

# CCPJ reporter

Newsletter of the Canadian Committee to Protect Journalists

1996 – Issue 3

## ‘Quiet diplomacy’ failing in Indonesia

by Ingrid Walter

An increasing number of journalists working in Indonesia are being threatened, beaten and murdered despite Canada’s claim that “quiet diplomacy” and “constructive engagement” will help reduce human rights violations.

“Over the past three years the situation has in fact deteriorated,” says Bern Jagunos, co-director of the Canada-Asia Working Group (CAWG), a church coalition fighting for civil rights in Asia. “I have seen a lot of arrests, a military crackdown ... more repression.”

In the two months leading up to disturbances last July (see story on Indonesia, page 4), some 20 journalists were beaten, says Andreas Harsono, a freelance journalist in Jakarta who is general secretary of the Institute for the Study of Free Flow of Information (ISAI), an IFEX member. Three Japanese and a Dutch journalist were detained for four days in central Java.

While several Canadian non-governmental organizations (NGOs) publicly condemned Indonesian President Suharto’s regime, the Canadian embassy in Jakarta urged Indonesia to respect due process and allow access to detainees. Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy wrote in confidence to Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas to express concern.

NGOs including the CCPJ, the CAWG and the recently formed Indonesia Solidarity Network (ISN) chastised the Canadian government for not taking more decisive action. They want Canada to publicly call for Indonesia to release all political prisoners, publicly condemn the excessive force used on



**HARD KNOCKS:** Indonesian riot police beat one of 10,000 supporters of opposition leader Megawati Sukarnoputri during a June protest in Jakarta against a military crackdown.

and after July 27, press Indonesia to allow the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detentions to visit, and end arms sales to and suspend trade with Indonesia. The three groups have also asked to meet with Axworthy in Ottawa.

Jean Chretien’s government, however, refuses to link trade to human rights. As recently as last February, “Team Canada,” a group of government representatives and business leaders, signed 54 business deals in Jakarta worth \$2.76 billion. Canadian direct investment in Indonesia is estimated at \$6 billion, the largest Canadian

portfolio in Southeast Asia.

“Our government should rethink its involvement in Indonesia in light of the recent violence,” says CCPJ executive director Wayne Sharpe. “But instead they rationalize that increased commercial activity will stimulate the growth of a middle class that will demand political reform.”

Jan Bauer of ARTICLE 19 says human rights will take a back seat as long as Canada’s policy continues to be constructive engagement.

The ISN and NGOs worldwide will stage a 24-hour fast and vigil at Indonesian consulates Oct. 28.

### inside

Year in review	2
Nigeria actions	3
Pacific islands	4
Indonesian riot	4
Ill in Cambodia	6
Namibia friend	7
IFEX news	8



## CCPJ reporter

Newsletter of  
the Canadian Committee  
to Protect Journalists

1996, Issue #3 (9)

**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.

490 Adelaide St. W., #205  
Toronto, Ontario M5V 1T2

(416) 703-1638

Fax: 703-7034

E-mail: [ccpj@web.net](mailto:ccpj@web.net)  
<http://www.web.net/ccpj/>

**Executive Director:**

Wayne Sharpe

**IFEX Clearing House Alerts Co-ordinator:**

David Cozac

**IFEX Clearing House Development/Outreach Co-ordinator:**

Isabelle Patenaude

**IFEX Clearing House Communique Editor:**

Kristina Stockwood

**Founding Director:**

Nick Fillmore

**Board of Directors:**

Arnold Amber (president),  
Lon Appleby, Marlene Benmergui, Ilona Biro,  
Robert Carty, Parker Barss Donham, Linda Hossie,  
Jeffrey Kofman, Frank Koller, Rob MacKinnon,  
Moirra MacDonald, Ellen Saenger, Ingrid Walter,  
Norman Webster

**Advisory Board:**

Peter Desbarats, John Honderich, John Macfarlane, Joe Matyas, Ann Medina, Rick Moffat, Linda Powless, Lloyd Robertson, Robert Scully, Julian Sher, Keith Spicer

**Editorial Board:**

David Cozac, Eric Mills, Isabelle Patenaude, Wayne Sharpe, Kristina Stockwood, Ingrid Walter

**Design / Production:**

Eric Mills

Printed by union labour  
on recycled paper.

# Making a difference – with help

by Wayne Sharpe

*The following is excerpted from the Executive Director's address at the CCPJ annual general meeting held on June 19.*

In 1995, we circulated a total of 1,310 items through the IFEX Clearing House. Nearly 1,000 were alerts and updates about cases in which freedom of expression was violated.

As IFEX enters its fifth year of operation, we must ask ourselves: "What is the cumulative effect of all this protest?" This is a question all human rights workers asked after the execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa in Nigeria last November. In a provocative article in a recent issue of *Index on Censorship* (a founding member of IFEX), a writer asked why, with all the resources, all the reports, all the protests, has the human rights movement failed so miserably to create change in so many parts of the world?

I'm sure there are many reasons, but one I offer as the key problem is the obvious lack of support we in free and influential countries get from our own governments. When the human rights community protests against the actions of a certain regime, we often come into conflict with our own government's policies. How can we be taken seriously in the eyes of the press-freedom offender when they see us as a radical faction in opposition to our own leaders?

For example, Canada played a leading role at the Commonwealth meetings last year in New Zealand. Canada condemned Nigeria's human rights record – too late, as it turned out.

But gradually over the months the Canadian position has appeared to soften; at this point my best hope is that by continuing to pressure the Canadian government, we can prevent it from, in two or three years' time, announcing that the Prime Minister is going on a trade visit to Nigeria, with Mike Harris and the other premiers in tow. This may sound absurd ... and yet just last year Canada rolled

out the red carpet for Chinese Premier Li Peng. Could we blame the Chinese for assuming we have forgotten about the massacre in Tiananmen Square?

Despite this, I feel we are effective in many ways. The case of journalist Jesus Alfonso Castiglione, in prison in Peru since April 1993, is one example. (See IFEX report on page 8.)

The Institute for Press and Society (IPYS) of Peru, an IFEX member, lobbied on his behalf and fed dozens of alerts and updates to the Clearing House. IFEX reports were seen in the hands of judges, and once his lawyers attempted to read IFEX alerts in the courtroom. His case – and our protests – were getting attention.

Last May, the head of Reporters sans frontières in Paris (another IFEX member) travelled to Lima, and along with IPYS, met with President Alberto Fujimori.

The cumulative effect of these IFEX members' actions has benefited Jesus Alfonso Castiglione. [He was released on Oct. 1 with two other journalists.]

In Indonesia, journalists Ahmed

Taufik and Eko Maryadi were sentenced to 32 months in prison last September for violating Article 154 of the Indonesian Criminal Code, which bars the expression of "feelings of hostility, hatred or contempt toward the government" – something that occurs in our newspapers every day [see centre-spread].

We received a card from these journalists last year made from leaves and twigs from their prison yard pasted on paper. It said "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Selembu Prison," and I think it was their way of thanking us for the work IFEX has done on their behalf.

This illustrates another benefit of our work: if anything is worse than rotting in prison, it's rotting in prison and being completely forgotten.

CCPJ's bravest effort to promote press freedom last year came in Cambodia, where we co-organized a conference for journalists, government officials and international press-freedom workers in an attempt to ease tensions in this young democracy. I travelled there

— continued on page 7



CCPJ executive director Wayne Sharpe (right) meets Thun Saray, president of the Cambodian Human Rights and Development Association, in January in Phnom Penh.

# Nov. 10: remembering Ken Saro-Wiwa

by Dr. Owens Wiwa

*This is an excerpt from an unpublished statement on Shell and the Ogoni people issued in April 1996 by the author, who ran medical clinics in his homeland of Ogoni, Nigeria. He is now a refugee in Canada with his wife Diana and son Befii. They run the Toronto office of the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP Canada).*

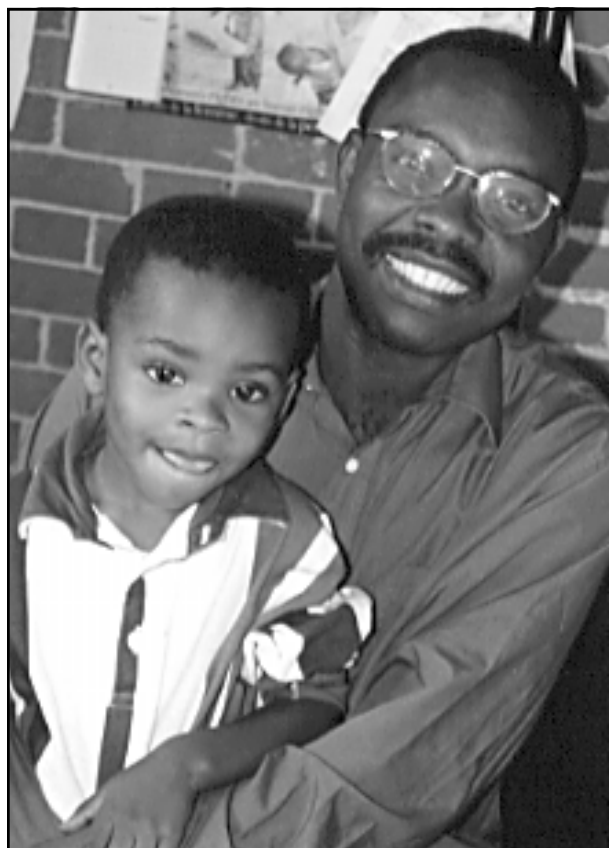
Ken Saro-Wiwa, my brother, was murdered in a Nigerian jail last year because he was a vocal – and effective – environmentalist dedicated to cleaning up the devastation from Shell's exploitation in the Ogoni region....

Contrary to their claims, my brother was never a political threat to the Nigerian State .... But Ken was a threat to Shell's profits at Ogoni expense. He wanted the pipelines of death – which threaten our homes, ruin our fields, contaminate our drinking water – put underground or removed. He wanted to *prevent* the overwhelming incidences of lung cancer, asthma and bronchitis which I struggled to treat. He wanted to stop what he called the 'ecological war' against the Ogoni, the 'slow genocide' where there's little blood spilled but the deaths continue ....

Shell says we are a violent organization. Nothing could be further from the truth. I ask you, if we were a violent organization then why is it that over 2,000 Ogoni people are dead today, and not one person from Shell or the Nigerian military has died?

... Our only weapon is to call for a consumer boycott of Shell products and to press for an embargo against all Nigerian oil. This, we believe, is the most effective way of breaking the evil alliance between Shell and the brutal Abacha dictatorship, which kills writers, jails journalists and stifles democracy ....

*In September, Shell International offered prominent Canadian journalists a trip to see its Nigerian operations. The offer was turned down. [Editor]*



KRISTINA STOCKWOOD / CCPJ

**CARRYING ON:** Dr. Owens Wiwa, brother of executed Nigerian author Ken Saro-Wiwa, with his son Befii. He carries on the Ogoni struggle from exile in Toronto.

## **NIGERIA CONTACTS & NOV. 10 EVENTS**

### **Montreal**

**QPIRG/GRIP:** 514 398-7432 (Katherine Cukier)

**International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development:** 514 283-6073

### **Ottawa**

**Amnesty International:** 613 744-7667

**Sierra Club:** 613 241-4611 (Louise Comeau, Andrew Chisholm)

### **London**

**Coalition for Human Rights & Democracy in Nigeria:** 519 649-5320

### **Vancouver**

**Ogoni Solidarity Network:** 604 873-8554

### **Toronto**

**Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP) Canada:** 416 657-6180 (Diana & Owens Wiwa)

**Inter-Church Coalition on Africa:** 416 927-1124 (Kole Shettima)

**CCPJ:** 416 703-1638

**Democratic Alliance for Nigeria in Canada (DANIC):** 416 291-7053

**Greenpeace Canada:** 416 597-8408

**PEN Canada:** 416 703-8448

**Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG)** at University of Toronto: 416 408-1727 (Jason Potts)

**SIO:** 416 360-6047 (Janice Loudon)

**Events commemorating the Nov. 10, 1995, death of author, journalist and activist Ken Saro-Wiwa:**

**Nov. 6** – Amnesty International demonstration at Nigerian High Commission, **Ottawa**.

**Nov. 10** – vigils in churches **across Canada**, including Bloor St. United in Toronto. PEN Canada Writers in Prison Day, including reading of Saro-Wiwa's last play by George Seremba and candlelight vigil, Massey College, University of Toronto (3–5 p.m.)

**Nov. 12** – Round table on multinationals and human rights, **Montreal** (GRIP).

**Nov. 15** – Event featuring Saro-Wiwa's last play, the first screening of a filmed interview with him, and music and lecture by a notable Nigerian, **Toronto** (contact CCPJ for details).

**Nov. 15 & 16** – Social Investment Organization (SIO) conference, "Corporate Responsibility in a Global Economy: Owning up & Taking Stock" at Park Plaza Hotel, **Toronto**. Keynote speaker: Owens Wiwa.

**Nov. 8–17** – National boycott of Shell Canada gas stations and products, **country-wide** protests and leafleting at Shell stations.

## New association

# Press freedom sprouts in the Pacific Islands

by Kristina Stockwood

A new force for press freedom has sprung up in the Pacific Islands. The Pacific Islands News Association (PINA), based in Suva, Fiji, is the main professional association of the news media. It promotes freedom of information and expression, and provides training and education in the 21 countries and territories of this vast and under-represented region.

"PINA is growing hand in hand with the emergence of the independent news media in our region," says administrator Nina Ratulele.

PINA's members are newspapers, magazines, radio and television stations, news executives, journalists and journalism educators from Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, Fiji, Tonga, Niue, Western Samoa, American Samoa, Tuvalu, Wallis and Futuna, Cook Islands, French Polynesia, Norfolk Island, Kiribati, Nauru, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Guam and the Northern Marianas.

PINA's training planner, Peter Lomas, editor of the regional news-magazine *Islands Business*, says press freedom abuse follows a definite pattern. "Growing corruption and abuse of public office and money across the region [leads to]

the region's increasingly independent news media expos[ing] this," says Lomas. Then "politicians in power attack the news media, accusing them of being irresponsible, or imposing 'western style' journalism." Politicians also "move to amend existing legislation or impose legislation to make the news media more 'accountable.'"

Hence PINA's mandate to promote press freedom and provide training. Lomas says, "In some ways these are interlinked. Raising professional standards eliminates some excuses used by those who seek to impose controls on the news media. It also helps ensure a much better flow of information to the public. That in turn builds public support when we are under attack from those who seek to control what the people read, hear and see."

One method of control is media laws. The Inter Press Service (IPS) reported Sept. 7 that Papua New Guinea is formulating a media law based on trips to China, Singapore and Indonesia – not the most enlightened countries for media laws. IPS says the August issue of the Suva-based *Pacific Island Monthly* editorializes that "if media reports reveal facts which are negative or unfavourable of governments, they are labelled as being culturally insensitive or accused of trying to undermine social stability."

PINA's annual conference in the Kingdom of Tonga in August had the usual problems that plague a big meeting – plus an unusual one: the Tongan government banned Agence France Presse reporter Mike Field. When PINA lobbied to get the ban lifted, to no avail, some member organizations boycotted the conference. Ratulele says the Tongan Minister of Police and Immigration said Field "would be arrested and charged [with libel] if he allowed him into Tonga. He said he does not like to arrest journalists so it was best [that] Mike Field just stayed away."

### CYCLE OF CORRUPTION:

**Politicians in power attack the news media, accusing them of being irresponsible, or imposing 'western style' journalism.**



PACWOMEN: Members of PINA's Pacific Women in the Media Development Project met in Tonga: (from left) administrator Nina Ratulele, Nellie Setepano of Papua New Guinea and Leua Aiono Frost of Samoa.



Tongan Prince Tupouto'a welcomes delegation convention in Nuku'alofa in August.

## Indonesian jo

by Ingrid Walter

The road Andreas Harsono travels is often treacherous. Government spies and military thugs are at almost every corner, and yet Harsono remains undaunted in his mission to expose corruption and civil rights abuses in Indonesia.

He is known by news organizations worldwide as a fearless, dedicated freelance journalist who will go after a story even at the risk of beatings, torture, incarceration and possible death at the hands of Indonesia's military government.

Harsono, born in 1965 in a small town in Java, started as a reporter for a student magazine in 1987. He soon began to file stories at *Suara Merdeka*, a daily in Semarang, Java's capital.

That year Harsono was appointed chief editor of *IMBAS*, a student magazine. But within 12 months he became a target of government repression. The Suharto government banned *IMBAS* in 1988, leading Harsono to try his hand at less dangerous work.

But in 1993 he returned to journalism and joined the *Jakarta Post*, once again facing intimidation and coercion from the military.



ates to the Pacific Islands News Association. The government barred one reporter.

In Tonga, libel is a criminal offence. The Minister said Field would be charged over articles "on the sale of Tongan passports to foreigners, implying millions of dollars had been misappropriated by Tongan ministers."

In September, two journalists from the *Times of Tonga* were jailed for contempt for 30 days.

Elsewhere in the region, Vanuatu has been accused of censoring news about the opposition on the state-owned Radio Vanuatu.

Indonesia is also worrisome, says Ratulele. "There have been problems for journalists trying to report on the Free Papua Movement's war against the Indonesian occupation of the western half of the island of New Guinea. Papua New Guinea is very sensitive to the Indonesians, being just across the border."

Papua New Guinea isn't the only regional government looking to questionable models for press regulation, Ratulele continues. "This is frightening. We have been working hard to show the public just what the media laws in Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore mean so they will support our opposition to them." She says information sent to PINA by IFEX has been very useful.

One of PINA's training programs, the Pacific Women in the News Media Development Project (Pacwomen), is dedicated to improving the treatment of women and women's issues in the news media. Pacwomen, which also trains media women for decision-making positions, is supported by the Canadian High Commission in New Zealand and by the Canadian organization MediaWatch.

## Journalist refuses to be silenced

"When I worked at the *Jakarta Post*, often I got phone calls from military officers asking that certain news not be printed or that I write stories according to their angle."

Harsono refused to be bribed and left the *Post* in 1994 as tensions began to mount between the government and local newspapers. Harsono remembers the crackdown well. It began in June with the banning of three of the country's most popular weeklies, *Tempo*, *Detik* and *Editor*. All three had received warnings from the Information Ministry for aggressively reporting on a banking scandal, separatist wars in Aceh and East Timor, and the government's controversial purchase of East German warships.

It became increasingly clear, says Harsono, that President Suharto's policy of *keterbukaan*, or "openness" was simply a public relations ploy for foreign media and governments.

Military repression continued relentlessly, despite numerous protests by journalists, writers and intellectuals. Several underground publications that had sprung up in the wake of the bans were forced to close. Three journalists were jailed for publishing unlicensed

newsmagazines critical of the government. Among them was one of Harsono's best friends, Ahmad Taufik, president of the Alliance of Independent Journalists (AJI).

By then Harsono had become a member of the AJI. Like his colleagues he worked tirelessly to document press freedom violations and to publish its newsmagazine, *Independen*. He also joined the Institute for the Study of Free Flow of Information (ISAI), an independent organization that encourages awareness of media issues, engages in policy analysis, research and the training of journalists. ISAI is now a member of IFEX.

### Military crackdown

Harsono, who is now ISAI's general secretary, says what he has witnessed since joining the institute has fuelled his desire to expose the Indonesian government. "I saw officers arrest my friends brutally. When covering street protests I witnessed officers beating peaceful demonstrators, burning opposition buildings and forcing activists to strip so that soldiers could electrocute them on their penises and breasts."

On July 27, a military crack-

down closed the opposition headquarters of the Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI), which had been occupied by PDI leader Megawati Sukarnoputri, causing some 10,000 people to riot in the streets.

Journalist Fuad Muhammad Syafruddin, 33, was beaten to death at his home in front of his family. Syafruddin had filed reports on allegations that some government officials misused government funds.

Harsono realizes he could be the next target of government goons but says he must remain disciplined and tough. He has not only dared to expose the Indonesian regime's misdeeds in the national press but has filed numerous stories for foreign news organizations, including the San Francisco-based *American Reporter*, *The West Australian*, Bangkok's *The Nation* and the Associated Press Television Network.

Since the July 27 military crackdown, Harsono has stepped up his appeals for assistance in pressuring the Indonesian government to release the names and numbers of those killed, injured or arrested throughout Indonesia. He is aware that the government is watching him more closely than ever – and yet he refuses to be silent.

**ILLUSIONS OF FREEDOM: President Suharto's keterbukaan ("openness") policy was simply a public relations ploy for foreign media and governments..**



Andreas Harsono at the IFEX annual general meeting in Toronto last spring.

KRISTINA STOCKWOOD / CCPJ

## Trouble in Cambodia

# Travel risky with no insurance

By Bill Doskoch

In the abstract, it might have been romantic to get wounded in Cambodia while covering a firefight between Khmer Rouge guerrillas and government forces. As it was, the medical Waterloo that sent me scurrying back across the Pacific to Canada's medicare system was merely banal. A time bomb between my fourth and fifth lumbar vertebrae decided to go off only nine days after arriving in the country – a painful and debilitating event.

However banal, my story does carry value as a cautionary tale about the health dangers of working in the Third World.

I was the health reporter for the *Leader-Post* in Regina until March 2, when 89 people were told they were losing their jobs - a quarter of the staff at a profitable newspaper. Conrad Black's Hol-

linger Corp. had bought it only two days earlier. Having worked there eight years, it was time for something new anyway.

I applied for a job as foreign editor at the *Cambodia Daily* in Phnom Penh. I got an interview, and was offered the job on May 28. I arrived in Phnom Penh on the morning of June 29, my glasses fogging as I stepped off the air-conditioned plane into southeast Asia's 33-degree heat and humidity. Phnom Penh is a dusty, dirty, disorganized, impoverished but strangely beguiling city of one million people at the confluence of the Tonle Sap and Mekong Rivers.

The *Daily* is the brainchild of Bernard Krisher, one-time Tokyo bureau chief for *Newsweek*, now a businessman and philanthropist. A personal friend of King Norodom Sihanouk, he started the paper three years ago to help provide a model for a free and independent press and to help train Cambodian journalists.

During the interview process, editor James Kanter downplayed the health risks of working there, and I was only too happy to believe him. But Cambodia is one of the poorest countries on earth, wracked by almost continuous civil war for more than 25 years. Foreign-trained doctors serve expats and wealthy Cambodians, but for any serious emergency people go on a medical evacuation to Bangkok or Singapore *toute de suite*.

Kanter said I could buy a health policy in Phnom Penh for about US \$500 to cover such evacuations. You pay the costs up-front, and the insurance company reimburses you. But after an emergency wisdom-tooth extraction in Bangkok that cost US \$6,000, his insurer has balked at reimbursement, saying a wisdom tooth is a "pre-existing condition."

It became clear after two weeks that I was not going to get better and the Cambodian medical system couldn't help me much. That, along with the fact that I lost my

job because I couldn't work, made me chance the 20-hour trip home. Luckily, I didn't need a medical evacuation, a good thing because of something incredibly stupid and careless – I did not get health insurance before I left Canada.

Since arriving in Canada August 3, I found out that treatment for sciatica, the general term for my condition, was about five years behind the times in Cambodia, so I did well by coming home. I don't regret going overseas, and would like to return some day.

But be aware that it's harder living in the Third World. Some Phnom Penh roads are basically made of rubble, which didn't help my back. Eating food at the really cheap places puts you at high risk for food poisoning or worse, i.e., hepatitis A. Diseases like dengue fever and malaria abound, particularly in forested areas.

If you have a "pre-existing condition," be sure you can get medical insurance for it. (I now know that Telfer International is one of the few companies that will insure people working in war zones.) For that matter, get a thorough medical exam before going over.

Some people have no trouble. *Associated Press* stringer Robin McDowell has been overseas for three years and hasn't even seen a doctor yet. But the costs of not taking precautions and not protecting yourself with proper insurance can be substantial indeed.

CCPJ member Bill Doskoch is an Edmonton-based journalist. Contact him at [bdoskoch@cis.compuserve.com](mailto:bdoskoch@cis.compuserve.com)

## Join our team!

The CCPJ Reporter needs volunteers to write, take photos or join our editorial team.

Joignez-vous à l'équipe du CCPJ Reporter. Photos et appui à la rédaction, ainsi qu'articles en français sont recherchés.

**CAUTIONARY TALE:**  
*It might have been romantic to get wounded in a firefight ... but my banal story still carries value.*



BILL DOSKOCH

WELCOME HOME: An armed guard greeted *Cambodia Daily* staffers at their Phnom Penh villa each night.

# NAMIBIA: A woman in broadcasting

By Dale Ratcliffe

One person isn't at work because of illness. Another is disappearing from her desk. A department seems to be taking advantage of company cars – that will have to be investigated. Budget meetings are around the corner, and, unexpectedly, there's a business trip out of the country. Not to mention personal exigencies such as child care.

This could be a typical week for anyone managing a few departments at a public broadcaster. It happens to be a week in the life of Aune Shipanga, head of Specialized Programs at the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation (NBC). She juggles phone calls, meetings, the paper piling up on her desk and queries from her staff with ease and often humour.

At this job for just a few months, Shipanga is the first woman to be promoted to top management at the NBC. She's 39 years old, but her broadcasting career began only five years ago when she returned home after years in exile. She was in "the struggle," the words used to describe Namibia's fight for independence from South Africa and its apartheid policy. The struggle went on year after year, decade after decade, finally ending with democratic elections in 1989 and independence in 1990.

For Shipanga, the years in exile – in Angola, Britain and Zambia – meant not knowing when she'd see home again. She doesn't wear the past on her sleeve, but over time, I've learned a bit about the pain of those years. Her mother died while she was in exile, so she could not go home for the funeral. She had to leave a young son in Angola when she was sent to Britain to study; when she finally returned, the boy had a hard time believing she was his mother.

In the more than four years I've known Aune Shipanga, I've watched her develop from a reserved woman with a distant look into a powerhouse who has earned the respect of her colleagues. When

I met her in 1992, she seemed nervous and unsure of herself. I was running workshops on radio skills in her NBC department for the Commonwealth of Learning.

I returned in 1993 to conduct more workshops and we got to know each other better. By the time I left in 1994, after gathering tape for a Canadian Broadcasting Corp. (CBC) Ideas documentary on Namibia, we were friends.

## Not intimidated

Last June, Shipanga and I worked out a cost-sharing plan so I could return to Windhoek for a month to work with various NBC departments. Things had changed in the past two years. Shipanga had a new job, a new office, a company car and definite ideas about what she wanted me to help her with.

Shipanga is now in charge of music, religion and sports, in addition to the education department she was responsible for when I first met her. She often represents the NBC outside Namibia, both in Africa and abroad.

I asked her what it was like

being the only woman among 12 men at top management meetings. I suppose I was thinking back to when I was one of only a few women at CBC meetings – it wasn't always easy going.

I shouldn't have been surprised at her response. She said she's not intimidated – they are a team of 13 people. "I put my points across. They take it, if they are good points, just like anybody else."

But I pushed on, wondering if there had been a rough transition. "No, I'm used to that rough kind of situation you know. I lived in the struggle for more than 12 years, and I've been with men and women, and the liberation struggle is not an easy thing, so we were really trained to cope with any kind of situation," she said with a smile.

As I said my good-byes before returning to Canada, people asked if I planned to come back. I told them I hope so. There's a lot more I want to learn about resilience, forgiveness and finding real joy.

Dale Ratcliffe is a CCPJ member who teaches broadcast journalism at Ryerson Polytechnic University.

## Journalist gunned down in broad daylight

— continued from page 2

in January and found that relations between journalists and government officials were still strained.

While there I met Thun Bun Ly, whose case illustrates the double threat for journalists around the world: violence and legislation.

In August 1995, Ly was convicted of publishing false information and defamation for five editorials and some cartoons that were critical of the ruling Prime Ministers. He was fined and his newspaper, *Khmer Ideal*, was permanently closed.

Ly was working on his appeal when we met – by accident. I was talking with two other newspaper publishers in their office, when someone rushed in and announced Thun Bun Ly's arrival. There fol-

lowed a flurry of activity to prepare for the visitor, making clear the reverence they all held for this man. Ly was gracious and mild-mannered. He had strong political views and a strong desire to publish his views in his newspaper. He seemed unconcerned that the state considered him a criminal.

A few months later, on May 18, Bun Ly was riding on the back of a motorcycle in Phnom Penh when he was gunned down and killed in broad daylight.

This happens in so many parts of the world, and the press-freedom worker is powerless to stop it. Bad press laws will repress free expression, but some people want more. In Thun Bun Ly's case, the wheels of injustice did not turn fast enough for his enemies.

**GETTING USED TO IT: Shipanga is the only woman among 13 top managers.**



**CCPJ news online**  
For press freedom news, back issues of the *Reporter*, and more, visit the CCPJ's World Wide Web site: <http://www.web.net/ccpj/>



# IFEX Community News

## Fighting laws against the press

By David Cozac

Taking as its symbol Maat, the ancient Egyptian goddess of truth and justice, and guided by the principles of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Egyptian Organization for Human Rights (EOHR) has worked tirelessly to have the declaration's tenets adhered to in all facets of Egyptian society.

Founded in 1985 by human rights activists in law, journalism and academia, the EOHR may soon become a member of IFEX.

EOHR's advocacy methods are varied: monitoring abuses; issuing public statements and reports on specific cases; providing legal support to victims, particularly prisoners of conscience; raising awareness through workshops; and mobilizing domestic and international support for victims.

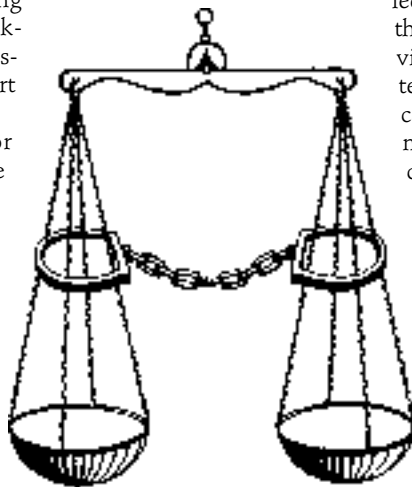
One of EOHR's major battles has been against the notorious Law 93/1995, a series of Penal Code amendments pertaining to defamatory statements against public officials and institutions. Passed hastily in May 1995, Law 93 provided for lengthy prison sentences and heavy fines. Since its passage, more than 97 journalists have been prosecuted. Three of them were sent to prison, including editor Magdi Hussein, who was given a suspended prison sentence and

fined for defaming the Interior Minister's son.

In June 1996, after extensive campaigning, journalists achieved a partial victory when Parliament amended Law 93 by prohibiting jail sentences. However, it left heavy fines for defamation. Moreover, journalists can still be jailed under an old press law.

Free expression was also threatened in academia in August, when a court ordered a professor of Arabic literature, Dr. Nasr Hamed Abu-Zeid, to separate from his wife after being convicted of conducting research and of adopting beliefs that demonstrated apostasy. The lawsuit against him was initiated by the political Islamic trend.

According to EOHR secretary Mohammad Monieb, this



"misuse [by the trends] of the right to file lawsuits" to have someone declared an apostate is a continuous threat to free

expression in Egypt. The EOHR, which called the verdict a "licence to kill," fears for Abu-Zeid's life, even though he has left Egypt.

"We believe that freedom of opinion, expression, belief, creativity and scientific research should be given the focus they need," says Monieb. He says pressure is increasing from those who "hinder any attempt for creative work or bringing new issues on board in society, let alone discussing any new ideas."

### Peru frees journalists

Peru's Congress passed a presidential bill this summer to establish a commission to review cases of individuals allegedly unjustly imprisoned on charges of terrorism. Those found to have been wrongly convicted would receive a presidential pardon.

On Oct. 1, the legislation led to the release of three of the at least six journalists convicted of collaborating with terrorists. In virtually every case, conducted by anonymous judges, the legal proceedings fell short of international standards. One of the journalists freed was Jesus Alfonso Castiglione Mendoza, who was serving a 20-year sentence.

President Alberto Fujimori acknowledged that "in the fight against terrorism, mistakes were made," including detentions and the sentencing of innocent Peruvians. He stated that democracy in Peru could flourish only with actions "that express a legitimate willingness to put

an end to injustice and marginalization."

### States stifle criticism

The proclivity of heads of state to stifle critics continues around the world. In Palestine, President Yasser Arafat detained journalists and shut down newspapers for reproaching him. The latest target was world-renowned academic and Arafat critic Edward Said, who recently had two books banned.

In Croatia, Parliament recently amended the country's penal code so journalists convicted of slanderous or insulting offences against the president and other high-ranking state officials could face up to three years' imprisonment.

In the Russian republic of Tatarstan, a presidential decree issued in June forbids slanderous public remarks about the president. Anyone convicted faces stiff fines, while any offending newspaper will be fined heavily, and all copies of the offending issue will be confiscated.

The disastrous fallout of a seemingly innocuous remark about a head of state was demonstrated in Ivory Coast, where *La Voie* published in late December 1995 a satirical article stating that the attendance of President Henri Bedie had brought "bad luck" to the national soccer team when it lost a key playoff match. Convicted of "offences against the head of state," three journalists from the newspaper were sentenced in early 1996 to two years in prison, while the newspaper was banned for three months.