

The government of Myanmar has recently announced that it will release all political prisoners who pose no threat to national security. Over 1200 prisoners have been released so far, but several thousands of political prisoners still remain in prison. There has been no indication that Aung San Suu Kyi will be released.

In recognition of her upcoming birthday, we are asking individuals to send cards and letters to her in care of the Burmese Embassy as a show of solidarity.

Please send cards, letters, flowers to:
Daw Aung San Suu Kyi
c/o Embassy of the Myanmar,
Cnr Arkana St & Wanna St,
Yarralumla ACT 2601.

Eds Note: Although Daw Aung's birthday has passed, we thought this action so worthwhile that NvT readers may care to participate anyway. The suggestion originally came from Nonviolence International, 15 June 1993, and included the possibility of some letters being read over international shortwave radio, e.g. B.B.C.

NvT

Dear NvT,

This article is an explanation of my accompanying notice.

On my recent journeyings through the south of this land, I had the happy chance to chat and gossip with many friends. Some of the gossip referred to behaviour of fellow activists which I find offensive. It seems some male activists are maintaining sexual relationships with (bonking) more than one partner. I'm not concerned about this, but I am when these people lie to their sex partners about the existence of their other sex partners. I designate this dishonesty "sexual treachery". I include lying by omission. Certainly women can be responsible for this reprehensible behaviour as

well, but I haven't heard of any such occurrences.

The real issue is honesty. Honesty and trust. If an activist is prepared to lie to their sex partners, how am I to trust this person to honour activist agreements?

Patriarchy also comes into it. I would say that one of the classical symptoms of a man disempowering a woman is when he lies to her face about fidelity.

At the 1993 gathering, there was a fair bit of talk about accountability. I ask people who consider themselves participants in the nonviolence network to attend to my notice below.

James Langley

NvT

Notice - Sexual Treachery

James Langley hereby undertakes to instigate conflict with any self identifying participants in the nonviolence network who, it has been established, commit sexual treachery.

Dear NvT,

Hi. I went to the April nonviolence gathering at Commonground Co-op in Victoria, where it was decided to begin collecting a 'bioregional key (nonviolence) contact list' for Australia. 'Bioregional' being in lieu of 'state', in an effort to work towards a more appropriate and forward-looking way of organizing and communicating nationally, compare to our present neo-colonial ways. It was envisaged that bioregional key contact persons would act as regional nodes and as custodians of a more detailed list for their respective regions. A list not only of interested activists, but also of these people's various skills and resources which were available to the national network, including potential 'billets' for activist exchanges.

I was delegated to find a bioregional map of Australia which I was to send to NvT, asking you to publish it in NvT, and calling for people interested in becoming contacts for their bioregions and compiling the detailed skills and resources list, to come forward.

Alas, I've not been able to find a biore-



gional map of Australia suitable for the purpose. I'm told that no such map exists! So, I'm asking NvT now to publish this, and calling for people with either 'bioregional knowledge' of their area, and/or people willing to act as key contacts for their area to contact Commonground Co-op on (057) 93 8257.

Commonground is being approached formally by the network, with a view to its becoming a nonviolence resource centre, whose role would include acting as a central contact and conduit for information compiled by bioregional key contacts.

The April nonviolence gathering also discussed means of resourcing a resident contact worker at Commonground for some hours a week.

Rowan White

NvT

Dear NvT,

Once again your magazine contains an excellent article by Robert Burrowes. I agree with every conclusion he comes to regarding participation by nonviolent groups in mass actions or national events.

I have never taken part in any of the national actions such as AIDEX, but have spoken to people who have, and have watched television reports and private video footage avidly. Nothing I have seen or heard has ever made me regret not having attended!

I think that for many people there must be a conflict between wanting to be a nonviolent activist and wanting to participate in one of these peace actions. Robert's article gives good advice and, I believe, will help others come to a decision on whether or not to attend any future mass actions, and, if so, how to cope.

Necia Page

P.S. Great magazine. Keep up the good work.

NvT

