

# **Rural Women's Summit Aides Arrested Women**

"Whereas, the conviction and jailing of Maggie Bozeman and Julia Wilder has far reaching effects in that their conviction affects all people's right to vote and participate in the electoral process so vital to life in America... Be It Therefore Resolved, that the Southern Rural Women's Network takes the position that Maggie Bozeman and Julia Wilder are political prisoners..."

The statement comes from a resolution adopted by the Southern Rural Women's Network in support of Maggie Bozeman-Julia Wilder and Extension of the Voting Rights Act.

The Southern Rural Women's Network, a regional coalition of rural women

with members and affiliates in five southern states has called a Rural Women's Summit and Caravan in support of two Alabama for voting fraud. The two women, Maggie Bozeman, 51, and Julia Wilder, 69, are sentenced to four and five years in prison. They are presently on work release in Tuskegee, Alabama. The emphasis of the Summit is on the need for unity, Bozeman-Wilder, and the Voting Rights Act. The meeting will be held in Aliceville, Alabama on April 17 at Aliceville High School beginning at 9 a.m. and will include national, regional, and local speakers. Speakers and panelists include Norma Powell, Birmingham, Communications Workers of

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

# Rural

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1.

America; Dr. Bessie Isom, University of South Alabama, Mobile; Rose M. Sanders, MOMS, Selma; Sophia Bracy Harris, Focal, Montgomery; Nancy Sewell, Alpha Kappa Alpha, Selma; Glenda Conway, Southeast Women's Employment Coalition, Kentucky; Dana Alston, Washington, D.C.; Dr. Gloria Wade Gayles, Talladega College.

On Sunday morning, April 18 at 8 a.m., the women will assemble and drive in a caravan from Pickens county (Aliceville) across the Blackbelt, tracing the route taken by marches in February, who marched across the Blackbelt for two weeks in support of the women and extension of the Voting Rights Act. Women and other community people across the Blackbelt will join the caravan at brief stops along the way - in Eutaw, Greensboro Marion, Selma, White Hall, and Montgomery. The caravan is expected to reach Tuskegee at 2:00 p.m. where the women will be met by local women and public officials. A ceremony will be held for the women in Tuskegee at 3:00 p.m. on the same date.

Southern Rural Women's Network members from Alabama, Kentucky, Missouri, Tennessee, Mississippi, and South Carolina will be in attendance. The Alabama chapter of the Network, chaired by Layonnette Cromartie of Montgomery, Alabama is hostess for the occasion.