

# **Women are confronting outmoded patriarchy: Capitalist-imperialism and religious fundamentalism!**

The 8<sup>th</sup> of March, International Women's Day is coming, and we will continue our struggle to achieve the dream of emancipation. We are seeing the struggle of our sisters to join together with the countless hands of oppressed women all over the world to break the thousands years old chains of oppression that bind us.

Women carry out  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the world's labour, but obtain only 10% of its income and own less than 1% of its wealth; 70% of the world's poor are women. Let's ask ourselves: While we are the main makers of the world and carry its load on our shoulders, what is our lot?

Our lot is ever-increasing organized state violence, alongside the domestic and social violence which  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the world's women experience on a daily basis. There is ever-increasing gender rape, murder, honour killings, prostitution, degradation, insults and threats; an unprecedented use of women's bodies as commodities, by covering it up or auctioned it off by the state, religion, tradition and culture, by the demands of the sex market, by sexism in advertisements, and assigning price to our bodies day after day.

As part of the basic way this patriarchal system functions, imperialist powers confront each other over the division of the world, and in the name of "freedom" and "democracy", they start another war to invade the 3<sup>rd</sup> world – and again, women are the first victims.

Although women are the cheapest, most obedient and most profitable work force for turning the wheels of capital, they name us "housewives" and hide our super-exploitation. And when we join in struggle to change the existing order, backward Islamic regimes again become our lot, as we are still the first victims.

In Afghanistan and Iraq the legalization of Sharia law against women; in Libya the legalisation of polygamy; in Egypt the unprecedented increase in female genital mutilation, in Tunisia and Syria the re-establishment of punishing women by stoning; the rise in the hijab, whether enforced or arbitrary, all these are undeniably a concentrated expression of Sharia law.

All these represent the real bloody wars of these two outmoded forces – capitalist-imperialism and religious fundamentalism. We, women, are at the centre of this war seeing the tragedy of women courageously taking part in their masses in the process of social change, but winding up at the end pushed back down, without change. Once again women are pushed to choose between these two: bad and worse! And once more, another backward to the endless circle of choice between one of these two outmoded rotten poles; the two forces with no future for humanity.

For both of these reactionary poles, women are an army of labour, foot soldiers of the system, a valuable commodity whose role is indispensable to the operation of this system of exploitation and oppression. On the other hand, because of this strategic position, if women enter the arena of struggle with the aim of emancipating themselves and all humanity, they are capable of building a new world by destroying all the rotten patriarchal barriers, which are facing their historical collapse.

Because of all this, through revolutionary internationalist struggle against these two outmoded and anti-women forces, we as women can succeed in discarding their blood soaked male "holy" hands from the lives of millions of women; women who are being violently crushed in homes, factories, fields, streets and brothels, mercilessly and without precedent. Only through this kind of struggle can women chart the course of their emancipation and achieve a society without exploitation and oppression.

Without the fight and overthrow of these two outmoded forces, there is no other clear prospect for the emancipation of women and indeed of all humanity –which is impossible without the full participation of women.

To this aim, on March 8, the day of universal fights of women, we call all the courageous men and women to participate in an international action, and in a panel discussion in Brussels city.

**Saturday, 8 March 2014; 14 h - 17 h**  
**(Gulden Vlieslaan) Av. de la Toison d'Or, Ixelles, Belgium**

**8 march organiser committee in Belgium**  
**+32(0)486484365**