

women's movement has seen the growth of many organizations and especially among the middle class. An umbrella was established in 1984 to join all the women's organizations. It is only a year and a half old. It is trying to bring all the women's organizations together to advance an open protest movement to carry women's issues into the movement. We are trying to study various issues of our women as a basis for a major campaign.

«To Struggle» was principally formed to advance the people's struggle for liberation and democracy in the country, and at the same time to advance women's emancipation from all forms of oppression and exploitation. But it works within the framework that Filipino women are confronted not only with women's oppression but also with national and class oppression. So we see that the general women's movement has to address these three problems. In fact, the problems of women's oppression are very much determined and influenced by the national and class problems. While the problems of male domination are universal, the existence of a semi-colonial and semi-feudal system, or the national and class problems we have, also determine the forms of oppression by which this male domination is expressed. For instance, US imperialism makes women's labor cheaper, so the division is also expressed because of a national problem. Women's political repression would basically mean that women who partici-

pate in the struggle also suffer from political repression. The regime does not distinguish between men and women opponents. So women have the same problems. Except that the military-patriarchal thinking is expressed through raping women or committing sexual abuses against women, especially in the strategic hamlet areas set up by the military.

«To Struggle» also expresses the need for mass education around women's issues and women's concrete conditions and problems in order that attitudes towards women can be changed in the process of the revolutionary transformation of the society. We are participating and want to be equal partners with the men in the struggle. But at the same time, we feel the need for the men to change their ideas towards us. Having a feudal culture, our men express the attitude of over-protectiveness. They would like to protect us from violence and harm and things like that. But we are both faced with violence. The regime does not choose whom they would kill or arrest. So we say that we need to struggle as well and we need to bring the women into the struggle. We need to confront the violence together. It is this kind of attitude that also stifles our women's participation in the struggle. For instance, in the New People's Army where women have to struggle, they have to be in the main forces - not only doing educational work and health. They want to be fighters as well. We realize that massive education has to be done while we are participating in the struggle. ●

ANC - South Africa

During the UN World Conference On Women, Palestinian women met with women from the African National Congress. One of the ANC women offered the following statement on their struggle:

Women have struggled very hard with education to raise their standard. Politically they have come up to the level of men. They are doing as much political work as the men are doing. In the military field, they are fighting side by side with their menfolk. Even in the home, the men have come to realize that women are equals. In that respect, I'm convinced that there is a beginning for everything, a new way for everything. A beam of light has come up. It will grow with time. There is nothing spontaneous. We were not born old. We were born as babies and we grew up to be children, young girls and boys, and we grew up to be old women, young women and men. It is a process. It cannot be spontaneous. We must not underrate the achievements that some women have scored during this past decade. Even we ourselves in the ANC have made achievements. The organization has realized the potential of women and has given us responsibility. We are doing exactly what men are doing. We are in the national executive committee; we are in the army; we are commanders; some of us are commissars. Therefore the decade has really improved the lot of women.

There are some men who are diehard traditionalists, who will not yield. But I can assure you that as time goes on, the trend will change because no country wants to see itself as the odd one out. If women are given the chance of going to school, which is the base for everything, if they achieve their education, if they qualify, and if they take their rightful places in institutions and industry - then equal justice will come automatically. We must come up from the grassroots and grow until we reach the

correct state whereby we can play our role side by side with our men. That is my feeling and this is the case in the ANC. I believe that when we finally achieve our goal, the ANC will have women in government, unlike other governments where women fought, struggled and did everything, but when they got home, they still went back to the kitchen. We are not going to allow that to happen.

