

International Peace Update



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US or UN? Krishna Ahojja Patel

Baghdad is burning. Massive bombing of the city continues without any discrimination between soldiers and civilians. In this war, as in others since 1991, ninety percent of those who die will be civilians – and largely women and children. Before the invasion on 20 March 2003, there was near-consensus in the Security Council against disarming Iraq by force. France, Russia and China among the permanent members, and almost all non-permanent members, made strong statements on finding solutions under various articles of the UN Charter. In an open forum of the Security Council, demanded by the 116 non-aligned countries, country after country spoke in favour of the alternative to war - allowing the UN inspectors to continue their search for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. Millions of citizens across continents and communities came pouring onto the streets in protest against the policy of pre-emptive action of the US administration. Why have these voices who screamed against the war fallen on deaf ears? At what point of time is protest transformed into policy?

It has been suggested that never before in the last half a century have so many millions of citizens come out openly and stubbornly against using the might of one superpower who considers itself the "policeman of the world". In addition this "hyperpower" (as the French now define the US) has also given itself the role of imposing their model of democracy on small, vulnerable and poor countries. Their declared objective of the war on Iraq was to disarm, change regime and impose 'democracy'. The latter objective means that a government of US-liking is put in to control the rich natural resources of Iraq whereby American and possibly British transnationals will be given major contracts on a priority basis. The exploitation of these resources by the private sector may or may not be shared with EU states (due to differences of opinions towards this war), but it should be recalled that this is not the first battle for oil in this century.

Should the weapons inspectors' work have been cut short by the announcement of the UN Secretary General before the declaration of war? However their work could not have continued once US and UK decided to go it alone and attack Iraq outside the UN Charter, conventions and customary international law. As a result the international

(Continued on page 2)



*Girl aged before her time, Basra, Iraq.
by Bill Thomson*

IN THIS ISSUE

- Iraq 1 - 4*
- Women and peace in Sri Lanka 5*
- Gender and Gun Culture 6*
- Women's Day seminar 7*
- WILPF New York, Sweden, Canada 8,9*
- Human Rights and Small Arms 10*
- Nuclear NPT Status 11 - 13*
- Indigenous women in WILPF 13*
- Indigenous land misuse 14, 19*
- World Social Forum 15*
- WILPF Actions in Aotearoa, USA 16-18*
- Human Rights Education 19*
- In Memoriam 20*



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The aims and principles of WILPF are to bring together women of different political and philosophical convictions united in their determination to study, make known and help abolish the causes and the concept of war; to work toward world peace and for total and universal disarmament, the abolition of violence and coercion in the settlement of conflicts and the substitution in each case of negotiation and conciliation, the strengthening of the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies, the strengthening of the institution of international law; and to strive for political and social equality, economic equity, cooperation among all people and for development within a sustainable environment.

Conscious that under systems of exploitation and oppression these aims cannot be attained, and that a real and lasting peace and true freedom cannot exist, WILPF's duty is to facilitate by non-violent means the social transformation to permit the inauguration of systems under which social and political equality and economic equity for all are attained without discrimination on the basis of sex, race, religion, or on any other grounds whatsoever.

WILPF sees as its ultimate goal the establishment of an international economic order founded on meeting the needs of all peoples and not on profit and privilege.

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(continued from page 1)

community is not only devastated but decimated by the recent invasion of Iraq by the new invaders in the company of the old colonialists. The adjectives: **illegitimate, illogical, unjust, illegal** are all inadequate to describe the cruelty and inhumanity of this war on a UN member state, its citizens, its culture and heritage. The prevalent feature of international relations today is certainly not the rule of law but the rule of the jungle. The international political and economic order after this war must be under the umbrella of the United Nations and its architecture of international law.

Being against the war in Iraq does not signify being in favour of dictators such as Mr. Saddam Hussein. But it does mean that "we the people" are part of a huge tide – peoples' movement – towards peace. Peace means that each member state has the right to forge its own path towards development; choose its own form of government; build its own economic institutions and design their own destiny.

This can only be done in freedom; moving from a uni-polar to a multi-polar world.

Krishna Ahooja Patel
WILPF International President



This primary focus of this issue of the International Peace Update is War and Disarmament.



Statement on Iraq to H.E. Ms Najat Al-Haijaji, President, 59th Session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights

Madam President,

The undersigned non-governmental organizations, which participated in one or both of two round tables on the war against Iraq and the human rights and humanitarian implications it has for the Iraqi people, held at the Palais des Nations on 26 and 27 March 2003 in parallel to the 59th session of the UN Commission on Human Rights, wish to address to you the following urgent appeal:

The military onslaught by the U.S. and U.K. launched on 20 March 2003 against the people of Iraq is in total violation of the United Nations Charter. It is a most brutal step in an illegal war that has been carried on by these two UN Member States against Iraq since the cease-fire in 1991 and the beginning of the process of disarming the country of weapons of mass destruction decreed by the UN Security Council. The more than twelve years of sanctions imposed on Iraq and the almost daily bombardments by the US and UK air forces have caused more than a million and half Iraqi deaths and immense destruction of the country. Since the imposition of sanctions on Iraq the country has lacked, among many other materials and foods vital to life, the most basic medicines and medical equipment to treat the sick, and other essential products to make hospitals safe. Many of the sick have been and are latent victims

of the depleted uranium in weapons used in the first Gulf war in 1991. In this already dangerous situation, how can the thousands injured by the heavy bombardments of the cities these days be given the needed medical treatment? How can the people be provided with clean water, and how can they acquire basic food?

This war against Iraq defies all reason and common sense. It is illegal, illegitimate, unjust, colonial and arrogant. It violates the fundamental rights of peoples to self-determination, to national sovereignty and territorial integrity. There is not one UN resolution that authorizes a state to overthrow the government or political regime of another. Humanitarian intervention on political grounds has no legal foundation. This war is unjust and perverse because its victims are primarily civilians and because those who have launched this war pretend to build what they are actually destroying. It is a colonial war and one of occupation by a superpower that confuses its own selfish interests with those of humanity, and that refuses or is too ignorant to esteem the contribution the Iraqi people have made to world civilization and our cultural heritage for more than 500 years. Speakers and participants alike, during the two round tables, denounced the imposition of years of sanctions, and now the war, as nothing less than genocide. To do nothing against the invasion of a UN Member State by a big power

imperils the future of humanity and opens the door to the law of the jungle.

We are outraged by the vote in the Commission on 27 March, refusing to hold a special sitting on the war on Iraq with its human rights and humanitarian implications for the Iraqi people. This vote is in total contradiction with the demands to stop this war of millions of people the world over. It is in contradiction to the call made by human rights defenders everywhere.

We call on the Commission, through your high office, to reconsider its decision and agree to hold a special sitting on the war in Iraq, and thus restore public confidence in the UN and its Commission on Human Rights.

We urge the Commission to do everything in its power to help end this genocidal war in order to allow the Iraqi people to reconstruct their land and society within the norms of the right to self-determination and the right to dispose of their own natural resources as is guaranteed by the UN Charter and the International human rights covenants.

**Delivered by Elias Khouri
(Union of Arab Jurists) and
Edith Ballantyne (WILPF)
on behalf of over 30 NGO
signatories. Geneva, 27
March 2003.**

Report on a visit to Iraq

Pauline Tangiora

I visited Iraq 3 to 17 February 2003 out of concern for the women and children there with the threat of war from America and Britain. On my arrival a car, driver and interpreter were made available to me and at no time did I feel that I was being manipulated into doing anything that I was not happy with. I was free to visit wherever and to speak to whomever I wished. I had decided that I was not going to get caught up in the politics of the right and wrongs of this country.



After attending several mosques and different church services, it was obvious there was a mutually respect for each other, amongst the different denominations. Talking with the young, there was an optimism that political change was happening: people felt that some process of movement on political rights had begun with looking at an amendment to the constitution for a multi-party system and an amnesty for political prisoners. Many desired the return of exiles not linked to the intelligence services.



To analyse and report about the realities of millions people like you and I, is impossible to do in short time. However, I observed their hopes and their visions, their fears and their frustrations but above all the desire to get on with sorting out their country without the interference of President Bush and others. I was told this was not about an oil war but about colonisation. England and America have nowhere else to go to colonise but the Middle East, that if they could get their foot in through Iraq, then they would have control over what happens in the region.

These people were very educated, very aware in spite of the constrictions they have lived with for years. The women told me that they have a choice of what to wear, that equal rights as they saw it were available. I spoke to some women who travel to Europe frequently but wish to remain in Iraq and dressed like my own daughters. When I questioned them about their mode of dress, they said they have their own right to dress the old way or the new way.

I visited Baghdad Children's Hospital. It is a place all politicians should visit before they approve a war with DU warheads. These children will carry for generations to come the genetic malformations from usage of Depleted Uranium.

I also visited what was a safety house built for elderly, women and children was bombed twice in the early hours of 14 February 1991, incarcerating 408 people with a heat of over 2000 degrees centigrade. Those of us who witnessed the bombing of safe houses in England during World War 2, never thought that we would see such a sight again.



As a final comment, Iraq is a beautiful country. From the friendliness of the people, to the shared laughter of watching shepherds rushing across motorways with their sheep. May we remember that amongst all the sadness there is still a lot of beauty and we need to take responsibility to see that these people may continue to treasure this land.

**Pauline Tangiora, Maori
Women's Welfare League,
WILPF, Aotearoa**



A Woman's Journey Towards Peace **Dulcy de Silva**

Our journey around Sri Lanka took place between January 14 and 31 2003. We were joined by South African sisters, a facilitator from India and Sri Lankan women from four organisations working

In Kalpitiya, women are still living in refugee camps, exiled from Mannar in 1990. About 150 families came by boats across the water in heavy rain. Two children drowned on this journey.

believe that their male leader should make all decisions.

In Batticaloa we talked with both NGOs and LTTE women political leaders. Although they had lost their dear ones and their belongings, they were still determined to face the challenges of the future. These women seem to be very strong.

Irrespective of their ethnic origins, women expressed some doubt about the prospects of lasting peace, highlighting some recent incidents of violence. A sense of insecurity, a fear of personal danger and a sense of tension still prevail. Women are worried about their resettlement because they are unsure of their property, whether it has been demolished or is occupied by someone else.



Dulcy de Silvi addressing the teacher trainees in Jaffna Teachers college January 2003

for peace. We visited many districts and met many displaced and relocated women, war widows, activists, NGOs, students, academics and LTTE political women leaders.

In Anuradhapura, we met a teacher who had to flee and now lives in a refugee camp. She is working as a labourer because she has lost all her documents. The education department will not give her any job back without these papers.

We were inspired by the fact that women are engaged in a number of projects which they themselves have initiated.

In Puttalam, women were displaced from Jaffna and Mannar. They had 24 hour notice to leave their homes and walked for 16 miles. On her way, one pregnant woman had labour pains and her baby was born in a cowshed. In Mulaithivu District, 1500 families were driven away from their homes.

In Jaffna, we met women's groups, NGOs, university academics, students and teachers. They stressed the fact that before 1995 when the LTTE had control over that territory, first Muslims were asked to leave, and then later in 1995 the Tamils were asked to leave. The trainees suggested that there must be exchange visits amongst students to build trust among the various ethnic groups. We met with LTTE women political leaders, they seem to

Dulcy De Silva
Vice President WILPF
International



Picture by a girl in Yasodara Orphanage, Sri Lanka, home to over 60 girls. Many have lost their parents in the civil war, others have been brought there by mothers unable to care for them.



Gender Perspectives on Gun Culture

Jacklyn Cock

The successful transition to peace and the consolidation of democracy in South Africa depended partly on a process of demilitarisation that involved shifting power and resources away from armed formations and partly on dismantling ideologies that legitimise violence. Even when there has been victory in liberation struggles against colonial rule, or ceasefires after civil wars, real peace has often been short-lived and democratic government has not become a reality. Frequently one reason for this is the failure to disarm.

Contemporary feminism has not been a major source of challenge to this global pattern of violence and armed conflict. On the contrary in many different societies the icons of militarised masculinity -soldiers and guns - are being homogenized and women are increasingly buying into militarised identities by supporting worldwide incorporation of women into military institutions and combat roles, into a state militarisation.

There is a need to reclaim and reassert a different kind of transformative feminism, to formulate new gender ideologies and challenge the relationship of gender identities to violence and power.

The relation between feminism and militarism is a complex one.

In many societies, women have played important roles in both public and private militarisation, but this has been largely obscured and mystified by two competing perspectives - those of sexism and feminism. Both analyses exclude women from war on the grounds that they are bearers of 'special qualities'. Sexism excludes women from the ranks of the military on the grounds of their physical inferiority and unsuitability for fighting. As the weaker sex women must be 'protected' and 'defended'. A biology based and essentialist feminism similarly excludes women on grounds of their innate nurturing qualities, their creativity and pacifism. Women are the 'mothers of the race', 'the peace-loving sex'. For example, in the last century, the British feminist, Vera Brittain asserted that if women had political power, they would never let their children, go to war. "War violates a profound biological urge in women".

In contrast to this kind of biological reductionism, Virginia Woolf argued in the pacifist-feminism text, *Three Guineas* in 1937, that men and women are really different. But this is grounded in social relations, rather than biology, in women's exclusion from power and resources, from male dominated institutions and values. Prevention of war in Woolf's argument would require the dismantling of the entire

gender system, the desegregation of male and female spheres, and the depolarization of masculinity and femininity. Her pacifist feminism sought equality between the sexes not through admitting women to combat, but rather through liberating men from militarism.

The connection between militarism and masculinity must be ruptured. Men, as William Beinart has written, are "the primary agents of violence in most societies." (Beinart, 1992;473) Of course violence is not an exclusively male practice, nor an inherent characteristic, but only men link violence to their identity. Participation in violence often involves intense social pressures to conform to dominant concepts of masculinity, as documented in the case of conscripts in the South African Defence Force. Guns are part of the dominant masculine code in many different cultures. This code frequently links guns to men's role as protectors and d e f e n d e r s .

With the collapse of state socialism and increasing secularisation in much of the world feminism can promote this comprehensive agenda of masculine identity transformation. This is because feminism, as Charlotte Bunch emphasizes in *Passionate Politics*, is a transformational politics, a struggle

(Continued on page 7)



(continued from page 6)

against all forms of violence and domination. Feminism is centrally concerned with issues of difference and disadvantage. This is of critical importance at a time when the process of globalisation is threatening the survival of 'difference' and deepening disadvantage and inequalities throughout the world.

Furthermore feminism implies struggle on both personal and societal terrains. This involves constructing new gender identities and challenging the relation of masculinity to violence and power.

Based on a lecture by Jacklyn Cock, professor of Sociology at the University of Witwatersrand. She is the author of **Colonels and**

Cadres. War and Gender in South Africa. (Cape Town: Oxford University Press, 1991) Jacklyn is active in the disarmament movement, and is a member of the Executive Committee of **Ceasefire** and on the national steering committee of **Gun Free South Africa.**

For a full version of this paper see www.wilpf.int.ch

International Women's Day Seminar Geneva, March 5 - 7 2003

Women's Rights and Economics of War

Speakers at the recent Women's Day seminar organised by WILPF at UN Geneva included **Dr. Patricia Lewis**, Director of United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research; **Prof. Jan Oberg**, Transnational Foundation for Peace and Future Research; **Dr. Vanessa Farr**, Independent Consultant on Small Arms and Women's Rights; **Alice Ukoko**, Women of Nigeria International and **Irene Mandeau**, Amnesty German section.

Statement: Conference on Disarmament

WILPF, in cooperation with the NGO Committee on the Status of Women Working Group on Peace presented a statement at the Plenary Session of the Conference on Disarmament on 6 March 2003 read by Enrique Roman-Morey Deputy Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament. This is the only NGO statement given to the CD, and for the first time this year it was circulated among the Ambassadors to the Conference.

For this statement see www.wilpf.int.ch

WILPF International Geneva



Left to right: **Katerina Lecchi**, Disarmament Intern; **Silvi Sterr**, International Secretary; **Angela Staubach**, Human Rights Intern; **Claire Harron**.

Left to right:
Krishna Ahooja Patel, WILPF International President;
Edith Ballantyne, WILPF Special Advisor UN Matters.





WILPF International New York.

The UN NY office of WILPF has recently welcomed three new team members;

Ann Kaiser (Acting Director), **Susi Snyder** (Coordinator) and **Rhianna Tyson** (Reaching Critical Will Project Associate), with **Kara Piccirilli** and **Sarah Schteir** this makes for an incredible team to be reckoned with at the UN in NY.



Left to right: Julie Suh (intern), top row: Ann Kaiser, Le Chen (intern), Sarah Schteir, Susi Snyder bottom row: Kara Piccirilli, Rhianna Tyson

The year ahead for the UN NY WILPF is looking bright. The *Commission on the Status of Women* took place in March 2003, the *NPT Prepcom* will be at the end of April 2003 in Geneva. These two events in addition to our regular projects are keeping WILPF International busy and excited!

The *Peacewomen* project website has entered phase two of development. Pending financial support, and with the assistance of technology and research interns and staff, it is hoped to rework the site's visual design. The plan is to expand on the usability of the website by creating a "search" function to

facilitate access to the site's extensive resources. We are also working to translate UN Security Council Resolution 1325 into additional languages. The translation of the entire website into Spanish and French is planned.

Reaching Critical Will plans to build on successes of the last two years by continuing and participating in UN and NGO events. The *UN General Assembly First Committee* and the *Conference on Disarmament* will continue to be monitored. In our *Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space* campaign, the office monitors the international debate and developments toward the militarization of space, and identify political openings. Building on the October 2002 *Strategy Summit on Nuclear Disarmament and International Security*, WILPF hopes to enable NGOs to participate in critical analysis, strategic planning, improved networking, and developing and promoting practical policy proposals. Preparations have already begun for the 2003 *Non-Proliferation Treaty Preparatory Committee*. The profiles of the *Dirty Dozen Corporate Partners in Mass Destruction* will be updated.

In addition to these projects WILPF UN NY will continue to explore gender perspectives on security and disarmament while strengthening ties among activist, academic, and policy-making circles.

WILPF Sweden

Recently the Swedish section has been involved in organizing many national and local demonstrations against the war. WILPF is very active in the Swedish "Network against war" formed in 2002. In 2003, the section will mainly focus on two issues: the future security policies of the EU and Security Council resolution 1325.

In April 2003, a joint seminar on future security policies will be held with members of the European parliament and security experts. The desired outcomes of this seminar include being part of the process of re-writing the EU convention and also informing the public on this important issue. This is a topic that the Swedish section will continue to work with during 2003. We have applied for funding for this project among others.

The second topic on our main agenda is the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on "**Women, Peace and Security**". **Elisabeth Rehn** will be our guest speaker on this subject at the Swedish national congress, May 2003. Ms. Rehn is one of the two UNIFEM independent experts who recently published the important report "**Women, War and Peace**". Her talk will be followed by a workshop on Resolution 1325 for WILPF members and interested members of the public.

Petra Totterman



New Canadian National Section

WILPF Canada became a fully functioning section in October 2002 during the first Canadian National WILPF meeting at Salt Spring Island, British Columbia. The elected Steering Committee are **Beverly Lynch**, Section Facilitator; **Flora Adebayo**, Branch Liaison; **Colleen Burke**, Financial Facilitator; **Silvia McFadyen-Jones**, International Executive Committee Representative; **Amy Holling**, Intern to IEC; and **Maxine Carpenter**, Correspondence Facilitator. They have been working together to maintain the section's work via telephone conferencing. In 2003 **Marjorie Buchanan** joined the Committee as a Member at Large.

The WILPF Canadian Steering Committee (CS/SC) consists of members from each branch: Toronto, Vancouver and Nanaimo with a goal to open more branches across Canada in the future.

Toronto

The WILPF Toronto branch has two active committees: UN Action Group and Middle East Working group. WILPF Members have been attending the many peace demonstrations organized as a protest against the war in Iraq. The latest rally in Toronto was attended by 80,000 people.

The Toronto branch hosted an information table and members

participated in the Toronto Social Forum event "*Alternatives to Corporate-led Globalization*". This event was in parallel to the World Social Forum held in Brazil in January 2003. Members also travelled to New York in March to participate in the annual *UN Commission on the Status of Women*.



Vancouver

The WILPF Vancouver Branch continually supports local peace activities, marches, the work of like-minded groups on local social justice issues and other campaigns.

Silvia McFadyen-Jones represented the Canadian section at the International Executive Committee (IEC) in Aotearoa/ New Zealand 2002. Her reports were submitted to the WILPF Vancouver branch and via teleconference to the CS/SC. Elsie Dean attended the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre, Brazil as the WILPF Canada representative and gave an excellent report to WILPF Vancouver on February 8th 2003. Vancouver Branch member Linda Morgan made a second trip to Iraq reporting back in January 2003 and Barbara Cullen gave a

comprehensive report of her fall trip to Lebanon.

Having first hand accounts from active members counteract misleading newspaper reports providing information to members from a women's view ensuring a gender, race and class perspective.

Throughout 2002 the Vancouver branch discussed environmental issues with the David Suzuki foundation and members attended protests in conjunction with World Trade Organisation meetings held in Canada. Vancouver WILPF, like all our branches, continues to explore new ways to reach more people.

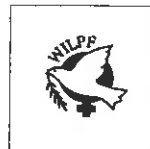
Nanaimo

Nanaimo is Canada's newest branch and it supports and participates in local and international issues. In November 2002 the branch participated in a Peace Walk that culminated in a lecture from well known activist, Terry Wolfwood.

The WILPF Canadian Section looks forward to its work with other International sections as it upholds WILPF's aims and principles worldwide.

Beverly Lynch, Section Facilitator of WILPF Canadian Section and a member of WILPF Nanaimo Branch.





Professor Barbara Frey, director of the Human Rights Program at the University of Minnesota, talks to **Katerina Lecchi**, WILPF Disarmament Intern.

1. Can you briefly describe your work in the area of human rights and small arms?

I have been interested for several years in the adverse consequences to human rights caused by easy access and misuse of small arms and light weapons. In August 2001 the UN Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights adopted a resolution authorizing me to write a working paper on the topic. The objective of the working paper was to begin to focus on the small arms issue from the perspective of human rights and humanitarian laws. The Sub-Commission gave a very broad mandate, including the legal and practical implications of the trade, carrying and misuse of small arms. This working paper (E/CN.4/Sub.2/2002/39) was presented at the 2002 session of the Sub-Commission. Its conclusions and recommendations were endorsed. The Sub-Commission then recommended my appointment as a Special Rapporteur with the task of preparing a comprehensive study on the prevention of human rights violations committed with small arms and light weapons. The Commission on Human Rights will decide to review my appointment at its current session.

2. The program of action adopted at the 2001 UN Small Arms Conference did not deal with the humanitarian aspect of small

arms proliferation. Why was this excluded?

The Program of Action adopted by the 2001 Conference was negotiated by delegates whose primary expertise was in disarmament. Because of this, the Program of Action ended up having its primary focus on national security issues, without much detailed focus on human security. I believe that as the process continues, both NGOs and governments will broaden their approach to the human rights and humanitarian implications of the arms trade. In the meantime, I think it is very appropriate for other UN mechanisms to look at the relevance of small arms to their mandate. The human rights community is beginning to focus its attention on the linkages between arms transfer and their misuse and fundamental violations of human rights.

3. What advice could you give to an organisation such as WILPF, on the most useful way to campaign on the humanitarian impact of small arms?

The NGO community that works in the field can provide training to its staff members on the impact of small arms on the number, the type and the gravity of human rights violations. Many human rights monitors do not have expertise with firearms, and they could use some simple training on identifying different weapons and

types of ammunition. In the policy area, NGOs should be urging governments to consider the humanitarian criteria in licensing exports of small arms, and should encourage them to mandate training of law enforcement officials on the UN principles on the use of force and firearms. NGOs could familiarize themselves with the licensing and export process and urge transparency in this procedure.

5. What can the NGO community learn from the Campaign to Ban Land Mines?

The legal and practical issues involved in the small arms trade are much more complex than those related to land mines. Because of the legitimate uses of small arms for police and security functions, and because most small arms are not indiscriminate, one cannot expect a single solution like a ban. The NGO community brought urgency to the mines issue through its documentation of the horrible effects of those weapons. It needs to do something similar with small arms, documenting their role in facilitating or escalating human rights violations.

Thanks for your interest in this important issue. I look forward to working with WILPF as we raise public awareness on the issue of small arms and human rights.

March 2003



Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, 2003

Rhianna Tyson

Perhaps the most important commitment codified by NPT is in Article VI, which Nuclear Weapons States (NWS) promise "to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament, and on a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control."

However the international nonproliferation regime is facing critical setbacks. Nuclear Weapons States (NWS) are lowering their threshold for "acceptable use" of weapons and reinforcing their importance in national strategy planning. In turn, Non-Nuclear Weapons States (NNWS) are feeling more justified in their "right" to pursue such weapons.

Arguably the crux of nonproliferation measures, "negative security assurances" refer to the promises of NWS to never use nuclear weapons against a NNWS so long as this state forever renounces its attempt to acquire these bombs. A variety of agreements, both legally binding and those built on "good faith promises", embody negative security assurances including UN Security Council resolution 984.

The Thirteen Practical Steps to Disarmament
At the 2000 Review Conference,

great success towards advancing the implementation of the NPT was achieved. The States Parties unanimously agreed to a program of action consisting of 13 practical steps toward global nuclear disarmament. These steps included the ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT); the preservation and strengthening of the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty (ABM); the establishment of verification measures; and other steps to ensure international security. These agreements require the diminishing role of nuclear weapons in security policies.

With a pledge from every State Party to adhere to these 13 practical steps, the elimination of nuclear weapons didn't seem like such a far-off idea in 2000. It was to be a new millennium, finally free from the threat of the unimaginable destruction posed by nuclear weapons.

NPT in the Present Context

The Preparatory Committee will meet in April 2003 to assess once more the operational status of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. At that time State parties and NGOs will review the serious acts that have stalled the progress made in 2000. More particularly those policies, actions, and threats made by the US and other governments.

Although Cuba recently signed the NPT, leaving only Pakistan, India and Israel as the only non-signators.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea withdrew in January 2003, becoming the first state to ever do so. North Korea has no plans to send an observer mission to the PrepCom in Geneva in April 2003, thereby decreasing the chances of a reversal of its decision to withdraw.

The preamble to the NPT is clear: nuclear disarmament is one of the best ways to enhance international security. Evidently, the US administration does not subscribe to this view. It continues to abrogate its responsibilities by increasing its rhetorical insistence upon nuclear weapons as security enhancing measures, lowering its threshold for acceptable-use of a nuclear weapon, and even planning for the development of more weapons.

Many recent US documents have demonstrated the failure of the administration to commit seriously to "complete and general" disarmament under Article VI. The most recent document was from a Republican House Subcommittee on National Security and Foreign Affairs proposal entitled, "Differentiation and Defense." These recommendations are in conformity with other documents such as *The Nuclear Posture Review* released in January 2002, and the *National Security Strategy* in October 2002.

(Continued on page 12)



(continued from page 11)

The self-imposed moratorium on testing, agreed upon by many states in lieu of the CTBT's entry-into-force, may be lifted in the United States, in order for the Pentagon to develop "bunker buster" nukes, which would have the ability to penetrate deep into the earth and destroy "hard and buried targets." Although the US maintains that they would be able to develop these bunker busters only by slightly modifying existing nuclear technology, the House nuclear policy paper recommends testing of these modified warheads to ensure success and efficacy. It is clear then, that the US has no plans to ratify the CTBT.

In 2002, the US officially withdrew from the ABM Treaty. The withdrawal was met with a relative silence from Russia, which further acquiesced by signing the subsequent Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty (SORT), which is less adequate. Although the treaty does reduce the number of nukes on ready launch status, it undercuts the principle of irreversibility by warehousing rather than eliminating warheads.

States parties have still not agreed to verification and reporting measures. At the 2002 PrepCom, the US and other NWS rejected the idea of a standardized reporting mechanism, insisting instead that states would submit individual reports. Proponents of the standardized report argued

Reaching Critical Will: A Shadow Report 2002

Nuclear Weapon States and Non Nuclear Weapon States be evaluated according to the following categories:

- Amount, location and operational plan regarding both strategic and tactical nuclear weapons stationed or stored anywhere
- Activities specifically undertaken in accordance with Article VI of the NPT (i.e. amounts and types of weapons dismantled, change in policy on the utility of nuclear weapons etc.) **(NWS ONLY)**
- Location and capability of nuclear facilities (i.e. power plants, research reactors, uranium mines, enrichment and reprocessing facilities, etc.)
- Fissile material holdings
- Transfer, acquisition, research and development of equipment, materials and scientific and technical information on nuclear science.
- National policies, activities and positions taken on universality of the NPT, non-proliferation, nuclear disarmament, nuclear weapon free zones, security assurances, safeguards, peaceful (sic) uses of nuclear energy
- Activities and positions taken in international fora (i.e. CD, Disarmament Commission, GA First Committee, NPT) on universality of the NPT, non-proliferation, nuclear disarmament, nuclear weapon free zones, security assurances, safeguards, peaceful (sic) uses of nuclear energy.

that in the absence of a standard method, reports would amount to nothing more than self-congratulatory lip service, and would fail to effectively critique the important ways in which states were failing to carry out their obligations. Unbiased, universal

reports would ensure that each state would be reviewed equally.

Although widely acclaimed throughout the disarmament community and heralded by many states, the 2002 PrepCom closed

(Continued on page 13)



(continued from page 12)

without an agreement on this critical issue.

Next Step

Despite these frustrating setbacks, disarmament NGOs are currently fine-tuning their strategies for the upcoming PrepCom in Geneva in April. We will continue to advocate for general and complete disarmament under effective international controls.

The issue of reporting must be presented as a critical first step

in increasing transparency and strengthening global democracy. WILPF will aim to highlight the link between nuclear threats and nuclear reductions. NNWS must demand greater accountability; WILPF call on them to link every discussion, including terrorism discussions, to nuclear arsenals, testing and development.

As the world faces the brink of horrific war, WILPF will continue to sharpen the sense of urgency concerning the disarmament of all nations.

Indigenous Women

Rhianna Tyson, Project Associate

**WILPF Disarmament project:
Reaching Critical Will**

For the full text of the 13 Steps, see the Reaching Critical Will website: <http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/npt/13point.html>



Indigenous Women in WILPF: Working Together

One of the more exciting discussions at last November's International Executive Committee meeting in Aotearoa was on the role of indigenous women in WILPF. This was especially appropriate due to the presence at this meeting of indigenous women from the Pacific, Australia and Aotearoa/New Zealand.

Discussions on this subject were also held as part of the Racism Workshop, in which indigenous women were also involved. This workshop proposed that there needs to be a process of negotiation between indigenous and non-indigenous women about the way they work together.

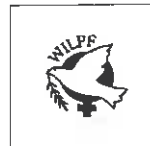
There needs to be mutual responsibility, indigenous women should be part of the process of decision making in all issues. The first step in this process will be that the indigenous women decide who will be their representative and negotiate for them.

One of the recommendations from the Racism Workshop was that the indigenous women should be able to appoint an indigenous woman as an international vice-president. Indigenous women need to have a meeting in order to do this. Coordination within the organisation, especially in suggesting ways in which this kind of meeting could be funded will be a necessary step forward.

Another recommendation from the Racism Workshop is the provision of more education for the development of a culture of peace. One of the key issues in any education process is the recovery of indigenous histories.

A full report of the Seminar on the effects of colonisation on indigenous women and the environment will be sent to sections when it is completed.

**Joan Macdonald, President
WILPF Aotearoa/New Zealand
Co-convenor of WILPF
Working Group on Racism**



Indigenous Lands and United States Nuclear Policy

Susi Snyder, WILPF NY

The mining of uranium in the Dine Nation, and the testing of nuclear weapons in the Newe Nation (Western Shoshone), reveals the legacy of the US of destroying indigenous homelands in order to create weapons of mass destruction to destroy all life.

The lives of indigenous peoples are bound to the land in a way that differs greatly from the post-Industrial perspective. They are spiritually connected to the Earth, and see it as mother, giver of life, provider of all basic needs. The destruction of traditional lands of the indigenous peoples by manufacturing nuclear weapons has devastated the physical and spiritual health of traditional peoples across the US.

The Dine (Navajo) Nation is located in the southwestern US. A nuclear free zone since 1995, the Dine people have survived the operation of over 1100 uranium mines on their lands. Many Dine were relocated in order to facilitate the mining of uranium. Many people worked in same mines, with little or no protection, miners had no masks, no gloves, and carried uranium dust home on their clothing. The families and especially the children have felt the health impacts of these mines. Children would play in the refuse of processed ore, dragging radioactive dust home on their clothing.

The health of the Dine people has suffered tremendously from the mining of uranium. The measurable health effects on the Dine include above average cancer rate, increased birth defects, and an epidemic of diabetes. Uranium, a heavy metal, when ingested or inhaled can



Corrine Sanchez is a member of **TWEA Women United**, a group that advocates for women, peace and environmental issues. She lives in the San Ildefonso Pueblo close to Los Alamos. *"Our body parallels Mother Earth,"* Sanchez said, giving her stance that bombarding people and plants with nuclear radiation is wrong. *"For Mother Earth, you're killing her and contaminating her."* In Sanchez' view, there is one Earth and all things are connected.³

block kidney function and cause diabetes.

There are more than 1100 mines in the Dine Nation, yet less than half of them have been "cleaned up".¹ "Cleanup" in this sense consists of a cement cap on the entranceway of the mine, followed by the pushing of many dust piles together into one large one, which is then covered by a cement cap. This unsatisfactory "cleanup" causes more radioactive dust to be blown into the air, people's homes, and their lungs.

Although the Dine have declared their nation a nuclear free zone, they are nonetheless threatened by two new uranium projects on the outskirts of their land. These mines risk contaminating their local currently pristine aquifer which is the primary water source for more than 50,000 people.

The Pueblo peoples are made up of many different tribes who have lived in the southwestern US for countless generations. One of the US nuclear weapons laboratories is located in Los Alamos, northern New Mexico, on the traditional lands of the Pueblos. Los Alamos was the first place on Earth that a nuclear weapon was ever detonated. This test rained radioactive dust across many nations.

(Continued on page 19)



Third World Social Forum: Porto Alegre, Brazil

22-28 January 2003

Regina Birchem

"Another world is not only possible, she is on her way. On a quiet day, I can hear her breathing." Arundathi Roy

Resistance to the new "Empire" is taking place on many fronts. The most encouraging convergence of the movement is the World Social Forum held for the last three years in Porto Alegre – a city known for its grassroots democratic participation in a nation of extreme inequality.

The World Social Forum evolved out of the global resistance to worldwide commercialization and the privatization of all common public goods and services including water, wood, education, knowledge, genes and biodiversity, land, health care, roads and even the air we breathe. The relentless march of neo-liberalism makes everything a marketable item for those who can pay.

The WSF is a world process. The Charter of Principles (adopted June 2001) states that the WSF is "an open meeting place for reflective thinking, democratic debate of ideas, formulation of proposals, free exchange of experiences and interlinking for effective action, by groups and movements of civil society that are opposed to neo-liberalism and to the domination of the world by capital and any form of imperialism, and are committed to bringing forth a planetary society

directed towards fruitful relationships among Humankind and between it and the Earth."

When 150,000 people come together with more than 1200 workshops over a space of 5-6 days, the main logistical and operative challenge is to capture the memory of the event and draw from the wealth of creativity and knowledge, the steps to make another world not only possible but also a breathing reality.

World Social Forum 2004 is planned to be held in India, in January approximately coinciding with the annual World Economic Forum meeting in Switzerland. A "Global Day for Marching against Neo-liberalism and War and for Another Possible World" will be held during the WEF meeting.

There will be regional social forums and thematic forums such as on the issue of water. WILPF might have one or more of its international meetings in conjunction with these regional or global forums. Delegates could participate fully in the Forum process, accepting solidarity housing, if practical. Then after the closing day, we could proceed for one to three days. This would put our work for peace and social

justice in the global context and be enlivening and motivating.

An example lies in our work for disarmament. Emily Schroeder recommended in the last IPU (December 2002, p. 37) regarding NGO strategies in the field of disarmament: "Build a social movement: This long term strategy needs to be framed in the context of building a social movement that will facilitate a paradigm shift in thinking about disarmament. Elements of this include changing the terms of the debate, and emphasizing the nature of the movement as promoting democracy and transparency."

The Forum process is not perfect. It is a struggle to experiment with horizontal organizational structure. To deal with all kinds of social rupture, to have all voices free to speak and be heard within the context of the principles of the WSF, to work patiently to a meaningful outcome, all this is an enormous challenge. It may be the only way forward.

Regina Birchem is a biologist, consultant and educator.

For a full version of this paper see www.wilpf.int.ch

More information about World Social Forum at www.worldsocialforum.org





Anti-War protests and actions in Aotearoa/New Zealand

Joan Macdonald

On the 12th anniversary of the Gulf War, WILPF women were involved in many protests in New Zealand. The Auckland branch also organised a vigil outside the US Consulate and delivered a letter informing them of their vigil. Members of the Wellington branch organised an all day peace presence outside the US Embassy. In Christchurch and Dunedin there were anti-war marches. There was also a protest at the naval base in Auckland when a New Zealand frigate left for duty in the Gulf in January 2003. Christchurch WILPF members have taken part in the anti-war

protests outside the Waihopai spy base which links with the US spy base system.

All over the country on February 15, 2003, WILPF members spoke at the large rallies. The Auckland branch had an information stall at a *Peace in the Park* concert on 16 February. Members of the Wellington and Auckland branches have participated in weekly vigils. Wellington members also organised a rally outside the Parliament to call on the government not to support this war. They also organised another rally to Parliament

coinciding with the visit of a European parliamentary delegation on 27 February.

Pauline Tangiora recently spent two weeks visiting Iraq in support of women and children there. She took pencils and notebooks for the children in hospitals and also natural antiseptics for the women. She gave a report on Iraq at our WILPF AGM and at a meeting of women's groups. These reports have been very effective to counterbalance those who were speaking out in support of a war on Iraq. Her reports have received good media coverage.



Raging Grannies (Missouri, USA)



The WILPF branch in Mid-Missouri has a Raging Grannies group; based in the university town of Columbia, arguably the most progressive community in Missouri. They have appeared on a radio show of Margot McMillan, a local academic who is also a regular contributor to *The Progressive Populist*. They sang and talked about Genetically Modified foods. They also sang at a large demonstration when John Ashcroft came to speak to the local law school. They sang for *Pastors for Peace* when they came to town. They sang at a demonstration at Whiteman air force base, home of the bombers of Afghanistan. They recently sang at a large local demonstration

held in solidarity with the Martin Luther King weekend events. More appearances on Margot's show are planned about hunger in the US. They make liberal use of the songbook on the internet and also write their own songs. They wear hats and have lots of fun. They usually have 5 or 6 core members who are joined by 20 to 25 women.

"We welcome all participants and hand out copies of our songs asking them to join in." At their last performance, they had call and response, harmony and what ever style anyone wished. It is very



Raging Grannies San Francisco, February 2003.

democratic and works wonderfully well.

Thanks and love are being sent to women from Seattle and Vancouver for their inspiration.

Elaine Hartley



USA
DISARM

US WILPF section campaigns

Carol Urner

Currently USA WILPF members and branches are focusing energies on trying to stop the rush toward invasion of Iraq. Branches are working, both alone and in coalition with other groups, organizing marches, holding vigils, putting through city council resolutions against the war. They are also circulating petitions, bombarding Congress with visits and letters and flooding media editorial pages with letters. Campaign co-chair, Ellen Barfield, recently returned from Iraq where she joined those standing in solidarity with the threatened Iraqi people. She is now sharing their stories with groups in the US.

The US national **DISARM** campaign is moving forward. The *National Security Statement* of the current neo-conservative regime sets out the new doctrine of pre-emptive war. The *Nuclear Posture Review* lays out plans for resumed nuclear testing, developing new, "usable" nuclear weapons for combat use, upgrading our nuclear arsenal and allowing first strike with nuclear weapons, even against non-nuclear states. The U.S. Space Command's *Vision 2020* posits global domination through control of space, including missile defense, military satellites and space weapons. There is another document on *Rebuilding America's Defenses* from the think tank, *Project for a New American Century*, which lays out in chilling detail all of these policies now being pursued by the administration.

This campaign is of necessity broadly based. We are, after all, taking on the Pentagon and the entire military establishment, including those corporations reaping huge profits from our tax dollars while producing ever more diabolical weapons of death.

The **DISARM: Dismantle the war economy campaign** originated at the national US WILPF Congress almost four years ago. At first we focused on the military corporations, and especially on those involved in nuclear weapons production and the aerospace industry. These are the firms most aggressively pushing our country toward war and militarism. Since then, this campaign has broadened into four project areas which were confirmed at our Triennial Congress in June 2002. All four are facilitated by WILPF volunteers from branches in Vermont, Maryland, Ohio, Missouri, Arizona, California and Oregon.

The **MIL-CORP ConneXion campaign** keeps the original emphasis of the Disarm campaign. This campaign has produced an eighty page handbook to help branches highlight the negative roles these military corporations play in their communities. At the core of this is the excellent material produced by the UN WILPF office including *The Dirty Dozen: Partners in Mass Destruction*. This gives basic

information on the corporations and university heavily involved in nuclear weapons production. A WILPF branches has added a report on Lockheed Martin which includes excellent material on toxic wastes exuded into their community. They have also added a guide for research and action in local communities, resources for tracking down specific industries, resources on conversion to a peace economy, for tracking the arms trade in relation to local economies and for tracking detrimental effects. WILPF participants in this project are taking their findings to Congress and to their local communities. They are also mounting "citizens' inspections" at facilities of major corporations like Raytheon, Lockheed, Livermore Labs and Alliant. Other WILPF members are keeping "base watches" at the military staging grounds where weapons are tested.

Members have a great deal to do to bring order to this campaign, and to open communication among our branches on their actions, successes and failures. It is an important effort and it is the hope that gradually, more branches will be drawn into the process.

The **Abolition project** but centres on actual disarmament issues. It is believed that the involved corporations in the US, which owe their wealth to the half

(Continued on page 18)



(continued from page 17)

of our tax dollars that go to military spending, are a major factor in the increasing militarization of our nation. But we know we must also lay out the alternatives to war, and bring our country back into the UN disarmament treaty process. For this project, also, we owe a great deal to UN WILPF's Reaching Critical Will and extensively use their research and materials.

We have prepared a fact sheet on the UN disarmament treaties which the present US government is blocking or sabotaging. These include everything from the popular Landmines treaty to the treaty on Small Arms and the Nuclear Proliferation and Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaties. This fact sheet and the others mentioned here are posted on our website.

We are emphasizing blocking missile defense and banning weapons in space, both of which are a part of the new push toward "full spectrum dominance." A WILPF group has lobbied in Washington D.C. on these issues in mid-March and are urging branches country-wide to join in the effort.

Our **Disarm Campaign** co-chairs will also join in lobbying on behalf of WILPF in a coalition effort focusing on nuclear issues. Current US nuclear policies are increasingly alarming and life threatening for the entire planet.

We also focus on the **Biological Weapons Inspection Protocol** which the US has rejected, claiming participation would be against US national interests. The hypocrisy of this position, given a policy of preemptive war against lesser countries even *suspected* of having biological weapons programs, needs to be highlighted and publicly challenged. UN inspection of all countries with biological weapons capabilities is essential to ensure compliance with the treaty.

Another campaign is **EYE on Congress**. Fifty U.S. branches receive weekly alerts on disarmament issues before Congress during the months that body is in session. Many have established good relationships with their Representatives in Washington, pay frequent visits to them or to their staff, and keep the letters flowing and phones ringing. Annually, **EYE** circulates a flyer on the annual military budget giving both the total budget and a breakdown of spending on some of the most diabolical weapons. It also lists alternative ways in which the same money could be spent on local social needs, and on support for human rights and sustainable development. Lack of funding has left our Legislative Office without basic staff this year, but WILPF volunteers travel to lobby in Washington as well as in their home locales.

The **LISTENING project**: We are offering training to branches in "listening to our neighbors", including those with whom we

disagree, and those (including women and minority groups) whose voices are not clearly heard. We want to enable them to articulate their own thoughts on peace policies. This project is still in the formative stages, but we believe it has potential as a teaching/learning tool for all of us.

Members act out of deep conviction, many involved in trying to stop US military aid to Columbia, Israel, Indonesia or the Philippines. Others are resisting and highlighting the "School of the Americas" and the training our Special Forces are giving to other militaries in torture and assassination. Other WILPF members hone in on military training and recruiting in schools. Some sing pointed anti-war songs as Raging Grannies, or wear black and witness on street corners for an end to US multi-billion dollar military aid to Israel and for peace between that country and occupied Palestine.

WILPF campaigns strive to provide resources and focal points for branch actions, and to open communication among members. Our US website (www.wilpf.org) seeks to give up-to-date resources for action. Our tasks are huge, but we proceed with faith in the creative energy, compassion, intelligence, courage and talents of our members. Never underestimate the power of a woman - and especially if she belongs to WILPF!

Carol Uner (WILPF US)



Cross-border Human Rights Education

1995-2004 has been declared the **International Decade for Human Rights Education**. International bodies such as the Council of Europe and United Nations High Commission for Human Rights have prioritised the development of Human Rights Education.

In Ireland, Amnesty International and Education International in conjunction with the Ulster Teacher's Union and the Irish National Teacher's Organisation have developed a cross-border human rights education initiative for primary schools.

The Cross Border Primary Human Rights Education Initiative aims to promote an understanding of human rights in the context of the divided island of Ireland, with particular emphasis on the experience of children around the world. It also promotes a corresponding

understanding of the responsibility of Governments, non-governmental organisations and individuals in promoting and validating the observance of appropriate human rights standards for all people.

The pilot project of the Cross Border Human Rights Education Initiative was launched in January 2002. Since then, more than 1,500 children in both the Republic of Ireland and in Northern Ireland have been learning about human rights and responsibilities. Appropriate human rights education materials have been prepared for use in cross-border primary schools. A human rights education training programme for



primary teachers is being established.

Successful links have been established between the project schools and the statutory bodies with a view to the follow-up of mainstreaming of human rights education at primary level in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

To access materials visit www.amnesty.ie/netw/hre/cross.shtml

(Continued from page 14)

A majority of the US nuclear weapons testing program has taken place in Newe Sogobia, the traditional homeland of the Newe people. In the US State of Nevada, 87% of the land is under federal control but according to an earlier Treaty of Peace and Friendship, 23 million acres of this land belong to the Newe.² These traditional homelands have been devastated by more than 800 nuclear weapons.

Many NGOs are working to get compensation for the miners and their families that have suffered, and to catalogue the epidemic of disease caused by these mines. Eastern Navajo Dine Against Uranium Mining is one of these groups. ENDAUM has been working since 1994 on studies on the health impact of uranium mining, and to prevent the opening of new uranium mines near the Dine Nation.

In this, the tenth anniversary of the *United Nations International Year of*

the World's Indigenous People, it is important to listen to the voices of the indigenous populations of the world as they speak out against weapons of mass destruction.

**Susi Snyder, Coordinator
WILPF NY**

Endnotes

¹ ENDAUM Email: redmesa@hotmail.com

² www.wsdp.org

³ www.nukewatch.org/media/more_media/08-00-01/gslona.html

TEWA Women United, Email: tewawu@la-tierra.com



In Memoriam

**Riek van den Berg
(1921 - 2002)**

Riek van den Berg was born on August 14 1921 in Indonesia, then a dutch colony. This early international perspective was the incentive for her work for WILPF. She was one of the 'Founding Mothers' of the Dutch WILPF Section when it was re-established after World War 2 in 1984.

She was a very down-to-earth woman with a no-nonsense attitude. She was of the opinion that women, along with all well-meaning human beings, were obliged to be active participants in the struggle for a peaceful world.

Riek served many years as Treasurer, IEC member, and President within the Dutch Section. She visited many international Congresses and IEC-meetings and represented WILPF in national organisations.

On April 28 2002 (WILPF's birthday) she was made an honorary member of the Dutch WILPF section, something that meant a great deal to her and her family.

Riek van den Berg died on December 17, 2002 in Ossenzijl, the Netherlands. The Dutch WILPF section is very grateful for her contribution to our work and her fighting spirit.

Rosan Huizenga, Anjo Kerkhofs
(WILPF)

**Marie-Therese Danielsson
(1923-2003)**

Marie-Therese Danielsson, former President of WILPF French Polynesia, passed away on February 6, 2003, in her eightieth year. News of her death prompted countless tributes to her courage and dedication from environmentalists and activists regionally and internationally.

Marie-Therese, of French origin, lived for over 50 years in French Polynesia. Together with her late husband Bengt, she was very instrumental in the campaign to end nuclear testing on Moruroa and Fangataufa. The couple wrote many books on anthropological, social and political issues, including *Moruroa, Mon Amour* (1974) which had a major impact on shaping world opinion against nuclear tests and colonialism in the pacific.

In 1991, the couple were awarded the "Right Livelihood Award", regarded as an alternative Nobel p r i z e .

Marie-Therese dedicated her life to support the struggle of the Maohi people for self-determination and independence. She participated in the IEC meeting held in Aotearoa in December 2002, where she contributed her perspectives on island peoples.

"We salute Marie Therese for being a true and genuine friend of the peoples of the Pacific." (Rev. John Doom, *Pacific Concerns Resource Centre*)

**Evelyn Abrams Mauss
(1916 - 2003)**

The lifelong peace activist Evelyn Abrams Mauss died suddenly on Saturday January 18, 2003. Disregarding danger, in this instance below freezing weather, the 87 year old woman spent her last day handing out anti-war leaflets in Union Square New York. That devotion to a cause characterized the unassuming, gentle, highly-educated and dedicated woman who devoted her life to the cause of social justice. Above all she was devoted to WILPF, a commitment she inherited from her mother and grandmother, who were early suffragists and members of WILPF. Evelyn was only fourteen when she organized a junior branch of the organization.

Three years ago, the NYC branch of Physicians for Social Responsibility honored Evelyn Mauss "for her 70 years as a peace activist". At dinner Evelyn told over a hundred guests who came to honour her, that she thought of herself as a "foot soldier," a supporter, a catalyst "And so, for as long as it takes to effect change, and as long as my luck holds, that is how I'll continue in the struggle."

She leaves behind her husband and comrade of 64 years and a large devoted family. She also leaves behind countless friends and colleagues who worked with her, respected and loved her.