

8th of March 1994

women from the autonomous women's groups in Belgrade organize
street demonstrations

WOMEN'S SOLIDARITY AGAINST WAR

Today, remembering women who have fought for women's rights around the world, we want to say few words about the women's experience of victimization in this war. The war we live through is far from its beginning, far from its end and our pain has no bottom.

Women who live as refugees were exiled, humiliated, perpetually exploited, some of them sexually abused, and robbed from their previous inner homes. They suffered at different times threats to be mobilized, to be forced to colonize conquered countries, to be exchanged as goods in the stock market of nation states, to be repatriated in order that warriors will be punished. Women and children are treated as slaves, legally, morally and economically.

Women who are not living as refugees, many of us from Belgrade and other towns in Serbia, suffer misery, violence, some of us lost our jobs, survived abuse after the come back of the soldiers, war-killers and rapists. We women are humiliated by misery, by forced responsibility for the survival of families when our mere breathing is impossible. We are threatened to be cornered to kitchens only and manufacture of children only.

Some of us sent our children in exile to save them from the mobilization in Serbia which was anti-constitutional and imposed on men daily. The state invents various mechanisms which force women and men to hate and kill each other.

From the beginning of the war in 1991, each one of us was put in the conditions of victimization many times. It is painful and it only seems that there is no end to it.

We know that silence does not free,
And we have decided that solidarity with women different of us is our force.

Male nationalist policies have not succeeded to separate some of us. There are many women in Belgrade who love their sisters in Zagreb, Sarajevo, Skopje, Ljubljana...

The Women's Network of feminist and peace groups around the world are constantly supporting our work of creating the world appropriate for women's souls, women's strength and desire. Together with them we believe in impossible, we believe in creating the world in which non-violence is legitimate, and where tenderness of women is a value beyond telling.

Belgrade autonomous women's groups announce the street demonstrations on 8th of March

WOMEN'S SOLIDARITY AGAINST WAR

Republic Square, 3:30 -4:30

*belgrade women's lobby • feminists' group "women and society"
women's parliament • sos telephone for women and children victims of violence
women in black against the war • autonomous women's center against sexual
violence • "arkadija" • center for women's studies and communication*