

CAMBODIA RATES HIGHEST IN HIV INFECTION IN SEA

Health workers in Cambodia estimate that this country of 10 million now has the highest HIV infection rate in Southeast Asia and will post 400,000 AIDS cases by year 2000.

The estimate came from the latest HIV/AIDS survey which found the number of HIV-positive cases to be between 100,000 and 150,000, double the number recorded in November last year.

Annie Carry of the World Health Organization (WHO) noted, however, that the increase can be attributed more to better and more accurate testing than to an actual jump in the number of new cases.

Source: Philippine Daily Inquirer, 6 August 1996

CASTRATION OR DEATH FOR RAPISTS

LIMA, Peru — The Attorney General has proposed that rapists receive the death penalty or chemical castration, after police found the bodies of four young girls who were apparently raped and murdered. "Drastic punishment should be applied to rapists, such as the death penalty or castration," Blanca Nelida Colan said.

She added that the government will study the possibility of using California state legislature.

Peru's Constitution allows the death penalty only for treason during time of war.

The bodies of the four children, ages 7 to 13, were

found Tuesday in the town of Parcona, 280 km southeast of Lima, after residents came to the aid of another child who was screaming as her abductor tried to rape her.

Source: Philippine Daily Inquirer, 10 September 1996.

MOVEMENT AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ESCALATES IN KOREA

The movement against domestic violence in Korea has intensified following an incident where an elderly woman found herself killing her son-in-law to stop the man's constant abuse of her daughter.

The Special Committee to Promote the Legislation of the Act to Prevent Domestic Violence, a coalition composed of the Korean Women's Associations United and 10 other organizations, is lobbying for legislation to prevent domestic violence.

The group is also demanding the release of Lee Sang-hee who killed her son-in-law for habitually abusing her daughter.

"This is an incident which made us realize the seriousness of domestic violence," the committee said. "The chief of the police station who did not dispatch police, although he received a report of the violence, should be held responsible, and the Act to Prevent Domestic Violence should be legislated immediately."

A campaign to collect signatures in support of the committee's demands has also been carried out.

As well, hearings have been

held and experts consulted on the draft of the Act to Prevent Domestic Violence prepared last May. The final bill was expected to be completed by July.

The Korea Women's Hotline also plans to hold a 'Citizens Forum for Families without Violence and a Society without Violence' in six major cities including Seoul.

Source: Korean Women Today, No. 51, Summer 1996

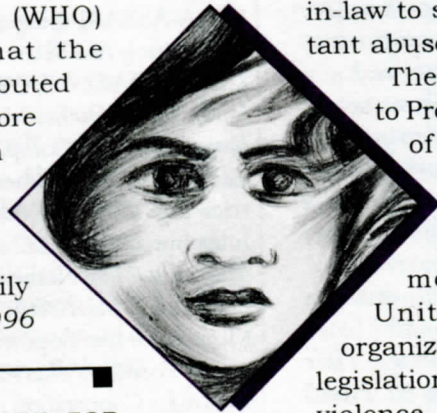
WORLDWIDE SUPPORT SPARES FILMMAKER FROM DEATH

A Chadian journalist-filmmaker living under a death *fatwa* because of her film on female genital mutilation believes an international campaign mounted in her support may have saved her life.

"If you hadn't stepped in, there would have been no reaction, and God knows what would have happened to me by now," Zara Yacoub wrote to the international solidarity network Women Living Under Muslim Laws. "Today I am convinced that the struggle for women's rights is an issue beyond national boundaries," she added.

Yacoub, who works for the Chadian state television station, had presented her film *Dilemme au feminin* during the "Women Empowering Communication" conference in Thailand in 1994 and in the 'World Congress in Communication for Human Dignity' organized by the World Association for Christian Communication (WACC) in 1995 in Mexico City. The video's powerful images and

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testimonies from women who had suffered devastating physical and psychological effects of female genital mutilation had significant impact on the audience.

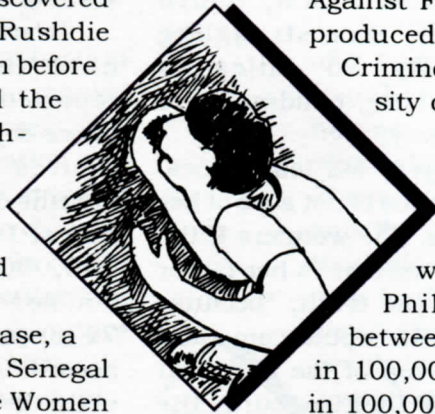
On her return to Chad, however, Yacoub discovered that, like Salman Rushdie and Talisma Nasreen before her, she had irked the Islamic establishment. She has since lived in a deadly atmosphere of threats and intimidation.

Hearing of her case, a group of women in Senegal who were part of the Women Living Under Muslim Laws network mobilized women's and human rights organizations in a massive campaign to put pressure on the Chadian authorities. Speaking to a Senegalese newspaper, Yacoub recalled, "The letters came from Africa, Europe, USA, from everywhere. They were sent to the President and the Ministry of Justice. . . . People in the Presidency have told me that, seeing all this, the President called the imam and asked him to stop because the affair was getting out of hand."

Source: Action, No. 191 June/July 1996

RP WIVES MORE LIKELY TO BE KILLED THAN AUSSIES

SYDNEY, Australia—Young Filipino women living in Australia are five times more likely to be killed than their Australian counterparts, according to a report released Friday.



The reports also found that Filipino women who migrate to Australia as a sponsored spouse of partner are "particularly vulnerable" to domestic violence.

The report, "Violence Against Filipino Women," was produced by the Institute of Criminology at the University of Sydney.

It says that between 1989 and 1992 the annual rate of homicide for women born in the Philippines and aged between 20 and 39 was 5.6 in 100,000, compared with 1 in 100,000 for Australians.

Center for Philippine Concerns Australia spokeswoman Melba Marginson said violence was an on-going problem.

"I think violence against Filipino women will still continue because more and more the present government is not...leading in putting a stop to racism in this country," she said.

I hope this report will serve as a big reminder to the present government. Also it is a good reminder for those who have been saying, we Asians are having it easy here.

"We are not. So many murders have occurred. . . (and) it is not only happening in the Filipino women's community."

Launching the report, "Race Discrimination," Commissioner Zita Antonios said it came at a time when there was a major racism debate going on in Australia.

"Racism is a poison," she told guests at New South Wales Parliament House.

"It is not something you release from time to time in the national interest."

"There are serious consequences for not attacking racism and for not stopping it as soon as it emerges."

"There are social costs, there are economic costs and there are political costs and there are economic costs and there are political costs and I think it is a very important message all of us should be thinking about in the current environment," she said without directly naming federal independent member for Parliament Pauline Hanson, whose maiden speech nearly two months ago sparked the current immigration debate. AP Source: Philippine Daily Inquirer, 30 October 1996

GIRL CRIES SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN SCHOOL

STAMFORD, New York—Ninth-grader Eve Bruneau is now in a new school earning high marks, serving as a captain of her junior varsity soccer team and playing flute and saxophone in the band.

Three years ago, at South Kortright Central School, she was depressed, cried frequently and begged her mother to let her stay home. She didn't feel safe. Previously a straight-A student, she had failing grades.

The reason she was forced to change schools, according to her lawsuit against South Kortright—sexual harassment.

The federal lawsuit, which started trial Monday in Binghamton, claims that boys in Eve's sixth-grade class called her and other girls names such as "dog-faced