

F D, cont'd 1, 21

WOMEN AGAINST RAPE

Statement on Alena Boronova

Women in Czechoslovakia are campaigning to secure the release of Alena Boronova, a woman doctor who castrated two men who had raped her. A court in Prague has given them suspended sentences while it has sent Alena Boronova to gaol for seven years. Women in Britain join with the women of Czechoslovakia in demanding that Alena Boronova be released from prison.

Police and courts, in the East or West, in fact everywhere in the world, have never defended women. Our ordeal in court in rape cases is known as the "second rape." The campaign of women in Czechoslovakia is part of a worldwide movement of women to stop rape by any means necessary. When Inez Garcia, a Chicano woman, and Joan Little, a Black woman, in the United States killed the men who raped them, women organised to defend their right to protect themselves. Recently schoolgirls in Soweto, South Africa, stoned to death a man who had raped their teacher. These actions not only have the effect of dealing out justice to the rapist (and only women are in a position to deal out justice) but also make it clear to other would-be rapists that we are not going to tolerate their assaults on us. Women in Wisconsin, USA, mobilised successfully to remove a judge who had called rape "normal." All over western Europe women have taken to the streets in torchlight processions to refuse the curfew recommended by police and upheld by judges, and to reclaim the night.

Here in Britain, after Carol Maggs spoke out against the Appeal Court which freed the soldier who had raped her, women are organising over individual cases of rape and Women Against Rape are circulating a petition demanding that Appeal Court Justices Roskill, Slynn and Wien be sacked. Other demands on the petition call for the disqualification of judges known to be biased against women from sitting in rape cases; for full compensation from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, without a second trial, for women who have been raped; for the recognition of rape in marriage as a crime; and for the financial independence that will permit any woman to leave a rape-risk situation.

In addition, Women Against Rape have invaded Roskill's court, the Ministry of Defence, the Athenaeum (a private club that Justice Slynn belonged to), and the Guardian after it published an article called "A Rapist's Reply." We held our own court on 16th July in Trafalgar Square where hundreds of women heard testimonies from women in many different situations (full-time housewives, prostitutes, lesbians, children, factory and office workers, Black women, single mothers and older women and immigrant women). We passed sentence on judges and other representatives of government and industry in which we demanded three billion pounds reparation (or 10,000 pounds for every woman in Britain).

Women in Czechoslovakia are behind the same iron curtain that we are, with little or no money of our own and therefore with much less social power than men. On the

other side of the curtain are government and industry and the courts which uphold men's power over us in order to uphold their power over everyone. Financial dependence on men means that we are always expected to be sexually available, in the home, on the street, and in our workplaces out of the home. Our financial dependence is therefore at the root of our vulnerability before individual men, the courts and the police. Women Against Rape attack the roots, but we also attack every shoot and branch, wherever rape rears its ugly head. Alena Boronova has again shown that if law and order will not protect women, we women will protect ourselves.

Women Against Rape hold open meetings every two weeks to which all women are invited. Copies of the petition and of our Statement of Aims can be obtained from 138 Drummond Street, London NW 1, or by calling 01 624 6364.

WOMEN AGAINST RAPE

Bristol, Cambridge, London