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PERSONAL

FORWARD

VOL.3, No.5, MAY, 1983.

IN THIS EDITION:

** MAY DAY, 1983.
** WORKERS' ORGANIZATION LAUNCHED.
** BRIEFINGS..... BRIEFINGS.....
** LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.
** AFRICA LIBERATION DAY AND 20 YEARS OF THE O.A.U.
** EDUCATIONAL FORUM:- HISTORY OF POPULAR STRUGGLES (1).

D E D I C A T I O N

THIS MAY EDITION OF THE FORWARD IS DEDICATED TO THE SPIRITS OF

- THE MASSACRED HAYMARKET SQUARE WORKERS OF 1886 IN CHICAGO, U.S.A,
- THE 21 MASSACRED IVA VALLEY COAL MINERS OF 1949 IN ENUGU, NIGERIA,
- THE MASSACRED AGBEKOYA PEASANT FARMERS (1968/69), WESTERN REGION,
- THE MASSACRED BAKOLORI PEASANT FARMERS OF 1980 IN SOKOTO STATE, AND ALL OTHER MASSACRED OPPRESSED WORKERS FIGHTING FOR THEIR FREEDOM.

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E D I T O R I A L

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY.

Since 1911, the 8th of March of every year has been "The International Women's Day" - a day set aside to mark the struggle of women for political economic and social equality and freedom.

Tuesday 8th of March 1983, marked yet another International Women's Day and we seize this opportunity to discuss the problems faced by women in the Nigerian society and in the world at large.

First, this day - March 8 - was set aside at the 2nd International Conference of Women held in Denmark in August 1910. At that time, women were taken to be second class human beings or even as animals. For example, women had no political rights at all. They could not contest elections and they could not vote. The choice of a special day for women was to mark the struggles of women against all these discriminations and injustice.

Although women can now contest elections and vote, it must be said that women are still oppressed in our present day society.

In the homes, women are used as slaves. The woman does most of the domestic work; even where both husband and wife have to work in the factory, the woman must still come home to prepare food, fetch water, clean the house, etc. The problem of child bearing under difficult health conditions, the problem of bringing up such children are left for the woman to solve.

In the rural area, women are used for the maintainance of farmlands and for the harvesting and marketing of farm products although the proceeds of sales are taken by the husband who does no more than one-fifth (1/5) of the job.

In the area of education, women are not given the same opportunities as men. This is why we have men dominating all areas of natural life although, in terms of numbers, there are more women than men in our country. Many women are married off at infant ages and locked up in the kitchen while the husband has the freedom to go anywhere, anytime and come back home drunk every night.

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Women are also taken to be no more than sources of sexual pleasure for men. The husband calls for sex anytime he feels like it, without considering the feelings of the wife.

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