

MK

WOMEN'S FORUM

BATTLEFRONT

MARYLINE MEKGWE

The banning of the people's vanguard, the African National Congress, and the subsequent closure of the long non-violent stage of struggle, ushered a new era of armed struggle and the beginning and building up of underground resistance. This form of political resistance in the national liberation movement began to grow.

The racist regime has from time to time met our growing resistance with political persecution under the notorious South African Security legislations, from which many of us lost husbands and sons killed in the police cells through torture and detention without trial or mercilessly gunned down by the racists' bullets in the streets of Soweto and elsewhere. Hundreds and hundreds of our children die at an infant stage because of malnutrition and similar diseases, and those who survive suffer under child labour and homelessness.

As flowers of the nation, obliged to give birth by nature, as women we must exert our energies in the freedom struggle. We must ensure that our children, the old-aged, defenceless and humiliated by the enemy, forcefully removed from areas of



residence are saved from the clutches of apartheid rule. And this demands of us, active and full participation in the struggle for liberation.

TAKING UP ARMS

The ruthless murders of Ruth Firsts and Lindiwe Dlodlos show us clearly the extent to which the enemy is determined to destroy us. These should not deter us from our line of march. Ours is to respond to these callous murders equally in the language the enemy understands, by



Women in Zimbabwe fought arms in hand for an independent Zimbabwe

Women in El Salvador fight arms in hand for their country

taking up arms to meet violence with violence.

Our immediate task is therefore three-fold:

- (i) taking up arms to protect ourselves;
- (ii) preserve and secure the life we bring to earth; and
- (iii) eliminate the enemy and liberate ourselves.

ACTIVE ROLE

“Certainly, no longer should it be that the women’s place is in the kitchen, but in the battlefield of struggle.” Indeed, never before have women been called upon to play an active role in their rightful place, the liberation struggle in this, the Year of Women. We must join the

ranks of the ANC and swell our people’s army Umkhonto we Sizwe. We must redouble our efforts and fight side by side with our men as MK soldiers, fully prepared against the enemy, so as to realize the freedoms enshrined in the people’s document, the Freedom Charter.

The role we are to play is not an easy one. It requires us to be more determined, courageous and devoted in order to execute our revolutionary liberatory mission. Having in mind our resolute aim to destroy Botha and his cohorts, the Sebe’s and Matanzima’s, we must create conditions for assisting and giving shelter to MK soldiers, learning whatever fighting skills they may impart on us and finally join them in our all-round powerful offensive against the racist regime. Until Victory! We shall not Rest!