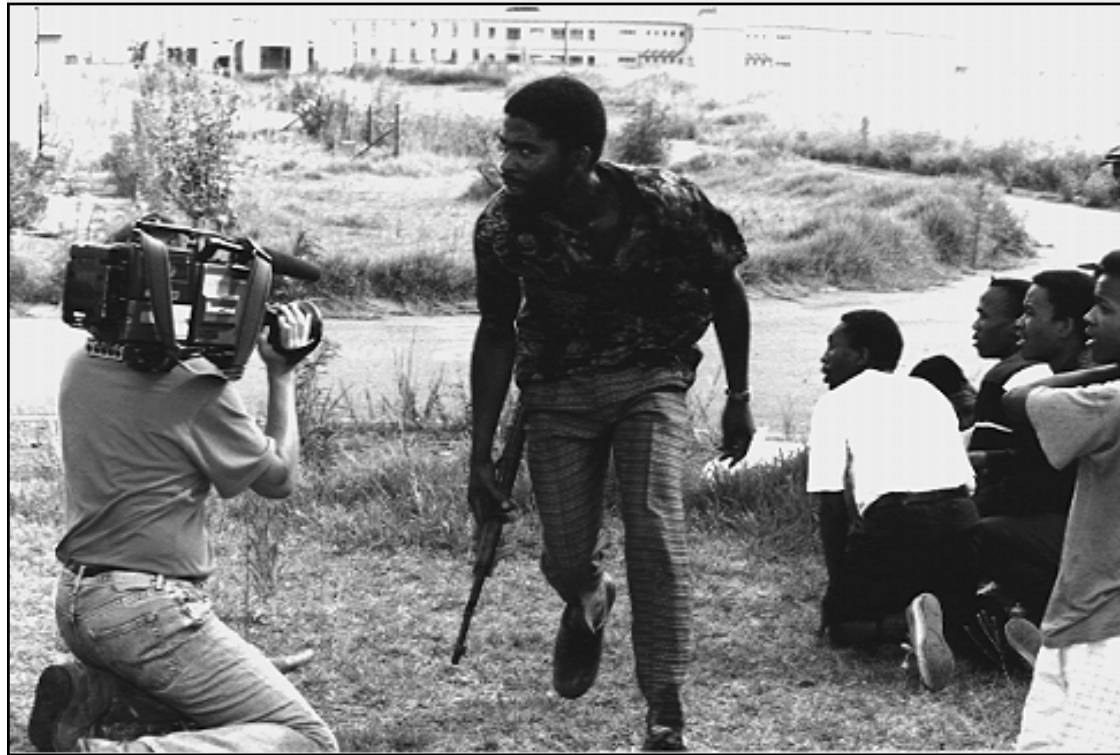


CCPJ reporter

Newsletter of the Canadian Committee to Protect Journalists

Number 4 — 1994

COVERING SOUTH AFRICA'S VIOLENT ELECTION



ABDUL SHARIFF / IMPACT VISUALS

ASSIGNMENT WITH DEATH: *Photographer Abdul Shariff was shot and killed seconds after taking this photo of a cameraman filming African National Congress officials and their guard under attack by Inkatha partisans. CBC producer Arnold Amber advised SABC on election coverage – see page 2.*

Defending the media in Peru

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TEN MINUTES AFTER Kela Leon moved into the office of the Instituto de Prensa y Sociedad (IPYS – the Institute for Press and Society) in Lima last March, an explosion sent her running to safety. The blast shattered windows, rocked a nearby seven-story building and left two innocent people dead.

Several blocks away, Sendero Luminoso guerillas had set off a bomb at the house of Peruvian journalist Patricio Ricketts Rey de Castro, who just the day before heralded Sendero Luminoso's de-

feat by Peru's armed forces.

Kela, the new IPYS executive director, soon faxed details of the incident to the IFEX Clearing House, which were used in creating an Action Alert.

Since the beginning of the year, IPYS has sent the IFEX Clearing House, located in the CCPJ office, 30 reports detailing attacks on press freedom. They include physical attacks on journalists as well as the introduction of restrictive laws.

IPYS was founded in January 1993 by a group of high-profile

— continued on page 3

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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The challenge for South African journalism

(Arnold Amber, president of the CCPJ and an executive producer with the CBC television network, addressed this year's annual general meeting. He spoke of his experience with SABC, South Africa's publicly run broadcaster, planning and assisting in covering the country's landmark elections.)

by Marlene Benmergui

When called upon to assist in the South African Broadcasting Corp.'s election coverage, Arnold Amber knew these elections would be a contrast to any he had been involved with before – starting with SABC's plan to use 10 armoured cars and 300 flak jackets to protect reporters travelling around the country.

"The security net we have [in Canada], security of the person, just doesn't exist in other countries," said Amber. "Here you do stories as a reporter – and it's about the story, and about pleasing your paper and your boss. These journalists had an added layer – the violence."

During the 18 months before his arrival, three South African journalists were killed and another six wounded, some severely. Violence against journalists escalated dramatically. At the beginning of April, in one of the homelands a group of white extremist right-wingers beat up journalists who were trying to work there. Others eventually went in and the extremists were chased out. Violence came from both the extreme right-wingers and the extreme black nationalists.

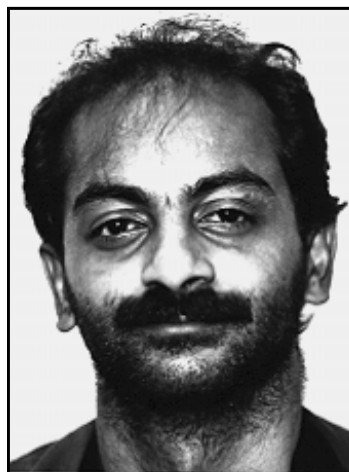
"While I was there, two photographers were killed: one AP photographer and just two weeks before election day, the leading photographer for one of South Africa's most influential newspapers." News of the killings, and reports that SABC camera crews were shot at and their car sprayed with bullets, took their toll.

"I walked into the newsroom, and people were sitting around

with their flak jackets on. Normally you get your jackets and carry them out and put them on when you're on the road. But suddenly, people were sitting at their computers wearing their flak jackets." There were clear signs of psychological trauma.

The SABC has a psychologist on duty to help people caught in the violence or traumatized when someone in their newsroom is killed or wounded.

After the deaths of the South African press and AP photographer, a senior member of the SABC staff decided to pull people off the story.



ABDUL SHARIFF

Impact Visuals photographer was killed while covering the election.

"That night, we didn't adequately cover the story. We took our crews out of there, because when you are responsible, you have to make these judgements. At what stage do you say, 'I'm not going to send another crew of three or four people who could get killed?'"

SABC television didn't cover one of the hottest stories in South Africa that day, because as a senior executive put it, "we're not getting anyone killed for this fucking story today."

That's the kind of impact that violence has on the free flow of information, said Amber. The work in South Africa centred

around the stories, but it also had to incorporate concerns about violence and security issues. "In an increasingly violent situation like South Africa," he said, "one of the first casualties is good journalism."

That's obviously going to affect the things you cover and it brings home what it means to be a journalist in these places, said Amber. To their credit, South African journalists, both black and white, not only faced the danger but volunteered for risky assignments.

SABC's campaign coverage – assisted by Amber, other CBC journalists, representatives from Australia's ABC, the BBC and the U.S. National Public Radio – was widely acclaimed. With the election over, a major challenge lies ahead for South African broadcasters.

After years of operating as a communications vehicle of the apartheid regime, many journalists question whether the media will forge a new journalistic path or revert to acting at the behest of the government, albeit a new one.

South Africa is in transition. There is a lot of learning to be done and a lot of freedom to get used to. With the election over, challenges remain. However, so too will the assistance of the public broadcasters. Over the next three years, CBC will continue to provide training, as will the Thomson Foundation in Britain, the Australian broadcasters and NPR.

"It's very exciting right now. The South Africans are setting up a whole new system and thinking about how to educate people. They are picking up millions who have been marginalized for decades and making them part of society. However, the fact remains that totalitarianism in a country beats a lot of other things out of people needed to provide good work, and they're doing something about that.

"Now if the violence is cut down, one of the biggest impediments to journalism will be cut down too."

ANSEL HORN / IMPACT VISUALS

CCPJ's new partner in Peru

— continued from page one
Peruvian journalists known for their dedication to investigative journalism. Ricardo Uceda, the outgoing director, is a household name for his role in exposing military involvement in the massacre of civilians.

IPYS's goal is to contribute to a truly democratic society by promoting press freedom in Peru. Freedom of expression advocates in neighbouring Andean countries have expressed interest in modelling their efforts on the Institute.

Peruvian journalists have been at the forefront of the fight for human rights and consequently have suffered attacks from all sides: by the government, the armed forces, drug traffickers and guerrillas. In 1993, 66 serious violations against the press in Peru were recorded.

Despite the danger, journalists persist in writing about national concerns. In the words of a seasoned newswoman: "We are like doctors, constantly on duty. When we get a call we have to respond regardless of the circumstances or the danger involved."

Prior to taking over as IPYS's executive director, Kela was re-



search director at the CCPJ in Toronto. She was instrumental in establishing the current relationship between CCPJ and IPYS.

In April this year, the agencies signed an accord to offer three journalism training courses in 1994-95 in the three distinct regions of Peru: the coast, the sierra (mountains) and the jungle. The CCPJ's role has been to provide financial support through funding raised from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), while

IPYS carries out the training. The project also includes plans for an exchange between the two agencies. In November, Laura Puertas, a communications consultant with the Andean Commission of Jurists and a founding member of IPYS, will visit Canada to discuss how media can contribute to democracy.

At the end of September, IPYS will train the first set of rural journalists working in the highlands of Peru. Workshop topics include: investigative journalism in conflict zones, self-censorship, responsible journalism, human rights and how to seek the protection of both national and international press freedom groups.

Rural journalists are often caught in the middle of the conflict between the state and armed opposition groups. These are the journalists, who, at great risk to their lives, investigate the causes of violence and poverty in Peruvian society.

Through the workshops, both IPYS and the CCPJ hope to contribute not only to upgrading the quality of journalism but also to greater respect for human rights and democracy in Peru.

MAKING NEWS:
Peruvian journalist Magno Sosa spent more than a year behind bars after being falsely accused of supporting the guerilla organization Sendero Luminoso.



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 continue our work.

We would also like to thank the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) for their support for the 1994 training programs of the Institute for Press and Society, our partner agency in Lima, Peru, and for CIDA's support of our journalists' travel grants program.

NEW MEMBERS

George Bennett, Joanne Blain, Emilia Casella, Andrew Cornell, Garret Dwyer-Joyce, Havoc Franklin, J. Hossie, Andrea Joan Geary, John Gibson, Christopher Harris, Sharlene Imhoff, Pauline Janitch, Pierre and Fernande Juneau, John King, Nancy Knickerbocker, Jeffrey C. Kofman, Marty Logan, John MacFarlane, James Masters, Terry Matte, Peter McCluskey, Rod Mickleburgh, Dave Mullington, Carl Neustaedter, Brian Nordlund, Mark O'Neill, Jack Panozzo, Susan Papp, Susan Perly, Holly Preston, Dorame Puiyee Yuen, Jack Rabinovitch, Laura Rance, Kevin Rollason, Blaise Salmon, John Saunders,

John Schenk, Erik J. Spicer, Joan Tintor, Ellen Van Wageningen, Anne Vinet, Jane Waterston, Marta Wickett, Blake G. Wright

NEW AND RENEWING CORPORATIONS, FOUNDATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Calgary Herald, Canadian International Development Agency, the Canadian Media Guild, CKNW / CFMI, the Davies Charitable Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the Hamilton Spectator, the John Merck Fund, Maclean Hunter Publishing Ltd., Parliamentary Press Gallery, Quota Magazine, the R. Howard Webster Foundation, UNESCO.

Latin America: shedding light on r

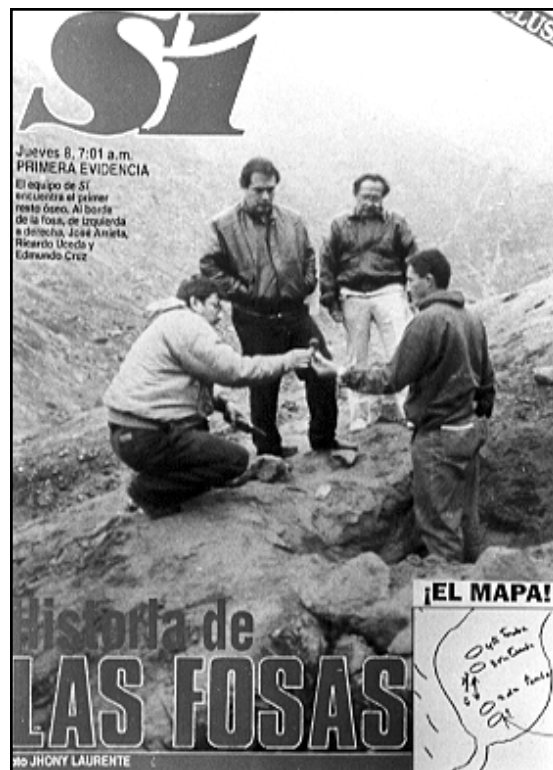
by Kathryn Leger

Despite the transition from military dictatorships to democratic political regimes in most of Latin America in the 1980s, the practice of in-depth journalism in many countries in the region is still a minefield of secrecy and dangerous intrigue. Particularly vulnerable are those who investigate and report on human rights violations, abuses of authority, drug-trafficking and corruption.

It is clear that democracy alone is no guarantee of free expression for either the press or individuals, the Inter American Press Association (IAPA), which monitors press freedom in the 32 countries of our hemisphere, says in its 1994 annual report. Murders and other attacks on journalists are frequently carried out with impunity as government and police authorities habitually fail to bring to justice those responsible for these terrible crimes, the IAPA adds.

In its publication *Attacks on the Press in 1993*, the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) estimates that at least seven journalists were assassinated last year because of their work. Four journalists were killed in Colombia and one in each of El Salvador, Honduras and Peru. Estimates from other organizations put the figure much higher. Statistics vary because it is often difficult to prove that the killing was the direct result of journalistic activity.

A team from *Sí* newsmagazine including Ricardo Uceda (second from left) uncovers the remains of students and a professor in a clandestine grave.



There were also 38 bombing attacks against media installations and more than 200 cases of physical aggression against journalists during 1993, according to figures cited during a UNESCO conference on the media and democracy in Latin America held in Santiago, Chile, last May.

Appearances can be deceiving. Even though there is a critical press representing diverse groups functioning in Colombia and Peru, journalists frequently find themselves caught between the government, drug traffickers, leftist guerrillas and paramilitary squads. Bombings, arson and physical destruction have also been used to intimidate and interrupt the production of publications in El Salvador, Nicaragua and Guatemala.

In a growing number of cases, democratically elected governments use intimidation, through judicial, or economic and political pressures, to silence the media or to prevent access to what should be official, public information.

This is precisely what happened after editor Ricardo Uceda and two other journalists from the news-weekly *Sí* began investigating and publishing stories about the activities of a death squad reported to be operating secretly inside the Peruvian army. When *Sí* published information linking the death squad to the Barrios Altos massacre in December 1992, Defence Minister General Victor Malca ordered a criminal investigation against the journalist and accused the magazine of falsifying sources. International pressure was decisive in getting the case dismissed, Uceda told me when I visited *Sí*'s hectic Lima office in May.

Because of difficulties getting on-the-record information, tracking stories requires constant ferreting, utmost care of sources, and creativity. You almost have to do what a prosecutor does so that you can defend yourself later, Uceda said.

When *Sí* got a hot tip last year about the location of the clandestine graves containing the charred remains of nine students and a professor kidnapped from the Enrique Valley Guzman University, known as La Cantuta, Uceda and two other journalists con-



After four years of legal wrangling, Uceda was cleared in April of defamation charges for naming him as one of those re

DOUBLE JEOPARDY: 'The difficult part is deciding whether or not to publish. If you denounce human rights abuses, they descend on you like piranhas. If you criticize the armed forces, you are seen as an enemy of the country.'

Human rights violations brings retribution



SI, REVISTA DE ACTUALIDAD

gling, television journalist Cecilia Valenzuela was acquitted on charges. A former military commander took her to court for being responsible for human rights violations in Ayacucho.

tracted the services of several specialists to make sure they were not being set up.

Dogged media reports about the La Cantuta case and intense pressure from inside and outside Peru led to the conviction in February of nine army officers implicated in the killings. Beyond the sentence, the nature of the proceedings, held in a military tribunal closed to the public and the media, was officially kept secret.

The difficult part is deciding whether or not to publish, says Uceda. "If you denounce human rights abuses, they descend on you like piranhas. If you criticize the armed forces, you are seen as an enemy of the country. It's stupid reasoning."

In fact, citing reasons of national security or respect for public order is the same logic that was used to justify the persecution and detention or kidnapping, torture, murder and disappearance of tens of thousands of citizens – including many journalists – by the military during the 1970s and '80s.

While freedom of the press appears less threatened now, journalists in the region still face major chal-

lenges in order to do their jobs. Peru's Cecilia Valenzuela is one such journalist who refuses to let death threats (one was delivered with a dozen pink roses to a private party for her birthday) or judicial intimidation stop her from writing critical, investigative reports about the government's counter-insurgency strategy for the newsweekly magazine *Caretas*.

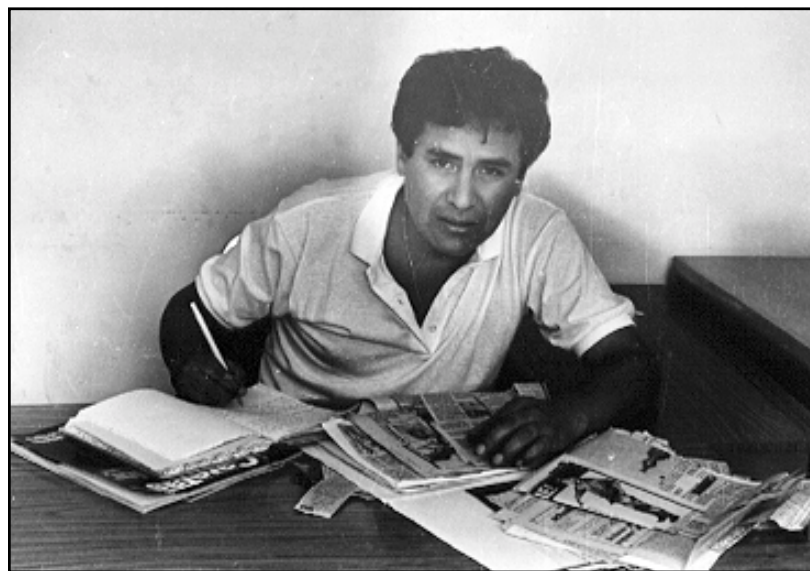
Valenzuela visits dangerous and remote areas of the interior with lightening speed. When in the city she ducks into shopping centres, changes taxis often, and uses other tips from her own intelligence sources to avoid being followed.

Journalists are on the leading edge of any democracy, says Pablo Rojas, director of the Peruvian Human Rights Commission. The commission has paid close attention to violations against journalists in Peru since the early 1980s and supports family members of victims. What happens with journalists is an indicator of the degree of freedom of expression in the rest of society.

According to the Lima-based International Federation of Journalists, in July 11 journalists were awaiting trial, on trial or convicted of charges stemming from draconian anti-terrorist decrees in effect since 1992. While the situation in Peru is confusing, human rights groups say hundreds of innocent people are in jail on such charges.

Radio journalist Carlos Falcon Guerra's only crime was having the same name as one of the leaders of the Shining Path guerrilla movement. Falcon Guerra, known to be an outspoken critic and crusader against police corruption, was finally released in May after spending 13 months in a high-security prison.

PRECAUTIONS:
When in the city, journalist Cecilia Valenzuela ducks into shopping centres, changes taxis often, and uses tips from her own intelligence sources in order to avoid being followed.



SI, REVISTA DE ACTUALIDAD

Hugo Bustios, Ayacucho correspondent of *Caretas* magazine, was killed in 1988 while going to investigate a murder in the town of Erapata. There are allegations of military involvement but his case remains unsolved. It is currently before the Interamerican Court.

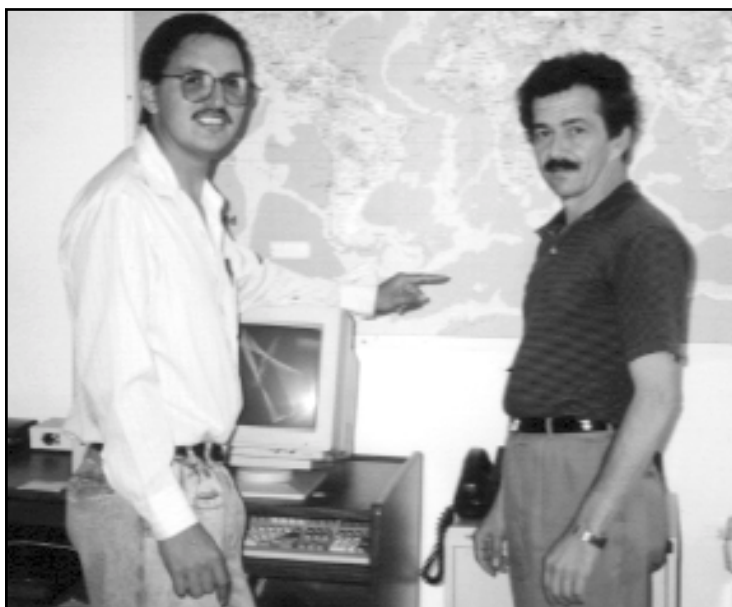
Guatemalans find Toronto refuge

AFTER FLEEING THEIR NATIVE Guatemala following death threats from security forces, Omar Cano and Adolfo Barrera now find themselves forging a new life in Canada. Both cases were brought to the attention of freedom of expression groups around the world by the IFEX (International Freedom of Expression Exchange) Clearing House, a project managed by the CCPJ.

Since their arrivals, the CCPJ has assisted them and their families in adjusting to life here. In May, Omar, who had been on the CCPJ Board of Directors, took over membership development responsibilities at the CCPJ from departing Guillermo Callejas

Adolfo Barrera, his wife and four children arrived in a snow storm last March. The difficult decision to uproot the family was taken following two attacks: a grenade thrown at their residence and an attempted assassination in the street in front of Adolfo's office.

At the time, Adolfo was the director of an agency that offered journalism training courses to people writing for rural publications. The intent was to upgrade and promote coverage of local issues and events.



Omar Cano (left) and Guillermo Callejas in the CCPJ office.

KEILA LEON / CCPJ

POLICE SECURITY:
After complaining about two attacks to the Director of the National Police, Adolfo Barrera was told he wasn't the only one with security problems and advised to leave the country.

Adolfo can only speculate as to the motive behind the attacks. He received no warnings or threats. Only after the second attack did he realize he was being targeted. He suspected his attackers of being off-duty police officers, and took his complaint to the Director of the National Police. There he was told he was not the only one with security problems and advised to leave the country. A week

after an interview with Canadian Embassy officials, he and his family were on their way to Toronto, where he joined at least five other Guatemalan journalists, including Omar Cano.

In December of 1992, Omar was hospitalized after being badly beaten by soldiers and civilians while investigating clear-cutting in a UNESCO-protected tract of jun-

— continued next page

Guillermo Callejas returns to Colombia after 5 years

Guillermo Callejas' name will be familiar to many *CCPJ Reporter* readers because for more than a year he worked for the CCPJ on membership development. In May, we said good-bye when he decided to return home to Colombia to pick up his career in journalism.

Guillermo's decision was made easier with the death of drug lord Pablo Escobar and the jailing of many Escobar henchmen last year. Guillermo had been in danger as a result of articles he wrote about their activities.

Guillermo writes that although he is still readapting to Colombia, he is already fully occupied setting up a video communications company and freelancing for a TV program. "I have not yet been able to visit all my former colleagues and

I am letting acquaintances know that I'm still alive – something that is important to do for someone who disappeared from one day to the next and had to relocate to Canada."

The CCPJ estimates that between 40 and 50 journalists from all over the world are living in exile across Canada. For many of them, the desire to return home remains strong. Guillermo is one of the few who has been able to turn his dream into reality.

Other staff changes:

Three new staff members have joined the CCPJ since we published our last newsletter.

Kristina Stockwood is the new IFEX Clearing House Information Coordinator. Kristina has held po-

sitions with *The Montreal Mirror* and *Lies Of Our Times* of New York, and was senior news editor of the *McGill Daily*. She replaces Jinan Kubursi, who left the CCPJ to attend law school.

Isabelle Patenaude is the new IFEX Clearing House Action Alert Coordinator. Isabelle has seven years practical experience with Amnesty International. She has been Amnesty's volunteer national co-ordinator for all action and information on torture, and is a director of the national executive committee of Amnesty's Canadian Section. She replaced Tim Barnard, who left to pursue other interests.

Joining the CCPJ in a temporary position is Heather Ashby, who is IFEX Clearing House database and subscriptions manager.

Spotlight on community media

(CCPJ awarded a travel grant to Quebec freelancer Kathryn Leger. In May, she attended the seminar on Media Development and Democracy in Latin America and the Caribbean in Santiago, Chile.)

by Kathryn Leger

Some 88 participants from 30 countries in the region and 174 observers, including representatives from media organizations and development aid agencies, attended this seminar, jointly organized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Department of Public Information (UN-DPI), and the Chilean government.

There was a notable difference between this seminar and others held previously in Windhoek, Namibia (for Africa) and Alma-Ata, Kazakhstan (for the Asia-Pacific).

This seminar was unique in its diversity and paid tribute to the 150-year tradition of communications media in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In contrast to Africa and Asia, about 82 per cent of all media in Latin America and the Caribbean are privately owned, including: 92 per cent of the printed press, 85 per cent of radio and 67 per cent of television.

Asdrubal de la Torre, director of the Ecuador-based Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios para America Latina (CIESPAL) pointed to some revealing statistics. He said at least a third of the population, mainly those living in the countryside, is not served by any media. Newspapers reach only about 21 per cent of the population, and radio about 65 per cent.

Many delegates recommended more support for community me-

dia to promote democratic development in the region, particularly in marginalized areas. People participate more if their voice is heard. Community media, in some countries, have succeeded in boosting education and culture. But not enough are operating, and those that do need better equipment and training and access to new information networks.

Established community networks in rural, marginalized areas could also feed into the mainstream media in capital cities or nearby countries, thereby providing more input from often-ignored outlying areas, said Ronald Grebe, executive secretary of Educación Radiofónica de Bolivia (ERBOL, a radio education network) who is overseeing a print experiment of this type in Bolivia.

UNESCO's Henrikas Yushkavitchius said he hoped that despite the euphoria over a return to democracy in most of the region, media would avoid falling into the cynicism of a mere market economy functioning as an end in itself. Communication should be seen as a tool to spur development and reinforce democracy and peace, he said.

In the 1980s, news was strongly linked to politics, especially in South America. Today, news arises from significant social issues stemming from deep changes in the economy, noted Fernando Reyes-Matta, a Chilean development communications specialist.

AVOIDING CYNICISM: Communication should be a tool to spur development and reinforce democracy and peace, a UNESCO official urges.

10-year-old son gets death threat

— continued from page 6

gle in the Petén, a northern rainforest region rich in exotic cedar and mahogany.

For years he had written about developments in that region. This time he found himself on the other end of the microphone explaining his belief that the military was carrying out and profiting from the deforestation he had witnessed.

"This made the situation much more serious," Omar recounts. "If I had just written the story for the paper, it might have ended there, but I was being interviewed by everyone including international media."

Omar continued his work with the daily newspaper *Siglo Veintiuno* (Twenty-first Century). His last assignment, a series of stories about the return of Guatemalan refugees from Mexico, ran in early February 1993. Days later he and his family were on a plane headed for a refugee reception centre in downtown Toronto.

Death threats had begun the day he was released from hospital. The call that made the family seriously consider leaving was re-

ceived by 10-year-old Omar Antonio, who was told he would be killed because of his father's work. Ramiro de Leon Carpio, Guatemala's former Human Rights Ombudsman and now President, tipped the balance by strongly advising Omar to leave.

On the day of his exile *Siglo Veintiuno* wrote: "We have been forced to accept the loss of one of the most valuable members of our family because of the present climate of intolerance, intransigence and harassment that has returned without any justification whatsoever to Guatemala."

Omar's wife, Carolina, recently returned from visiting her father in Guatemala with letters from friends advising: "We'd like to have you back but we don't think this is a good time for you to return."

Ominously, a day before Carolina arrived, someone telephoned Omar's relatives claiming he had won tickets to the final game of the World Cup. Friends from *Siglo Veintiuno* discovered that a fast-food chain offering this prize did not have Omar Cano on their list of lucky winners.

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

The CCPJ is looking for volunteers to:

- Join the newsletter committee – help plan, write and edit this publication, or track down photos and art work.
- Develop CCPJ membership – increase the level of donations by writing fundraising letters, phoning lapsed donors and/or finding new supporters.
- Fundraise – plan and coordinate fundraising/public awareness events.

If you are interested in these activities or would like to be involved in other ways, please call Monica Buza at (416) 867-1638.

IFEX Community NEWS

International pressure gets results

The IFEX's rapid action alert network mobilizes letter-writing campaigns initiated on behalf of journalists in distress. The following are some of the cases that came to our attention over the past few months.

- After French-U.S. journalist Karine Ancellin-Saleck's passport was confiscated and she was put under daytime

detention without charge in Niger while working for a Mauritanian newspaper, Karine wrote to Reporters Sans Frontieres, "Many thanks for your efficient action – this was what really made the authorities move, something neither the French nor the American diplomatic missions were able to accomplish. I received my passport 15 minutes before boarding the plane after being interrogated three times by the police at the airport. I brought my material with me."

- In Canada, *Vancouver Sun* business writer David Baines was singled out by the Vancouver Stock Exchange last fall and refused interviews because of his negative coverage. A year earlier, he was advised by police that a contract had been put on his life. The CCPJ and other IFEX members wrote the provincial government to protest. David Baines wrote, "Your action, combined with the actions of other media and members of

the public, forced the VSE to reverse itself. Your response (to a contract being put on my life), plus that of other media and the public, generated so much publicity that it became inconceivable that anyone would continue to contemplate such action against me."

- When Peruvian journal-

nian journalists convicted of such crimes as divulging state secrets and publishing false information about security services. One of these journalists, Aleksander Frangaj, was acquitted and then later retried after intervention by Albanian President Sali Berisha. Eventually, however, Berisha pardoned all four the day

names, and fax them to appropriate authorities. Not only is it a good way to participate in the IFEX action alert process, it's also a way to discover some of the interesting casework that comes through the Clearing House in Toronto.

In recent months we have notified CCPJ members about:

- defamation charges against an author and a journalist in the Netherlands, because of a novel in which the Dutch military's activities in Indonesia were compared to those of Nazi Germany during World War Two;

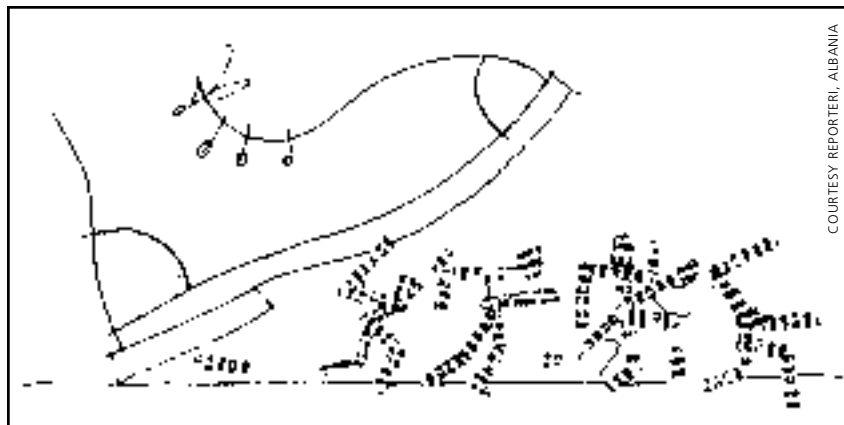
- the house arrest of a prominent journalist in China and the sentencing of a Hong Kong journalist to 12 years imprisonment by Chinese authorities;

- the disappearance of Pakistani journalist Choudry Saroop after arrest by police;

- government threats to close *El Watan*, one of Algeria's most respected newspapers, in a country that has seen 17 writers and journalists killed since May 1993, presumably by religious extremists.

We hope the CCPJ-member alert network will continue to grow; if you'd like to link up, please contact our office and we will add you to our fax list.

We can also provide material by e-mail.



Criticism of Albania's press law in *Reporteri* newspaper, produced at Tirana University, resulted in expulsion of newspaper staff from the university.

ist Cecilia Valenzuela was tried for defamation of a retired military commander, the Institute for Press and Society (IPYS) quickly came to her aid. Representatives of the institute met with presiding judges in their chambers. The judges reviewed all the faxed appeals they received and Valenzuela was acquitted. Valenzuela is the recipient of the 1993 Women's Media Foundation Courage in Journalism award. She received the award for her continued reporting on human rights abuses despite repeated death threats.

- Several IFEX members took up the case of four Alba-

nia after the Committee to Protect Journalists in New York wrote requesting the pardon. "Constant pressure by international organizations helped Berisha make this decision," the Reuters correspondent told the CPJ.

- In recent months the CCPJ has been extending its own network of members interested in responding to urgent cases carried on the IFEX Clearing House network. Two to three times a month we fax action alerts or sample protest letters on a case to members, who then write their own letters, on company letterhead or in their own

International Freedom of Expression eXchange