

# CCPJ reporter

Newsletter of the Canadian Committee to Protect Journalists

Number 2 — 1993-94

## Media defiance of censorship helps topple Guatemalan dictator

By Francine Pelletier

I have recently returned from a fact-finding mission to Guatemala on behalf of the Canadian Committee to Protect Journalists, and have witnessed something rather exciting. While no miracle cure in itself, the election of human rights advocate Ramiro De Leon Carpio as President and the developments in the subsequent weeks are a step in the right direction for a country that for years has been subjected to untold human rights abuses and severe crackdowns on the press. For the first time in many years, many of the people of Guatemala have hope for the future.

The dramatic beginning of this process of change came within days of the May 25 "self-coup" of President Jorge Serrano. The unpopular president had suspended the con-

stitution, dissolved Congress, and sent troops into the newsrooms in a desperate effort to fend off his enemies and remain in some degree of control of the country.

For the first few days it appeared that the coup would be successful. But then, a week later, perhaps spurred on by the news that the international community was prepared to penalize Guatemala with trade sanctions, there were signs that the coup might not succeed.

There is no doubt that the media played a significant role during the crisis. In fact, according to the president of the Guatemalan Association of Journalists, Mario Rene Chavez, the media played "the most important role."

That is, obviously, overstating it. Surely, the co-operation of different sectors of society was more important than any single element. Also, not all of the media resisted the coup. While some newspapers courageously defied the ban on publication imposed by Serrano, many others capitulated.

On the other hand, the more progressive and independent-minded *La Hora* and *Siglo Veintiuno* led a ferocious battle, not only against censorship but the coup.

After a week's silence following the coup, *Siglo Veintiuno* reappeared to dramatic effect on May 31st. Temporarily changing its name from *Siglo Veintiuno* (21st Century) to *Siglo Catorce* (14th Century), the paper appeared with a black front page whose only words referred to "a deplorable and detrimental pe-

— continued on page 5



**TRIBUNES OF THE PEOPLE:** Nobel prize-winner Rigoberta Menchu took to Guatemala's streets last May with newspapers demanding democracy. One paper protested censorship by changing its name from 21st Century to 14th.

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CCPJ  
reporter

Newsletter of  
the Canadian Committee  
to Protect Journalists

1993-94: Number 2

**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 \$60 (Sustaining) or \$25 (Regular). Donations and volunteers are welcome.

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's Corner

# Taking stock: the first 12 years

As our Canadian Committee enters its 12th year of operation, the problems facing a free press around the world have in some ways improved since our beginning in 1981. When the CCPJ was originally formed to deal with a particularly violent situation in Latin America (see Moira MacDonald's article in this issue), some 70 journalists had been killed in Argentina, about 50 journalists were being murdered in Guatemala, and another 30-some in El Salvador. It was a terrible time.

The levels of killings – though still unacceptably high in some Latin American countries – has been drastically reduced in the region. In a turn for the better, we are now involved in very positive development programs in Guatemala and El Salvador, working with local journalists to rebuild and strengthen the independence of the media.

## New problems

However, there are new problems to be faced in 1993. In a different way, ex-Yugoslavia is another Argentina. In the past two years, 35 media workers have been killed, many of them local journalists shot and killed by Serbian forces. The only remaining independent newspaper in Sarajevo has been literally forced to work out of a hole in the ground because its building has been hit so frequently by mortar fire.

In Somalia in July, four journalists were beaten to death by a mob distraught over bombing raids carried out by U.S. forces. In countries thought out the world, it is estimated that 60 journalists will be killed this year – many of them murdered for writing stories that would be considered a routine part of a journalist's work here in Canada. Another 350 will be physically attacked.

In Latin America, where comparatively fewer journalists are being killed, governments are using oppressive laws that violate inter-

national freedom of expression standards to stifle the press. This is occurring on a large scale as literally hundreds of journalists in such countries as Peru, Argentina, Chile, Panama, and Guatemala face harassment charges and libel laws that are being used to muzzle critics of the government.

Elsewhere, the media is caught up in ethnic struggles and civil war. Journalists are being killed in Turkey and India, and the press in Nigeria and other African countries is going through an important battle for its independence from regimes that have long dominated the political scene. These problems of course are a concern for all of society, but we in the press freedom movement tend to focus on trying to improve conditions to enable the media to operate freely and independently. There can be no democracy without first having a free press.

What has changed dramatically in the last 12 years is that press freedom organizations have been established in many parts of the world to fight against the numerous forms of attacks on freedom of expression. And significantly for us, our Canadian Committee is playing a major role in the international press freedom movement.

The Canadian Committee is a member of the International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX), a network of organizations formed at a meeting we hosted in Montreal in May 1992. Through this new affiliation, every major press freedom group in the world is working together to combat the problems I have described.

In cooperation with the other groups, we operate the IFEX Clearing House, an electronic mail service that includes a press freedom Action Alert network. Whenever there is a threat to press freedom anywhere in the world, the information and a request for action is rapidly circulated by our Clearing House. At the 2nd annual IFEX meeting in London in May, mem-

ber groups said that the work of the Clearing House is having a significant impact on their ability to respond to crisis situations around the world.

The IFEX network has endorsed a policy of working together to extend the network into developing regions of the world, and the CCPJ is working on two such projects. Last year we helped launch the Central American Centre to Protect Journalists and Freedom of Expression (CEPEX), and this year we're assisting with the establishment of a similar organization in the Andean region of South America. The goal is to provide support in terms of fundraising assistance, technical support, and advice so that the regional centres can eventually become fully independent.

## Unique database

The projects I have described, along with our other activities, have meant that the CCPJ has grown considerably during the past year. Our goal for the next year is to consolidate and refine our existing programs, and to line up committed funding for the next two-year period.

In addition, if funding is available, we propose to establish a freedom of expression database at our offices in Toronto. Operated in cooperation with other freedom of expression groups, the database would be the only one of its kind in the world.

The Canadian Committee to Protect Journalists has come a long way from its humble beginnings as a volunteer committee of the Centre for Investigative Journalism 12 years ago. I look forward to our continued success in carrying out the work that needs to be done.

**by Nick Fillmore**

BRIAN SWARBRICK



**LOST PAPER** – Dave Scherger, former publisher of the *Spectator* in 100 Mile House, B.C., watches his offices being demolished.

# Never happens in Canada, you say?

by Ellen Saenger

Three men who admitted to torching the offices of the *Spectator* newspaper in 100 Mile House, B.C., have been sentenced to four years in jail.

Kyle Moore, 20 and Mervine Zamikousky, 22, both of 100 Mile House pleaded guilty to throwing a rock and cherry bombs through the front window of the office, causing \$1 million in damages to the *Spectator* and other businesses in the building.

The March 13, 1992, arson attack followed the publication of an expose of the local drug trade in the town of 1,800 residents in the Cariboo region of British Columbia. The

newspaper alleged in its reports that every second household in 100 Mile House was growing marijuana and detailed the availability of a wide variety of illegal drugs in the region.

The weekly newspaper missed only one edition after the blaze and was able to continue publishing by the end of the month. Publisher Dave Scherger and his wife, editor Diane Scherger, vowed not to be intimidated by what they called 'the obvious attempt by local drug dealers to silence the press.'

But the revival of the *Spectator* was relatively short-lived, as its determined owners ran into more trouble.

In September, 100 Mile House

## Ryerson panel November 17

"Journalists Under Fire: Protecting the Rights of the Press", will be the topic of a panel discussion at the Ryerson School of Journalism in Toronto on the evening of November 17, 1993.

Taking part will be former foreign correspondent Arthur Kent, now host of CBC-TV's *Man Alive*, and freelance journalist Robert Carty, recently returned from working in Central America for the past four years. A third panelist and a moderator are to be named.

The discussion, open to the public, will be in Room L72, at 350 Victoria St., Toronto, beginning at 6:30 p.m. The evening will include a showing of Kent's recent documentary on the war in Bosnia.

Following the panel will be a cash bar on the second floor of Oakham House.

The evening is sponsored by the CCPJ and the Ryerson School of Journalism. For further details, call 867-1638.

received national media attention when the fire bombing story was featured on the CTV national news-magazine *W-5*. On the program, the Schergers reiterated their belief that the small town has a serious drug problem. Reporter Cyndi Davis, who wrote the original drug story, made several derogatory comments about the town.

After the *W-5* story aired, the Schergers said they lost 70 per cent of their advertising revenue. A month later the seven-year-old newspaper closed down for good, leaving one remaining newspaper, the *Free Press*.

Ellen Saenger is a member of the CCPJ Board of Directors and a reporter with B.C. Report magazine.

**CONGRATULATIONS**  
to the  
**Canadian Committee to  
Protect Journalists**  
from your friends at  
CBC Radio

**Congratulations to  
Canadian CPJ on its  
anniversary**

Freedom of expression and information is a fundamental right without which violations of the other human rights cannot be exposed. Article 19, the international Centre Against Censorship, congratulates Canadian CPJ on its work to promote and defend this right.

## Please and Thank You

The Canadian Committee to Protect Journalists wishes to acknowledge the support of our donors. We are pleased that parallel to the expansion of our Committee's work through the IFEX Clearing House Project and our partnerships in Latin America, the support of our Canadian colleagues is also growing through increased membership.

CCPJ also wishes to thank the foundations, organizations and corporations that have contributed to our committee becoming one of the leading freedom of expression organizations in the world.

Without all of your support, we would be unable to carry out any of our activities.

A special thank-you to YTV, which responded to the CCPJ-UNESCO appeal for children's television material for Bosnia, where children had not been able to play outdoors for months.

### NEW MEMBERSHIP DONATIONS

Donna Cunnin, Sandi Funk, Kathy Mallet, Laura Winopol, Duart Farquharson, Arch MacKenzie, Isobel Harry, Stephen Bindman, Chris Waddell, François Demers, Margaret Daly, Gord MacDonald, Len Gilday, Marc Laurendeau, Sean Prpick, Trudie Mason, Janice Neil, Jane Gilbert,

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### NEW FOUNDATION AND ORGANIZATION DONATIONS

UNESCO, The Ford Foundation, CTV, National Radio Producers Association, Southern Ontario Newspaper Guild, The Ottawa Citizen, The John Labatt Foundation, The Toronto Star, J. Roderick MacArthur Foundation (Chicago), The Globe and Mail, Association of TV Producers, The Edmonton Journal, C.S. Foundation (San Francisco), Joyce Mertz Gilmour (New York), Dascon Investments Ltd., CFCF Inc., The RHW Foundation, The Daily News (Halifax), The Hamilton Spectator, The Recorder & Times (Brockville).

We would also like to acknowledge the contribution of the following organizations in publishing this special CCPJ anniversary issue of the *Reporter*: The International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development, CBC Radio, The Montreal Gazette and Sources directory.

### UNESCO SOS-MEDIA

## SARAJEVO 93: THE PRESS WILL NOT BE SILENCED

In Bosnia-Herzegovina, the independent press is under attack

Dejected women and men from all communities are working daily under hazardous conditions to get out the news

Their commitment, at the risk of their lives, gives peace a chance.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) appeals to you — give them the means to practice their craft.

Cheques may be made payable to:  
"CCPJ-UNESCO SOS-MEDIA" and sent to:  
Canadian Committee to Protect Journalists  
205-490 Avenue St. W  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5V 1T2

Information:  
Canadian Commission  
for UNESCO  
99 Metcalf Street  
P.O. Box 1047  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1P 5V8



## CBC News Specials head is CCPJ's new president

Arnold Amber, Executive Producer of Television News Specials at the CBC, was elected President of the CCPJ during the CCPJ Annual General and Board of Directors meetings in Toronto.

Amber replaces past president Olivia Ward, who is the *Toronto Star's* Moscow Bureau Chief.

New Board members include: Omar Cano, a Guatemalan journalist living in exile in Canada; John Miller, Chairman of the School of Journalism at Ryerson Polytechnical Institute of Toronto; Linda Hughes, publisher of the *Edmonton Journal*; and Lynda Powless, chair of the Native Journalists Association of Canada. The meeting thanked departing Board members Eric Mills, Ann Pappert and Patrick Watson.

## Cover Story

# Press role in Guatemala

— continued from page one  
riod of history which [nonetheless] preceded an economic, political, social and cultural resurgence." Inside, the editorial and national news pages were left blank, "out of respect for our readers." The paper also took legal action against the imposed censorship.

On the same day, *La Hora* had to struggle with the riot police in order to assure distribution. The police had surrounded the building to prevent copies of the newspaper – which, like *Siglo Veintiuno*, was breaking its week-long silence – from leaving the premises. But a large crowd of journalists and supporters, led by Nobel Peace Prize winner Rigoberta Menchu, broke through the barricades carrying bundles of the daily.

Defeated, the police dispersed and the paper, which normally circulates around 20,000 copies, sold more than 100,000 that day. The newspaper contained extensive information on the economic consequences of the coup. According to publisher Oscar Clemente Marroquin such information had "great impact" in the subsequent days.

In the streets, people yelled "down with censorship" and "long live journalists," suddenly awakened, it seems, to the *raison d'être* of a free and independent press. And so, Jorge Serrano, who never did have much use for the media, was caught at his own game. Being marched out of the Presidential Palace on July 1, as the press looked on, the President's famous last words were "Hijos de puta" (sons of bitches) – no doubt his way of getting back at those that had hastened his downfall.

Less than a week later, the Congress convened to elect a new leader and – with a boisterous crowd outside calling for his election – De Leon Carpio, the former director of the country's Human Rights Commission, was named president.

I and representatives of the New York Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) and the Central American Centre for the Protection of Jour-

nalists and Freedom of Expression (CEPEX) met the president during our mission at the end of June.

We wanted to get some sense of the President's general intentions, but we knew that he couldn't protect the press against all "dark forces at work in Guatemala." (Since my return to Canada, there have been at least five attacks on the press and, in October, nine journalists were named on a list of 19 people threatened with death if they did not leave the country within 72 hours. The number of killings by death squads continues to be high, and the military still controls much that goes on in the country.)

President De Leon Carpio showed himself to be supportive on all the major issues we raised. He said the many journalists who have been exiled from Guatemala should return, but only little by little. The notorious government office that had \$40,000 a month to pay bribes to unscrupulous journalists would be at least restructured, if not abolished, and all bribes to journalists would be stopped. And the military intelligence's secret "archivos" – files on journalists, which included contentious information such as supposed links to the guerillas, as well as the "comings and goings" – would be "revised."



Since my return to Canada, De Leon Carpio has announced the dissolution of the "Archivo" (File) department of the Estado Mayor Presidencial, which housed the infamous files and where many of the horrifying human rights violations against the opposition and the press were masterminded.

*Francine Pelletier is a member of the CCPJ's Board of Directors and a journalist with Radio Canada's Le Point, based in Quebec City. Her full report is available from the CCPJ office for \$5.*

**CRITICISM –  
Guatemalan  
newspapers  
condemned  
Serrano's  
"self-coup."**

## CCPJ research quickly available

When CBC Radio's *As It Happens* needed background information on Nigerian writer Ken Saro-Wiwa, who had just been charged with six counts of sedition and unlawful assembly, they called the CCPJ's IFEX Clearing House. Within 15 minutes, the Clearing House faxed the CBC program a half-dozen pages of up-to-date material on Saro-Wiwa and background information on the difficulties faced by writers and the press in Nigeria.

"Now that the CCPJ is operating the Clearing House, we have probably the most detailed and most up-to-date information in the world on press freedom issues," says Clearing House Manager Gabrielle Iribarne. "We get this information by e-

mail and fax from groups all over just as soon as they learn of it themselves."

The CCPJ is willing to share information with news organizations, journalism schools, human rights groups, academics, and the public when they need background information concerning attacks on the press around the world.

You can make a request in four ways:

**E-mail:** [ccpj@web.apc.org](mailto:ccpj@web.apc.org)

**Fax:** 416-967-1034

**Tel:** 416-867-1638

**Mail:** Canadian Committee to Protect Journalists, 490 Adelaide Street West, #205 Toronto, ON M5V 1T2

# Growing numbers and steadfast s

By Moira MacDonald

The photo on the cover of the Centre for Investigative Journalism's (CIJ) spring 1981 *Bulletin* still speaks volumes today about the repression of freedom of expression. On assignment in El Salvador, *Time* photographer Henry Matteson is bending over the body of his fallen colleague, Olivier Rebbot, who has just been shot through a bullet-proof vest during an ambush. Although Matteson managed to get Rebbot transported to a Miami hospital, he eventually died of complications from his injuries.

That photo, which flashed around the world, shocked many of the journalists gathered in Montreal that year for the annual convention of the Centre for Investigative Journalism (now Canadian Association of Journalists). Brian McKenna, then a producer with *the fifth estate*, had just returned from completing two documentaries in El Salvador on the torture and repression. Amid the brutal torture and murder of civilians, journalists too were being killed by death squads.

"I came back very agitated," McKenna recalled recently. "I got together with [freelancer] Ian Adams and [CBC National TV News producer] Nick Fillmore and a couple of other people and said, 'Look, let's do something.'" McKenna spoke that weekend at the CIJ convention on the dangerous reporting conditions in Latin America. The meeting was told that, within the previous two to three years, some 150 journalists had been killed or 'disappeared' while in the custody



of security forces in Latin America.

Reaction was immediate. "It was like a pool of gasoline and just lighting a match," says McKenna. The meeting agreed to form a special committee to campaign against the kidnapping, torture and murder of journalists throughout Latin America. With initial funding of \$1,000 from the parent organization, the CIJ Latin American Committee was born.

The committee wasted no time. Working groups were formed in several cities, including Toronto, Montreal, Winnipeg, Vancouver and Ottawa. Each centre maintained files on violations of freedom of expression for different countries in the region, and a 'Red Alert' network was set up to react to reports of attacks. Committee members fired off telegrams and letters of protest to the offending governments, Canadian embassies and to the Minister of External Affairs in Ottawa.

"The first 48 hours [after the arrest] are crucial," McKenna told the *CIJ Bulletin*. "That's when the security forces decide what will happen to the person."

"We felt compelled," remembers Virginia Field-Smith of the Toronto group, now a freelance communications consultant. "The situation was so awful for people who we assumed were basi-

**SOUTHERN SOURCE –**  
*Appalling treatment of journalists by Latin American governments in the early 1980s made the region a focus of attention. It still is.*



MURRAY SILL / MIAMI HEARAL / UPI

FATEFUL PHOTO: *Time* magazine photo of the fatally shot photographer Olivier Rebbot spurred Canadian journalists to set up a committee.

# Support mark CCPJ'S 12th birthday



HENRY AUBIN

**CIJ PLANNING**  
– A 1978 meeting to plan the Centre for Investigative Journalism conference included several people later active in the Latin American Committee. Clockwise from lower left: **Denise Faille, Nick Fillmore, Jean-Pierre Bonhomme, Graham Fraser, Jean-Claude Leclerc, Lynn Desjardins, Richard Cléroux, Allen Garr, Harvey Schacter, Brian McKenna, John Cruikshank, host Henry Aubin, Jock Ferguson, Maria Peluso.**

cally just like us. To a large extent it was like looking in a mirror across the border and imagining what you would want people to do for you.”

In June 1981 the Toronto group sponsored a news conference for Robert Cox, a former editor of *The Buenos Aires Herald*, who had been forced to flee Argentina with his wife and family. *Macleans*' editor Peter Newman hosted a dinner of leading Toronto journalists, who heard Cox talk about the killing of more than 60 journalists in Argentina.

A highlight of the committee's early work was a five-week fact-finding mission to Argentina and Uruguay in 1983. But money – often the Committee's biggest problem – had to be raised first. The Toronto group put together a dance and evening of entertainment at the St. Lawrence Hall with music by jazz fusion band Manteca to do just that. As then-CBC producer Carole Jerome later observed, “It was an object lesson in what an incredible amount of work it took just to raise \$3,000.”

With the money, Susan Perly, then with CBC Radio's *Morningside*, and Kathryn Leger, with The Canadian Press in Montreal, headed first for Uruguay and then Argentina. Concerns over their safety led to some tense moments. “They weren't

exactly welcomed by the governments,” said Jim Handman, now foreign assignment editor with CBC Radio News, who acted as liaison from Toronto. “The phone calls were fairly careful. We didn't want to get kicked out before the work was done.” A detailed report of the mission was produced and copies circulated to many government agencies.

By the end of 1984 the committee's fighting power was waning. Preoccupied by their professional commitments, many volunteers could no longer devote as much time as they wanted to the Committee. The project might have died had it not been for a renewed effort by three Torontonians: Frances Phillips, then a reporter with *The Financial Post*, took the helm and received support from Nick Fillmore, and Olivia Ward of *The Toronto Star*.

With the change in leadership came a new name – the Canadian Committee to Protect Journalists. While Latin America was still a priority, the CCPJ also began to work in other parts of the world. It established a formal working relationship with the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists, and Fillmore attended international press freedom organization meetings in

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# CCPJ at 12 years – a major player around the globe

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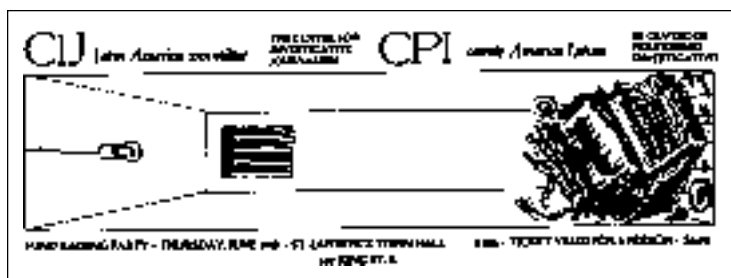
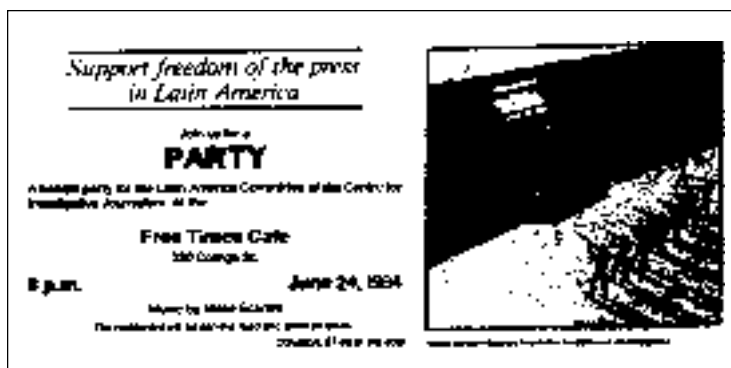
Denmark and Amsterdam to get a better idea of what other groups were doing.

“Our Committee again went through a stressful period in 1986 because there weren’t enough volunteers,” recalls Fillmore, “and there wasn’t enough money to hire anyone full-time. It seemed to me that if the Committee was going to survive, it would have to be done by establishing it as a professional organization with paid staff.”

Fillmore and Ward went to work. The first step was to get the Committee registered as a non-profit association. With the support of Peter Desbarats, dean of the Graduate School of Journalism at the University of Western Ontario, a working relationship was developed with the university in 1989, leading to an increase in financial donations for the CCPJ.

To give the Committee credibility, Fillmore and Ward recruited a top-notch board of directors and advisors that included, among oth-

**TICKETS TO FREEDOM – The CIJ’s Latin American Committee, precursor to the CCJP, held several high-profile fundraising events. Below, Nick Fillmore with journalist Martha Honey visiting from Costa Rica.**



ers, Desbarats, John Fraser of *Saturday Night*, Montreal freelancer Francine Pelletier, CBC chair Patrick Watson, *Montreal Gazette* editor Norman Webster, and Lloyd Robertson of CTV.

Robertson, one of the Committee’s strongest supporters, summed up the common purpose that has bound the organization together through all of its changes when he said, “I feel it’s a very good cause because if you believe in freedom of expression, which of course you must, I think you have to support your own profession.”

With these important developments, the CCPJ was able to increase its efforts. It worked with journalists in Central America to help establish organizations in their own countries to fight for long-term improvements in working conditions for journalists. In 1991, it sent missions to Guatemala and Mexico, and stepped up its campaign of sending fax messages around the world to protest attacks on the press.

A major goal of the CCPJ – securing a niche for Canadians in the international movement – was realized in the spring of 1992, soon after it hosted a meeting of the world’s leading press freedom groups in Montreal. “It was probably the most important single meeting in the last decade in terms of freedom of expression,” according to Ann Nelson, until recently

director of the New York-based CPJ. The Canadian Committee was able to play “honest broker” between organizations that sometimes have difficulty finding common ground.

The meeting established a new network called the International Freedom of eXpression Exchange (IFEX). The reward for the CCPJ was being asked to run the network’s electronic communications system and operate its vital Action Alert Network.

With the addition of the IFEX Clearing House, the CCPJ has become a major player in the field of international human rights advocacy. Its budget has grown from \$19,000 in 1991 to more than \$250,000 in 1993. Last fall, Fillmore finally regained full use of his home when the Committee – which had been run from his house – was able to move into an office of its own in downtown Toronto.

Through various reincarnations, with the dedication and hard work of many people, the CCPJ has reached its 12th birthday with more than 300 members nation-wide, a staff of five, and many volunteers. As it looks toward the 21st century, the CCPJ plans to continue to ‘look in a mirror across the borders,’ supporting members of its profession wherever freedom of expression is jeopardized.

*Moir MacDonal is a CCPJ volunteer and a writer at The Toronto Sun.*



## TURKEY:

# Urgent appeal for *Ozgur Gundem* newspaper

All *CCPJ Reporter* readers are invited to write letters of protest to the new Prime Minister of Turkey regarding that country's systematic and extensive violation of freedom of expression.

In the first nine months of 1993, ten journalists and one news vendor have been murdered. The Clearing House has issued more than 50 urgent actions on Turkey this year. In August, these cases included:

- On 4 August a correspondent for the newspaper *Ozgur Gundem*, Ferhat Tepe, was found murdered after being abducted July 28. Apparently no thorough police investigation into his disappearance was undertaken, and Ferhat Tepe's father believes that the voice of an anonymous caller claiming to be his son's abductor was the voice of a local police official.

- The following week another *Ozgur Gundem* journalist, 22-year-old Aysel Malka, was abducted. Malka left the newspaper's Istanbul offices August 7 to make a phone call. As this article went to press, there was still no news in her case.

Reports received by the Clearing House consistently suggest that abductions and threats against journalists are the work of clandestine groups with links to the state security forces.

- At the time of writing, *Ozgur Gundem* journalist Nezahat Ozmen had been in detention for several weeks despite being eight months pregnant. There was serious concern that because of ill treatment while in custody, she might lose her child. Apparently police took her to hospital soon after her arrest because of injuries she received while in custody but she was removed by the same officials and returned to prison before her medical treatment concluded.

- In the past year more than eight journalists from *Ozgur Gundem* alone have been killed, allegedly by government forces, and another seven are currently being detained. The newspaper also faces several charges of "terrorist" activity because of articles calling for political dialogue in the Kurdish region of eastern Turkey.

- *Ozgur Gundem* faces legal action to close it, using laws dating from the country's military dictatorship in the 1980s. Several of its journalists and its editor have been jailed as part of this action. A number of trials will be held in the fall to determine the paper's fate.

### Recommended action:

Please write polite letters to the Turkish Prime Minister describing the above human rights violations and strongly urging that clear guarantees of freedom of expression and journalists' human rights in Turkey be made, in accordance with Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.


*Please write:*  
Prime Minister Tansu Ciller  
[Salutation: Dear Prime Minister]  
Baskbakanlik  
06573 Ankara, Turkey

*Telegrams:*  
Prime Minister, Ankara, Turkey

*Telexes:*  
44061/44062/44063 bbmt tr


*Faxes:*  
+90 4 417 04 76

Please send letters, preferably by fax, as soon as possible in order to influence the course of trials being held this fall to determine whether or not the newspaper will be closed.




International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development

A human rights organization, the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development has put freedom of the press at the top of its list of liberties, indispensable to democracy. That is why it has facilitated the creation of the Centro para la Promocion del Periodismo en Libertad de Expresion (CEPEX); the hosting of an Haitian journalist who reported on the violation of freedom of the press in his country to the convention of the Federation Professionnelle des Journalistes du Quebec (FPJQ); and lastly, supported the campaign against censorship by Mr. Pius N. Njawa, the publisher of the daily newspaper *Le Messager* in Cameroon.



The International Federation of Journalists, on behalf of its 94 national organizations of journalists from 75 countries around the world, sends its cordiality to the staff of the Canadian Committee to Protect Journalists on its 12th anniversary. The Federation also sends its congratulations to the staff and executive board of the Committee for the excellent work in the practical development of the International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX).

International Federation of Journalists



On behalf of the International Federation of Newspaper Publishers,

which represents over 15,000 newspapers in 90 countries, I would like to congratulate the Canadian Committee to protect Journalists on its 12th anniversary.

As a member of the International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX) and more specifically in its operation of the IFEX Clearing House, the CCJ has made a great contribution to the advancement of press freedom and to the protection of this essential human right. The establish-

ment of the IFEX network and the Clearing House is one of the most significant developments over in the freedom of expression community, and we commend the staff of the Committee for their hard work in establishing and managing what has become of the indispensable coal in our work in support of the freedom of the press around the world.

Ali Rahema  
Press Freedom Special Projects Officer

International Federation of Newspaper Publishers

# Project Censored in Canada

Journalistic censorship in less-developed countries is often carried out by brutal means with the government or military preventing publication, or by the harassment and sometimes murder of journalists. But what about the stories that could significantly affect the public and are undercovered or ignored by our own mainstream press?

Since 1976, Project Censored has published a top-10 list of important stories to U.S. media that were undercovered or ignored by the mainstream press. Now, through a joint effort of the communications department of Simon Fraser University and the Canadian Association

of Journalists (CAJ), an attempt will be made to do the same in Canada.

To be successful, Project Censored Canada needs wide participation. You can help in three ways:

## 1. Nominate stories

If you come across a story about which you think, "this is important; why haven't I heard more about it?", please clip it, attach the date and publication's name, and send by December 1 to:

Project Censored  
Canada nominations  
Canadian Assoc. of Journalists  
St. Patrick's Building  
Carleton University  
Ottawa K1S 5B6

## 2. Nominate judges

If you can think of any high-profile, intelligent, media-savvy people who might be interested serving as national judges of the top-10 list, please send their names and where we might reach them.

## 3. Make a donation

The project is being run on a shoestring. If you can make a small donation, we'd be very grateful. A donation can be tax-creditable if your cheque is made out to Simon Fraser University (Project Censored Canada). Please send it to:

Project Censored Canada  
Communication Department  
Simon Fraser University  
Burnaby, B.C.  
V5A 1S6

The research project's directors, Bob Hackett or Don Gutstein, can be reached by writing SFU, at (604) 291-3687 or by faxing 291-4024. Their internet e-mail addresses are [hackett@sfu.ca](mailto:hackett@sfu.ca) and [gutstein@sfu.ca](mailto:gutstein@sfu.ca)

The CAJ's representative is Bill Doskoch, Apt. 1004, 2720 College Ave., Regina, Sask. S4T 1T9. He can be reached by phone at (306) 565-8278 (w) and by fax at 565-2588. His internet e-mail address is [70732.333@compuserve.com](mailto:70732.333@compuserve.com).



RANDY MACK BISHOP / TORONTO STAR

## sources salutes the 12th anniversary issue of the CCPJ Reporter

For more than 16 years, journalists have depended on the *sources* for news coverage. Whether the story is right-headed or details remain, *sources* provides the knowledgeable, articulate contacts a writer on deadline needs.

CCPJ is one of 1,500 organizations listed under 9,000 subject files headings (including "Political Prisoners").

Members of the newsmedia receive *sources* free. If you're not receiving *sources*, call (647) 964-7709 and ask to be added to the list.

If you're already using *sources*, please self-contact if you found them in *sources*.

Turn to *sources* first, and then

**sources**  
supports  
CCPJ

to the  
**Canadian Committee to  
Protect Journalists**  
on its 12th Anniversary

**The Gazette**

## CCPJ at Home and Abroad

### Central America

The International Federation of Journalists, Caracas regional office, is organizing the "Central American Seminar for the Protection of Journalists" to be held in El Salvador on October 29-30. Kela Leon has been invited to speak of CCPJ's experience in the region and participate in panel discussions.

**Jose Herran Lima** and **Lynn Poulin**, first and second secretaries of the Canadian Embassy in Guatemala respectively, met with Gabrielle Iribarne of the Clearing House and Amnesty International, and Kela Leon and Guillermo Callejas of CCPJ in our downtown offices. The Canadian diplomats were briefing with Ottawa and Toronto-based NGOs that work in Central America before travelling to the region.

### NAFTA and Mexico

After several months of research, the CCPJ and PEN Canada presented the report *The Mexican Labyrinth, Journalism and Human Rights in Mexico* at the Ontario Cabinet hearings on the North American Free Trade Agreement in April, in Toronto. Representing PEN Canada were past-president John Raulston Saul and board member Leslie Krueger, and Kela Leon for the CCPJ.

In May, Kela Leon chaired the panel on "NAFTA Covering Human Rights in Mexico" during the Canadian Association of Journalists' annual convention, SCRUM '93. Presentations were made by CCPJ board member Ellen Saenger, visiting Toronto from Vancouver, Alfonso Nieto, Mexican Press Attache in Toronto, and Leslie Krueger for PEN Canada.

**Graciela Rodriguez**, executive director for the Mexican State Human Rights Commission, and Associate **Hector Davalos** – who has since been appointed director of the Commission – visited the CCPJ offices to meet with CCPJ and PEN Canada and discuss specific cases of violations against journalists in their country.

### IFEX annual meeting

Nick Fillmore and Gaby Iribarne travelled to London, England in May to attend the 2nd Annual Meeting of the International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX), hosted by the London-based Index on Censorship, Article 19 and PEN International. Representatives attended the three-day meeting from organizations such as the Federation of Newspaper Publishers (FIEJ), Reporters Sans Frontiers, CPJ New York, Amnesty International, the International Press Institute and the Inter-american Press Association.

## CCPJ, UNESCO aid Bosnia media

The Canadian Committee to Protect Journalists is working with the Canadian Commission for UNESCO to raise funds to help provide urgently needed relief and supplies for the struggling independent media in the former Yugoslavia.

Particularly in need are the journalists of Sarajevo, where the radio and TV station and the newspaper *Oslobodenje* have been under gunfire and mortar attack from Serbian forces in the hills overlooking the city. Most of the 35 journalists killed there have worked for the local independent media. Dozens of oth-

ers have been badly injured.

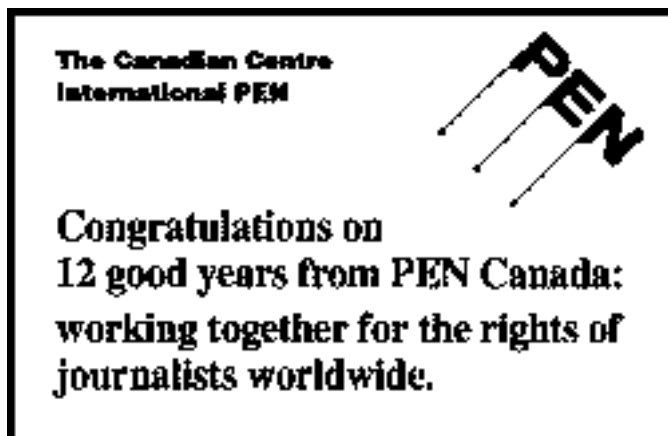
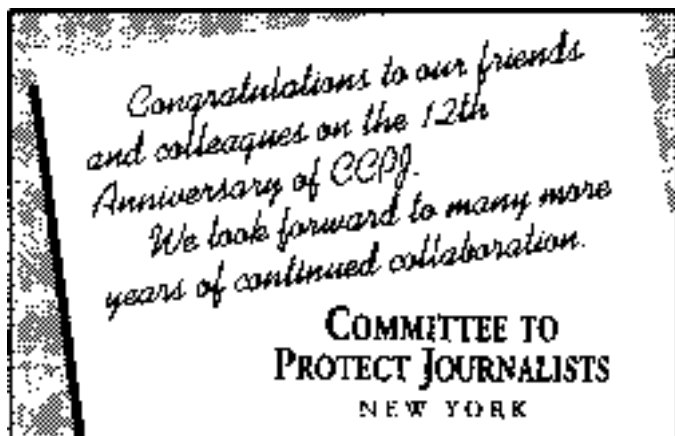
"It's one of the worst situations we've seen in the world," says Nick Fillmore, executive director of the CCPJ. "Journalists are being targeted by snipers simply because they want to report on the war from an independent perspective."

The Sarajevo media are in desperate need of all basic media supplies, including newsprint, and television and radio equipment.

European press freedom organizations and UNESCO have been working to provide supplies to the region in a campaign called "SOS-

Media" for several months. As of September, the Canadian Commission for UNESCO launched an appeal by asking newspapers across the country to publish ads soliciting donations for the Bosnia-Herzegovina media.

The CCPJ is receiving the Canadian donations, which will be forwarded to UNESCO headquarters in Paris. The CCPJ also has donated \$1,000 to the campaign. Cheques should be made out to "CCPJ-UNESCO SOS Media", and sent to the CCPJ, 205 Adelaide St. W., Suite 205, Toronto, ON M5V 1T2.



# IFEX Clearing House NEWS

## From Ground Zero to Year One

By Timothy Barnard

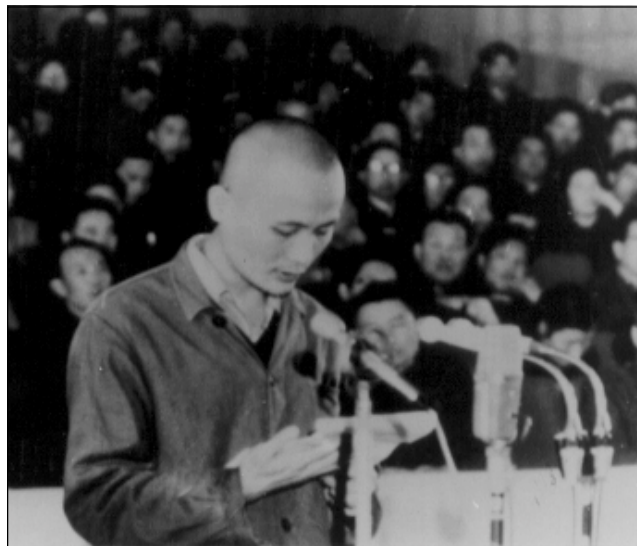
Although they might never admit it, governments are very sensitive to writers' and journalists' human rights.

In September, the **Chinese** government announced that it was releasing journalist Wei Jingsheng six months before the completion of his 15-year sentence for "counter-revolutionary propaganda" and "passing secret information to a foreign journalist." Why such clemency? Because two weeks later the International Olympic Committee was meeting in Monaco to determine who would host the 2000 Olympic Games, and Beijing was a major contender – it came within two votes of winning. One of the biggest stumbling blocks was China's human rights record. It needed to make a gesture to give the appearance that human rights criticisms of the country were unfounded.

But it was only a gesture, a public relations manoeuvre: two weeks earlier, two journalists in Beijing were sentenced to life imprisonment and six years in prison respectively for passing on a copy of a speech to a Hong Kong newspaper a week before it was delivered. Twenty-five writers and journalists remain in prison in China, more than in any other country in the world.

The Canadian Committee to Protect Journalists works with other freedom of expression organizations around the world to publicize human rights abuses against journalists and writers, and to pressure governments when these abuses occur. One of the best

tools the CCPJ has for participating in these coordinated activities is the operation of the International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX) Clearing House. CCPJ has been operating the Clearing House on behalf of the international freedom of expression community for one year. In that time, we have issued more than 700 action alerts or advisories on violations of the human rights of media workers



Journalist Wei Jingsheng speaks at his 1979 trial in China.

and on freedom of expression issues. Over the past few months our workload has increased considerably, to the point where over the summer we averaged more than 20 such alerts or advisories a week.

The Clearing House is now staffed by two full-time people, Gabrielle Iribarne and Timothy Barnard. The number of its members and subscribers is steadily growing, standing at

20 members and 21 affiliates at present.

An impressive archive of documentation is beginning to be established, which has already been used by government, media and non-governmental organizations worldwide. Over the summer our bulletins have ranged from reports on the closing of six media in **Nigeria** following the annulment of democratic elections there in June, an appeal

ists' human rights: the Clearing House has issued close to 50 alerts or advisories on the country in 1993 (elsewhere in this newsletter is an appeal to Turkish authorities you are asked to participate in). Other current problem areas include **Nigeria**, **Guatemala**, the former **Yugoslavia**, and **Peru**; political conditions in each country have led to human rights abuses and restrictions on free expression.

The Clearing House also maintains a list of writers, journalists and media workers (including street news vendors) killed because of the nature of their work (yes, even news vendors have been killed for selling certain newspapers). Last year, we recorded 60 such killings, and this year we have recorded 30 journalists and four news vendors killed to the period ending mid-August.

Our immediate projects include improving the level of documentation in our alerts, to add background on the country and writer/medium in question; expanding our links with the developing world, as our coverage of certain areas is still a little spotty; and developing a database. This database would include country-by-country reports on legislation and adherence to international agreements; reports surveying freedom of expression world-wide; addresses of government authorities for appeal campaigns; a directory of media around the world; and a bibliography of publications on freedom of expression.

*Timothy Barnard is Assistant Human Rights Co-ordinator of the IFEX Clearing House.*

for two journalists jailed without cause in **Peru**, news of imprisoned writers in **Syria** beginning a hunger strike and of a journalist being shot in his home in **Venezuela**, and a report on public and private broadcasters' refusal in **Ireland** to air interviews or advertisements concerning a book of short fiction by a member of Sinn Fein.

**Turkey** is consistently the worst offender against journal-

International Freedom of Expression eXchange