



## THE HEROES ARE ALWAYS WITH US

Second of March is Angolan Women's Day, a day which progressive women all over the world commemorate with us, and with each hand that is extended to them. Angolan women feel that there comes a little of the steadfastness which actuates the mighty torrent which has been set in motion, determined to win freedom, peace and a decent life.

Every 2 March, when our thoughts retrace twelve years of armed struggle, we respectfully and proudly evoke the example of the Angolan women who have fallen for our country and try to honour their memory by pushing onwards, ever onwards to final victory.

The example of Angolan women—symbolised by the five women guerrillas, Deolinda, Irene, Engracia, Tereza and Lucrecia—is a torch which lights up the path we are following and still have to follow. In us is the ever growing certainty that the day of victory is approaching. And when the cannon start to sing the song of great cataclysms, destroying enemy barracks and economic targets in Northern Angola, then the green of the coffee fields will be mingled with the blood of the oppressor, and the MPLA will have been persistent and heroic in avenging the death of its finest sons and daughters.

Deolinda, Tereza, Engracia, Irene and Lucrecia, now as in the past, we are advancing to final victory.



## **"ABOVE ALL I WANTED TO BE A GUERRILLA"**

Tala Hady, aged 18.

*INTERVIEW with OMA militant, by Swedish Journalists Elisabeth Hedberg and Hillevi Nilsson, who visited Angola last summer.*

*This is one of the several interviews previously published in KOMENTAR, Stockholm.*

I was born in Nambuanguo, near Luanda, in the First Region. When the war started in 1961, I was so small that I don't remember much of what happened at that time. But I remember 1962-63 a bit.

The war started on 4 February and the popular uprisings in March. The 'tugas' (Portuguese colonialists) came with planes and bombs and they massacred the population.

Before that they came and killed people by slaughtering them, beating them or shooting. They killed everyone they came across, women and children too. And then the planes came and they bombed all the villages, and the people fled into the forests. And they stayed there for a long time.

No one in my family was killed. We took refuge in the forest and we lived there for three years. Then we went to Congo Kinshasa and later to Congo Brazzaville. In 1965 I started going to the MPLA school close by the Cabinda border. I studied there for three years, but after that we were sent to the south of the Third Region. I continued to study at a school in the forest. The rest of the family stayed in an MPLA village at the border. Now one of my sisters is a doctor at Kassamba and my parents are in Dar es Salaam, because they are ill.

The school where I was in the Third Region was bombed twice. We left there and rebuilt the school in a new place, but it was also bombed and everything was burnt: houses, books, exercise books, paper—everything. Then the region's commanders decided that all the children from the school should go to the border to carry on with their studies. In 1969 they formed a guerrilla group which accompanied us to the border.

Those of us who had completed 4th year and were to go on to 5th were sent here to Kassamba and then to Zone C for a political course. There we also helped to do the laundry and to look after children. In April we were sent to Lusaka, and after a while we were sent to Ngangula to continue our studies for eight months. And we heard that our group was soon to be sent into Angola. But before that we had to do a special military course. That is why I am here and why I am getting military instruction through the Centre of Revolutionary Instruction.

In this course we learn how to handle heavy weapons, to defend ourselves against the enemy when marching with heavy weapons, and to dismantle weapons and carry them. Among the heavy weapons are mortars and cannon. But we also learn how to handle lighter weapons, like the AKA for example.

We are three women here in the military course. There are so few of us because other comrades have other tasks. There are differences in the condition of men and women in guerrilla war. One problem is that women find it hard to carry heavy weapons. That is why it is nearly always the men who do so, and the women carry ammunition and other things. I mainly use the AKA in combat.

During the course we have to be prepared to take part in all kinds of missions assigned to us. For example, I took part in the attack on the Lumbale post last year. We were two women in the group. We set out on 4 March and arrived on 5 March. We advanced towards the post when the 'tugas' were thinking of entirely different things. They were carousing, bathing, playing football, etc. We attacked at five o'clock. At first they did not answer our fire. It was only a quarter of an hour later that they started to shoot. We advanced during the firing. The attack was successful and afterwards we came back here to continue our military course.

I wanted to be a guerrilla above all else, rather than, say, a teacher or a nurse. It seemed more important to me, and I think it is more important for our struggle too. When I can't be a guerrilla any more, I want to be a radio technician, because that's the course I like best.

After independence we want to live well, not like now. We want everyone to be able to study and to gain an education, so that we can rule our country **ourselves**. Let's hope that the people take a lot of trouble with the work in the fields. For the future I hope for everything that can help our people to live well and in concord.

### — APPEAL FOR THE DEOLINDA CENTRE —

The Organisation of Angola Women (OMA) wishes to inform all friendly organisations and all friends of the Angolan people that it is planning to build a Centre for training women cadres who will be sent to work in the liberated areas of Angola. This Centre will be called the "Deolinda Centre".

We shall be grateful for all donations. Money donations can be sent to the following address:

M P L A - OMA  
National Bank of Commerce  
Bank House Branch  
P.O. Box 9031  
Dar es Salaam  
Tanzania

Gifts in kind can be sent to the address below:

Organisation of Angolan Women  
P.O. Box 20604  
Dar es Salaam  
Tanzania



*On the proposal of the Women's International Democratic Federation (WIDF), UNESCO has awarded the NADEJDA KRUPSKAYA Literacy prize to the Organisation of Angolan Women (O M A).*

*It is important to emphasize and appreciate the full political significance of this UNESCO decision.*

## STRUGGLE AND CONSTRUCTION

The Angolan woman of today has long since left behind her the tragic and repulsive image of the domestic-woman, the object-woman, the slave-woman.

This image remains in history as testimony of the long years of slavery and exploitation.

With the revolution, Angolan women are going forward, seeking consciously to make up for the many years when they were denied all access to education, culture and political and social life, because women were looked upon as inferior beings and because of the burden of an enslaving colonial system which totally disregarded even the most elementary rights of all human beings.

Conscious of her role in the revolution and overcoming the many complexes inculcated in her for centuries, the Angolan woman is advancing, creating the force and the responsibility required by the realities of war, so as to work successfully at all tasks of the revolution. Thus, the Angolan woman, a passive presence in years gone by, now emerges as someone actively cooperating in education, training, health, production and fighting, and in the various campaigns launched in the revolution. And time alone will enable her to prove herself increasingly.



## UNITED WE WILL WIN

The alliance between the MPLA and FNLA is a historic event for the Angolan people. It will forge the unity of our people and, therefore, strengthen them in the confrontation with the Portuguese colonialists.

Each Angolan woman will commit herself to uniting our children in the same common desire - the liberation of our homeland!

For five centuries we have been enslaved, for five centuries we have been denied all human rights. Angolan women will advance together to oppose tyranny. United we will win!



## AMILCAR WILL BE AVENGED!

Angered by the barbarous assassination of the great leader of the PAIGC, Comrade Amilcar Cabral, the Angolan women conveyed their sorrow and solidarity in the following telegram:

**PAIGC WOMEN, B.P. 298, CONAKRY.**

ORGANISATION ANGOLAN WOMEN SENDS HEARTFELT  
CONDOLENCES PAIGC WOMEN SHARING YOUR SORROW  
LOSS GREAT LEADER OF YOUR PARTY STOP HONOURING  
HIS MEMORY UNITED WE WILL CONTINUE STRUGGLE  
UNTIL FINAL VICTORY OF OUR PEOPLES STOP.

OMA  
EUGENIA NETO



## GREETINGS

The Organisation of Angolan Women extends its thanks to all those who have sent it New Year messages and wishes all friendly organisations which support the Angolan people every success in the struggle for freedom, peace and progress.



## SOLIDARITY WITH OUR STRUGGLE

Friends throughout the world are continuing to show solidarity with OMA. We have received, among other things, clothing sent by a Belgian friend and a gift of OMA badges from the Chicago Committee for Angola, Mozambique and Guinea Bissau.



*O.M.A. carrying food to our guerrillas in the liberated areas of Angola*

Sent by: \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation of Angolan Women

P.O. Box 20604

DAR ES SALAAM

TANZANIA

To: \_\_\_\_\_