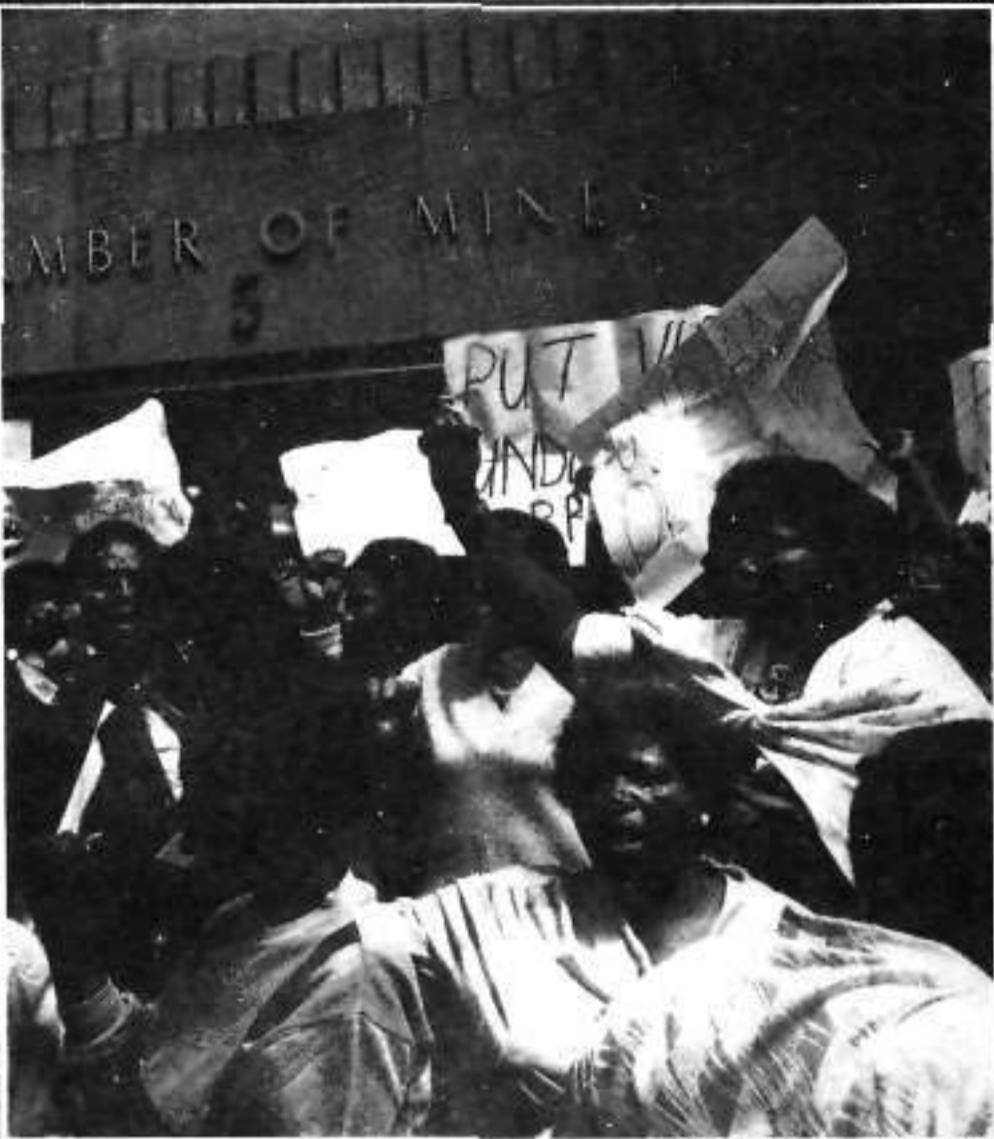


YESTERDAY



Photograph by Afrapix

WOMEN ON THE MARCH

It was a sight people in Johannesburg had not seen for a long time. Women were marching down the street, singing of a free South Africa. Heads came to windows of office buildings. People came out of shops. "Who are these women?" they asked. The women were making their voices heard against the bannings of their organisations. Against restrictions on leaders such as Albertina Sisulu. Against the repressive laws of this country and especially the Labour Relations Bill. This was International Women's Day.

The day of protest started at Chamber of Mines offices. The women handed in a letter of demands and protest. The women stood on the steps outside these offices holding placards. Then they went to the offices of the British consul. Four women went to meet the consul with a letter of their demands. The other women stood outside singing freedom songs. And from here they marched on to a meeting at Khotso House. A Federation of Transvaal Women member spoke to the women at the meeting. She said, "This is not the end. This is only the beginning."

WOMEN DEMAND JUSTICE

The violence in Pietermaritzburg and other areas in Natal has been going on for a long, long time. Many people have lost loved relatives, friends and homes.

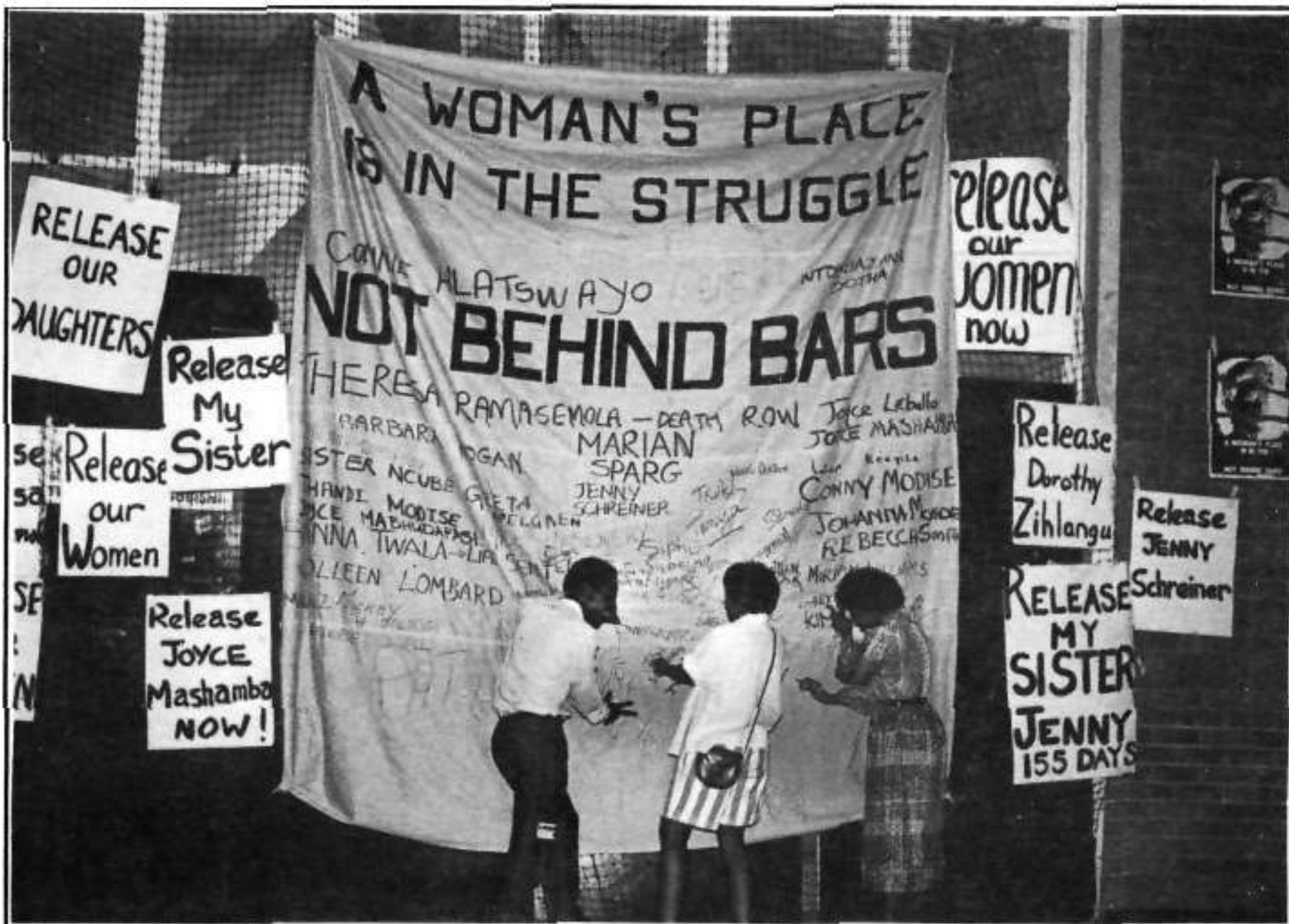
More than sixty women from different parts of Natal came together and went to the Supreme Court in Pietermaritzburg. Some of the women were from the Natal Organisation of Women. They demanded to see the Attorney General. The women told the Attorney General that they wanted him to do something about so many people dying in Natal. They also told him do something about people who kill and are left free. The women said that the 'kitskonstables' cannot solve the problem.

The women told the Attorney General that they were shocked to see 'kitskonstables' who had only three weeks training walking around with guns. They told him that the problems cannot be solved by shooting.

They demanded that the Attorney General uses his power to make sure that the killers are brought to courts and that police protect the people and not the killers. He promised to look into the matter.



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People at the "Bend the Bars" concert in Jo'burg in February this year. There are so many names because there is so little justice.

AND TOMORROW

WE REMEMBER THAT DAY

Did you notice the empty buses on 21 March this year? Did you notice the empty streets? Did you hear bosses say: but where are all the workers?

21 March is a day of remembrance. South Africans remember the day in Sharpville in 1960 when the police shot down and killed people who were peacefully protesting against unjust pass laws. This year thousands of people stayed at home. Because they still remember. And there is more to remember every year. This year people stayed at home as a way of saying to the government and the bosses: you have banned our organisations. But you can't ban our fighting spirit.

NO TO 'SEX TOURS'

Women in Thailand are organising! They are angry because of the foreigners who come to their country on "sex tours." These tours are organised for men from Europe and other countries to come to Thailand to use women just for sex. In March this year, a group of women showed their anger. They held a demonstration at the airport in the city of Bangkok against these tourists. They said: "We're opposed to the tours because they make people think that women from Thailand can be easily bought - for a night or for a month."

WOMEN'S HEALTH DAY

May 28 is a special day for women all over the world. It is a day to talk and take action about women's health problems. Women from all over the world have been talking about this. Some governments spend lots of money sending men to the moon. Some governments spend lots of money on building up their armies. And beautiful houses for themselves. But how much money is spent on seeing to the health needs of the people?

One million women in the world die each year from problems with pregnancy, in childbirth and from backstreet abortion. Most of the women who die are from poor countries and from the poorer parts of rich countries. These women die because they do not have proper health services. Women die because they

work in factories where there are unhealthy working conditions. Women die because they do not have enough healthy food to make their bodies strong enough to carry babies in their wombs.

Women are saying that things must change. That we must tell more and more people about all the women who die each year in this way. On May 28 this year women all over the world want to meet, discuss and hold protests to make people aware.

If you want to find out more about this day, write to SPEAK.

Or write to Women's Global Network on Reproductive Rights, P.O. Box 4098 1009 AB Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Six young people from Sharpeville were sentenced to death for the murder of a community councillor which happened during unrest in the township. An angry crowd of people surrounded the councillor and he was killed. People have been protesting against the death sentence. They say there should be no death sentence for anybody. They say the killing of the councillor was because of the unfair way black people are treated in South Africa. Black Sash women protested outside parliament. The United Women's Congress in Cape Town and Natal Organisation of Women protested at offices of the British Consulate.

The death sentence against the Sharpville six has been postponed for a month because lawyers found new evidence on the case. We hope that the six are saved from death.



Photograph by Cedric Nunn, Afrapix

WOMEN SAY NO TO THE DEATH SENTENCE

Women from the Natal Organisation of Women protest about the death sentence of the Sharpville Six. Here they sing songs of freedom as they hand in a letter of protest to the British Consul in Durban.



Photograph by SPEAK Collective

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY IN DURBAN

There was fun. There were speeches. There was singing. There were plays. There was dancing. And there was serious talking. It was International Women's Day in Durban.

Different women's organisations helped to arrange the day. Women students were there. And the Natal Organisation of Women. And church women. And Rape Crisis, the Black Sash and SPEAK. It was a day that said a lot. Sister Bernard spoke. She is from the Federation of Transvaal Women. She said that women must organise for a better life. That women must put their words into action. That we have to work hard for that bright future that we want so badly. She said that she believes that women can achieve a lot.

Women from places where there is war going on spoke. They were from Pietermaritzburg, KwaMakhutha, Hammarsdale, KwaNdengezi. They made everyone feel sad and angry. They said that they were alive today, but that maybe we would never see them again. They said that houses are being burnt, people are being killed, and everyone lives in fear. Those who commit the crimes seem to be left free. But those who are for peace and justice get detained. The day ended with everyone singing. Everyone was sad and happy. Sad because of the terrible things happening in our country. But happy because so many women had come together to share their songs, stories and hopes.

YESTERDAY TODAY & TOMORROW