator of the National Commission for Democracy in Mexico was brutally raped and sodomized by three heavily armed men in Chiapas. She has also received death threats.

On 4 June 1994, three indigenous women were gang raped by 30 soldiers at an army checkpoint. Their mothers were forced to hear the screams of the women as they were raped. Charges have been brought against the soldiers but the case lies inactive at the National Defense Secretariat (SEDENA). Women are demanding that the case be turned over to a civil court so that it may be reopened and investigated.

On 4 October 1995, five

*General Than Shwe
Chairman, State Law and Order
Restoration Council
Yangon, Union of Myanmar*

*Lieutenant General Khin Nyunt
Secretary 1, State Law and Order
Restoration Council
Yangon, Union of Myanmar*

*Lieutenant General Tin U
Secretary 2, State Law and Order
Restoration Council*

Also, please send copies of your letters to:

*Vice Admiral Than Nyunt
Minister of Health,
Ministers Office
Yangon, Union of Myanmar*

*Ambassador U Thang
Embassy of the Union of Myanmar
2300 S Street, NW, Washington,
DC 20008*