



WOMEN UNITED — Hundreds of women turned out to celebrate International Working Womens Day at a series of rallies in New York last weekend. Speakers at the March 8 celebrations and rally included Rosemari Mealey. (Bill Moore photo)

Hundreds march in New York, mark international women's day

An international group of women marched in solidarity to the United Nations last week to present a petition for peace. The petition, signed by over 40,000 people, was part of an interna-

tional women's day program.

The demonstrators and guest speakers including Ute Scheub, a West German representative, who spoke against President Bush's new world order, describing it as "more wars against people around the world, against women who refuse to stay in their place."

At a second event held March 9, hundreds of women marched from 14th Street to Times Square at a rally protesting injustice against women, African-Americans and other people of color.

Guest speakers included Olga Mejia of the Human Rights Commission of Panama and Nsia Akuffa Bea of the Union of Palestinian Women.

Chanting "turn rage and tears into action," the 500-odd demonstrators stressed that the U.S. should wage war against budget cuts, which are primarily affecting women and children, instead of war against the peoples of the Third World.

The demonstration marked the 83rd celebration of International Working Womens Day. On March 8, 1908, women dressmakers from

the Lower East Side marched to Union Square demanding higher wages, better working conditions and the right to vote and for an end to child labor.

Decade after decade, International Women's Day has rung with the strength of women's voices, the rage of women's lives and the promises of women's dreams.

This year speakers from around the globe spoke out against the bombing of Iraq, noting that women and children are now suffering as a result of the allied bombing campaign.

Esmeralda Brown of the Women's Workshop in the Americas spoke about U.S. intervention in Latin America and the Caribbean, while a representative of the Irish Republican Army, Chrissy McAuley denounced British colonization of Ireland.

High school student Laelia Samad-Matias spoke about the genocide of young Black males in the U.S. "The U.S. tells them they can better themselves through education, but the education system has failed them," she said.