

CCPJ reporter

Newsletter of the Canadian Committee to Protect Journalists

1993 — Number 1

Press in war-torn Sarajevo asks Canadian journalists for help

BOSNIAN JOURNALIST Mirsada Sakic-Hatibovic is on a tireless mission to spread the word about her determined journalist colleagues in war-torn Sarajevo. After escaping the city in December, she was invited by UNESCO to attend a congress on human rights and education in Montreal in March. There she met CCPJ executive director Nick Fillmore, who arranged for her to visit Toronto.

Since war broke out in ex-Yugoslavia, at least 35 journalists have been killed, many by Serbian forces. Another 100 have been seriously injured.

A well-known television personality and experienced broadcast editor, Sakic-Hatibovic has helped keep Sarajevo's public television station on the air, with help from colleagues — Muslims, Serbs, Croats and self-described "Bosnians" — whose first loyalty is to their journalistic craft. For her efforts, she is number three on a 'hit list' of 20 journalists hunted by Serbian authorities

Except for a brief trip to Paris to visit her two daughters, 12 and 16, Sakic-Hatibovic spends her time campaigning for support for her fellow citizens and



RUSSELL MOWR / GLOBE AND MAIL

FRONT-LINE JOURNALISM: *Mirsada Sakic-Hatibovic of Sarajevo is among a group of journalists working to keep the residents informed during ex-Yugoslavia's civil war.*

colleagues. And she says she has no choice but to eventually return and "do her duty as a journalist."

RT BiH, Sarajevo's only television station still transmitting, is appealing for help. CCPJ is gathering donations, media equipment and bulletproof vests to send to Sarajevo. CCPJ is also collecting children's television material for Bosnia, where children have not been able to play outdoors for months.

The following tells how daily news and information makes its way to the people of Sarajevo. It is a story of the courage and determination of editor-in-chief Kemal Kurspahic and the staff of Oslobodjenje (Liberation) — Sarajevo's last remaining newspaper.

by Lon Appleby

Thousands have been killed in and around Sarajevo — six people a day just by sniper fire. Journalists are among the most prized targets. For freelance assassins hiding out in the hills, picking off a reporter can bring \$1,000 or more. A producer for ABC news was shot dead in the back. A camerawoman for CNN was shot in the face. A young photojournalist from Toronto was killed.

Amid the growing chaos and violence, the remarkable and determined staff of Oslobodjenje (Liberation) — continued on page 7

 inside	
Director's Corner	2
Central America	3
Cartoonist in exile	4
Clearing House up	6
Donation news	7
IFEX roundup 1992	8



CCPJ reporter

Newsletter of
the Canadian Committee
to Protect Journalists

Number 1 – 1993

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.

490 Adelaide St. W., #205
Toronto, Ontario M5V 1T2
(416) 867-1638
FAX: 867-1034

E-mail: ccpj@web.apc.org

Executive Director:

Nick Fillmore

Research Director:

Kela Leon

IFEX CH Manager:

Gabrielle Iribarne

Board of Directors:

Olivia Ward (president),
Arnold Amber, Robert
Carty, Peter Desbarats,
Parker Barss Donham,
John Fraser, Jim Handman,
Joanne Henry, Eric Mills,
Ann Pappert, Francine
Pelletier, Ellen Saenger,
Patrick Watson,
Norman Webster

Advisory Board:

Ron Johnston, David Jolley,
John Macfarlane, Joe
Matyas, Ann Medina, Lloyd
Robertson, Alexander Ross,
Robert Scully, Julian Sher

Editorial Board:

Arnold Amber,
Lon Appleby, Michelle
Beauregard, Marlene
Benmergui, Nick Fillmore,
Kela Leon, Eric Mills,
Ali Rahnama.

Design / Production:

Eric Mills & Len Seeds

Printed by union labour
on recycled paper.

Director's Corner

Mexico: iron fists, low wages

READERS MAY RECALL an appeal for donations made to CCPJ members and supporters near the end of 1992 so that we could launch a program to assist journalists in Mexico who were being threatened and attacked. We cited the killing of Ignacio Mendoza Castillo, who was shot following a long campaign in which he had protested what he described as threats against himself and other journalists in his home province of Quintana Roo.

On the night of his murder, Mendoza had just returned to his home from a sit-in protesting the harassment of about 20 journalists in Quintana Roo. One of the 20, Mendoza had named a government official as the alleged source of his troubles, and had told colleagues he feared he was going to be killed.

When Mendoza was shot at close range, in front of his 16-year-old son, the Mexican press and the international press freedom movement reacted with shock and anger. We knew that journalists sometimes were killed in Mexico, but seldom had we seen such a swift and cruel act that appeared to be linked to a government official.

Just a few days later, we were surprised and, frankly, suspicious when Mexican authorities announced the arrest of a suspect in the slaying – a man whom they said had killed Mendoza over a \$13,000 debt on a piece of land. The government took the line from the beginning that Mendoza, a moderately wealthy man, was a loan shark. The son appeared at a news conference, said that he had identified the gunman, and said he was convinced there was no political motive in the killing of his father. Mendoza's alleged killer will be dealt with by the Mexican legal system and the CCPJ and other groups will be watching to make sure there is no miscarriage of justice.

The accusations of journalist Ignacio Mendoza Castillo against the government and his apparent killing over financial dealings, re-

mind us that shady dealings and downright corruption are associated with a large segment of the media in Mexico. In 1991 the CCPJ shared a mission to Mexico with PEN to investigate press freedom conditions. When trying to sort out how many journalists had been killed in the country, we had to take into consideration accusations that some had been shot because of such activities as loan sharking, petty crime, and corruption. Our mission member, Ellen Saenger of Vancouver, was told that some people used the label of journalist as a cover from which to carry on illegal activities.

The CCPJ and PEN Canada appeared before the Ontario Cabinet Committee hearings into the North American Free Trade Agreement in April. *The Mexican Labyrinth: Journalists and Human Rights in Mexico*, a 35-page report prepared over several months by both groups (available from the CCPJ for \$5), was released for the occasion.

The wide-ranging study reports murders of 61 journalists under the Salinas administration, in a context of constant harassment of media workers throughout Mexico and a system of bribery for stories favourable to the government.

This must not prevent us from recognizing that legitimate Mexican journalists are in danger and are being killed. In a report released in January, the Comité pour les droits humains au Mexique-Québec cited 95 serious violations against the press, including 38 extrajudicial executions, mostly between 1988 and 1992. The problem is that the government claims that many of them were killed because of non-journalistic activities.

We know similar illegal and unethical activities occur under the guise of journalism in other countries. Perhaps a reason to dwell on Mexico is the fact that Canada is in the process of entering into a free

trade agreement with the country, making this a particularly opportune time to talk about Mexican human rights and freedom of expression.

Ninety percent of Mexican reporters earn between \$100 and \$500 a month – wages that don't meet the cost of living. So they are forced to rely on other sources of income to survive. Beyond the cases of outright corruption, many reporters collect direct payment – an "embute" – from their beat.

This is not to say that there are not good and honest journalists in Mexico. There are in fact many journalists struggling to eke out a living with their integrity intact, and many others who would choose to do so – if they could earn a living wage.

Add to the problems of journalists the fact that the major national television network is owned by close friends of the government, and that Mexico has a high illiteracy rate, and you have an ineffectual, weak press that is virtually incapable of playing any meaningful role in developing a democratic dialogue in the country.

The practice of journalism in Mexico needs a real overhaul. If Mexican journalists are to be truly free, and if the press is to play a role in the evolution of a democratic society, there must be many changes in the country. For our part, the CCPJ hopes to be able to work with Mexican journalists to confront some of these important issues. We hope that we can support them morally and financially – with our members' donations – in developing guidelines that will allow individual journalists to earn a decent living from their work. We hope to assist them in developing a press freedom movement that will demand improvements.

And, in a very practical step, we hope to link them with other groups around the world working for press freedom.

We'll keep you posted.

by Nick Fillmore



CLEARCUT DANGER – Omar Cano of the Guatemalan daily *Siglo XXI*, was detained, beaten until he could hardly see and threatened with death when he found clear-cutting in an officially protected forest. He and investigating conservationists also lost their cameras, films and recorders, Kim Bolan reports in the *CAJ Bulletin*. After later receiving phoned death threats, Cano fled to Canada.

Central America project opens

by Kela Leon and Ali Rahnama

IN MAY 1992, CCPJ invited Guatemalan journalist Byron Barrera, who travelled from his home in exile in Costa Rica, to participate in a meeting of international organizations that work for the protection of freedom of expression around the world.

The Montreal meeting was a breakthrough for Barrera, who presented a proposal for creation of the first regional freedom of expression centre in the developing world, the Central American Centre to Protect Journalists and Freedom of Expression (CEPEX).

Central America was selected as the first regional centre because three of the most volatile countries in the world – Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua – were seen as in a crucial stage of transition to democracy. The sporadic way in which information on threats to freedom of expression in Central America was reaching the rest of the world had been a clear and major obstacle to mounting effective and timely protest campaigns.

At the meeting, there was clear recognition of the need to work with individuals and groups in developing countries, rather than perpetuating a system through which NGOs in the North were inclined to act alone, exporting programs and

what they saw as remedies, without any consultation.

The concept of regional offices is one that freedom of expression groups have been debating for some time. The goal is to enable freedom of expression groups in developing countries to play a greater role and participate in the decision-making process concerning the gathering, assessment and distribution of materials related to freedom of expression in their own countries and regions. In past, while organizations have worked with contacts in developing countries, local journalists have not participated in developing the international freedom of expression community as full-fledged members and equal partners.

Costa Rica office

The proposed regional office was therefore seen as one way to develop more systematic documentation of violations and threats, practical mechanisms to protect media workers, a reliable press freedom information network, and a broad educational process to expand understanding throughout all sectors of Central American society of both the rights and duties of journalists and media.

Backed by IFEX members and directly supported by the Canadian Committee to Protect Journalists, the International Federation of Jour-

nalists and the Committee to Protect Journalists, New York, Byron Barrera established a head office for CEPEX in Costa Rica. The project is funded, among other, by the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development of Montreal.

During the fall of 1992, electronic mail facilities connecting CEPEX with other groups around the world were established at the Costa Rica office as well as in Guatemala. Similar facilities are to be installed in El Salvador and Nicaragua.

The establishment of CEPEX coincided with a substantial escalation in attacks on the press in Guatemala in 1992. At the end of the year, the CCPJ and CEPEX documented 50 serious violations of press freedom during 1992 and in the first week of 1993. CEPEX worked with local Guatemalan journalists to help them defend themselves, and through the IFEX community to bring international pressure to bear on the government of Guatemala.

During 1993, CEPEX will organize the first of a series of seminars, conferences and meetings in Guatemala to discuss the role of the press in a democracy, with all sectors of Guatemalan society. Similar conferences will be organized in El Salvador and Nicaragua.

'Sporadic news of threats to freedom of information in Central America had been a clear and major obstacle to mounting effective protests.'

Burmese cartoonist happy to

by Michelle Beauregard

Just over a year ago, the Canadian Committee to Protect Journalists helped Burmese dissident cartoonist Koko Maung come to Canada with his family to escape death at the hands of the Myanmar government.

Dressed in a T-shirt and light cotton pants, Koko seems at ease in the warm confines of his Toronto apartment surrounded by his wife, Philo, and their two daughters, Jackie and Junie.

The apartment is furnished simply, with his drawings carefully taped above his work table. A tiny ceramic Buddha gazes out from its altar on a nearby shelf and a large picture of the imprisoned Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi smiles from a corner of the living room.

Koko is working as a story board artist at Nelvana, one of Canada's leading production houses. Clive Smith, a producer there, says, "Koko has a fantastic imagination and enthusiasm. I'm sure that the lack of animation technology in Burma inspired his creativity – he had to sit in a room and make up everything in his head."

Although Nelvana can't be an outlet for Koko's biting cartoon satires, Smith adds, his experience is a definite asset. "I'm sure Koko still has a lot of anger regarding Burma, but it seems to fire him up and give him inspiration for his work here."

Koko was undaunted by a temporary lay-off. He jokes that he now has "true Canadian work experience: standing in line at the UIC office"

INSPIRING:
Lack of high-tech animation equipment is no hindrance to 'a fantastic imagination and enthusiasm' and cartooning experience.



Koko Maung keeps his cartooning pen in use while in exile from Myanmar-Burma, whose new regime doesn't laugh at his satire.

and explains with a wry smile that he is happy to have a safe place to live.

"My true mother – Burma – has sent me away to a new world. But I'm so lucky to embrace my second mother – Canada – who treats us like her own children.

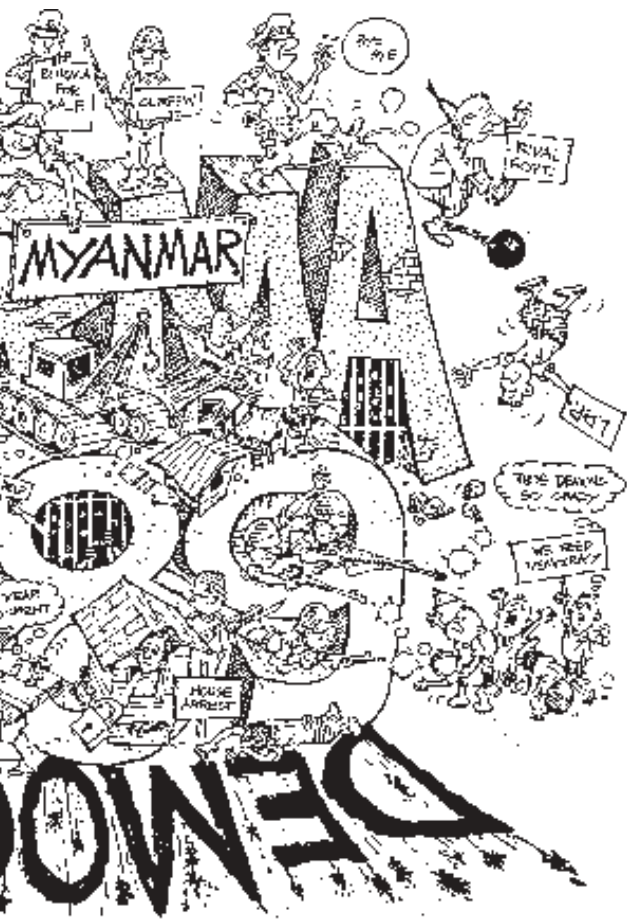
"Now we're in difficult times, but she never leaves us and we always have enough to eat."

A year ago Koko and his family were on the run from Burmese intelligence forces in Thailand, living in constant fear for their safety. After suffering increasing intimidation and harassment, they knew they had to get out of the country.

While living in Myanmar (formerly Burma), Koko Maung drew historical comics depicting corruption and nepotism of the Burmese kings in the royal capital of Mandalay in 1885. These drawings were mostly educational, but the authorities managed to find similarities to the ruling elite and Koko was forced to escape to Thailand to live in exile with his family.

Continuing to draw his cartoons from abroad,

to be a refugee in Canada



Koko was one of the lucky ones. Many artists in Myanmar who refused to be silenced were imprisoned. Koko's political satire, critical of the Myanmar regime, appeared in the Burmese Students Democratic Front publication, the *Dawn News* bulletin.

In the wake of the 1988 pro-democratic uprising, Koko and his youngest daughter took part in anti-government protests in front of the Burmese Embassy in Bangkok. Burmese intelligence videotaped the demonstration and their names were put on a blacklist.

Koko explains that the Myanmar government refused to renew their passports, which forced them to become illegal immigrants. Plus, Myanmar frequently pressured the Thai police to raid the homes of illegal Burmese asylum-seekers.

"We had to play hide-and-seek games with the Thai police, and we were forced to hide in cupboards. Sometimes in the middle of the night we would have to go to friends' houses or seek refuge in the suburban areas of Bangkok."

Koko knew that if he was captured by the Thai police he would be immediately imprisoned as an illegal immigrant and deported to Myanmar. "If I returned to Myanmar I would face a certain death."

With the help of the Canadian Baptist Refugee Service of Thunder Bay and the CCPJ, Koko and his family came to Toronto in December 1991 and applied for landed immigrant status.

Now, life for this political cartoonist and his family is safe. His wife, Philo, teaches English as a second language at a private school, daughter Junie works full-time as an accountant and the youngest daughter, Jackie, is a whiz at technical school in computer science.

When Koko isn't drawing he is happy to spend much of his spare time cooking Thai food for his family – Canadian food is much too bland – and learning about Canadian politics by reading the newspapers and watching TV.

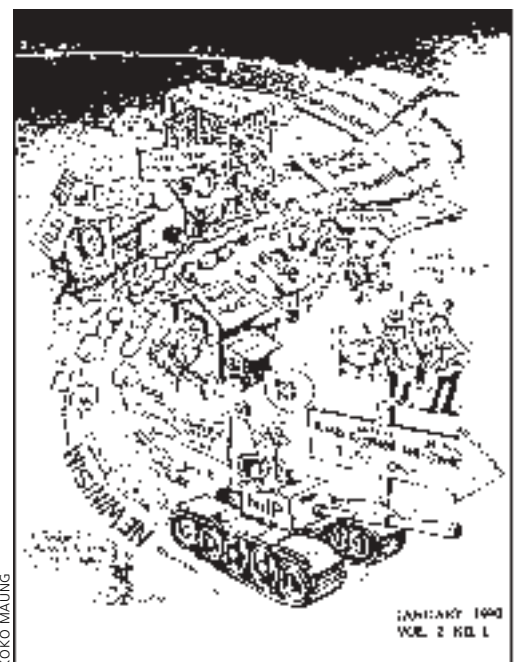
The Maungs can't get news from family or friends in Myanmar. Mail is censored and often doesn't reach its destination. All correspondence must be sent with false names so as not to jeopardize the safety of those living there. News comes only from Burmese student exiles in Thailand, who publish recent information on the atrocities committed by Myanmar's military junta.

In March 1991 the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists declared Myanmar one of 16 countries of concern, where the safety of any independent journalist is considered in danger. General Ne Win, the country's military ruler, controls the media by forcibly silencing any voice critical of his regime.

Koko suddenly looks tired as he explains that the situation in Myanmar is not improving, and says international pressure is needed to bring attention to the junta's appalling record of repression.

While life here is quiet for the Maungs, Koko has no intention of putting down his pen.

PRECAUTION:
Correspondence to Myanmar must be sent with false names to avoid jeopardizing people's safety.



IFEX Clearing House running

by Ali Rahnama

IN MAY 1992, the CCPJ organized a three-day meeting in Montreal of the world's leading freedom of expression, to discuss strategies aimed at increasing cooperation and improving communication within the international freedom of expression community, as well as streamline existing programs.

As a result, the International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX) was formed, in order to ensure a permanent communication link among the various participating groups. IFEX is a consultative process, providing groups with a common forum where they can consult one another and collaborate on joint projects.

At the meeting, a number of needs for services to IFEX participants were identified. These include establishment of a system of information-sharing to facilitate responses to rapid action appeals. It was also determined that there is a need to centralize information and devise a system for international coordination and documentation that would improve network servicing.

To meet these needs, the meet-

ing unanimously endorsed a proposal by CCPJ to establish the "International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX) Clearing House" in Toronto. The Clearing House, which was set up in September 1992, is operated by CCPJ in consultation and cooperation with IFEX members. It is funded by sources including UNESCO, foundations in both Canada and the United States, as well as individual contributions and donations.

The purpose of the Clearing House is to assist international campaigning efforts by supplying specialized, accurate and timely information on a wide range of issues including attacks, murder and detention of writers and journalists, and press laws.

Whenever there is a serious threat to journalists, writers or media organizations, an 'Action Alert Network' operated by the IFEX Clearing House disseminates the information via electronic mail to organizations in more than two dozen countries. This, in turn, prompts international protest campaigns from their own regions. In many cases, such campaigns have proved effective in getting journalists released or causing governments to rescind

repressive legislation. A computer bulletin board containing all the action alerts issued by the Clearing House provides an up-to-date record of attacks on freedom of expression around the world.

The IFEX Clearing House will eventually house the world's most comprehensive electronic library on freedom of expression issues. This information will be available to subscribers, and will include a country-by-country breakdown of freedom of expression issues.

Each country-entry will also contain the texts of laws that are most commonly used to interfere with press freedom, the text of any constitutional provisions guaranteeing freedom of expression, and other information regarding press laws and the freedom of expression.

Communication web

The establishment of the electronic Clearing House is possible because of the refinement of communications technology that allows groups in distant locations to link up by modem and telephone systems and send messages at only a fraction of the cost of voice phone calls or faxes. All services are carried on the Association of Progressive Communications (APC) network – Web in Canada, IGC in the U.S. and GreenNet in England, among others. The network itself is accessible through a variety of other electronic mail communications networks.

Private bulletin boards or conferences, and other forms of electronic communication, including a weekly communiqué keep subscribers informed of the latest developments in freedom of expression issues and the community. They also present a forum where all subscribers and interested parties could hold discussions on various topics.

The CCPJ has won the praise of the international freedom of expression community both for the coordination of the Montreal meeting and for the rapid and highly successful establishment of the Clearing House, providing easy access to a wealth of information from one central source.

'Action Alerts' go to national organizations in more than two dozen countries ... and onto a computer bulletin board accessible around the world.



JOHN POMRET / AP / CP PICTURE SERVICE

DRIVING HAZARDS: Associated Press photographer Jockel Finck kneels beside the car he drove into a vehicle driven by an inebriated Bosnian militia member in Sarajevo.

Cover Story

Fierce bond with readers

— continued from page one
tion), the only newspaper still publishing in the devastated city, faces its own battle to survive.

Since the war broke out nearly two years ago, *Oslobodjenje's* production roster has dwindled to 10 people working in the bunkered remains of one of Sarajevo's most celebrated office towers. The whole 10-storey building has been ripped apart by the war's ceaseless pounding. Phone and fax lines have been cut. There is barely any electricity, heat or water. Reporters now work in the cold basement, typing out their stories by candlelight. They currently manage to put out 5,000 copies of an eight-page tabloid.

Three correspondents have been killed, two have gone missing and are presumed dead, and at least 20 others have been wounded – including two women killed when snipers fired through an exposed area in the basement. Editor-in-chief Kemal Kurspahic is also among the wounded. In October, speeding

through city streets to avoid sniper fire, he smashed into another car and mangled his leg.

Kurspahic and his staff are unshakably defiant. Every morning, the paper is hand-delivered to its readers through a sophisticated network of volunteers and staff. Newsprint is scarce so each issue normally runs no more than 10 pages.

Page one usually consists of short battle reports; inside are editorials, commentaries, recipes for what's left of the city's meager food supplies and the odd cartoon. Back pages are reserved for obituaries.

Kurspahic has been internationally cited for bravery, but says what really sustains him is the fierce bond forged with the paper's readers. "We are all they have," he said on a recent trip to the U.S. for medical treatment.

"Some of them see our survival tied to theirs. If we can keep going, so can they. But I hesitate to say we are courageous. There's a job to be done, and I also don't want to stay

idle. Otherwise, if you think too much about what we must live with here, you will not survive."

It's not uncommon for people to dodge sniper fire to get a copy of the paper. People are starved for information, and overfed on propaganda. An independent voice offers them hope, says Kurspahic.

"Even on the night our offices were destroyed, we made sure there was a paper the next morning. On television, people saw pictures of the building in flames and they assumed we weren't publishing. When we did continue, I think they saw it was a sign that there was hope beyond this war."

Kurspahic is confident the paper will survive, but says support from the international community is vital. So far, European journalistic organizations have been sending supplies.

But, he says, greater solidarity among the international media is needed to ensure that the paper's headquarters are rebuilt and that basic working conditions are re-established.

(To help Kurspahic and the staff at *Oslobodjenje*, please contact the CCPJ office.)

BRAVERY?
"If you think too much about what we must live with here, you will not survive."

Please and Thank You

The Canadian Committee to Protect Journalists wishes to pay tribute to our supporters and donors. Our backers include some of the largest foundations in the world as well as individual journalists working in the Canadian media. Without them, we would be unable to carry out any of our activities.

Preliminary meetings aimed at setting up the IFEX Clearing House, and attended by groups from all over the world, were fully funded by the Ford Foundation of New York. The costs of launching the Clearing House were paid for by the John Merck Fund of Boston, a Canadian donor who wishes to remain anonymous; and additional donations from Canadian media companies and individual journalists.

Major support for this year's operation of the Clearing House comes from UNESCO; the John Merck Fund, the J. Roderick MacArthur Foundation of

Chicago; the shy Canadian donor and the Jackman Foundation.

The major donors for our work in Central America and Mexico – where we are helping journalists establish their own press freedom organizations – are the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development of Montreal, the Canadian Auto Workers Social Justice Fund, and dozens of individual donors and members.

While it may seem impressive that our Committee has such well-known and outstanding donors, we must also tell you that – at this writing – we are still short of meeting our costs for the current year. So, we urge you to make a donation and encourage you to take out a membership, if you have not already done so. A Sustaining membership is \$60; a Regular membership \$25. Contributions are tax-creditable.

We would like to thank the following donors and new members who

recently have helped our Committee:

The Toronto Sun, Sunwapta Broadcasting, CJOH-TV, Westcom T.V. Group Ltd., Maclean-Hunter, CHUM Charitable Foundation.

Steve Simon, Doug Ward, Olga Dey, Stephen Kimber, Web Anderson, Bob Culbert, James Murray, Robert Hunter, Loreen Pindera, Ellen Saenger, Jim Romahn, Don McGillivray, Howard Green, Chris Grosskurth, Florian Sauvageau, Michelle Lalonde, Hal Higgins, Paul Moore, Wendy Martin, Donald Curren, Michael Cobden, Deborah Parkes, Maggie Siggins, Martin Mittelstaedt, Joella Foulds, Arnold Amber, Josh Freed, Sandy Ross, Parker Barss Donham, Paul Samyn, Michael Levine, Dennis McIntosh, John Miller, Bryn Matthews, Henry Overduin, Joe Schlesinger, Sandra Kolber, Paul Knox, Robert Fulford, Shirley Farlinger, Len Shifrin, Judy Nyman, John Leckie, Lloyd Robertson, Craig Oliver, Harry Schachter, Nick Fillmore, Marlene Benmergui, Christian Lamontagne, M.K. Fisher, Kathryn Charr, Nancy Archibald, Michelle Beauregard, Richard Longley, Shirley Muir, John Horrigan, Patrick Watson.

IFEX Clearing House NEWS

1992 in review: 60 media workers killed

by Ali Rahnama

In 1992, close to 60 writers and journalists and at least 10 media workers and technicians were reported killed around the world, because of the practice of their profession and the exercise of their right to freedom of expression. The three main organizations that document these figures – the International Federation of Journalists, the Committee to Protect Journalists in New York, and Reporters Sans Frontiers – are continuing their research and investigation into some of these reports, along with the cases of another 20 to 30 journalists reported killed last year.

In addition to “censorship by the bullet,” close to 300 writers and journalists were arrested and imprisoned last year, while hundreds of others continue to be held.

In **Turkey**, there was an alarming trend towards the use of assassination as a new means of censorship of journalists. At least 10 journalists were confirmed killed in the southeastern Kurdish region of the country, and reports of at least three other killings are still under investigation. Amnesty International reported the detention and torture of at least one other journalist.

Another major area of concern was the threat of violence to journalists and writers due to the unstable conditions in many countries in the former **SOVIET UNION** and ex-Yugoslavia. One journalist is feared dead in **Abkhazia**, two died in **Azerbaijan** and eight

were reported killed in **Tajikistan**.

In the republics of the former **YUGOSLAVIA**, 11 journalists were reported killed, as well as at least nine technical workers. While, the majority of those killed were caught in cross-fire or killed by mortar fire and bombs, at least one was killed by sniper fire while

press, including the suspension of several newspapers. New ‘anti-terrorism’ laws were introduced in both Egypt and Algeria that, it is feared, will be used to silence the press.

In **AFRICA**, the situation in many countries was extremely tense following moves for multi-party democracy, and there was a rise in death

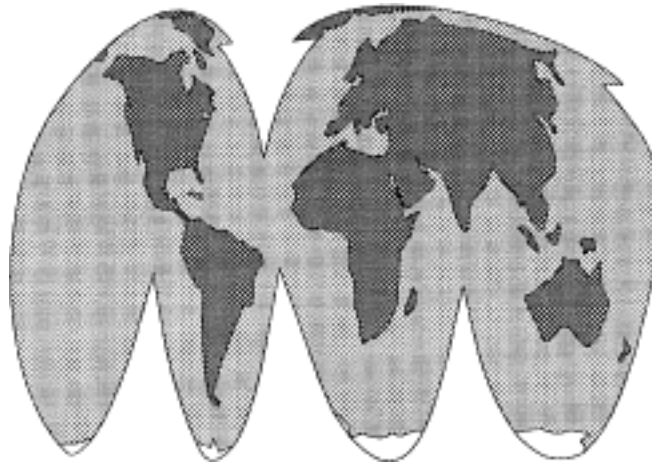
laws. At least five journalists have been reported killed in each country. Similarly, there is concern over the deteriorating situation in **Venezuela** where many journalists were attacked during the two coup attempts, during which laws protecting freedom of expression were briefly suspended. Three journalists died in the November attempt.

Two journalists were killed in the **United States**, apparently because of their work; one for writing on the Ku Klux Klan, and the other for his years of writing and reporting on drug cartels and trafficking.

In general, attacks on freedom of expression in 1992 confirm that there is a move away from the long-term detention of writers and journalists toward physical attacks and the use of violence and a pattern of short-term or brief detention. This changing nature of human rights violations is due in part, to the increasing sophistication of governments, the current world economic situation, and the instability caused by many countries adapting to the post-Cold War scenario.

All of which confirm the fragile nature of the right to “seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers” as guaranteed by Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Ali Rahnama, the first manager of the IFEX Clearing House, now works for the International Federation of Newspaper Publishers (FIEJ) in Paris.



travelling in a van clearly marked “TV”. The total number of journalists confirmed in this region since war broke out in June, 1991, now stands at at least 30.

In **Greece**, journalists now face charges carrying a maximum five-year sentence for articles about Macedonian independence.

In the **MIDDLE EAST**, there has been a disturbing increase in violence against writers and attacks against the press. For example, in **Algeria**, after the aborted elections won by the Islamic party FIS, the government clamped down on the

threats, attacks, killings and brief detentions of writers and journalists, designed to encourage self-censorship. In total, at least seven journalists were killed, some caught in cross-fire between guerillas and government forces in both **Angola** and **Sudan**.

In **LATIN AMERICA**, the introduction of tough, government-imposed ‘anti-terrorism’ laws in **Peru** and emergency measures in **Colombia** presented threats to freedom of expression and gave wide-ranging powers to the army. Several journalists continue to be detained in Peru under these

International Freedom of Expression eXchange