

CCPJ reporter

Newsletter of the Canadian Committee to Protect Journalists

1995 – Issue 1

ARISTIDE IN HAITI

Photographers inside Haiti's national palace and delirious crowds outside welcomed President Jean-Bertrand Aristide back to Port-au-Prince. Journalists are cautiously optimistic. See pages 4-5.



SCOTT APPLEWHITE / AP / CANAPRESS

Venezuela licenses journalists

by Marlene Benmergui

Venezuelan writers planning to report a hot story should watch out: if they don't have a journalism degree, they could land in jail for up to six months. This is according to the press law approved in December, after 13 years of congressional deadlock.

Venezuela was the first country in Latin America, before Chile and others, to establish a governing college of journalists. The country's original press law, passed in 1972, allowed journalists to organize and be licensed under a college of journalists. The new law consists of 47 articles defining a journalist's functions, and makes licensing (and therefore membership in the College of Journalists) obligatory.

Under the constitution, violation of any professional licensing

requirements – such as for doctors, dentists, engineers and others – is punishable with a fine and/or prison term. Journalists have been advocating that their profession is no different – that it is their right under the constitution to keep others out.

Eduardo Orozco, president of the College of Journalists, calls obligatory licensing under the new press law a social conquest by Venezuelan journalists. He bristles at questions by foreign journalists who find the position unusual.

"This cannot be compared to other countries. This is not being done by government decree, nor is it a gift from the business community. The law of the press has been hard fought in Venezuela ... going back to 1967," says Orozco.

"In Venezuela, we need to protect ourselves from the power of the state. Here we have needed

strong protection. Don't forget, we have had to pass through dictatorships and authoritarian governments," says Orozco.

Leftist-backed President Rafael Caldera signed the new press law in December. An acrimonious battle between media owners and journalists on the new law's constitutionality is on the way to the Supreme Court.

Media owners, publishers and station managers have opposed the new press law, terming it a blatant attack on freedom of expression.

Marieta Hernandez, head of the Association of Broadcasters, claims journalists have not earned the right to be trusted.

"The college's leadership is elitist and doesn't represent the 11,000 journalists in this country. It is penetrated by radical politics – no doubt about it. I think a college

— continued on page 3

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The Canadian Committee to Protect Journalists is an independent, non-profit association of more than 300 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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Executive Director steps down

An era has come to the end at the Canadian Committee to Protect Journalists. Nick Fillmore – co-founder, inspirational leader and the person who single-handedly developed the Committee into an important voice in the international freedom of expression community – is stepping down as the CCPJ's Executive Director. Fillmore submitted his letter of resignation to the Board of Directors last month, effective in February, but has agreed to stay on as a part-time fundraiser.

In his resignation letter, Fillmore cited his 14 years of work with the CCPJ, recent high stress levels and a desire to make a career change.

President Arnold Amber lauded Fillmore's contribution to the organization and took comfort in his continuing fundraising role.

"Without Nick's determination, commitment and hard work, the CCPJ would not have existed. The successes we have had and will have in the future are all attributable to the foundation he built.

"Nick has been particularly successful in fundraising, having brought in more than \$600,000 during the past three years for our IFEX Clearing House project. We are happy that he will continue helping us with our fundraising and will be an ongoing member of the CCPJ."

Fillmore has often been the principal driving force behind the CCPJ's efforts to assist journalists in trouble in Latin America. A small committee was formed in 1981 for this purpose as part of the then Centre for Investigative Journalism. A few years later the committee evolved into its own organization and Fillmore gave up a full-time job with the CBC to run it out of his basement.

Fillmore recruited more and more Canadian journalists into the organization, and travelled abroad to meet representatives from simi-

lar organizations in the United States and Europe. It became apparent to him that more co-operation was needed on freedom of expression among the International community. This led to a 1991 meeting in Montreal that created the IFEX Clearing House, which the CCPJ manages on behalf of 15 major organizations, such as PEN

was there I saw first-hand what terrible threats, arrests and killings journalists in Turkey faced from government terror, and yet they always kept their commitment to democratic principles and the need for freedom of expression as a cornerstone of democracy. I knew then that Canadian journalists who lived in such security had to help these people as much as possible."

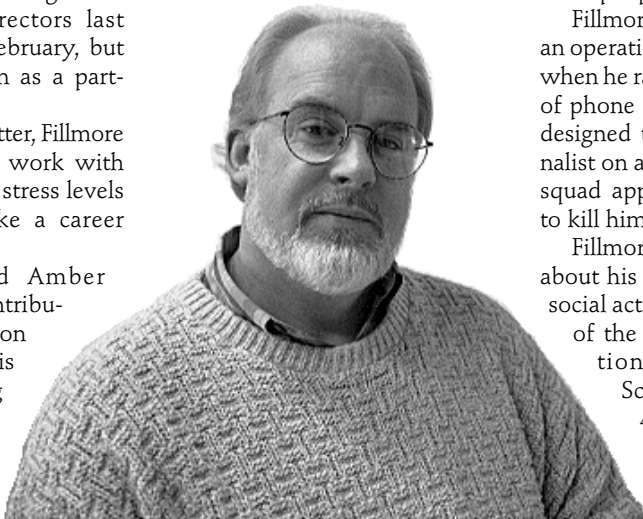
Fillmore is particularly proud of an operation in Guatemala in 1988 when he ran a successful campaign of phone calls and personal visits designed to protect a noted journalist on a weekend when a death squad appeared to be moving in to kill him.

Fillmore is more reticent to talk about his lifelong commitment to social activism. He was a founder of the Civil Liberties Association in his native Nova Scotia, editor of Halifax's *4th Estate* (one of Canada's first alternative newspapers), a founder of the Centre of Investigative Journalism (forerunner of the Canadian Association of Journalists) and was a member of *This Magazine's* board.

He believes his quest for social justice comes from his family tradition, part of which Nick himself detailed in a biography he wrote of his socialist grandfather, titled *Maritime Radical*.

As to the future of the CCPJ, Fillmore is optimistic that the Committee can continue to play an important role. "Canadian journalists are fortunate to have the opportunity to participate in the spreading of ethical journalism and democracy throughout the world."

[As this issue went to press, the CCPJ Board announced that Wayne Sharpe would take over as Executive Director in April. Watch for details.]



Nick Fillmore, who co-founded the CCPJ as a committee of the Centre for Investigative Journalism, leaves after 13 years.

International, the International Federation of Journalists, Reporters sans frontières and the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists.

The changes at the CCPJ have been remarkable. In 1987, it had a budget of \$19,000; now it's \$400,000 with four employees and two government trainees. The CCPJ began with a handful of members; it now boasts more than 350. Along the way it has run many successful projects helping journalists in many countries, notably in Latin America.

Asked what kept him going over the long haul, Fillmore points to a 1983 assignment in Turkey for the CBC's *Sunday Morning*. "It

Phone numbers changed

Please note that the CCPJ's telephone numbers changed on March 18.

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Tadzhikistan: 'deadliest country'

by Stephen Beaupré

The little-known ex-Soviet republic of Tadzhikistan is "the deadliest country in the world for journalists," the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) said in a October 1994 report.

The CPJ concluded that more members of the press were assassinated in 1993 in Tadzhikistan – 15 – than in any other country. The journalists' murders seem to be the work of groups close to the government in power, which derives much of its support from Russia's military and economy.

From May 1992 to the end of 1994, more than two dozen members of the press in the small Central Asian nation were assassinated for political reasons, with government involvement often suspected. The majority of victims aired their views in the Tadzhik language, and

backed the previous government.

The poorest of the former USSR republics, Tadzhikistan's diverse society continues to suffer conflicts among the government, democratic reformers, Muslim fundamentalists and Communists, and among regions and ethnic groups.

Many sources consider the paramilitary People's Front, largely integrated into the state internal security apparatus, responsible for most of the killings. The People's Front targeted Muslim religious groups, democratic reformers and regional clans that sided with a previous government. Tadzhik government authorities at the highest levels have denied responsibility for the murders, but failed to fully investigate.

Tadzhikistan has also clamped down on opposition media. Dissident commentators have been silenced, and effectively driven out

of the country.

The republic's nascent independent press was all but wiped out by a 1992 civil war that claimed at least 30,000 lives (out of a population of 5.1 million) and created an exodus of half a million refugees to other former Soviet states and to Afghanistan.

The death blow to the opposition media was a February 1994 ban on independent broadcasting. A single independent newspaper, *Charoghi Ruz*, has shifted its base of operations to Moscow, where it is published by Tadzhik journalists and then smuggled to their homeland.

Although the acting head of state, Imamali Rakhmonov, took 60 percent of the vote in the November presidential election, several observers believe significant voting irregularities took place, and said the opposition and independent press had been muzzled.

In a possible let-up in media repression, in late November 1994 four local television journalists were released as part of a prisoner exchange between the government and the armed opposition.

While the presence of Russian troops in Tadzhikistan is a stabilizing factor, Moscow has done little to enforce the human rights clause of the 1993 Tadzhik-Russian "Friendship Treaty." Nor has the West paid it much attention.

INSIDE JOB?
Many blame a paramilitary front integrated into Tadzhikistan's security apparatus for killings. A full investigation is an unfulfilled promise.

Journalists licensed

— continued from page one that gets into these political leanings cannot be trusted."

The Inter-American Press Association (IAPA) has been, by far, one of the most vociferous opponents of the new law. The association, based in Miami, represents members throughout the Americas (including Canada).

IAPA launched a last-minute appeal to President Caldera to veto the new law – and failed.

The media owners lobby 'Blogue de Prensa' appealed to the president, reiterating that freedom of expression is in question. Caldera disagreed, and said the final word would rest with the Supreme Court.

Thanks to Our Supporters

The Canadian Committee to Protect Journalists wishes to acknowledge the support of our renewing members and donors. Without this on-going assistance and interest, we would not be able to carry on.

We would especially like to thank those members who generously contributed twice to CCPJ in 1994.

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Haitian press no longer under the gun

by Ingrid Walter

Gunshots no longer drown out the sounds of printing presses in the Haitian capital of Port au Prince. It has been several months since Haiti's first democratically elected president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, returned to his job as leader of the Western Hemisphere's poorest nation.

Journalists freely interview government officials and civilians who have grievances over atrocities committed under ousted army general Raoul Cedras.

The presence of U.S. and international troops has brought a period of calm to journalists, editors and publishers. Those willing to talk about press freedom in Haiti are cautiously optimistic.

"When the Americans came and there was talk of Aristide's return, we felt relieved," Father Jean Yves Urfie, founder of Haiti's only Creole newspaper, *Libete*, said in an interview. "We were invaded. It was not an ideal situation but we felt we could sleep at night.

"Before we were afraid to go out. We were a country of seven million taken hostage by a group of 7,000 killers ... We feel a sense of relief now, but there is still some fear about our future. We don't know if this newly found freedom is full-time or part-time."

Urfie's fears derive from what he calls political pragmatism. "We have a saying in Haiti [the Americans] make rain and nice weather. They have the power to decide whether it rains and whether the political and economic climate is good here."

Last fall's Republican landslide in U.S. Congressional elections has raised anxiety amongst liberal journalists, who fear that even if the Clinton administration favours restoring democracy in Haiti, Republicans may pressure it into supporting business and political interests that want a return to the old order.

Helms echoes CIA claim

"We are scared of the Republicans. We know that major Republican leaders like Senator Jesse Helms do not hide their hatred of Aristide." Helms raised Haitians' ire when he repeated Central Intelligence Agency claims that Aristide was a psychopathic killer.

To quell the anxiety, on December 8 Aristide met with 100 of the country's radio, television and print journalists at the Presidential Palace. He emphasized the role of a free press in a democracy and assured them that today in Haiti the press is free. Respect for the press is a commitment, not just a favour, Aristide told the media representatives.

Aristide even invited talk show host Serge Beaulieu to the meeting. A self-proclaimed Duvalierist, Beaulieu is the Rush Limbaugh of Haiti and is often described as a fascist.

"He's crazy," says Urfie, "but we need some crazy



U.S. marines and advisers guard journalists covering the return of Haiti's elected president last fall (above). Below, a man cries out over a dead street from Port-au-Prince's main dock, which American troops took over

people to confirm that freedom of the press exists."

Jean Ccdoes Joseph, a journalist with Radio Tropic FM, is also quick to point out that a multiplicity of divergent voices can be heard in Haiti today. *Haiti Observateur* blatantly opposes Aristide, says Joseph, and Radio Soleil, a station run by a group of Catholic bishops considered partially responsible for the fall of Duvalier regime in 1986, is today conservative. Many papers oppose Aristide, Joseph said in an interview. "They have explained their position and there is no problem: they are free to report."

Joseph now talks openly about the oppression that engulfed Haiti after the military coup on September 30, 1991. He points to journalists as the main victims of repression, particularly those who reported in the Creole language. Although French and Creole are both official, only 10 percent of the population speak French whereas everyone speaks Creole.

With an illiteracy rate of 80 percent, the vast majority of Haitians rely on radio for news and information. Radio stations became priority targets in the military government's campaign to stamp out free speech.

Many were forced to shut down after their equipment was destroyed by FRAPH (the Front for the Advancement and Progress of Haiti), a paramilitary death squad including undisciplined soldiers and police, who were often accused of being drugged.

Radio Tropic FM, considered one of the most courageous radio stations, suffered the most repression under the Cedras regime. Plainclothes policemen arrested one of its



SCOTT APPLEWHITE / AP / CANAPRESS

**PRESIDENT'S
PROMISE:**
**'Respect for the
press is a
commitment,
not just a
favour.'**
— **Haitian
President
Jean-Bertrand
Aristide,
December 1994**

un – but not resting easy



TEUN VOETEN / IMPACT VISUALS

stringers, Sony Esteus, while he was reporting on a church service that turned into a pro-Aristide rally. While Esteus was held for five hours, he was beaten with batons and his left arm broken. Last year while Joseph was covering a press conference at Hotel Christopher, he was also badly beaten and his life threatened by a group of soldiers trying to break up the conference.

Joseph and several other journalists are still looking for Fred Lamey, the director and owner of Radio Antilles International. Lamey, who was kidnapped and shot, is feared dead.

One of the most gruesome incidents involved Jacques Gary Simeon, owner of Radio Caraibes. Simeon was also abducted by soldiers and later found murdered, his tongue cut off, his eyes gouged out and his teeth broken.

Even vendors of newspapers, known as *crieurs* in Haiti, were intimidated and attacked. The wife of a *Libete* vendor was raped by a group of soldiers who forced her to eat her own faeces and then beat her baby.

Foreign journalists were also targeted. Producer Neil Docherty of CBC's *Fifth Estate* went to Haiti about when the American troops were arriving. He and his crew were investigating a story about the National Endowment for Democracy, a fund set up by former president Ronald Reagan ostensibly to promote democracy around the world. It was alleged to be funnelling money to *de facto* presidents Marc Bazin and Jean Jacques Honorat.



“We were threatened twice by attachés of FRAPH,” says Docherty. “We were trying to seek an interview at the Normandy Hotel, when we were surrounded by gun-toting characters, one of whom was running around with a rifle, screaming at the top of his voice something in patois. I said to the fixer, ‘what is he saying?’

“‘He’s saying let’s kill these shit now,’ she said. They all looked a bit glazed of eyes, these characters. The thing that was so scary was that they were so ill-disciplined and half-drugged. You never knew what they were going to do next.”

Soldiers smash windshield

Journalists in Haiti have called for an inquiry into anti-media violence and compensation for its victims. At a recent press conference, Aristide said he had discussed with his Cabinet the need for justice for all victims of the army regime.

However, two weeks after his statement, angry ex-soldiers dismissed in a government attempt to restructure the military took out their frustrations on a group of journalists covering the demonstration at army headquarters. A Tele-Haiti reporter and cameraman were kicked and hit before escaping, their car’s windshield smashed and their camera damaged.

Efforts to establish an environment where news and information can flow freely in Haiti will undoubtedly be fraught with problems. Apart from possible attacks by disgruntled former *attachés* (the name given to local pro-army thugs), newspapers and radio stations have many operational problems.

Paper and electricity are expensive, particularly for a weekly like *Libete*, which sells to the poor. In three years the circulation of the newspaper has dropped from 16,000 to 5,000 copies and the price has jumped 350 per cent.

Five radio stations have not been able to go back on the air because of high electricity and repair costs. However, in October, at Aristide’s request, nine radio stations were given electronic equipment valued at \$US 200,000.

The lifting of the ban on flights to Haiti has resulted in the return of three popular newspapers edited by the Haitian community in the United States. The lifting of economic and commercial sanctions in October has also helped domestic newspapers and radio stations get back on their feet.

Journalists are also taking steps to protect their interests through GRALIP (Groupe de Action pour la Liberté de la Press), a group that fires off faxes and collectively speaks out publicly whenever there is a threat to press freedom.

(For background on Haiti, see *Media Under Siege: An Investigation of Press Freedoms in Haiti*, a 1992 report by Francine Pelletier on a CCPJ mission.)

DRUG SQUAD TERROR: A Fifth Estate crew investigating U.S. links to Haiti’s de facto dictators were twice threatened by paramilitary ‘attachés’ who appeared to be drugged.

Media impact limited in Mozambique



VERA VERA / HORA NEWS

MOZAMBIQUE JOURNALIST: Fernando Manuel visited Canada last fall to forge links with journalists and students in Toronto, Quebec and Saskatchewan. Mozambique's election was a step towards democracy, observers concluded.

by Lois Browne

When Mozambique held its first multi-party elections in late October, the country's media had a limited role. But their narrow influence was as much due to underdevelopment as to political constraints.

Difficulties in obtaining paper and ink and in delivering newspapers outside the largest centres effectively kept the country's print media from developing a large audience. Mozambique's underdeveloped and poorly maintained transportation system has more important priorities, like delivering food and clothing to people outside the urban centres.

Mozambique's literacy rate is still woefully low, further limiting the print media's influence. That also explains why there were virtually no written election materials, beyond exhortative posters featuring the faces of presidential candidates and party slogans.

Despite these factors, Mozambique's small urban population supports radio, television and a surprising number of publications. The weekly newspaper *Savanna*, published by a journalists' co-operative, is one of the latest publi-

cations to start up. It provides the liveliest and most in-depth reporting, and during the elections published extensive coverage and – notably missing from other publications – analysis of events on the campaign trail.

In the past, journalists' desire to support the ruling Frelimo party played as big a part in getting them to toe the official line as any threat of jail or loss of job. Widespread disillusionment with Frelimo has changed that. Nowadays, *Savanna* journalists complain of being shut out by government ministers when their writing poses too many awkward questions. However, *Noticias* and *Diario de Mozambique*, the country's major dailies and most widely distributed print media, have not altered their uncritical support for the government.

Television in Mozambique is crude and has a limited range. Radio has a much longer history and greater influence, and despite shortages of both radios and batteries, reaches much more deeply into the rural areas than print. But

its analytical capability is also limited.

In one public meeting, Afonso Dhlakama, president of the former rebel movement Renamo, spoke out against communal villages, a Frelimo attempt to re-organize Mozambican rural society. Dhlakama criticized communal villages because they force people to live close together and, he concluded, "a man doesn't have the privacy to beat his wife without the children hearing, which is bad for them."

There was no public reaction to his statement.

Uneven and superficial as coverage often was during the election campaign, the media still offered the best information about candidates and parties, major public speeches, and reports of election-related complaints and incidents of confrontation or violence.

Lois Browne is a Toronto freelance writer and editor who was a member of OXFAM-Canada's electoral observer mission to Mozambique's recent elections.

Fundamentalists target ...

Touring Algerian editor

by Kristina Stockwood

Muslim fundamentalists threatened Ghania Khelifi, editor-in-chief of the Algerian daily *Liberté*, with death at a conference in Montreal last December, while she was touring Canada to promote awareness of escalating violence in Algeria.

The editor said she was told she would die for speaking out against the rise of fundamentalism. Shortly after, she said at a meeting at the CCPJ office, she was also threatened at a conference at the University of Toronto.

As many as 30,000 people have been killed in Algeria since the army interrupted the 1992 election to prevent the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) from winning.

Khelifi appealed to journalists' organizations to assist journalists

under threat of death to escape. Since May 1993, 35 journalists have been killed in Algeria, making the largest group of secular intellectuals to be targeted. A recent victim was from her paper.

Khelifi said the 1990s have seen the growth of the free press, but it has been matched with the rise of fundamentalism.

Once fundamentalists gained power, Khelifi said, they "discovered that freedom of the press was extremely dangerous to them because it allows differing opinions. Consequently, fundamentalists turned to violence."

Journalists appear to be killed simply for being journalists, she said. Some of those killed have not written on political matters.

Journalists also face demands from the government. "The peo-

Fake newspapers

Nigerian regime keeps press muzzled

by David Cozac

The conditions in which the Nigerian press must work are dangerous and intimidating, replete with forced closures of media outlets and frequent arrests of and assaults on journalists.

This was the message of Eleum Emeka Izeze, managing editor of the banned *Guardian* newspaper, who spoke in Toronto last November.

Photographers beaten

The crackdown on press freedom has been particularly acute since June 1993, when the military government ruled by General Ibrahim Babangida annulled a presidential election won by Moshood Abiola. Since then, Gen. Sani Abacha has replaced Babangida.

Last summer, the government

closed the independent *Guardian*, *Concorde* and *Punch* publication groups without stating a motive, Izeze said. Subsequent government decrees, enforced retroactively, closed each group for six months (extended a further six months in December). To ensure that the newspapers would not publish under other names, military police occupied their offices and printing presses. Izeze was not surprised by the closing of the *Guardian* group: "When you are operating in that type of environment, you always have to expect these things."

In addition to the decrees, five photographers were assaulted and beaten, and their equipment confiscated, at a protest in Abuja last summer. More than 15 people connected to the news media, from vendors accused of circulating an



"offensive publication" to the editor-in-chief of *The News/Tempo* publication, were arrested and detained. The government has even published fake, government-friendly editions of opposition newspapers and magazines.

Such harassment significantly inhibits coverage of current events, Izeze noted. When Nigerian oil workers went on a pro-democracy strike last July, the public heard little about it; not only because the major publications had been closed, but because also all television and radio stations were government-owned. Only two independently owned magazines remained, said Izeze; but they were weekly and thus limited.

The military declares that Nigeria is peaceful, Izeze stated, but journalists are not free to report the contrary.

Saro-Wiwa detained

Attacks on free expression affect journalists as well as some of the country's most renowned writers. Ken Saro-Wiwa, who was finally taken before a special tribunal in December, is still in detention awaiting trial; while Nobel laureate Wole Soyinka recently fled to France after Nigerian authorities repeatedly seized his passport.

"It's part of a pattern of arresting everyone – journalists, editors, writers and human rights activists – to keep them silent," Izeze said of Saro-Wiwa's arrest.

... secular opponent

threatened in Canada

ple in power hate the press who have denounced their corruption and their attempt to stay in power at any cost," she said. *Liberté*, with a circulation of more than 200,000, has been suspended twice, once for two months, for allegedly reporting on government secrets. Khelifi joked, "We spend more time in court than at our paper."

Newspapers are sent to state-controlled printing houses where a censorship committee vets them prior to publication.

Despite the constant attacks against them, Khelifi said journalists in Algeria receive little government protection. After several murders and two bombings, two police officers were finally assigned to the building where most of the independent media are located. Still, journalists mostly protect

themselves. "Being a journalist in Algeria is like living an underground life," said Khelifi. "We have no families, no private life, no homes."

Journalists have developed new methods to protect themselves. They no longer sign articles, even with pseudonyms. They also do not publish their photographs, and no longer carry a press card out of fear that fundamentalists will stop them at a road block.

The newly formed Algerian Publishers Association, like the Algerian Journalists Association, attempts to protect members of the profession.

But Khelifi is pessimistic. "Journalists pray for two things: we pray for a quick death by gun; and we pray that our children won't be there to see it."

CATCH-22:
Nigeria's military regime declares that the country is peaceful – and media aren't allowed to report anything else. Reality would be another story.

IFEX Community NEWS

Security laws silence journalists

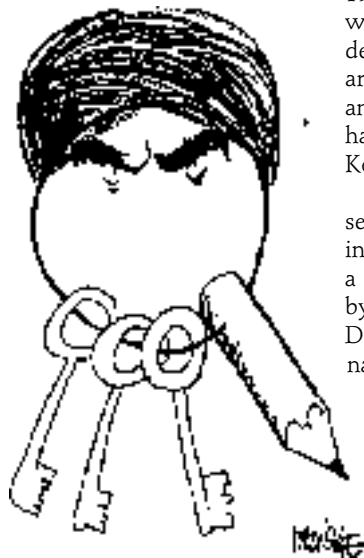
In an attempt to avoid accusations of censorship, governments around the world have adopted so-called "anti-terror" laws to silence journalists in recent years. Members of the International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX) noted an increase in their enforcement in many countries in 1994.

TURKEY's "Anti-terror Law" has become infamous for enabling widespread arrests of anyone espousing Kurdish nationalism. A 1991 amendment made it a crime to "disseminate separatist propaganda." The law was up for revision in December, but the parliament has so far declined to modify it. At least 50 writers were imprisoned under this law in 1994. Most of the staff of a pro-Kurdish newspaper, *Ozgur Ulke*, have been arrested and some have been tortured in prison. A bombing of their offices in December killed one staff member.

In **ALGERIA**, a government decree circulated last June warned editors that newspapers would be suspended if they published information sensitive to "state security and national unity." Suspension of the daily *L'Opinion* in December for 40 days spawned fears of increased censorship.

A 1994 report focusing on the incarceration of journalists by the Lima-based Institute for Press and Society (IPYS) concluded that "journalists are charged and subsequently imprisoned under the anti-terrorism law in **PERU**, rather than under any laws relating to their profession." The current anti-terrorism law

was implemented after the 1992 coup when President Alberto Fujimori and the Army took total power, dissolving Congress and the Supreme Court. At least 13 journalists remain in prison on charges of collaborating with terrorism. Some have received 20-year sentences, which are being appealed.



One of 26 drawings protesting Iran's imprisonment of Manoucherh Karimzadeh.

In some countries, writers have been penalized with heavy sentences following trials that violate norms of international law. Last year in **EGYPT**, journalists were detained on charges of "threatening national security" and tried in military courts. The verdicts could not be appealed.

SOUTH KOREA uses its National Security Law to silence dissent, namely discussion of North Korea or reunification. Although the press is gener-

ally free, independent research and commentary on the North is severely restricted. The law penalizes those whose writings "praise, benefit or encourage" North Korea with up to seven years in prison. Other offences can lead to life imprisonment. PEN reports that 14 writers were in prison in South Korea at the end of 1994, some for life. Some were prosecuted for espionage despite little evidence; most are accused of belonging to an "anti-state organization" or having contacts with North Korea.

In some countries, national security concerns are written into press laws. In **CAMBODIA**, a draft press law considered by the National Assembly in December would have criminalized certain types of reporting. Journalists would face arrest and imprisonment for publishing articles that "may cause turmoil to public security." Other forbidden topics would include "humiliation" of public figures or public organizations and impugning the "inviolability" of the king.

Journalist Nguon Noun was arrested in July for publishing politically sensitive articles. In September, Noun Chan was killed by unknown assailants after receiving warnings from the Information Ministry for articles criticizing government officials.

In **INDONESIA**, the criminal code includes provisions such as the Anti-Subversion Law and "Hate-Sowing Articles" that have been used to stifle freedom of expression. ARTICLE 19 reported that journal-

ists are imprisoned or silenced under this law if they criticize the government. Any magazine or newspaper critical of the government can be shut down or denied a licence. Much publicity surrounded the banning of three popular media - *DeTik*, *Editor* and *Tempo* - last June.

Indonesia's main journalists' association, also run by the government, determines which journalists may cover national events and what they may write about. After the Alliance of Independent Journalists was formed in the wake of the bannings, its members were banned from conferences such as the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation summit last November.

In **CHINA**, dissident writers and journalists have been arrested for "counter-revolutionary activities." Dissidents are sentenced for terms of up to 20 years. In November, Reporters sans frontières and the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists reported that the family of dissident journalist Gao Yu was told she had been sentenced to six years in prison for "leaking state secrets." Gao was sentenced following a closed trial at which she had no legal representation.

While journalists around the globe faced legal sanctions for simply expressing their opinions, the fate of some was even grimmer in 1994. The IFEX Clearing House received reports that a record total of 123 journalists lost their lives last year for practising their profession.

— Kristina Stockwood