

FOR ANDAIYE

By Rosina Wiltshire

Fearless, honest, confident, powerful. A warrior in the cause of justice for all, women's rights and participatory democracy. Caribbean woman.

I met Andaiye over 50 years ago while I was a high school student and she a university student. She was a very close friend of my sister in law Faith Wiltshire, and spending some days in Trinidad with us during the summer vacation on her way home from UWI Mona to Guyana. She became like a family member from that time.

Andaiye even then was formidable. Bold and outspoken. She was clear in her objectives of a fair deal for women and the working class and she was determined to make change. She lived her goals and organized to make them a reality.

When she was diagnosed with cancer in 1989 we were stunned and heartbroken. Andaiye would entertain no obstacle to her mission for change. Her strength and wry sense of humor would deflect any notion of despair. She continued her organizing and advocacy and dared the cancer to interfere. It was clear that she would fight all the way.

Her work with WAND, Red Thread, CARICOM and her partnership with the United Nations continued to demonstrate her intrepid spirit.

She never wavered in her commitment to making our region and the world more just and equitable and embodying the goals that she sought to achieve.

Rest well our sister, friend and beacon of light.