

Welcome

to the Bay Area International Women's Day Demonstration for 1993. Today we join women in the US and around the world in the celebration of women's resistance. From San Francisco to Berlin, from Soweto to San Salvador women are coming together to voice our anger and to show our strength and determination.

Today, Bosnian and Palestinian women are being raped and tortured as a part of genocidal attacks on their people. Today, European women are being stripped of their right to abortion as a consequence of so-called democratization. Today, in India, girls are killed at birth and women are burned to death when their husbands die. Today, Filipina women and girls are forced into sexual slavery and are trafficked to countries around the globe. Today, racist and Aids-phobic US immigration policies deny Haitian women entry into this country

Today, African-American women are the fastest growing population of women with breast cancer or HIV in this country. Today, more than twenty-five women political prisoners and prisoners of war are behind bars because they had the courage to rise up against the US government. And today, in western Nevada, Shoshone women's land rights are violated as part of the 500 years of US Gov't. campaigns to kill off Native American peoples.

Everyday, women in the US and around the world are braving poverty, home-lessness, racism, misogyny, and all forms of violence that men perpetrate upon us. What do we call this? We call it a war on women. We're here today to say STOP! Stop the War on Women!

As women, as feminists, as lesbians, and in all the roles that women play, this is no time to compromise. Yeah, it's nice to see a few women in high office; but it's not enough. It's good that Clinton lifted the gag rule preventing abortion referrals; but it's not enough. The family leave act is a tiny step in the right direction. But who do these gains really help and who is calling the shots?

Is the right to serve in the US military *really* the issue that lesbians would pick to rally around if we were driving the agenda? NO! Will having a woman attorney general ensure justice for black women or survivors of battery and sexual assault? We think NOT! Are women satisfied with a president who says he's pro-choice but anti abortion? NO!

We know that any real change that has been gained by women here in the US or around the globe has been made by women. Not by one woman appointee of a US president but by a movement of women - by a feminist movement - by women who lead their communities in the struggle against racism and colonialism.

That's why we're here tonight to take the streets. And we will not be satisfied until women have power - until every woman is empowered. We will not be satisfied until all women are free from homelessness, hunger, and exploitation. We want control of our own bodies and we want access to health care. We demand full reproductive freedom. We demand an end to violence against women, lesbians and children. We will no longer tolerate the objectification of our bodies or the oppression of fat women and disabled women.

We demand that the US end its occupation of Native American Lands, of Puerto Rico, and Hawaii. We deplore US aggression in the Middle East and Central America. We demand that the US lift the embargo against Cuba. And we demand the release of all women political prisoners and prisoners of war.

Tonight, on International Women's Day, we are marching together to celebrate our resistance and to say to the world that we will continue to show our rage, to fight back, to speak out, to rise up in the face of patriarchal oppression until we Stop The War On Women!



TOURGUIDE

Along the march we will point out some buildings that house US government agencies, consulates, or multinational corporations that are part of the systematic oppression of women here and around the world. Here are the locations we chose for tonight:

INS (Immigration and Naturalization Service) 555 Battery
INS, We Say No! Deportation's got to go!

This Federal agency enforces the racist laws protecting U.S. borders. It makes Mexican people illegal in the lands of their ancestors. It has forcibly returned tens of thousands of Haitians risking their lives to escape the deadly repression of the military government. Because it is so hard to get papers, thousands of women and men are working in private homes, in the fields, in restaurants and sweatshops without any protection for wages or working conditions because they know if they complain they will be deported. While we are marching here, immigrant women are speaking out about these conditions at Fort Mason while the right wing tries to disrupt them and the INS takes notes. The INS has reaffirmed its repressive policy of excluding HIV+ people, in effect pronouncing a death sentence on hundreds of Haitians detained at Guantanamo Naval Base under terrible conditions.

Israeli Consulate 220 Bush

"Intifada Yes! Occupation No! Illegal Expulsions Must Go!"

We join with Palestinian women here to protest the US backed Israeli occupation of Palestinian land and the systematic abuses of the human rights of the Palestinian people. Palestinian women political prisoners are raped and tortured as a matter of course. Israel shows its contempt for world public opinion by expelling 400 Palestinian activists who have been in tents in the freezing cold for two months. The U.S. is the only member of the United Nations that opposes sanctions for Israel. We want to struggle against Zionism and against the poison of anti-Semitism.

Health and Human Services 525 Market

"Infant Mortality: We Say No! Racism Has Got to Go!"

The U.S. is the only industrialized country in the world without publicly supported universal health care. Almost 15% of US families, and as many as 40% of Latino families, have no health coverage. Bill Clinton was elected based on a promise to make health care available to everyone. We demand universal publicly funded health care, not some scheme that sacrifices health to insurance company profits. We demand health care that meets women's needs. AIDS research cannot continue to ignore HIV+ women. Breast cancer attacks one woman in nine; if one man in nine were affected it would be declared a national public health disaster. We must control reproductive technology (RU486, DepoProvera, Norplant, abortion, sterilization), so that it cannot either be withheld from us or imposed on us.

Chevron International Oil 555 Market St.

Built on Genocide! Built on War! We know what this place is for!

We hold Chevron responsible for the rape of Mother Earth. From Point Richmond—where the Chevron refinery poisons the air of East Bay residents—to South Africa, where they have a multi-million dollar investment—to Puerto Rico and the Hopi-Navajo Indian lands at Big Mountain—Chevron strip mines and pollutes the world in its search for profits. Chevron produces nuclear products, toxic waste, oil spills and household products full of dangerous materials. We believe the earth belongs to its people and we support the struggles for environmental justice waged by groups like the West County Toxics Coalition, Pueblo para Aire y Agua Limpio in Kettleman City, PODER right here in the Mission and Clean Air Alternatives in Oakland.

Jessica McClintock 353 Sutter St.

Sweatshops are not a Fashion Statement!

Jessica McClintock, Inc. is the biggest woman-owned business in the Bay Area with a gross annual revenue of \$145 million. They are known for supporting various "worthy

causes." But they've been unresponsive to the fight for decent wages and working conditions for the immigrant women garment workers in their sweatshops. Asian Immigrant Women Advocates has been picketing and pressuring Jessica McClintock Inc. since last fall and connecting this struggle to the exploitation and resistance of immigrant women generally.

Philippine Consulate 447 Sutter St.

We're here to call on the government of the Philippines and upon President (General) Ramos to address the situation of the Filipina domestic workers still trapped in Kuwait; the suit of the "comfort women" forced into sexual slavery during World War II; and to support the suit of the Amerasian children fathered by U.S. GIs stationed at Olongapo. We have come here in solidarity with the dynamic feminist movement of the Philippines. These women are fighting against the continuing total war policies of the Filipino government, sexploitation, environmental destruction, and the struggle for feminism in the context of their whole people's liberation.

Any Street, Any Corner, Any Home

Women and girls are sexually accosted, raped, murdered and afraid to walk alone. In the office buildings around us, women are paid 60 cents for every dollar made by a man, and face sexual harassment on our jobs. In our homes where women work as aid laborers, we face battery, incest and child abuse. Nowhere can lesbians walk freely with our lovers or break out of "female" roles without fear of harassment. And Black women are four times as likely as white women to be raped.

This Racist System

underpins this militaristic/misogynist society. Women of color are denied basic human rights—health care, housing, education. In East Oakland the infant mortality rate is as high as in Honduras. Women of color endure—and resist—racist police, courts and institutions. Women's liberation is impossible without the liberation of people of color in the U.S.

With Us In Spirit: Women Political Prisoners

There are more than 100 political prisoners/POWs in U.S. prisons held for political ideas and actions. At Pleasanton Prison, 5 Puerto Rican women are held for fighting to end U.S. colonialism in their country. There is also a white North American lesbian anti-imperialist prisoner being held for fighting against U.S. racism and militarism. Other North American women political prisoners are being held in Mariana, Florida, the newest Federal maximum security prison for women, where women are held in isolation. Native American lesbian Norma Jean Croy is still in prison in Chowchilla twelve years after she and her brother defended themselves from a murderous police assault. We say to them and to all our sisters in prison: you are with us today.

