

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.

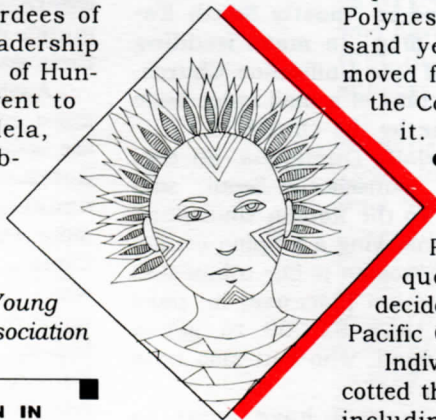
● "Peace Women" from New Zealand and Cook Islands on board a chartered plane were refused landing in Papeete. Not giving up, the women went back on a commercial plane just to establish ties with their Maori sisters.

● 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



support from the NGOs of the region, have taken action. Australia, New Zealand and Fiji have taken France to the World Court and Fiji sponsored a motion that was passed by the UN General Assembly condemning the testing.

*Source: Report by Ruth E. Lechte, Director of Energy and Environment for the World Young Women's Christian Association
20 November 1995
the Western Samoa Observer June 1995
and Fiji Times, July 1995*

SHELTER COALITION FORMED

Three international women's networks joined forces to form what is now known as the super coalition. HIC Women and Shelter Network, Grassroots Organizations Operating To-gether for Sisterhood (GROOTS) based in the USA and the International Council of Women (ICW) based in The Netherlands, as well as the United Nations Council on Human Settlements' (Habitat) Women in Human Settlements Development Programme (WHSDP) have been collaborating to voice the concerns and priorities of women regarding their access to housing, land and services.

The members of this coalition have been working together to have a women's perspective on housing through major United Nations conferences such as the World Summit for Social Development and Commission on the Status of Women (PrepCom II), and the second PrepCom for Habitat II. Over 30 members of the newly formed super coalition met during the NGO Consultation held in New York in March 1995. The coalition was able to get some

clauses on women's land and housing rights into the Draft Platform of Action. One of the clauses that is still bracketed reads: "Governments must guarantee women's human right to equal access to and control of land, property and credit, regardless of customary laws, traditions and practices related to inheritance and marriage. Non-governmental organizations and women's organizations should mobilize to protect the traditional land and property rights of all women, including pastoralists, fishery workers and nomadic groups, indigenous peoples, refugees and migrant workers."

For more information, contact HIC Women and Shelter Network Secretariat, Mazingira Institute, PO Box 14550, Nairobi, Kenya. Phone 254 2 443219/26/29, Fax 254 2 444643/443214, E-mail: Mazingira@elci.gn.apc.org
Source: Women and Shelter No. 9, July 1995

YOU'VE GOT TO BE IN IT TO WIN IT

Just as South Africa was once banned from the Olympics, any country that bars women from its delegation should be sidelined, says Atlanta Plus, an international coalition of activists and athletes.

After 32 countries sent all-male teams in 1992, the group came together to urge the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to improve its record in time for the 1996 games in Atlanta. According to Atlanta Plus, Iran is the only country known to explicitly ban women, but women are conspicuously absent from

the sizeable delegations of other Islamic countries like Kuwait and Pakistan.

The group is urging the IOC to investigate countries that could be running afoul of the Olympic charter, which prohibits gender discrimination. But the IOC has called the campaign an attack on religion—a claim Moroccan gold medalist Nawal El Moutawakel, who is a Muslim rejects. "There isn't a religion on earth that says women can't practice sports."

Source: Ms., Vol. VI, No. 2.

