

# NEWS LETTER

WAR A G A I N S T R A P E

KARACHI AND LAHORE

ANNUAL ISSUE

NOVEMBER 1995



**A**s WAR comes close to completing six years of its existence, we feel we need to pause and reflect on our achievements and failures; and also plan future steps towards fulfilling our objectives. When we started off in 1989, we had a vision of first setting up our Rape

Crisis Centre/office and then a similar network all over the country in the form of chapters. In 1992 we succeeded in setting up our office/centre at Karachi and the same year the Lahore chapter started taking shape. WAR Karachi acquired its coor-

dinator Khalida Haideri in '93; WAR Lahore also acquired an office in 94-95. Hopefully in the coming year we will see more chapters coming up in other cities.

In February '94 WAR Karachi presented 2 plays courtesy Ajoka Theatre as part of our fund raising activity. We would like to express our sincerest gratitude to the Ajoka team, our audiences and to all the other organisations who contributed their precious time and resources to make this fund raising effort a success. (see details about the play in Drama For A Cause inside).

In December '94 another small fund raising scheme was initiated in the form of the WAR raffle

prize scheme.

1994 marked a milestone for WAR for another reason as well. WAR stepped into the computer age with IBM Karachi donating us a PS/1 computer - our sincerest thanks to IBM. At present we are trying to acquire a printer.

We have all been witness to the recent mayhem in Karachi. During the ongoing violence in the city & non existent law & order, rape certainly must have played its grisly role. WAR is most concerned about this aspect of violence in Karachi. Over the last few years, the city has been plunged into a seemingly never ending spiral of violence which has taken a toll on WAR activities as well.

*Continued on page 4*

## WAR COUNSELLING SERVICES

**A**lthough the Karachi WAR office/Rape Crisis Centre was 'opened' in 1991 it was not being fully utilized. There could be many reasons for this e.g. people not knowing of its existence and location; timings etc. But we do feel that one possible deterring factor was the perception that only women who have been raped would be offered any help here, and seeking any kind of help would immediately shatter their anonymity. However much we encourage victims/survivors to 'break the silence', we must realize that the decision to actually do so has to be that of the survivor - in her own time and in

her own way.

And so WAR felt the need to widen the horizon of our services to 'Crisis Intervention & Counselling' for all women and children who have been victims of violence and abuse, whether physical, emotional or sexual in distress. This service is now available from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on all working days. There is also a system of referring to voluntary psychiatrists/clinical psychologists, and to voluntary lawyers, if required. We have completed the first phase of experiential training for our voluntary counselors. Anyone (initially female) who is interested in becoming a voluntary counselor should contact our office and if you feel someone needs help, please inform them of this service.

For any further information, please contact WAR office on tel: 573008. ■

*Thank You*

WAR would like to record its appreciation & gratitude to IBM World Trade Corporation for its donation of a PS/1 personal computer for WAR's office/Centre.

Thank you IBM !



# HELPING THE RAPE VICTIM/ SURVIVOR

DR. SHIFA NAEEM (Hony. Consultant Psychiatrist, Aga Khan University, Karachi)

I have taken the liberty of changing the title of this article from "Management of the Rape Victim" to that given above – and I have done this purposely as I would not like to increase the sense of helplessness of those who have survived the experience of rape by trying to "manage" them.

Before we go on to discuss various ways of helping the rape victim/survivor, I would like to share a few facts and thoughts with you on the topic of rape as it is not covered adequately in our medical curricula.

Rape is a crime of violence and aggression using the sex act as a weapon. It may be defined as sexual act with a person who is compelled to submit by force or by threat of bodily injury; or with a child under sixteen years of age (consent becomes meaningless in a child). To say that rape is an act of violence doesn't necessarily mean that the victim is physically beaten; to have one's body forcefully violated is itself violence. Also, in many cases, serious bodily harm or death is threatened and these threats constitute emotional violence. Therefore, violence is present in one form or the other.

All women are vulnerable to rape, regardless of race, class, age, occupation, physical abilities etc. Victims are chosen because the assailant sees them as vulnerable, not attractive. The myth that only attractive women are raped reinforces the notion that it is the victim's fault.

It is important to know that rapists come from all levels of education, socio-economic back-

grounds, professions and ethnic groups. They may have a history of being physically or sexually abused as children - but they are still responsible for their actions.

Sexual assault is usually pre-meditated. Through work done with offenders, it has been discovered that most assaults are planned. This negates the general myth that rape is an impulsive act caused by the uncontrollable desire of the offender.

No woman wants to be raped -- it is a contradiction to say that some women want to be raped, since rape is by definition without the consent of the victim.

Medical professionals can help rape victims in various capacities -- being an information resource, a counselor, by giving required medical attention or being an advocate for their rights. You can start fulfilling the role of counselor by listening supportively and non-judgementally after introducing yourself to the victim/survivor. Instead of forcing out details or saying "Tell me what happened?", it would be better to ask "Do you want to talk about it?" Encourage the victim/survivor to talk about feelings as soon as possible. Do discuss the various options available, the procedures of the medical examination and where it could be performed. Also discuss the option of pressing charges against the rapist and the procedures involved in doing so. But during all this discussion it is very important that the victim/survivor be made to feel a regaining of control and see the medical care/examination as a means of helping herself rather than continuing a state of

helplessness. The victim should not be made to undergo unnecessary repeated medical examinations. It is best to arrange for a lady medico-legal officer or a lady gynaecologist at a govt:hospital to see her. She would know what to look for, give appropriate medical care, ask for any necessary investigations and prepare a report -- the victim has a right to obtain a copy of the report. It is important not to leave the victim/survivor alone--a supportive female family member or counselor should stay with her all the time, especially while filing the F.I.R. (if she decides to do so.) Many a time, it is seen that doctors, like others in society, also hold typical negative beliefs about rape and rape victims and may make inappropriate remarks. Be aware of this and confront anyone doing so. Law-enforcement officials also need to be confronted when they make such remarks.

All of the above has generally dealt with the immediate help that needs to be provided to the rape victim/survivor by any supportive person/medical professional, but we need to understand more about what she might be undergoing and the long-term help that could be required. Rape is a 'crisis' which, by definition, is a state of disequilibrium between the difficulty of a particular situation and one's ability to cope with it.

In the first few days, the victim may appear shocked and numb, with little feeling shown except disbelief, guilt, shame, humiliation, and self-blame. She may be anxious,

*Continued on page 5*



**BOSNIA-  
 HERZEGOVINA:  
 MASS RAPE,  
 FORCED  
 PREGNANCY,  
 GENOCIDE**

**EQUALITY NOW**

Women's Action 3.3  
 Update - April 1994

In February 1993 'Equality Now' sent Feryal Gharahi, a Muslim lawyer and Vice-Chairperson of Equality Now, to Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina where she documented the use of systematic mass rape and forced pregnancy as part of the Serbian genocidal "ethnic cleansing" policy. In June 1993 Feryal Gharahi returned to Croatia and travelled to the border of Bosnia-Herzegovina where she interviewed UNHCR officials, relief workers, and a number of recently arrived refugees. Despite the sharp decline in international media coverage of rape in Bosnia, Equality Now's June mission confirmed that systematic mass rape was still official Serbian military policy. Even now, although peace in some measure has come to Sarajevo, women are still being raped and killed in other parts of Bosnia-Herzegovina where "ethnic cleansing" continues and rape continues to be used by Serbian forces as a weapon of "ethnic cleansing." On March 27, 1994 the *New York Times* reported:

Emina Gasi, who is 15 faltered as she started to recount the night in late February when men in Serbian military uniforms, stockings over their faces, broke into her home in Banja Luka, slashed her grandfather's head and arms with knives and as his blood poured forth, raped her. "Yes, when they raped me and my sister, it was like that," Rasema Beganovic, 34, broke in sym-

pathetically. "Two men, in uniforms, they had stockings over their heads. The Serbs came to our house; they raped me in front of all my family, including my 9-year-old daughter."

In 1992 the Security Council of the United Nations established a Commission of Experts to investigate war crimes in the former Yugoslavia. In May 1993 the Security Council established an International Tribunal for the prosecution of those responsible for war crimes in the former Yugoslavia. Equality Now has assisted the Commission of Experts in recruiting the Tribunal. In March 1994 Equality Now's Vice-Chairperson Feryal Gharahi returned again to the territory of the former Yugoslavia, as a member of the team of lawyers commissioned by the United Nations to gather evidence for the International Tribunal.

Equality Now supports the efforts that are being made on behalf of the International Tribunal. However, the slow pace with which the work of

the Tribunal is moving forward is a cause of increasing concern. Almost a year after its formation, no one has been charged by the International Tribunal. Meanwhile, women are still being raped and killed in Bosnia-Herzegovina, under orders. There are individuals directly responsible for these atrocities, and Radovan Karadzic, the leader of the Bosnian Serbs, is one such individual.

**WANTED**



**RADOVAN  
 KARADZIC**

**FOR  
 MASS RAPE AND MURDER  
 IN  
 BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA**



## EDITORIAL

*Continued from page 1*

As a result, in the year 1994-95 WAR has organised no major open meetings, street theatre or presentations. However, a play/workshop was organised in Hyderabad during the year. We have also continued to network and liaise with other NGOs. On the occasion of International Woman's Day on March 8, '94, along with the Human Rights Commission and other NGOs, WAR put up its stall at the Press Club. A questionnaire about the Hudood Ordinance was distributed amongst the people and a one person skit 'Zubaida Ki Kahani' was staged. In March '95, however, our activities were restricted to setting up a stall and the drawing up of a declaration of women's rights which was signed by 21 NGOs.

WAR also worked to bring people together to seek a solution to the Karachi crisis and joined hands with the Women Peace Committee, Citizens Alliance for Peace, Karachi Bar Association to hold meetings and on 23rd March '95, a major meeting was held in this respect in conjunction with CAP at the press club. WAR continues with such efforts as peace in Karachi seems increasingly elusive.

To improve our networking with other NGOs, WAR participated in several workshops. In 1994, Shirkat Gah, with the help of Zia Awan, organised a para legal training workshop for NGOs from interior Sindh. One session of this programme was held at the WAR office. During the last year, WAR participated in workshops organised by Shirkat Gah, Karachi, Lahore HRCP, Raasta, Daste Shafqat, Progressive Women's Association, SOS Village,

WAR Lahore and National Health, details of which are contained inside the newsletter.

Following the birth of the Women Police Station, WAR has continued to visit thanas from time to time and hold informal meetings with the staff in an effort to bridge distances between the police and the people.

In the legal field, WAR saw a triumph when Additional Sessions Judge Mohammad Aslam Shaikh awarded Aminul Islam and Mahfoozur Rehman, who had been convicted of rape, 25 years imprisonment and 30 lashes each. This case had been in session for several years.

In 1994-95 WAR continued to act as a pressure group on several issues and from time to time has continued to express its position on important matters via press releases. Some of the press releases are included in this newsletter.

In all our efforts, we were aided at each step by the support of our friends and well wishers. But despite all this goodwill, WAR Karachi saw an ugly incident in 1994, when some unknown person broke into the office and stole our letterheads, visiting cards and stamp. But we refused to be daunted by such vandalism and harassment and continued with our efforts through the year.

We hope you will gain something from this issue of our newsletter. We need your interest and involvement. Become a WAR member. Write to:

**WAR Karachi**  
102, Pearl Crest,  
Zamzama Boulevard 18-C,  
4th Commercial Lane, Clifton  
Phone No. 573008

**WAR Lahore**  
25/9-C, Empress Road, Lahore  
Phone No. 6373892

## RAPIST AWARDED R I

BY OUR CORRESPONDENT

**K**ARACHI: The District and Sessions Judge Karachi (South), Hamid Ali Mirza, has convicted 45-year-old Talb Kalu to 15 years imprisonment and 15 lashes for raping a five-year-old Christian girl in Bhirya District (Naushero Feroze).

The four-year-old case was resolved this week, after the judge convicted the accused under Article 10(3) of the Zina Ordinance (Enforcement of Hudood).

However, since four Christian male adult eye witnesses gave evidence against the incident in court, the accused was given the lesser punishment tazir instead of the hadd (maximum) sentence.

The child, Nazia Masih, was raped on August 27, 1990, in front of eye witnesses - Anwar Masih, Amant Masih, Prem Masih, Hidayatullah Masih and George Masih.

When threatened against giving evidence in the Nawab Shah Court, the Christians transferred their case to district South Karachi.

Following the conviction, the accused has been sent to Karachi Central Prison.



## WOMEN'S POLICE STATION & CELLS

When the Women's Police Cells opened up at four police stations in Districts East, West, Central and South; and later an independent Women's Police Station was set up at Karachi, WAR felt very hopeful that this, being a step in the right direction, could possibly prove to be helpful to women in distress. We made contact with the staff at these cells and did get a positive response. However, we felt that there were still quite a few barriers to their functioning. For example the uncertainty of jurisdiction, the lack of standing orders and of coordination. We wanted to see them function and convey our recommendations to the IG Sindh. As we failed to get an appointment with him we wrote to him instead.

The recommendations are being reproduced here.

1. The W.P.S. is placed administratively under the DIG (Crimes), whereas all District Police Stations are under the DIG (Karachi). The result is that the WPS is totally isolated from the normal citywide police activity, as other police stations do not generally forward cases to the WPS for investigation and follow-up action. We would recommend that the administrative control of the WPS should also be vested in the DIG (Karachi), so that they become a part of the normal police activity citywide.

2. We also feel that the WPS should have the sole authority to register FIRs and investigate all

criminal cases involving women throughout Karachi, and necessary administrative instructions may be issued in this regard.

3. The WPS should also have the authority to investigate all such cases falling within Sindh Province, in case the victims come to Karachi to seek justice and protection. Recently a woman who had come to Karachi from the interior of Sindh was refused help by the WPS Staff due to the lack of jurisdiction.

4. We have noted that the staff of the WPS need better training to become more responsive to their functions, by developing a more caring attitude towards women who come to them for help.

We would like to offer our services in providing such training to the staff, right down to constable level, which will sensitize them and make them more efficient in performing their functions.

5. The WAR office staff have a problem in dealing with Police Stations in matter of obtaining copies of FIR's or interviewing victims, etc., as we do not have any formal authority in this regard. We would therefore appreciate an administrative order to all Police Stations to extend all necessary co-operation in the above matters with a copy of said order also given to WAR.

We are happy to report that we have had our first few 'sensitivity training' workshops with the staff at the women's Police Station and plan to conduct others...

## HELPING THE RAPE VICTIM/SURVIVOR

*Continued from page 2*

smiling, crying, restless, fearful, controlled, logical, calm, relieved, or angry--and sometimes the anger is directed at the doctor, police, family, or counselor. She needs to be encouraged to talk about the rape and to express her feelings; she needs reassurance and basic medical and legal information.

In the next few weeks to months, she may show outward adjustment, return to her usual routine, deny her feelings or concerns about the rape, rationalize the experience, and show a disinterest in talking. She may want to forget. She needs support, discussion of anticipated development of further concerns, and to be assured of available assistance.

In the next few months, she may feel depression, feelings of helplessness and isolation, preoccupation with the event of the rape, anger towards herself and/or towards her assailant.

She needs to talk about her current feelings and concerns and work through her feelings about herself and her assailant.

The goal of rape crisis counseling is to re-empower the victim after a violent crime which has left her feeling vulnerable, powerless, and distrustful of her own survival and coping skills. While she may need your assistance in identifying her immediate concerns or in choosing a specific course of action, she must retain ultimate control for these difficult decisions. Do not re-victimize her by disempowering her. Reaffirm her faith in her own coping skills by reminding her of the positive steps she has taken towards survival. Help her make the journey from victim to survivor.

*(Reprinted from The Medical Spectrum)*





Islamabad. The workshop was also attended by Dr Pervaiz Khalid who represented WAR Lahore.

### **Shirkatgah Workshop Lahore 13-15 Dec '94**

Shirkatgah Lahore organized a workshop 'Towards Beijing Conference, Women Laws and Status.' The Workshop was attended by WAR working committee member, Advocate Siddiq Mirza.

steps that should be taken if rape is committed. She also explained how a rape case should be handled and how the rape victim survivor should be treated. Then the participants were divided into two groups and they were given a group task to perform. They were given three questions to work upon.

- What do you or your organisation expect from WAR?
- How can you or your organisation help WAR?
- What would you do if a rape case was reported to you?

They were given 15 minutes to discuss the issue and prepare flip charts. One participant from each group then made a presentation.

WAR received a very positive response from the organisations and journalists and many people came forward to help set up a chapter in Hyderabad. WAR hopes that it will be able to open a chapter in Hyderabad soon.

### **Bedari Workshop Islamabad, 9-10 Dec '94**

A workshop was organized by Bedari in Islamabad. WAR Karachi was represented by co-ordinator Khalida Perwin Haideri and Sabir Shah.

From WAR Lahore, co-ordinator Fawad Usman, Mohammed Asghar and Naveed Harooni attended the workshop.

### **Hyderabad Open Meeting/ Workshop 23rd Dec '94**

War Against Rape arranged a workshop/open meeting in Hyderabad on 23rd December 94. The meeting was the first step towards setting up a chapter in Hyderabad. The meeting was held in Hyderabad Press Club. This meeting was arranged with the collaboration of SPO Sindh.

The meeting began with a welcome speech by Gul Mohammed Mastoi, Regional Director SPO Sindh, followed by Ismail Khoso, of Sindh Graduates Association. Erum Jamal read a poem written by Dr. Baqar Raza. Khalida Perwin Haideri made a presentation and introduced WAR. After the presentation Mateen Ahmed read a poem he had written. Sabir Shah then gave a summary of the cases which WAR had handled in Hyderabad.

Dr. Shahnaz Anwar read a poem written by her, Khalida Haideri then explained the legal

### **Unicef-Raasta Workshop 26 Dec '94 - 1 Jan '95**

UNICEF-Raasta organized a training workshop on fund raising. WAR co-ordinator Khalida Haideri and working committee members Sabir Shah and Wirasat Hussain attended the workshop.

### **Shirkatgah Karachi Workshop 19th Nov '94**

Sabir Shah (Member Working Committee) attended a briefing workshop 'From ICPD to the social summit' held at Karachi.

### **PWA Workshop 18th Dec '94**

Second co-ordinator WAR, Erum Zohra Jamal, attended a workshop arranged by PWA

### **Bedari Workshop Islamabad 13-15 April '95**

Dr. Shifa Naeem and Dr. Shahnaz Anwar attended Bedari workshop on child sexual abuse.



**VIOLENCE AND THE MEDIA**

DR. SHIFA NAEEM

**V**iolence projected by the media is a topic on which much has been written, yet it seems that most parents do not take it seriously enough — they are proud to get dish antennae installed on their roofs and use their television sets and VCR's as baby-sitters!

The fact that violence in the media is having a negative effect, particularly on children and adolescents, is hardly contested now, except by those who have selfish vested interests in its continuation. It is they alone who try to put forward various hypotheses in its support. A popular one with them is the "catharsis" theory which postulates that the aggressive drive is reduced by acting aggressively or by fantasising aggression; hence watching violence would enable people to release their pent-up hostilities and aggression. However, there have been numerous studies to show that this hypothesis does not hold much water. Over the years, growing research has shown that besides the dramatic "copy-cat" acts of violence publicised by the media e.g. the recent killing of a toddler by two eleven year olds who had witnessed a similar act in a movie; there are other more subtle effects of viewing violence on the thinking and behaviour of children and adolescents.

First, let's make an estimate of how much violence our children are exposed to. I'm not aware of any local studies but the American Psychological Association has arrived at the stunning figures of an average American child having watched 200,000 acts of violence including 33,000 murders on television by the time he/she is sixteen years old. And I believe that figures

for our children would not be much lower. Why are we doing this to our children? Why are we giving them "role-models" who are always beating and killing?

Researchers are also studying the "cognitive" effects of viewing violence i.e. the effect on thinking, believing and reasoning. It is being seen that watching heavy doses of violence "desensitises" people to acts of cruelty i.e. it makes them less "sensitive" and "responsive" when such acts occur in real life. So, in a way it distorts one's perception of reality. This also happens when one is exposed to scenes of sexual violence or violent pornography. Besides reinforcing incorrect myths about sexual assault and rape, it tends to "trivialise" it. Once this change in "thinking" occurs, behaviour may also be altered. Research has shown that viewing violent pornography tends to increase male aggression towards females.

A positive correlation has definitely been determined between exposure to violence and viewer aggression. To give an example of this association; Phillips (1983), after analysing day-to-day homicide rates in the USA from 1973-1978, found a significant homicide increase during the week following heavyweight championships! In another Belgian study, when young delinquent boys were shown either aggressive or non-aggressive commercial films, a consistent finding was that physical attacks increased sharply during the week that they were being shown the aggressive films (Leyens, 1975).

Of course, this doesn't mean that all children viewing violence are going to turn out to be murderers.

*Continued on page 10*

A very sad development is that even "cartoons" are no longer what they used to be! Cartoon characters have become so ridiculously violent that they are losing their suitability for children. In fact, most video games are based on purely violent acts; the one who can either "punch" or "kill" the most, ends up being the winner!





## STUDY ON SEXUAL ABUSE OF THE GIRL CHILD

**W**ar Against Rape (WAR) Lahore has conducted a research study on sexual abuse of the girl child. For the purpose of the study, girls in the 0-20 years age group were defined as children. The study was conceptualized in collaboration with UNICEF. The study comprised, (1) analysis of data collected from newspapers for years 1991-1993 of incidents of rape and other forms of sexual abuse in the province of Punjab, (2) figures on cases registered in police stations, (3) six case studies and, (4) recommendations to protect the girl child from sexual abuse and the identification of means for the rehabilitation of the survivors.

The basis of this research study is data obtained from newspapers, some from the police and six case studies handled by WAR. Unfortunately newspapers give scant information about the offenders but this is the only source of data available to the researchers. Despite the many limitations and unreliability of newspaper data, this is probably the first attempt to study the problem on a wider scale. A total of 149 cases of sexual abuse in the 0-20 years age bracket have been included in the study.

A meeting of experts was held on July 2, 1994 at the AGHS office in Lahore to review the preliminary results and evolve a set of long and short term recommendations to help rape survivors, particularly the girl child. WAR Karachi was represented by Coordinator Khalida Haideri, Dr. Shifa Naeem and Sabahat Ashraf. The following experts debated the issues, made recommendations and answered the questions of the guests:

- 1) Ms. Asma Jahangir, Chairperson HRCP, AGHS Lahore
- 2) Ms. Fareeda Shaheed, Shirkatgah, Lahore
- 3) Dr. Ambreen Ahmed, Psychiatrist, Bedari, Islamabad
- 4) Ms. Anne Reese, Bedari, Islamabad
- 5) Mr. Kamran Arif, Aurat Foundation, Peshawar
- 6) Ms. Rakhshanda Naz, Aurat Foundation, Peshawar
- 7) Dr. Saad Bashir Malik, Psychiatrist, Lahore

- 8) Dr. Pervaiz Khalid, General Physician, Lahore
- 9) Mr. Anjum Rashid, Chief Reporter, Jang, Lahore
- 10) Dr. Shifa Naeem, Psychiatrist, WAR, Karachi

The general consensus was that the meeting was extremely useful. The various issues and problems related to sexual abuse in general and child sexual abuse in particular were discussed in earnestness and the experts provided many practical recommendations for WAR and other NGOs. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Aziz Siddiqui of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan who spoke on various dimensions and magnitude of the problem. Ms. Fareeda Shaheed critically analyzed the parameters of the study and advised WAR to complete the research for all age groups. She gave valuable input on the social institutions and male and female attitudes with reference to violence against women. Dr. Saad Basheer Malik spoke of his experiences as a professional psychiatrist and defined child sexual abuse and incest as serious problems. He clarified that rape was a legal definition and that the concerned persons and institutions should set about rehabilitation of the survivor without waiting for legal outcomes and also regardless of the number of sexual abuse victims.

Dr. Shifa Naeem spoke of the experiences and case studies handled by WAR Karachi. Dr. Ambreen Ahmed from Bedari in Islamabad stressed on the need for counselling, awareness and rehabilitation. Ms. Anne Reese, also from Bedari, spoke on the awareness, counselling and training material being developed and used. She provided WAR with some extremely useful material on the subject of child sexual abuse and other related subjects. Dr. Pervaiz Khalid described the procedures and imperatives of medico-legal examinations. He stressed the need for sensitizing doctors on the issue of sexual abuse and improving the diagnostic and examination facilities.

Ms. Asma Jahangir spoke on the legal complications citing several cases from her own experience. She also spoke on the need for rehabilitation and social costs that have to be paid by the survivors and their families. Anjum Rashid, representing the media, described the apathy of the media towards such violations. He stressed on the need for agitating human rights violation cases by the concerned agencies for attracting media attention. His remarks on journalists' role in promoting human rights provoked several guests into ensuing a debate on the issue. Chairperson Mr. Aziz Siddiqui emphasized the role of media in promoting, projecting and observing basic human rights.

*Continued on page 10*



## A DRAMA FOR A CAUSE

**W**ith the bank statement showing a warning downwards graph and funds diminishing at an alarming rate, WAR's fund raising committee organised a major fund raising event.

With the cooperation of Lahore's Ajoka Theatre. WAR Karachi presented two short plays.



*Caption*

"Dekh Tamasha Chalta Ban" and "Jhalli Kithay Jawey" both written by Shahid Nadeem and directed by Madeeha Gohar. With big names such as these, superb acting by a group of dedicated & talented people and sensitive & bold issues such as exploitation of women in villages and prosecu-

tion/intolerance of religious minorities – the plays attracted a big & enthusiastic audience. It ran for three consecutive days to a full house and achieved WAR's objective of not only raising funds but simultaneously spreading awareness on the issue of women's status in society.

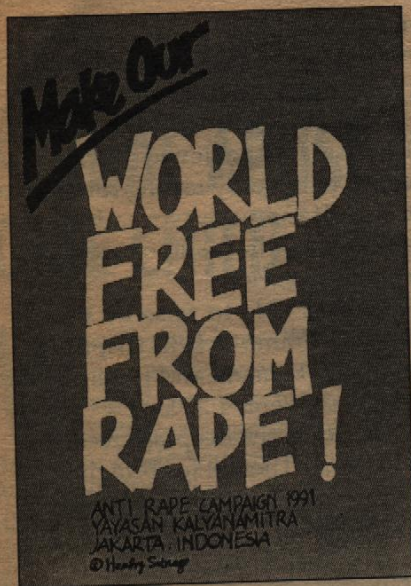
WAR was able to raise by the sale of the drama tickets, display of company banners and publication of its souvenir 1,25,000 /=-

WAR expresses deep appreciation to Ajoka Theatre for bringing its plays to Karachi for fund raising purposes.

WAR's special thanks goes to the following companies for their generous contribution of advertisement & banners, which helped WAR save money for funding after payment of expenditure on the play:-

1. High Star Enterprise
2. National Carbon Co. Pakistan (Pvt) Ltd. (Union Carbide)
3. Phillips Pakistan Ltd.
4. Johnson & Johnson
5. DHL Worldwide Express
6. Anne French
7. Universal Leather & Footwear Industries Ltd.
8. Harze Enterprise
9. Farooq & Co. Lahore
10. Elite Plastic Co.
11. Brooke Bond Pak Ltd.
12. Younus Brothers
13. Ali Associates
14. Con-Tech Pakistan
15. G.M. Engineering Works  
G.M. Group of Companies
16. Zim International
17. Amattka Enterprises
18. Brookbond Pakistan
19. National Foods Pakistan





## RAPISTS TO BE SHOWN ON TELEVISION

**J**akarta: An Indonesian minister wants convicted rapists shown on television to help discourage the crime, the official Antara news agency said.

Antara quoted Minister for the Promotion of Women's Role, Mien Sugandhi, as telling a parliamentary commission that showing the criminals on the air would help reduce the number of rapes in the country.

Sugandhi said that she had already discussed her proposal with several parties, including the information ministry which oversees the six television broadcasters in Indonesia, and received "positive responses."  
-AFP

## VIOLENCE AND THE MEDIA

*Continued from page 7*

Many times the aggression triggered off could just be an unkind remark, a threatening gesture or any form of inconsiderate behaviour. Other factors also play an important role. e.g the stability of the children and adolescents, their self-esteem, level of academic functioning and the family atmosphere in general. It's not difficult to imagine what effect 4-5 hours daily of "unsupervised" viewing of violence could have on children as compared to "supervised" 30-40 minutes of a similar exposure buffered by the parents' presence and clarifying /comforting remarks.

A very sad development is that even "cartoons" are no longer what they used to be! Cartoon characters have become so ridiculously violent that they are losing their suit-

ability for children. In fact, most video games are based on purely violent acts; the one who can either "punch" or "kill" the most, ends up being the winner!

On a final note, the consensus among most of the research community is that violence in the media amplifies aggression and violence, especially in children and adolescents. (NIMH, 1982). Granted that it is not the only factor just as tobacco is not the only factor leading to lung cancer. However, it is an important causative factor and like tobacco is one of the potentially "controllable" ones. It only requires a strong will on the part of parents, educators and decision-makers of the media to control this onslaught. And the ironic aspect of it all is that we are spending millions on producing and importing this violent and dangerous "crap," and so much of our valuable time in watching it. The time to act is NOW!

*(Reprinted from Dawn Tuesday Review)*

## STUDY ON SEXUAL ABUSE OF THE GIRL CHILD

*Continued from page 8*

Mr. Kamran Arif from Aurat Foundation Peshawar spoke of various surveys and small scale studies on this issue. A guest from Islamabad, Ms. Anusheh Hussain introduced her on-going sexual abuse study based on survey of girls in the 16-18 years age group. She emphasized the need of effective networking between NGOs and concerned individuals.

Currently WAR Lahore is putting

together a report which will be available as soon as it is printed some time in September. The newspaper database meanwhile is available for researchers and institutions on floppy diskettes. The data has been stored in dBASE III+ format on IBM 80xxx based computers.

It was great to have Dr. Shifa, Khalida and Sabahat from WAR Karachi in Lahore even though if only for a short period of time. Thank you fellow WARriors!





Women activists praying for peace at the end of a rally held at Quaid-i-Azam's mazar.

## RAPE USED TO CONTAIN KASHMIR STRUGGLE

The Human Rights Watch (HRW) lambasted India for the widespread use of rape in the Held Valley "as a means of targeting women they perceive as militant-sympathizers."

"In raping them, Indian security forces are attempting to punish & humiliate the entire community," the report revealed.

Asia Watch and Physicians for Human Rights, whose members

travelled to occupied Kashmir said in a report released that rape by Indian occupation forces has "become more frequent". Rape mostly occurs during crackdowns, cordon and search operations. "Indian government authorities have rarely investigated cases of rape by security forces in occupied Kashmir" the report said.

Although there is no evidence that this form of torture is sanctioned as a matter of government policy in Kashmir, by failing to punish those responsible, the Indian authorities have signalled that the practice of rape is tolerated, if not condemned.

Although there have been

numerous reports, first-hand stories and many articles on rapes and gang-rapes of Kashmiri women & children, which are over the years becoming more & more frequent – the world remains a silent spectator. WAR vehemently condemns these barbaric and inhuman acts in which rape is used as a weapon in wars. It implores all Human Right Organisations and the United Nations to have these brutal acts stopped.

To the women of Kashmir, we say – we have not forgotten them – we care about them – our deep concern is the need to stop these acts of violence against them.



## A. CASE UPDATE

# RAPE OF A 5 YEARS OLD GIRL IN KASUR, OFFENDER BEING PROJECTED BY POLICE AND LOCAL POLITICIAN

*Thank you*

WAR  
would like to  
thank Mr.Saqib  
Munawar  
(MBA,F.C.A)  
for honorarily  
offering his ser-  
vices to audit our  
accounts.

*Thank you*

WAR  
would like  
to thank  
Ms.Zahra Naqvi  
for honorarily  
offering her ser-  
vices  
to edit this  
Newsletter

**G**hulam Fatima lives in Peeran kot, Kasur. On June 29, 1994, her five year old daughter Faiza went to her uncle's shop to get some sweets at 8:00 pm. When she did not return home, after an hour, her mother went out to look for her. A boy of the locality told her that he had seen her going along with an 18 year-old-muhallah boy Rashid s/o Muhammad Rafique to his house.

When Ghulam Fatima went there, she heard Faiza crying from Rashid's drawing room. When Rashid heard them talking, he opened the door and ran away to an adjoining lane. Faiza was lying on the floor and crying. She was bleeding from her anus. Apparently Rashid had committed sodomy with the child. Ghulam Fatima called Rashid's mother Kaniz Bibi and showed her the cruelty done to her daughter. Kaniz begged forgiveness and said that her son had erred. she said that "Faiza would be dishonoured" if the truth was revealed and begged Ghulam Fatima to forgive her son.

Ghulam Fatima took Faiza home. Her husband works for GTS and he did not come home that night. Faiza had high fever so the mother got her some medicines. The next day, her husband came home at 4:00 pm. and Ghulam

Fatima told him the entire story. The parents went to Thana B Division Kasur and had an FIR registered.

Police ASI Muhammad Aslam verified that Faiza was complaining of injury and severe pain in her anus. He referred her to DHQ Hospital in Kasur, and finally Lady Aitchison Hospital Lahore. Deplorably, two lady doctors of the Lady Aitchison Hospital refused to examine the child for fear that they would have to appear as witnesses in Kasur. Finally the medico-legal examination was conducted by police surgeon at Nila Gumbad Lahore on the recommendation of a high official. The medico-legal reports corroborated the statement of Ghulam Fatima.

The incident was reported in the Daily Khabrain in Lahore. WAR deputed Dr. Pervaiz Khalid (who works for Local Bodies, Kasur) to investigate the case. He revealed that the accused had been arrested and had confessed his crime. The police and a local councillor were, however, exerting tremendous pressure on the family to compromise. Rs. 10,000 were offered to the child's father for a compromise, but he refused to budge.

WAR approached chairperson HRCP Ms. Asma Jahangir and Ms. Shahtaj Qazalbash of the AGHS Legal Support.



**B.**

## WAR HELPS CHILD BORN TO SEXUALLY EXPLOITED GIRL TO BE GIVEN FOR ADOPTION

### WAR NEEDS YOUR HELP

WAR AGAINST RAPE is a need of the following items in their office

- Fax Machine
- Printer for computer
- Refrigerator (Small size)
- Photo Stat Machine

Please contribute generously in cash or kind.

In early April 1994, a young girl of 25 approached WAR Lahore for help. On investigations, WAR found out that she had been seduced by a senior colleague in the office who had continued to sexually exploit her for over two years on the pretext of marriage. The offender is married and has two children. At the time when the girl approached WAR, she was almost six months pregnant. The offender was pressuring her to have an abortion which she had plainly refused. She had taken a long leave from the office and was looking for shelter. WAR provided her counselling and advised her to take her family members into confidence. After a great deal of discussion and persuasion she agreed to do so.

Fortunately her family accepted the situation and provided admirable support for the young girl. Her presence at her residence was kept a well guarded secret. She gave birth to a healthy child at the end of June 1994. By this time WAR had arranged for the adoption of the child with a well to do family. WAR satisfied itself as to the credentials of the adopting parents from various quarters before finalizing the arrangements. The 2 day old child was handed over

to her foster parents by two WAR member.

The survivor of sexual exploitation was physically cured but she remained emotionally disturbed for a while. WAR is continues to counsel her. WAR is happy to report that the lady is now in a much better frame of mind and has expressed the desire to seek professional psychological help. She has already pulled herself up admirably and is determined to make a fresh start in life. The major contribution in her initial rehabilitation has come from her family.

Neither the mother nor the foster parents of the child know each other's identity. The adopting parents were informed of the circumstances of the birth of the child in the very first meeting. The genetic father of the child, after initial threats to the girl, seems to have reconciled himself to the situation. WAR's policy, of course, is not to inform him or anyone else of the child's whereabouts. WAR has advised the mother to get in touch with WAR if she perceives any threat from the child's father or anyone else on his behalf. WAR plans to monitor the child's well being for which consent has already been obtained from the foster parents.



## RAPE IN MARRIAGE

**B**onn: Germany's political parties put ideological differences aside on Friday and backed proposals to make rape within marriage a crime. In a debate in the lower house of parliament, members from both Chancellor Helmut Kohl's centre-right coalition and the opposition Social Democrats spoke out in favour of outlawing marital rape.

"It can no longer be tolerated that a day after getting married, victims have less protection than before," said Justice Minister Sabine Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger, informing parliament she would propose new legislation in due course. The justice minister said sexual violence in marriage had to be addressed by the legal system. —Reuter

### KARACHI



### CASE UPDATES

## DR. NOOR ALAM CASE

In Rasheedabad Baldia Township, a quack doctor Noor Alam is alleged to have criminally assaulted a 17 year old girl when she came to his clinic with a severe toothache. According to details, the girl was accompanied by her mother. Dr. Noor Alam made the mother swallow sleeping pills as she also complained about throat irritation and at the same time gave the girl a sedative in a drip. Later, when the girl regained consciousness she found herself without her clothes. Dr. Noor Alam threatened the girl that he would murder her entire family if she opened her mouth. The girl awakened her mother who was lying almost unconscious and they came home. The girl told her mother about the incident. The mother

lodged an F.I.R. with the Baldia Police and completed other legal requirements. When WAR came learnt about the incident through the newspaper they contacted the girl and the mother and assured them full cooperation and support. This case is under trial in the court and WAR's lawyer, Mr. Siddique Mirza and Mrs. E.C. Pinto are pursuing the case. WAR is also filing for cancellation of bail of the accused. ■

## MUZAFFAR HUSAIN SHAH CASE

Mrs. Muzaffar Husain Shah's mother contacted WAR and narrated her daughter's story and the contemptible state she was living in. She was physically and sexually abused by not only her husband but also her brother in law.

The Women Police Station was informed and they sent two women constables to investigate the matter. These constables came back after chatting with Muzafar Husain Shah and his family. The Women Police Station ignored the request made by WAR and refused to register any F.I.R. against Muzafar Husain Shah, dismissing it as an 'internal family affair'. However, they said if Mrs. Muzafar Husain Shah herself comes to lodge a F.I.R. then it will be considered a genuine case. In the meantime Muzafar Hussain Shah disappeared with his wife. WAR's advocate, Mr. Siddiq Mirza, on behalf of her mother, filed a petition in the Sindh High Court. High Court ordered Airport Police Station to produce Muzafar Husain and his wife in front of the court. This is how Muzafar Husain Shah came to the High Court along with his wife. Mrs. Muzafar Husain Shah according to her will was given into the custody of her mother. ■



BY ZAHRA NAQVI

"I wanted the earth to open up and swallow me whole"... One woman recounts the ordeal of rape, the traumatic aftermath and how she survived...

## A CRY IN THE DARK

**M**s. R and her husband came to Karachi from Rahimyar Khan with nothing but a few dreams and the determination to make good in the big city. But five years later they are preparing to head homewards back to the safety of their village, carrying away only bitterness and an immeasurable sense of loss with them. This is Ms R's story, the story of her brutalisation, the humiliation she had to endure even after the incident and the sheer pain of living as a victim of rape.

Her story begins in a small village in the Punjab where she was born and lived a fairly uneventful life for a precious first few years. But Ms R's childhood was abruptly cut short when she was married off at the age of 12 to a man who was already some 30 years old and who had been married earlier as well. A child herself, she found herself suddenly cast in the role of an adult, at the centre of a family unit complete with her husband's first wife's daughter from a previous marriage. The situation was

somewhat unconventional especially since Ms R's father was in fact married to her husband's mother as well. "Actually, my mother-in-law is also my step-mother and my husband is her son from a previous marriage. So my *maika* and *susral* were one and I had to face no adjustment problems," says Ms R who is now 25.

Over the years Ms R bore her husband two daughters, who are today aged seven and nine. "After that I stopped conceiving children naturally. I didn't do anything to stop it but relatives would still taunt me, saying that what is so special about her. Why can't she have more children?" With the children came added responsibilities and it soon became apparent that work opportunities in the village were few and far in between especially for her husband who is a tailor. "Unless you farm your own land there is little else to do in the village," says Ms R. "I used to pick cotton in the fields during the harvest season but it doesn't pay much. We wanted to build a house in the village so we decided to come to the city to earn some money."

And so they came to Karachi where they moved into a tiny, squalid two-room house in Gizri village. Her husband drifted in and out of several jobs, unable to settle down and so with charac-

teristic grit and independence, Ms. R decided to find work as a domestic servant. "The family I worked for were good people. It was just these two other servants there who would sometimes make suggestive remarks to me. I told them I'm not that sort of woman. If I were, I would be standing on the streets and soliciting men. I wouldn't be working here."

The family settled down to life in big bad Karachi with Ms R as the major breadwinner. Then disaster struck. On the morning of January 14, 1993, Ms R was going about her chores as usual. The house was empty except for the two other Bengali male servants employed there. While busy cleaning up in the master bedroom she suddenly realised that the two men had also entered the room. "One of them pushed me onto the bed and sat on top of my chest with his hands over my mouth. The other man locked the door from the inside," recounts Ms R with her head bent low as if it were too heavy to lift. The two men then proceeded to rape her. She tried to fight them off and one of them hit her hard across the face causing blood to ooze from her mouth. The rest of the ordeal is a blur but the scratches and teeth marks later discovered on Ms R's person testify to the brutality she was forced to endure.



Last night I woke up feeling like someone was choking me to death. I've tried to forget but I can't. I wake up at six in the morning and work without a break till the evening when I try and sleep. I try to keep myself so busy that I'll have no time to think. But it continues to haunt me. My mind spins and I feel like I'm falling into a void. I used to be known for my courage. Now I'm terrified if someone on the street passes by too close to me."



An eternity later, she staggered out of the room. "My legs shaking and I can't remember how I got home. I told my husband what had happened. His instinct was to go and kill the men and he went to the house with this intention but the chowkidar stopped him and told him to go to the police instead." Fortunately, Ms R's mother was at the time working in the home of a police official who advised them about the requisite procedure. But the experience of dealing with the police was still a galling one.

"They called my husband *begairat*. They said he had no honour and was making his wife work in people's homes. They told him 'your wife has done what she had to do and now you people are creating problems for us.' We sat at the police station from 11 in the morning to six in the evening and all I wanted to do was die." It was, in fact, only after the police were paid four thousand rupees that they finally agreed to file an FIR.

Reeling under the pain and humiliation being heaped on her, Ms R was, however, fortunate in the support of her family and, most important, of her husband. "I wanted to take a gun and shoot them (the rapists) and then to kill myself as well. So many times after it happened, have I thought of committing suicide. But it is only the thought of my two daughters that holds me back. What will become of them? I didn't want to pursue the case further, I didn't expect to win any justice. How could I get back what I had lost? But my husband kept encouraging me. He said

that if we dropped the case, the police would get after us and people would think that we were lying."

Help also came in the form of War Against Rape, an organisation working to help rape victims. WAR members came to know of the incident and tracked down Ms R to her home in Gizri and provided her both legal as well as psychological counselling. "They helped me a lot," acknowledges Ms R. "It was their encouragement and that of my husband's which kept me going." But most of all it took tremendous courage and sheer strength of will to keep going. Ms R got a new job in another household and, with the help of WAR members, had her daughters enrolled in the neighbourhood school as well. She was slowly piecing her life back together. But her travails were not yet over.

The city courts are an unpleasant place at the best of times. A pall of sleaze hangs over the place and the clanking of chains, as an assortment of criminals in fetters shuffle through the corridors, are the stuff of childhood nightmares. But after the staggering misfortune she had endured, the stars chose to shine favourably on Ms R and her case found its way into the court of an empathetic judge, Mr. Aslam Husain Sheikh. He used his discretion and decided that the proceedings of this sensitive case would be held within his chambers and not in an open courtroom. "The first time I had to appear in court and describe what I had gone through, I felt terrible. The words would hardly come off my tongue." What fol-



lowed was even more painful.

The case dragged on for over a year and Ms R had to contend with the overly aggressive and insensitive attitude of the defence lawyer for the accused. "During the cross questioning, I wanted the earth to open up and swallow me whole. Justice be damned, I thought. I was being insulted and abused once again *woh to mujhe aur zaleel kar rahe thay*. I remember the judge asked me to sit a little nearer to his desk so that he could hear me better. The defence lawyer said 'Don't worry judge sahib. Her hearing is very sharp and so is her tongue'."

The situation was sordid and painful in the extreme even with her husband and WAR members there for her during the questioning. Ms R's own lawyer was noticeable only by his absence, he sent a junior lawyer instead, while the defence lawyer swaggered and smirked suggestively throughout the proceedings. Outside the courtroom he made several attempts to embroil Ms R's supporters in an argument which may have worked in his favour. "You have no case," he would keep saying. "It's all cooked up." But in this particular instance, the truth was more clear-cut than in most. Ms R's medical report gave ample proof that she had in fact been violated against her will and the defence lawyers waving of stained sheets and clothing to nauseating effect worked only against the accused. But ultimately it was an innate aggression and strength of character which saw Ms R through the ordeal, as she responded with anger rather than self pity

while being harangued by the defence lawyer.

The day of the final hearing dawned hot and hazy. The minutes dragged past as everyone waited for the verdict to be announced. Finally, at some time in the afternoon, the accused were declared guilty of rape and awarded sentences of 25 years RI and 30 stripes each. It was also said that after serving the sentence the accused should be transported back to their home country from where they had illegally entered.

It was an almost surreal moment with the judge's words ringing in the tense silence of the courtroom. There was some elation on the part of those who had stood by Ms R which soon gave way to an overwhelming relief that it was all over. "I felt nothing," says Ms R. "I felt no happiness, no sadness. I still wanted them dead. I can never get back what they took from me. There was perhaps only a feeling that in some measure justice was done."

Justice was done, an example was set, the court trial is over but Ms R's personal tribulations still lie ahead. "I'm not the same person I used to be. I can't laugh or fight with my husband like I used to. People used to know me as the girl who was not afraid of anyone. I used to fight with people far more important than myself. I would look them in the eye and tell them what I thought of them. Now I have nothing left in me. The other day I was having an argument with my sister-in-law. She turned around and said to me 'What are you arguing about. You are the woman who

has her stories printed in the papers'."

Ms R and her husband have decided that she return to the village with her two daughters. "I don't keep good health any more. I am suffering from high blood pressure and I can't take city life any more. Last night I woke up feeling like someone was choking me to death. I've tried to forget but I can't. I wake up at six in the morning and work without a break till the evening when I try and sleep. I try to keep myself so busy that I'll have no time to think. But it continues to haunt me. My mind spins and I feel like I'm falling into a void. I used to be known for my courage. Now I'm terrified if someone on the street passes by too close to me."

Ms R's own sense of guilt, however baseless, also continues to haunt her. "Maybe I could have done something different. My father used to be a very respected man in our village. I feel I have let him down. We came here to save some money but city life is far too expensive. We pay 700 rupees rent for the house we live in and everything else is spent on ourselves. I can't take life in the city any more. In the village at least everyone knows us. In the city everyone thinks the other person is a coward." Ms R's only regret is for her two daughters whose education will be disrupted. "But I will continue to educate my daughters at least till they have passed their matric - with or without anyone else's support. I don't want them to ever find themselves in the position I found myself in. They should never have to work in other people's houses." ■

(Reprinted from the Herald)





According to the newspapers of 26th Sept. 94 the Chief Minister Sindh went to the Civil Hospital Nawabshah and condoled with the Nawabshah school teacher who was raped at the railway station by railway police officials. She was given Rs 100,000 as compensation.

Earlier in Feb '94 there was another incident of gang rape in Naudero Larkana which was highly publicized by political, social and press agencies - the incident was wholly politicized- the government awarded Rs 125,000 to the affectees and the families. This automatically brought an end to all the legal proceedings that had formally been initiated and no further details were ever brought forth to the public notice. Nor did the press or any other agency bring out any news item pertaining to the above case.

WAR sent appeals to follow up the case and sought information directly from the Prime Minister, Chief Minister Sindh and Home Sec., IG Sindh & DIG Larkana. Reminders were repeatedly sent but to no avail - to this there has been no response and there was complete silence over the matter. One would like to know what action was taken against those accused of this horrendous crime - can society just ignore this matter when there is no trace whatsoever of the victims or of the culprits.

WAR as a matter of principle, therefore, disapproves of this policy of awarding monetary compensation to rape victims because this closes the matter once & for all. WAR con-

demns this mentality whereby the authorities think they can silence the anguish and the extreme suffering of these victims - can their honor and respect ever be redeemed?

WAR has taken serious note of this deplorable attitude and pleads that the culprits of the Larkana Naudero case and Nawabshah school teacher case be suitably punished and nothing less than maximum punishment be awarded to them. It is the imperative duty of government authorities to keep the public informed of legal and court proceedings of these cases.

No amount of financial help or high powered verbal sympathy can compensate for the honor and self esteem the unfortunate victims have lost, nor reduce their suffering. —PR 27-9-94



War Against Rape expresses its outrage at the unauthorized actions of the law enforcement agencies, during house to house search in various areas, resulting in damage to the private property, and disregarding the sanctity of the "chadar".

WAR is also concerned at the way women are apprehended by such agencies without judicial authority - and held by them without their family members being present. WAR believes that women are specially vulnerable to all kind of abuse including sexual assault, in this situation.

WAR recommends that any women apprehended must be transferred to the Women Police Station or the women section in (central) jails



R  
E  
L  
E  
A  
S  
E  
S

on the day of their arrest, and not kept in custody anywhere else overnight.

WAR reiterates that all law enforcement agencies must operate with the framework of the law, and any violation thereof must be dealt with severely. — PR 24-8-95



WAR ( War Against Rape) expresses its outrage at the 'humiliating behaviour on the part of the law enforcement agencies as alleged by a young lady in Buffer Zone Karachi.

WAR demands of the 'powers that be' that an impartial reliable judicial enquiry be conducted to establish the facts of the case, which should be entrusted to person appointed by the judges of supreme and high courts.

WAR also takes exceptions to "sensationalizing" the issue and bringing in irrelevant material regarding the private life of the victim. — PR 29-3-94



War against Rape is a non-partisan organisation, fighting against all form of violence against women. Members of "War Against Rape" express their anguish and concern at the alleged gang-rape of a 16 year old girl in Karachi by a councillor and his companions. WAR equally condemns the gang-rape carried out on the Kohli women in Omerkot District, reported in the press on 24th June, 1995, allegedly by relatives of an MNA.

WAR demands that the accused be immediately arrested, investigations

be completed within 14 days and the cases be tried by a High Court Woman Judge, and if found guilty, the culprits be given exemplary punishment, as was recently done in the case of the two Army Jawans, who were court-martialled and given life sentences for a similar crime.

WAR also feels that such crimes always escalate when there is an attempt to confront violence with violent means. WAR would like to see an end to this counter productive violent approach; by adopting tolerance and flexibility on all sides with a willingness to talk as a means to resolving this conflict. — PR 24-6-95



War Against Rape (WAR), condemns the cowardly act of violence against Asma Jehangir.

It strongly feels that no one should be allowed to take the law into their own hands. WAR implores the government to immediately arrest the culprits and bring them to law. — PR 22-2-95



War Against Rape (WAR), expresses its shock at the recent brutal rape and murder of a female journalist in defence. WAR expresses its concern at the deteriorating law and order situation in the city. WAR feels that this is not an isolated incident and that many rape cases go unreported. It implores the Sind Government to take positive steps to catch the culprits and to try and prevent such brutal incidents. — PR 22-2-95 ■