

APPENDIX 4

SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE FROM THE “TRIBUNAL/HEARING TO CELEBRATE AND DEMAND WOMEN’S HUMAN RIGHTS,” DECEMBER 9, 1998.

[Letterhead]

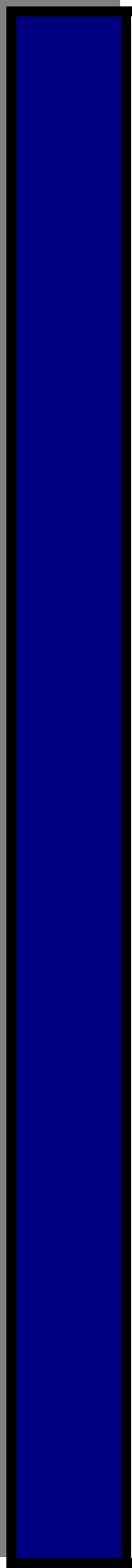
Press Release:

Contact: [insert contact person's name]
[insert contact person's phone number]

Global Tribunal/Hearing Demands Women's Human Rights

Speakers spotlight women's rights victories and violations.

	Contact Name	Contact phone #	Contact phone # on the day of the event
Space Coordinator			
Language/ Sign Interpretation			
Translation Equipment			
Technical Equipment (audio-visual)			
Caterers			



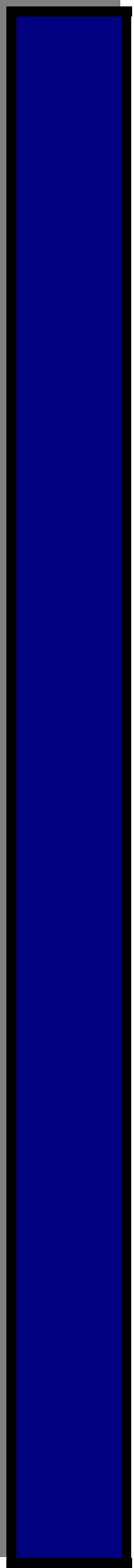
New York, NY- San Francisco Mayor Willie L. Brown, Jr. joined international women's human rights advocates to demand far greater attention from governments and the United Nations to issues such as forced prostitution, gender apartheid and domestic violence. Zarghuna Waziri, a teacher from Afghanistan spoke about her own experience with the systematic abuse of women in Taliban-ruled Afghanistan today. Under Taliban rule, women are not allowed to work outside of the home except in a very few, limited circumstances. Women cannot attend universities and girls over eight are banned from going to school.

"Fifty years after governments of the world proclaimed the fundamental principles of all human rights for all, women throughout the world remain woefully unprotected. The failure of governments to respect and protect, promote and fulfill women's human rights undermines the principles upon which all human rights are based," said Charlotte Bunch, Executive Director of the Center for Women's Global Leadership that organized the event.

Also at the Tribunal/Hearing, Justyna and Paulina H. told of their abduction from Poland to Germany, where they were forced into prostitution and subsequent deportation. Many women are trafficked from Russia, Ukraine and Belarus to brothels in the Netherlands, Germany, Poland, the United States and Israel. Polish women are most often taken to European states and sometimes to Israel.

Anbereen Hasan from Sakhi for South Asian Women in New York City addressed domestic violence among immigrant women in the United States. Domestic Violence is the leading cause of injury to women between ages 15 and 44 in the United States - more than car accidents, assaults, and rapes combined. Women of all cultures, races, occupations, income levels, and ages are battered - by husbands, boyfriends, lovers and partners. Isolated in this country without command of the language, access to the legal system and social services, battered immigrant women face particular difficulties.

Alda Facio from the Women's Caucus for Gender Justice in the International Criminal Court, described how an international group of women's human rights activists facilitated the inclusion of a gender perspective throughout the International Criminal Court treaty. In many instances, rampant sexual violence during armed conflict has been ignored or trivialized. As a direct result of the work of the Women's Caucus, the Rome treaty has expanded the definitions of war crimes and crimes against humanity to include rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilization and other forms of sexual violence.



Other speakers include Lydia Zigomo Nyatsanza of Zimbabwe, discussing women's property rights; Maria Gerardina Lopez from Costa Rica who spoke about the reproductive health of women workers; and Palesa Beverly Ditsie from South Africa, who told of the guarantee of sexual rights in the new South African constitution.

This event was organized as part of the Center for Women's Global Leadership's 1998 Global Campaign for Women's Rights, in observance of the 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Tribunal/Hearing was followed by a multi-media vigil in Ralph Bunche Park at East 43rd Street and 1st Avenue.