

# CCPJ reporter

Newsletter of the Canadian Committee to Protect Journalists

1997 – Issue 2

## Hong Kong's economic success: at what price?

By Jeff Silverstein

With a world spotlight fixed firmly on Hong Kong this summer, observers will be keeping a close eye on how media fare after the territory is handed over to Chinese rule July 1.

Already the freest press in Asia seems to be on a collision course with China's bosses. Lu Ping, head of the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office, was one of the first to fire a warning shot. Citing free press safeguards in the Basic Law of the future of Hong Kong, Lu said in an interview with CNN that the press would be free to criticize Beijing.

But he made it clear that advocating independence for Taiwan, Tibet or Hong Kong would be off limits. He also suggested it would be illegal to advocate the overthrow of the central government (which Chinese authorities have proved is open to interpretation), and that China might have to "take steps to prevent" demonstrators from endangering the nation.

Meanwhile, Hong Kong's leading English-language newspaper, the *South China Morning Post*, re-

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PAUL WRIGHT

**DATE WITH JEOPARDY?**  
*The streets of Hong Kong display a wide variety of publications. But as the July 1 end of the city's colonial status draws near, the freest press in Asia seems on a collision course with the incoming Chinese bosses.*

## IFEX welcomes new members in Peru, issues declarations on Peru & Indonesia

By Kristina Stockwood

Groups from Ghana, Argentina, Hong Kong and Nigeria joined the International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX) at the IFEX annual meeting in Lima, Peru, on May 16 to 18. The new members

are Free Expression Ghana, Periodistas of Argentina, the Independent Journalism Centre of Nigeria and the Hong Kong Journalists Association (HKJA).

IFEX members and participants issued joint statements on Peru and Indonesia, which attracted media

coverage in the Peruvian press, as did the meeting itself. The statement on Peru called for pardoning of jailed Peruvian journalists Hermes Rivera Guerrero and Ernesto Llosa Giraldo, who have been unjustly accused of terrorism. The

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## CCPJ reporter

Newsletter of  
the Canadian Committee  
to Protect Journalists

1997, Issue #2 (11)

**The Canadian Committee to Protect Journalists** is an independent, non-profit association of journalists, writers, producers, editors and publishers promoting freedom of expression.

CCPJ membership costs \$25. For a tax-creditable donation of \$50 or more, the membership fee is waived.

CCPJ administers a Clearing House for the International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX), which operates an Action Alert Network and globally disseminates information to organizations and individuals.

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# Press freedom issues hit home

By Wayne Sharpe

While travelling recently on the North-South Institute's press freedom tour (see page 3), I spoke with a Vancouver journalist who said she was surprised to find our presentation interesting. She didn't "usually go in for esoteric things like this," she explained.

I was a bit taken aback at the thought of murders and imprisonment of journalists being "esoteric." But then I realized that for many Canadian journalists, prison and murder are not daily concerns of their working lives.

What heartened me as we crossed the country were the many occasions when journalists drew concrete parallels between the press freedom scene around the world and here in Canada. When Marco Zileri of the Peruvian newspaper *Caretas* described his frustration in trying to get information during the hostage crisis at the Japanese embassy, I reflected upon something Peter Desbarats, who sits on the Somalia Inquiry, told me at last month's convention of the Canadian Association of Journalists in Edmonton.

Each day when he sat at the hearings, Desbarats said, he looked across the room to see CBC Radio reporter Michael McAuliffe taking notes. It occurred to him that this journalist, whose information requests exposed the military cover-up, was the reason the Somalia Inquiry existed. The access to information rights our journalists exercise to inform the public of government doings (and wrongdoings), are the very rights denied to Peruvian journalists.

That in mind, I thought it apt when a journalist at our Toronto stop compared the press freedom record of President Fujimori to that of Ontario Premier Mike Harris. Both are clearly champions of government autocracy and secrecy.

Throughout the tour, Kin-ming Liu of the *Hong Kong Economic Times* discussed the dilemma of self-censorship as journalists in the British colony prepare for the inevitable chill that will drift in from main-



KRISTINA STOCKWOOD/CCPJ

**CANADIAN TOUR:** Kin-ming Liu of Hong Kong, Melanie Gruer of the North-South Institute and Marco Zileri of Peru (from left) visited the CCPJ office with director Wayne Sharpe in May.

land China after the July 1 hand-over. At the CAJ convention, journalists working for Canadian newspapers newly owned by Conrad Black described how they are looking over their shoulders as they decide what to cover and how to cover it. I doubt any of these journalists would describe their situation as "esoteric."

Believe it or not, Canadian journalists are intimately involved in the fight for press freedom internationally, simply by doing their jobs. In a recent foreign policy paper on press freedom commissioned by the CCPJ and the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development, Gerry Caplan observed that "In a real sense, we [journalists] are already part of Canada's foreign policy, functioning as one element of Canadian civil society conducting business, exchanging knowledge and exercising influence abroad from a uniquely Canadian perspective."

Journalists around the world look to their Canadian counterparts to see how the media should work. The freedoms we so often take for granted serve as models for journalists like Daoud Kattab, who recently spent a week in a Palestinian Authority jail for broadcasting sessions of the Palestinian legislature. While in prison he heard about the international media uproar surrounding his case, and knew his release was forthcoming as a result. Kattab was gratified by the nearly 200 e-mail messages of support waiting on his computer.

As his way of saying thank-you to journalists in Canada and around the world who defended him, Kattab promises to continue to "push the envelope" of press freedom. He plans to post a diary of his detention on his web page. Our common purpose, to promote freedom of expression, is very tangible, and knows no boundaries.

## CCPJ members in the news

**Cathy Majtenyi** of the *Catholic Register* was awarded an Amnesty International award for human rights reporting for the second year in a row ... **Julian Sher** of the CBC's *Fifth Estate* won a Gemini award this year and a award from the Canadian Association of Journalists carrying a \$1,000 prize. He donated his portion to the CCPJ ... **Marlene Benmergui**, a recipient last year of a Canadian Foundation for the Americas (FOCAL) fellowship, is writing a chapter for the North-South Institute's annual publication Canadian Development Report 1997-98.

# Hong Kong and Peruvian journalists find commonalities in Canada

By Jeff Buttle

A recent tour of Canada by Peruvian and Hong Kong journalists confirmed, once again, it's sometimes a small world.

In May and June, Peruvian editor Marco Zileri and Hong Kong columnist and editor Kin-ming Liu spoke at public meetings in Toronto, Ottawa, Vancouver, Winnipeg and St. John's, and at the Canadian Association of Journalists' annual conference in Edmonton. They were joined by Melanie Gruer of the North-South Institute and CCPJ executive director Wayne Sharpe.

The tour was organized by the institute, with help from the CAJ, to publicize press abuses in Peru, Hong Kong and Nigeria. Nigerian editor Dapo Olorunyomi, in exile

and newspapers and magazines give the appearance of a free press. There is both a "friendly press" and a "critical press," he said.

The government influences the critical press by limiting its access to information, and by employing economic and political pressure, Zileri said. This includes placing government advertisements with sympathetic media.

But the government is reluctant to close any newspaper outright because it would harm its public image. "The Peruvian government is quite aware that they need freedom of expression."

Nevertheless, individual journalists are in jail in Peru. Thanks to pressure from international groups, several journalists have also been freed, Zileri said.

Liu said Hong Kong journalists

if the government shut down the horse racing track there is going to be a riot."

He said Hong Kong could be headed towards Singapore-style democracy. "Most of the people in Hong Kong can live with that."

Recent headlines in Hong Kong publications have substituted "the Tiananmen Incident" and other euphemisms for the "the Tiananmen Massacre." And after July 1, no Hong Kong journalist will be able to advocate independence for Hong Kong, Taiwan or Tibet, Liu said.

Nor will "personal attacks" against senior Chinese officials be tolerated. "Will criticizing one of the Prime Minister's economic policies be considered a personal attack? Probably," Liu answered.

Liu was an international affairs columnist at the *Sing Tao Daily* until the paper refused to run several of his profiles of Chinese dissidents. Seeing the writing on the wall, Liu recently joined the *Hong Kong Economic Times* as editorial page editor.

More insidious than blatant censorship, Hong Kong journalists increasingly practice self-censorship in order to survive, Liu said.

Zileri also said some topics in Peru, while not forbidden, can lead to problems for journalists. These include reporting on the military, human rights and the President and his family. After a TV program reported on the personal wealth of a government advisor, a Peru navy helicopter hovered menacingly above a factory owned by the TV station's owner. He eventually fled the country, Zileri said.

Liu and Zileri's visit was timed to coincide with the publication of the resource manual *Don't Shoot the Messenger: A Guide for Canadian Journalists on Promoting Press Freedom*. It was co-authored by David Cozac of the CCPJ and Melanie Gruer of the North-South Institute, which published the guide.

Jeff Buttle is a producer at the CBC television program Politics.

**RETLIATING PERSONALLY:** After TV news reported on the wealth of a government advisor, a Peruvian navy helicopter hovered menacingly over a factory owned by the station's owner.



**FREEDOM GUIDE:** David Cozac of the CCPJ co-wrote this North-South Institute manual for Canadian journalists. For a free copy, contact the CCPJ.



**MEDIA ON MEDIA:** Hong Kong journalist Kin-ming Liu is interviewed by Fairchild Television at the CCPJ office in Toronto.

in the United States, was scheduled to be part of the cross-Canada tour, but U.S. authorities denied him a visa.

Marco Zileri, managing editor of the Peruvian newsweekly magazine *Caretas*, painted a picture of a country balanced between democratic and authoritarian tendencies. *Caretas*, Peru's oldest and most popular newsweekly, has been shut down by the government 10 times since 1947.

In Peru, the existence of independent radio and television sta-

have mostly operated unfettered. But pressures are growing to move Hong Kong's political and media systems closer to China's.

"If you look at the track record of mainland China, it is not very comforting," Liu said. "I'm not very optimistic."

On the other hand, Liu said commitments differ on the idea of democracy in Hong Kong. "If the Chinese government is going to shut down one or two magazines or newspapers, of course society would be concerned," he said. "But

# Journalist flees torture in Sudan

## When did things start to get worse for you?

After the uprising in 1985 removed the dictatorship, there were more than 75 news publications in Sudan, including newspapers, magazines, and periodicals and there was a very strong, elected journalists' union. You could write anything you wanted to write.

I worked as the head of the political department of Sudan television for five years, where I gave members of the opposition and anyone else who wanted to criticize the government or express their own political ideas an opportunity to do so. In June 1989, the Islamic National Front came to power in a coup.

While I was at Sudan TV, I wrote in an Egyptian newspaper that the only way to promote and develop the country was by democracy and freedom of expression. As a result, I was terminated from my job and went from being a news editor and broadcaster to a butcher. Meanwhile I was a correspondent for some newspapers.

In November 1989, all trade unions were planning a strike, so the government detained all the active people, myself among them. In detention in one of the "ghost houses" [hidden interrogation centres], we were subjected to harsh interrogation and harassment. I was punished, tied, and electrocuted. We were not allowed to know where we were and we could not see our captors because they wore masks and had beards (a sign of fundamentalism – a beard shows you are a good Muslim.)

After that, I was taken to prison, where I stayed more than 16 months. During that time, the International Federation of Journalists wrote many letters of support for me. In Paris, Reporters sans Frontières also supported me, as did the European Union of Writ-

*DOUG WATT, a journalist with Canadian Press/Broadcast News, interviewed Sudanese journalist, poet and novelist Mohammed Ahmed, who fled Sudan and is now living in Canada. Ahmed is currently freelancing for a Sudanese newspaper published in Britain.*



KRISTINA STOCKWOOD/CCPI

ers, because I am also a poet and a novelist. And I had friends who wrote articles in various Arabian newspapers. The pressure of non-partisan organizations outside Sudan accelerated pressure on Sudan, portraying it as a country that jailed and tortured people.

## How many people were being detained?

Five hundred, including six journalists.

Then I was released, but after about three months, I was detained again – back in a ghost house. This was the most violent and severe detention. They started kicking me inside my house, in front of my wife and children. I was taken to the headquarters of the security forces in Sudan and burned on my back with an electric iron, and not allowed to see a doctor.

When they released me I decided to leave Sudan for Egypt. First I took a bus secretly to my home in northern Sudan. My relatives there helped me travel by truck and camel to northern Egypt where I was welcomed. Meanwhile, my family took a ship from Sudan to Egypt legally because nothing on my wife's passport indicated she was my wife.

During this time in exile in Cairo I wrote for two newspapers: *Khartoum* was independent, whereas *Aletihadi* was the mouthpiece of the opposition. I also wrote three books, one about torture, a collection of poetry and a novel. But my financial situation was not good, because the sources of income were so limited.

When I got the opportunity to apply for political asylum at the Canadian embassy in Cairo, I was strongly recommended by the Canadian Committee to Protect Journalists. Executive director Wayne Sharpe wrote a letter of confirmation, and this magic letter brought me to the front of the queue. When they interviewed me, saw my injuries, and listened to my story, they immediately decided to give me political asylum.

## When did you come to Canada?

In February. I like it here very much. People are polite and I am planning to get deeper into Canadian society, to get to know writers, poets and journalists here.

## What is the situation like in Sudan today?

Very gloomy. The fundamentalists are taking Sudan back many centuries. Women cannot speak to men in the streets. If you drink alcohol, they whip you. Moreover, the radio and TV and the press are reflecting some odd ideas.

## PREVENTIVE ACTION:

**"In one of the 'ghost houses,' we were subjected to harsh interrogation and harassment. I was punished, tied, and electrocuted."**



## Letter from Malawi

# My Canadian Experience

*Malawian journalist Hilary Mbohe came to Canada last November and December for journalism training in Ottawa and Toronto with Reuters and the CBC. In 1995, Mbohe participated in a workshop organized by the CCPJ at the Malawi Broadcasting Corp. (MBC).*

**O**F ALL BIRTHDAY GIFTS I HAVE had in my life, I think my stay in Canada was the best. I arrived in Toronto on 7 November 1996. An immigration officer at Toronto Airport, after examining and stamping my passport, said, "Happy birthday" as he handed back my papers. Yes, 7 November was my 31st birthday. The immigration officer set the mood for my happy stay.

If ever somebody said he was unhappy in Toronto, the chances that he spoiled it himself are high. With Spadina and Yonge Street there, loneliness is impossible.

### What did I learn?

Probably this is the most difficult question I find to answer. It is not easy to quantify what I have gained with my attachment with the CBC. I can however observe a few things.

The idea of work is probably not the same as I always had. I had a one-day stint at Queen's Park. There I saw a scrum. To me a scrum is a symbol of democracy at work. I know all governments try to hide information, or give a one-sided view of it, but at least you can easily ask any questions to the ministers in the corridors of Parliament.

Nothing is more encouraging in life than to realize that you are surrounded by friends. I will always remember watching hockey for the first time in Hamilton.

CBC introduced me to Canada. They set my working mood. I wish I had contributed to their hard-working spirit, which I saw every day.

I felt very at home in Ottawa. I was glad that on my first day there I was able to go out to cover the transport strike. I felt the time went so fast because I was busy on most occasions, editing copy. My second week in Ottawa was well spent at the Hill.

I was at Reuters in Toronto for only three days. This final destination of my tour encouraged me to try to specialize in business and economic reporting. It is not easy, but I started.

I think I am now a better reporter and editor than before I went to Canada.

The Malawi Broadcasting Corporation

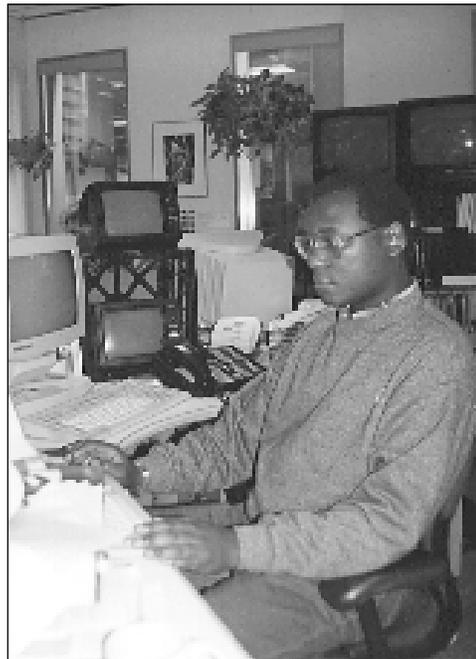
(MBC) is still controlled by government, and as such reflects its views. But this is a matter of time. Like the CBC, it is government-sponsored, but it is for the people. One day MBC will be like the CBC.

### Situation in Malawi

I would like to encourage the CCPJ not to give up on Malawi. In Malawi there still is untapped talent. If trained and exposed, these people will transform Malawi for the benefit of all. It is important to remember that Malawi embraced multi-party democracy only in 1994. Comparatively then, we still have to learn a great deal.

Change at MBC will not just come on a silver platter. Journalists and other concerned bodies should continuously press for better policies.

*Hilary Mbohe*



KRISTINA STOCKWOOD/CCPJ

**ON THE JOB:** Hilary Mbohe of Malawi puts in a shift at Reuters in Toronto as part of a training program in Canada in December.

### SYMBOLIC SCRUMS:

***"To me a scrum is a symbol of democracy at work. I know all governments try to hide information, or give a one-sided view of it, but at least [Canadians] can easily ask any questions to the ministers in the corridors of Parliament."***

KRISTINA STOCKWOOD/CCPJ



CHINA WATCHERS: (from left) Journalist Janet Brookes, Prof. Bernard Luk of the University of Toronto/York University, Vivian Chong of *Ming Pao* and Jan Wong of *The Globe and Mail* at a CCPJ-organized panel on Hong Kong at Toronto's Harbourfront.

## Hong Kong apprehensions

— continued from page 1

frained from editorial comment on Lu's assault on free speech. Instead, it praised him for understanding the importance of a business-friendly environment to Hong Kong's survival as a free economy.

The recent appointment of 75-year-old Feng Xiliang as editorial advisor to the *Post* stirred the most controversy among Hong Kong journalists. While Feng has lived outside China for several years and is a well regarded associate of Hawaii's East West Centre, he is an old and trusted Communist Party cadre. He has worked at the most senior levels of mainland China's press, and was a founding editor of the official *China Daily* and a member of the Chinese People's Political Consultation Conference — one of the most senior organs of the Beijing government.

Feng says he is working at the *Post* "as a consultant to strengthen links with China. I act only as an advisor to give an opinion to the editor and management." But when Feng's new office was installed right next to that of English expatriate editor Jonathan Fenby, eyebrows were raised.

Xinhua News Agency's new responsibilities in Hong Kong have also created uncertainty. Since 1949, China's national news agency has acted as a *de facto* consulate. After the takeover it will begin coordinating the activities of the roughly 1,700 mainland companies currently operating in Hong Kong, and its director, who tradi-

tionally has headed the city's clandestine Communist Party cell, will assume ministerial powers.

These companies from mainland China already exert enormous pressure on the media by virtue of the ads they take out in Hong Kong's 15 major dailies. That pressure on editors and publishers will grow after the takeover, as newspapers and other media will be looking to the mainland market for potential business.

Terry Nealon, head of English language news and current affairs at government broadcaster RTHK, says, "As in most of the world, the news media in Hong Kong is owned largely by businessmen

### 記者之聲

who have other businesses too. In Hong Kong, these other businesses often straddle China. It is not the journalists who are self-censoring themselves. These controls come down from the top."

Scholars, pro-democracy groups and journalists have spoken out about the threat to Hong Kong's free press. The Hong Kong Journalists Association, a member

#### Useful Web Sites

Hong Kong Journalists Association: <http://www.freeway.org.hk/hkja/>  
Centre of Asian Studies at Hong Kong University: <http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Forum/2365/>  
China Internet Corp. — the official Hong Kong 1997 web site: <http://www.hk1997.com>

of IFEX, has been particularly outspoken. But a majority of the city's 6.4 million residents seem unperturbed about the future.

Jan Wong, *The Globe and Mail's* correspondent in China during the 1989 crackdown on Tiananmen Square democracy protesters, says some of this faith might be misplaced. At a forum organized by the CCPJ on challenges to freedom of expression in Hong Kong, Wong told how a security analyst who sounded the alarm recently about airline safety got fired — a move that Wong said jeopardizes the future of securities reporting and reporting in general.

"Journalists aren't the only ones who should be worried," Wong said. "Businesses should be worried as well. Until now, businesses in Hong Kong have enjoyed a free flow of information. They don't know what it's like to operate in an oppressive atmosphere."

Joining Wong on the panel were Bernard Luk, a York University history professor, Reuters' correspondent Janet Brookes, and Vivian Chong, news editor of *Ming Pao* (who prefaced her comments by saying, "I don't represent *Ming Pao's* position — it's very sensitive, and I don't want to get into trouble"). The Canadian government was invited to send a speaker but declined, and John Lamb, a senior vice-president of the Hong Kong Bank of Canada, at first accepted and then declined the invitation.

Some international journalists are packing their bags, and others are weighing their options. Reuters moved not long ago from Hong Kong to Singapore (whose officials have been advising the Beijing government — China has expressed interest in the island republic's media control techniques, particularly of the Internet).

It may be premature to suggest that Hong Kong's democratic institutions are in peril. The 7,500 journalists expected to descend on Hong Kong for the takeover at midnight June 30 are unlikely to see social unrest. But going by China's record on the mainland and the quiet retreat of local media, the future autonomy of Hong Kong media may be in jeopardy.

Jeff Silverstein is a Toronto-based freelance writer.



**WATCHING FREEDOM:**  
*The Hong Kong Journalists Association (logo, above) keeps an eye on press freedom as the colony prepares to rejoin China. At right, the Chinese title of the group's magazine: 'The Journalist'*

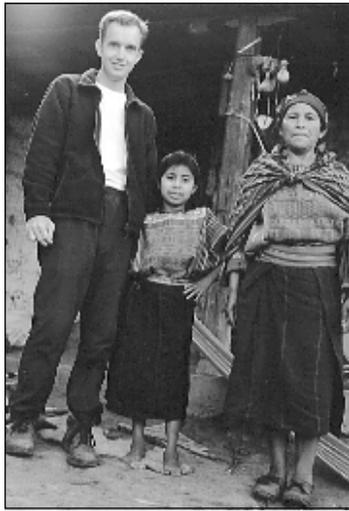
# Guatemalan news organizations strengthen around peace accords

By David Cozac

In the wake of the peace accords signed in 1996 by Guatemalan rebels and the government, Guatemalans have begun rebuilding their fractured country. In order to strengthen the media's role in civil society, two organizations – the independent news agency CERIGUA (Centro Exterior de Reportes Informativos sobre Guatemala) and the Association of Guatemalan Journalists (APG) – are playing key roles.

In March, the CCPJ met with Ileana Alamilla, the director of CERIGUA, in her offices in Guatemala City to discuss possible links between the APG, the CCPJ and the International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX).

CERIGUA arose from the domestic strife that was plaguing the country in the 1980s. The media were hit particularly hard – between 1978 and 1985, at least 47 journalists were killed and 100 forced into exile.



ESTELA CRUZ

The author, David Cozac, with a Guatemalan family in Todos Santos on a research trip after the country's civil war ended.

Headquartered in Guatemala City, CERIGUA is a well-known source of news on Guatemala, supplying international media with up-to-date information in

both Spanish and English.

Alamilla said CERIGUA has initiated projects aimed at expanding media coverage of civil sectors that are traditionally under-represented: unions, student and women's groups, and peasant organizations, among others.

One project proposes to train a representative from each of these groups to become a journalist. CERIGUA's goal is not only to expand its pool of correspondents, Alamilla explained, but also to have these representatives report on their respective sectors in society, especially during implementation of the peace accords.

More generally, Alamilla says, CERIGUA also wants to show how these groups can become more "media savvy." They are trained to write and circulate press releases, and to give press conferences. In other words, the training will show them how they can get news editors to take an interest in their stories.

The APG's goals encompass the profession itself. Made up of print and broadcast journalists of various political persuasions, the APG is committed to defending freedom of expression and press freedom.

Key to realizing this is its Press Freedom Commission, of which Alamilla is a member. The six-member APG Commission monitors press freedom violations ranging from self-censorship to murder, kidnapping and threats and harassment from the government and others.

When the Commission hears of a violation, its members meet to investigate the case, and then circulate a letter of protest to the Guatemalan media, human rights organizations and the government.

Alamilla, who attended IFEX's 1997 annual meeting in Peru, visited the CCPJ when she came to Toronto last December to speak on International Human Rights Day. The APG hopes to work more closely with IFEX to more vigilantly monitor press freedom in Guatemala.

**'MEDIA SAVVY':**  
**Groups are trained to write and circulate press releases, and to give press conferences. In other words ... how they can get news editors to take an interest in their stories.**

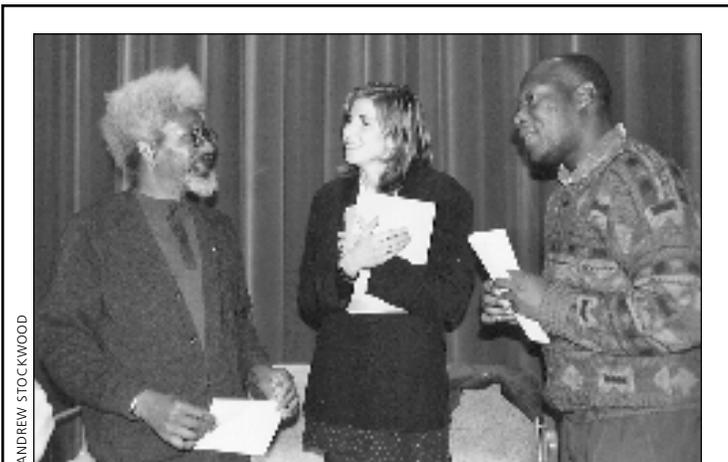


KRISTINA STOCKWOOD / CCPJ

ILEANNA ALAMILLA director of an independent Guatemala news agency.

## Sept. 17 AGM

The CCPJ's annual general meeting has been set for Wednesday, September 17 in Toronto. Details will be mailed out to members.

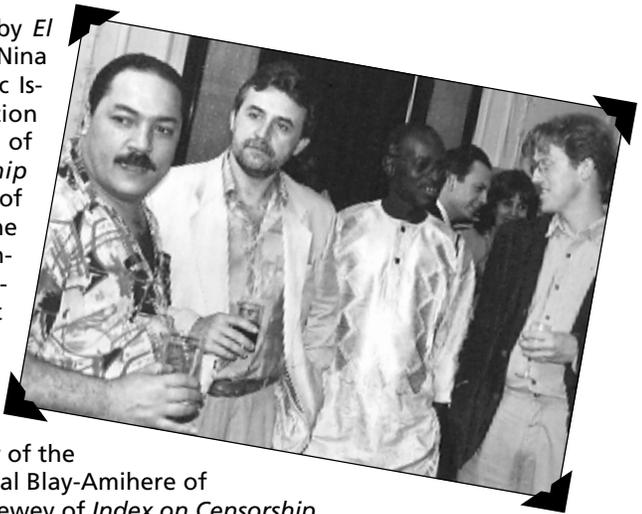


ANDREW STOCKWOOD

## Benefit for Nigerian pirate radio

Playwright and actor George Seremba, a Ugandan emigré, and CCPJ staffer Kristina Stockwood listen to Nigerian Nobel laureate Wole Soyinka at a Toronto benefit in March for Radio Kudirat, which broadcasts clandestinely into Nigeria. Soyinka says a recent charge of treason against him is meant to punish him for speaking out against the regime of Sani Abacha. Seremba read from his new play *Napoleon of the Nile* at the event, which Stockwood co-hosted.

At a reception given by *El Comercio* newspaper, Nina Ratulele of the Pacific Islands News Association talks with Rose Bell of *Index on Censorship* and Emily Nyanjugu of the Network for the Defence of Independent Media in Africa (from left). At right, Mohammad Monieb of the Egyptian Organization for



Human Rights, Vladimir Avdeev of the Glasnost Defense Foundation (Russia), Kabral Blay-Amihere of the West African Journalists' Association and Adam Newey of *Index on Censorship*.

## 23 press freedom groups meet in Peru

— continued from page one

statement on Indonesia expressed concern about freedom of expression abuses, particularly regarding the May 29 elections. Other joint actions planned include one on Hong Kong prior to its transition to Chinese rule on July 1, and one concerning Nigeria's elections.

The meeting, hosted by the Institute for Press and Society (IPYS), was preceded by workshops for participants in the IFEX Developing Countries Outreach Program. Topics included resource development, effective action, network building, and how to take advantage of communications technologies in freedom of expression work.

A discussion on effective campaigning featured Peruvian journalist Jesus Alfonso Castiglione Mendoza, who was freed by a presidential pardon of those unjustly accused of terrorism. He thanked IFEX members for their support, but said, "It is difficult because I was not declared innocent, only pardoned."

Castiglione, who can no longer work as a journalist, opened a photocopy store in May with money he obtained from international journalists' and writers organizations.

Participants at this year's annual meeting came from more countries than ever before. New countries and regions represented include Russia, the Pacific Islands, Egypt, Nigeria, Chile, Guatemala, and Bangladesh.



Ivón L'Estrange Wallace (above), executive director of the Argentine group *Periodistas*, takes a break. At right, Mette Newth of the Norwegian Forum for Freedom of Expression, looks at textiles in Cuzco.



While in jail, Jesus Alfonso Castiglione Mendoza made the above banner for Peru's press freedom group, IPYS. After being released, he could no longer work as a journalist so he opened a photocopy shop, where he poses (left) with his family and Kela Leon, director of the IPYS.



Photos by Kristina Stockwood