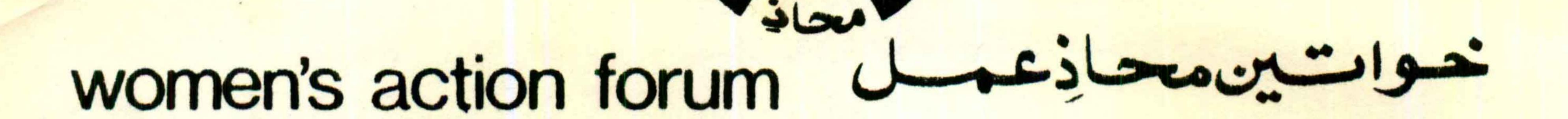
89.3



Dear

Enclosed is an urgent appeal from women's groups to send letters of protest to the Ambassador of Algeria, Embassy of Algeria, Islamabad.

The attached photocopies of newspaper reports are self explanatory.

WAF requests you to to show solidarity with the women of Algeria and write letters of protests to the Ambassador of Algeria, and letters of solidarity to Human Rights Groups at the addresses given overleaf.

Thanking you, WAF



Women's Action Forum is a horrified to learn of the increasing incidents of violence against women being organized and perpetuated by obscurantist religious fanatics in Algeria. In ten different instances in the last year or so, women, who are either divorced or widowed and living by themselves with their children have been thrown out of their homes and their houses burnt down. In the first reported case the son of the woman was burnt alive.

Not content with ransacking and burning down the homes of innocent women struggling to provide for themselves and their children, these obscuratists have taken to organizing vigilante groups who roam the streets creating an atmosphere of terror There have been instances where women have been publically attacked and whipped.

Yet, it appears that no action has been taken by the government to put a stop to such acts of savage mindlessness by those who claim to be the guardians of Islam. We deplore the lack of action in Algeria to punish those responsible for these crimes, and call upon the Algerian government who we know cannot share the point of view of these insane fanatical groups, to take immediate action.

The women of Algeria fought alongside their men in the struggle for independence and the creation of a just society, and we extend all solidarity to them in their struggle to maintain their rights to justice, to dignity and to life. We share their anguish since Pakistani women too have experienced the repercussions of allowing fanatical groups of obscurantists to project themselves as the guardians of Islam, these groups in fact present a travesty of all the tenets of an Islamic society.