

2010

07 - November

THE MARCH IN ACTION

THE WORLD MARCH OF WOMEN'S THIRD INTERNATIONAL
ACTION NEWSLETTER

In March, until we are ALL Free!



More than 20 thousand take part in the Peace March on the 17th October, bringing to an end the Closing Event of the 3rd International Action in Bukavu, Democratic Republic of Congo:

http://www.mmm2010.info/news-1/manifestacion-con-mas-de-20-mil-mujeres-cierra-la-tercera-accion-internacional-1?set_language=en



The WMW organised an International delegation of 144 women from 40 countries, representing the five regions of the world. Together with delegations organised by allied movements, we totalled 220 women from 41 countries.

Dressed in colourful WMW traditional clothing, women from the Democratic Republic of Congo's 11 provinces and from around the world demanded an end to militarisation and the use of violence against women as a weapon of war.

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PANELS AND FOOD SOVEREIGNTY FAIR

Approximately three thousand women were present for the debates, based on the WMW's four Action Areas, which took place on the 14th and 15th October in Bukavu. Women from diverse provinces in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), as well as WMW activists from 40 other countries, took part in panels that permitted the exchange of women's experiences of oppression and violence in the DRC and the rest of the world. The panels were also important opportunities for the sharing of women's proposals for the construction of a world based on our values of equality, freedom, justice, solidarity and peace. We have already started to upload the contents of the panel talks on our website. Please click on the following link: http://www.mmm2010.info/our-action/les-pannels-de-debats?set_language=en



Dance and song, facilitated by international and DRC delegates, lifted our spirits at the start of the panels each morning.



Peace and Demilitarisation Panel (14/10): DRC women identified themselves strongly with the critical analysis shared in relation to the MINUSTAH presence in Haiti.



Common Good and Public Services Panel (14/10): focus on the demand that Congo's natural resources benefit the Congolese people, along with the provision of high quality public services.

During the whole Closing Event, a Food Sovereignty and Artistic Fair took place: space for exchange and moments to relax.



Violence against Women Panel (15/10): the demands of this panel included the application of laws and the punishment of perpetrators of violence - whatever their social class - as well as public services to prevent, and struggle against, violence.



Women's Work Panel (15/10): WMW activists spoke of how Northern economic powers benefit from women and children's - invisible - work, without it being taken into account in economic or political analyses.

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16TH OCTOBER: KASIKA AND MWENGA

On the 16th October, a World March of Women delegation visited Mwenga, where, in 1999, 13 women were buried alive after having been humiliated and tortured. On the way, the WMW delegation stopped in Kasika, where tribute was paid to the 1.937 people assassinated in the massacre of the 23rd and 24th August 1998
http://www.mmm2010.info/news-1/mwenga-et-kasika-plus-jamais-ca?set_language=en



Along the way - during a journey which took four hours there, and another four back - we shared the extreme suffering, but also the hope that rural women have for justice, women who walked for days to greet us by the side of the road.



Through theatre and mourning songs, the women expressed the horror of all that they have suffered during the war.

16TH OCTOBER: BUKAVU



On the 16th, part of the international delegation stayed in Bukavu for a day of sharing and exchange related to the organisation of the WMW in diverse countries / regions and the experiences of Congolese women, such as the pigmy women (in the photo on the right).

COUNTRY ACTIONS

Quebec: National Action exceeds expectations; mobilisation continues



The WMW national action in Quebec was made up of a series of marches and actions in different towns, carried out between the 12th and the 16th October, culminating in a large demonstration on the 17th October in Rimouski. Each day was dedicated to demands related to one of the WMW Action Areas, with priority given to indigenous women's rights on the 16th. Participation on the 17th October exceeded expectations, with 10,000 people gathered in solidarity with the women of the Democratic Republic of Congo and to denounce violence against women in countries at war.

According to the WMW National Coordinating Body in Quebec, the participants of the national action – with their demands and actions – contributed to the opening up of debate in society around themes such as the role of the private sector in the health system,

the increase in education charges, the harmful effects of sexist advertising, the struggle against poverty, the need to reintroduce sexual education lessons in schools, militarisation, military recruitment and the war in Afghanistan, the defence of women's right to decide whether or not to abort, and the Canadian government's position in relation to the non-signing of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People. Soon after the action, on the 12th November, the Canadian government finally signed this declaration.

And the mobilisation continues: between the 19th and the 21st November the WMW is calling for participation in the Popular Gathering against war and militarisation, in Quebec (www.echecalaguerre.org) and between the 25th November and the 6th December actions in the struggle against violence against women are being organised by various groups. Still other groups are participating in the struggle against the privatisation of the public services and charges for these services. In January 2011, the National Coordinating Body will meet again to discuss and prepare new actions.

For an evaluation of the Quebec action (in French) please see: <http://www.ffq.qc.ca/2010/10/bilan-de-la-marche-mondiale-des-femmes-un/>

The 17th October nationally

While we were in Bukavu, women from around the world took part in street actions and other activities simultaneous to the 3rd International Action Closing Event. Up until the closing of this newsletter edition, we had received news of actions in Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Cataluña, France, Galicia, Morocco, Mexico, Quebec and Switzerland. For more details, please visit: http://www.mmm2010.info/news-1/acciones-en-solidaridad-a-las-mujeres-congolesas?set_language=en

Media Coverage

Approximately 250 journalists from the media (press, radio, television, Internet websites), both national and international, registered themselves to cover the International Action Closing Event in Bukavu. We have begun to analyse the results of this coverage (the list is not yet exhaustive), which is available on the 2010 Action website: http://www.mmm2010.info/press-room/la-accion-em-los-medios-en-el-evento-en-bukavu?set_language=en.

If you have any suggestions of materials for this list, please send them to: communication@marchemondiale.org

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