VERONICA KELLY ON TRIAL IN SICILY

On the 11th March of last year, 12 women from different European countries were arrested by Italian police while taking part in a non-violent demonstration at Comiso, Sicily, the biggest cruise missile base in Europe. The women were kept in prison for nearly one week and then illegally expelled from Italy. They are charged with blocking a road and trespass - an offence which carries a 2 - 12 year prison sentence according to Sicilian law. In January the Italian government set the date for the trial which is taking place in Sicily on Friday, April 13th. The only Irish women involved in the arrest is Veronica Kelly from Cork. The Cork Greenham Common Support Group has taken on this case and has campaigned for Veronica and the other women since January. We have launched a mayor letter campaign to all women's groups and organisations, TD's, senators, trade unions and relevant individuals. We collected 3000 signatures in two weeks for a petition to Peter Barry, which was handed in to Leinster House on March 29th. The letter campaign and the petition called for efforts from the Irish government to press the Italian government to lift the expulsion order and to send an Irish legal observer to the trial. The women are now allowed to enter Italy since April 1st, but have to leave the country by April 20th.
Veronica and the other women return voluntarily to Sicily for the trial. We see this trial as a focus for our protest against the eployment of nuclear weapons in Europe. The mayority of the Sicilian population opposes the siting of cruise missiles in their country. After the arrests last year, a group of 8 Italian women lawyers spontaneously took on the case. Veronica met one of them last week in Amsterdam. Together with the other women they decided to have an all-women trial - the first time in the history of Italian law a case will be handled by women only. Lawyers, witnesses and expert witnesses will be women only. The expert witnesses will speak on nuclear weapons, health, defence, law etc.
We are asking everyone in Ireland to send messages/statements/telegrams of support for the women on trial to the court house in Sicily. The message should be sent oit now, so they reach Sicily in time. Hopefully most of the statements will be read out in the court.

Address: Cancelleria
Tribunale Penale di Ragusa
Sicily, Italy

copies please to: (urgent)
Rosetta Mazzone (lawyer)
Piazza San Domenico 2
40124 Bologna, Italy

We also need to raise funds. Although the lawyers will charge no fees, they need to have their travel expenses covered. We need money for the tickets to Sicily for Veronica and want to support the expenses of other women. Donations can be handed in at any branch of the Cork Trutees Savings Bank Veronica Kelly Appeal No.

The Greenham Common Support Group meets every Tue. 8.30 pm at the Quay Co-op
ALL WOMEN WELCOME

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