

1976 • Daniel Schorr leaks secret House Intelligence Committee Report after House votes not to publish it; FBI discloses it burglarized Socialist Workers Party offices over 92 times in six years; Supreme Court rules States may not require a woman to get her husband's consent to obtain an abortion; Darelle Butler and Ramon Robideau acquitted.

Women who defend their children against attack are victimized as well. In August 1973, Yvonne Wanrow, a Colville Indian, was sentenced to 20 years in prison for fatally shooting a 62-year-old known child molester, who attempted to attack her son, and had previously raped her babysitter's seven-year-old daughter, infecting her with venereal disease.

Her conviction was reversed by the Washington State Court of Appeals because a tape recording of her telephone call to police after the incident was used illegally, but the State of Washington appealed the reversal to the State Supreme Court.



Wanrow came to the Center for help, and last February CCR lawyers argued not only against the use of the tape recording, but attacked the sex stereotyped instruction submitted to the jury at the close of the trial. Center lawyers argued that failing to apply individualized standards of self-defense prejudiced Wanrow's case, and is in fact prejudicial to all women claiming self-defense. Wanrow and her children are still awaiting the court's decision.

The problems of battered wives, long whispered about but not confronted, are finally being recognized as widespread and serious. In New York City alone, thousands of women are beaten regularly by their husbands. More than 40% of all requests for police assistance and protection come from women who have been battered or threatened by their husbands. For

years, women subjected to violence in the home have remained hidden until their wounds healed sufficiently not to arouse comment. When through fear and desperation they attempt to get help, their husbands' brutal behavior is tacitly (and sometimes overtly) condoned by the courts and police.

CCR lawyers, working with lawyers from MFY Legal Services, Inc., Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation and the Legal Aid Society have launched an attack on the callous practices of the police and the courts, to force them to provide the legal remedies to which women are entitled by law, but denied in practice. The litigation (*Bruno et al v. Codd et al*) is designed to force the courts and police to recognize and respect a woman's right not to be beaten. A judicial declaration that married women in New York are no longer to be subjected to discrimination in trying to enforce their right to survive against violent, criminal behavior would necessarily pave the way for similar litigation in other states and serve as a catalyst to the development of public awareness, concern and action on behalf of battered women everywhere.

Chile

Shortly after the 1973 coup in Chile, a young American filmmaker was killed under circumstances suggesting that the Chilean junta wanted him dead because he knew too much, and that the CIA may have been involved in the murder. As a preliminary step in providing legal redress to the victim's parents and widow, the Center is seeking to uncover the facts surrounding the murder through the Freedom of Information Act.

CCR also has under preparation a number of cases seeking to expose the complicity of United States government agencies with human rights violations in other countries.



LOOKING AHEAD

The Center's penchant for difficult cases is sometimes misinterpreted as a legal death wish. In fact, however, we enjoy our victories as much as any one else.

This year we have had more than our share; more, certainly, than in any previous year of our decade of existence.

- Charges against Tony Spencer were dismissed (p. 17).
- U.S. Supreme Court upheld the lower court's decision that barring parents of out-of-wedlock children from teaching in the Drew, Mississippi Municipal School was unconstitutional (*Drew Municipal School System v. Andrews*).
- Feminist Jill Raymond was released from Kentucky county jail (p. 17).
- All charges against Delfin Ramos were dismissed (p. 15).
- American Indian Movement members Darelle Butler (represented by CCR) and Ramon Robideau were acquitted of shooting two FBI agents on the Pine Ridge Oglala Sioux reservation after continuing FBI COINTELPRO activity was revealed. A juror called the prosecution's case an insult (*United States v. Robideau and Butler*).
- New York State's attempt to maintain a policy limiting Medicaid reimbursement to therapeutic abortion

was permanently enjoined (*Klein v. Nassau County Medical Center*).

- A nationwide crisis in the provision of abortion services to indigent women was averted when the Hyde Amendment to the Health, Education and Welfare Appropriations Act, which would have denied Medicaid reimbursement for abortion to most indigent women, was enjoined as unconstitutional (*McRae v. Mathews*). (In conjunction with the American Civil Liberties Union, Planned Parenthood, and the New York City Health and Hospital Corporation.)
- Federal charges against H. Rap Brown were dismissed (p. 5).

Whatever satisfaction we and our supporters derive from these victories, they do not lead us to believe that the struggle to make the Constitution live has entered a new and mellower phase. We have no illusions about the next years, or the next decade: in some ways they will be more difficult for the peoples' movements than the recent past. Repression, both personal and institutional, will come not only in familiar shapes, but in new and subtle guises. Old rights will be trampled and new rights will be articulated and struggled for against great odds.

With the help of its friends, the Center will continue to rise to the challenge, to defend what is good in the old, and to speed on what is best in the new.

—Elizabeth Bochnak
Education Director

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