

Kota newspaper said on Wednesday.

Indonesian police chief General Banurusman Astroemitro was quoted as telling a parliamentary commission on Tuesday that a woman's virginity would have to be verified before she could enter academies for the military, which includes the police. He said some women entering military academies had to leave after they were discovered to be pregnant.

"Usually the community in the region will give a party for a woman when she is accepted into the military. During that event, women who have boyfriends are left a "deposit." That deposit usually becomes known after a few months," Banurusman said. "The result is that the female cadet soldier must end her education," he said.

Answering legislators' questions, Banurusman said: "If needed, the examination can be done by a woman doctor."  
(Source: Today, 7 March 1996)

### NEW CURE FOR AN OLD COMPLAINT

CHILE (IPS)—Child abuse may be an old problem but it has never merited close attention and scrutiny. At least, not until recently. Official figures show that some 300,000 minors are victims of physical and psychological aggression in Chile. The country ranks third in terms of the prevalence of child abuse according to the National Women's Service. Publicity campaigns have made the public aware of this widespread problem especially since the

case of a five-month-old baby who was put into a coma by a beating from her father, hit the headlines.

The Chilean pediatric surgeon, who concentrated on the issue of child abuse for five years, expressed his frustration at the situation. This problem, according to him, existed mostly in industrialized nations and cuts across all socio-economic levels although he noted that it is more concealed in the upper classes. He cites the need for enacting more laws that deal specifically with child abuse as well as information campaigns in the media and community levels.

### GETTING TOUGH ON PAEDOPHILES

PHILIPPINES (IPS)—An Australian businessman convicted under a 1992 Philippine Law on Paedophilia signals the start of concrete government efforts to crack down on paedophiliac activity in Asia. Similar actions have started in other countries in the region. Thailand, for instance, indicted a Japanese businessman for sexually abusing two under-aged girls in the Northern province of Chang Mai. Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downes initiated an inquiry in response to reports of Australian aid money being extended to orphanages and schools which supply "clean" children for Australian diplomats—sending out a clear message that he will not tolerate such unethical behavior from his compatriots.

Paedophiliac activity reportedly abound in the region with child prostitutes

numbering to more than a million in Asia. While NGOs fighting paedophilia are happy with the recent efforts to curb these activities, they still see the need for stricter implementation of existing laws as well as for richer countries to enact and enforce laws that would prosecute paedophiles returning to their own countries.

### TRAFFICKED INTO INDIA

The Indian and Nepali governments share complicity in the abuse of thousands of women and girls who are trafficked from Nepal to India for the purposes of prostitution. "The willingness of Indian and Nepali government officials to tolerate and, in some cases, participate in the burgeoning flesh trade exacerbates abuse," says Human Rights Watch/Asia in a 90-page report released in July 1995.

HRW concludes that half of Bombay's 100,000 brothel workers are women and girls from Nepal. The report, *Rape for Profit: Trafficking of Nepali Girls and Women to India's Brothels*, says that the workers are kept in conditions tantamount to slavery.

"Held in debt bondage for years at a time, they are raped and subjected to severe beatings, exposed to AIDS, and face arbitrary imprisonment." Non-government workers in Bombay estimate that 20 percent of Bombay's brothel workers are under the age of 18 and at least half could be infected with AIDS.

"These abuses are not only violations of internationally recognized human rights but are especially prohibited under domestic laws of both

