

## A NEW GLOBALISATION

By Janet Jagan

The disaster in the Indian Ocean provides a new and better version of the word globalisation. Globalisation has generally referred to trade, inter nation agreements, business and coordination at other levels. Now, we see globalisation meaning unity, understanding, compassion and volunteerism.

The unusual and still growing phenomena of unbelievable generosity and humanitarian feelings has created a new globalisation. Nations and people in general are contributing generously to aid the victims of the Tsunami disaster. Some nations have astonished the world by giving unusually large sums to help the victims – like Germany, Australia and Japan.

The USA responded somewhat slowly but has provided valuable help with the provision of airplanes, helicopters and ships. According to US spokesman Colin Powell (whatever happened to Florida Governor Jeb Bush, George Bush's brother, who started out with Powell?) the US hopes to regain the respect of the Muslim people by providing so generously to the relief efforts in South Asia. However, it will be a hard job for the US to win forgetfulness of what is going on in Iraq. Just a few days ago the US Military, again, for the umpteenth time, bombed and killed residents in their family house – by accident. One can hardly count the number of bombings that have taken place in Iraq and Afghanistan in the past two years where marriage parties in particular, have been bombed out by mistake by the US Military. In Iraq alone, it is claimed that some one hundred thousand Iraqis have been killed in the last year.

The only way the Americans can redeem themselves in the Muslim world and the rest of the world is to fix a date for the end of the occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan and to release all prisoners held in Guantanamo and elsewhere.