

AWARDS

Hellman/Hammett Grants

The Hellman/Hammett grants are given annually by Human Rights Watch to writers around the world who have been victims of political persecution and are in financial need. The forty-four writers who received grants in 1999 hail from nineteen countries where they face obstacles ranging from imprisonment and torture to bans on their work and cut-off of their phone lines. Writers from Vietnam, Turkey, and Nigeria received a major portion of the 1999 grants, reflecting the especially repressive climate for free expression in those three countries. But as harsh as the situation was for writers there, conditions were equally severe in other countries where the signs of repression were less visible. Licensing policies and intimidation silence many voices before they can be heard. The suppression is just as egregious when expression is inhibited before it is put into words as when the abuse of writers is open and obvious.

In addition to the Vietnamese, Nigerian, and Turkish writers, this year's grant recipients include Miriam Itali, a South African who vigorously condemned apartheid and paid the price for many years; Gordana Igric who, despite threats to her life, wrote about human rights abuses in the former Yugoslavia; and Ahmad Taufik, an Indonesian journalist who courageously covered taboo subjects like the wealth of the Soeharto family and human rights violations in East Timor.

By publicizing the persecution that the grant recipients endured, the Hellman/Hammett grants focus attention on censorship and suppression of free speech. In some cases the publicity is a protection against further abuse. In other cases, the writers request anonymity because of the dangerous circumstances in which they and their families are living.

The recipients whose names can be safely released are:

Nizametdin Achimetov, Russian poet, spent twenty years in Soviet prisons and "mental hospitals" after being convicted of having nationalistic tendencies. Released in June 1997, he is in poor health and unable to work.

Mohamed Bangura, Sierra Leonean journalist, was abducted after he exposed government-rebel collaboration to prolong the civil war in order to stall popular demands for a democratic election. Taken with his sister and father to an isolated house, they were tortured and sexually abused. His father was murdered; Bangura and his sister escaped. He went to Turkey and then to Canada. In Canada, with help from the Canadian Committee to Protect Journalists, Mr. Bangura established a fund for exiled Sierra Leonean journalists (see below).

Jesus Barrera, Mexican reporter, took over as editor of *La Prensa* after the owner was murdered on the orders of a local drug lord angered by the paper's coverage of the drug trade. The presses did not stop that day nor subsequently, and Mr. Barrera continued to report aggressively on drug trafficking and political corruption in Mexico.

Simin Behbahani, Iranian poet, whose writing has been censored and banned because she spoke out in defense of free expression. She was one of 134 writers who signed the now famous letter protesting the suspicious death of Saeid-Sirjani, after which she and the other signatories received anonymous death threats.

Oral Calislar, Turkish columnist, was convicted under Article 9 of the Anti-Terror Law and sentenced to two years in prison for publishing interviews with Kurdish leaders in book form. Long versions of the interviews had previously run in *Cumhuriyet*, an Istanbul daily, without incurring any legal action.

Abdullahim Dede, an ethnic Thracian Turk and Greek citizen, has incurred the wrath of both Greek and Turkish officials for reporting local tensions without partisan bias. In 1997, in one of four trials, he was convicted and sentenced to ten months in prison. The conviction was confirmed, but the sentence was suspended.

Koray Duzgoren, Turkish journalist, has been censored repeatedly, fired, and blacklisted for having written about the Kurdish conflict, corruption, human rights, and the rule of law.

Rahzy Gonzalez was kidnapped and questioned about his activities as a journalist while reporting on political conflict in southern Mexico. On his release, Gonzalez publicly denounced the incident and founded an independent weekly newspaper.

Hoang Tien, Vietnamese writer, joined the struggle for democracy and human rights in 1996 with the publication of several articles condemning the arrest and trial of Ha Si Phu, a widely respected Vietnamese dissident. Hoang Tien was then forbidden to publish.

Gordana Igric, Serbian journalist, known for covering the war and investigating war crimes in the former Yugoslavia, received death threats that periodically forced her into hiding. Despite the risks, she continued to use journalism to expose human rights violations.

Fadil Al-Khayyat, Iraqi poet and journalist, has been harassed and imprisoned for criticizing the dictatorship and refusing to praise Saddam Hussein. When his second book of poems was published in northern Iraq, security forces tried to arrest him, and he fled with his family to Beirut.

Lu Phuong, free lance writer, joined the North Vietnamese National Liberation Front in 1969, and after the war worked at the Ministry of Culture until he was forced to retire for expressing dissident views. His writing was banned in Vietnam, his foreign correspondence screened, and he was closely followed by agents from the Ministry of the Interior.

Nidal Mansour, Jordanian editor and outspoken opponent of the restrictions imposed on the Jordanian press, has been out of work since September 1997 when the government closed twelve papers including the one he edited. In June 1999, he was convicted and sentenced to six months in prison for harming relations with a friendly state in connection with an article about drug trade in Lebanon.

Abosede Sarah Nkoyo Abge-Davies Mbah, Nigerian journalist, wrote about prison conditions and lobbied for the release of political prisoners including her husband George Mbah (a former assistant editor of *Tell* magazine). While in England to urge the Commonwealth nations to expel Nigeria, Ms. Mbah learned that she faced almost certain arrest if she returned home. She stayed in London and continued to press for the release of political prisoners. George Mbah was released on July 20, 1999, following the death of Gen. Sani Abacha.

Fred M'membe, co-founder and editor-in-chief of *The Post*, a leading independent daily in Lusaka, Zambia, was indicted on more than fifty charges for crimes like insulting the president, criminal libel, inciting mutiny, withholding information, and violating the Drug Act. If convicted, he could be sentenced to more than one hundred years in prison, but he has publicly promised to continue using his pen to reform parliament and other institutions of state.

Nguyen Ngoc Tan, Vietnamese novelist and journalist, was arrested in 1975 and spent fourteen years in prisons and prison hospitals. After his release, he

SUPPORTED NG DINH HUY'S MOVEMENT TO UNITE THE PEOPLE AND BUILD DEMOCRACY FOR VIETNAM AND WAS ARRESTED AGAIN, CONVICTED, AND SENTENCED TO ELEVEN YEARS IN PRISON.

BABAFEMI OJUDU, NIGERIAN JOURNALIST, WAS ARRESTED IN NOVEMBER 1997 AS HE RETURNED FROM NAIROBI AFTER PARTICIPATING IN A SEMINAR ORGANIZED BY THE U.S.-BASED FREEDOM FORUM. HE WAS HELD WITHOUT CHARGE AT AN UNDISCLOSED LOCATION UNTIL JULY 20, 1998, WHEN HE WAS RELEASED WITH OTHER POLITICAL PRISONERS FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF GENERAL ABACHA.

AHMET ZEKI OKCUOGLU HAS FACED CONTINUING LEGAL BATTLES WITH THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT OVER ARTICLES AND BOOKS HE PUBLISHED THAT DEAL WITH THE KURDISH QUESTION. SIX BOOKS HAVE BEEN CONFISCATED. HE SPENT TEN MONTHS IN PRISON, FROM JUNE 1997 TO APRIL 1998.

ADEBOYO ONANUGA, NIGERIAN JOURNALIST, WAS ARRESTED SEVERAL TIMES IN 1995 AND 1996 WHEN HE SPOKE UP FOR PRESS FREEDOM AND CRITICIZED MILITARY REGIMES PAST AND PRESENT. IN 1997, HE WENT INTO HIDING FOR FEAR OF RE-ARREST BUT, HEARING THAT A "SHOOT ON SIGHT" ORDER WAS OUT AGAINST HIM, HE FLED TO THE UNITED STATES.

ABDUL OROH, NIGERIAN JOURNALIST, IS A FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE CIVIL LIBERTIES ORGANIZATION, A LEADING NIGERIAN NGO THAT TRAINS JOURNALISTS AND REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS. HE HAS BEEN ARRESTED FIVE TIMES AND SPENT AS LONG AS ELEVEN MONTHS IN DETENTION WITHOUT CHARGE OR EXPLANATION.

PHAM THAI THUY, AKA THOI THUY, VIETNAMESE POET AND JOURNALIST, WAS ARRESTED, TORTURED, AND HELD IN A SOLITARY CELL FOR ONE YEAR AFTER THE SAIGON GOVERNMENT FELL TO THE NORTH VIETNAMESE IN 1975. RELEASED IN 1986, HE STILL HAD THE COURAGE TO JOIN DOAN VIET HOAT TO EDIT *FREEDOM FORUM*. ARRESTED AGAIN IN 1990, HE WAS HELD FOR FOUR YEARS AND THEN RELEASED IN POOR HEALTH. HE EMIGRATED TO THE UNITED STATES IN AUGUST 1997.

FERESHTEH SARI, IRANIAN NOVELIST AND POET, ALSO TRANSLATES RUSSIAN NOVELS INTO FARSI. MS. SARI WAS NOT POLITICALLY ACTIVE, BUT SHE RAISED HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREE EXPRESSION ISSUES IN HER WORK AND HAS BEEN INTERROGATED BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. UNTIL THE ELECTION OF PRESIDENT KHATAMI IN AUGUST 1997, ONE NOVEL WAS BANNED AND OTHER BOOKS COULD NOT BE REISSUED.

FOROZ SARKHAI, IRANIAN EDITOR AND COMMENTATOR ON LITERATURE AND ART, WAS AN ORGANIZER OF A 1994 STATEMENT CALLING FOR AN END TO LITERARY CENSORSHIP IN IRAN. AUTHORITIES RETALIATED BY TARGETING THE SIGNATORIES, AND THREE WERE FOUND DEAD UNDER MYSTERIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES. SARKHAI DISAPPEARED IN NOVEMBER 1996. THE GOVERNMENT SAID HE HAD GONE TO GERMANY, BUT GERMAN OFFICIALS CLAIMED HE HAD NOT ARRIVED. A MONTH LATER, HE APPEARED AT THE TEHRAN AIRPORT AND CONFIRMED THE GOVERNMENT'S STORY. IN JANUARY 1997, HE WAS ARRESTED, CONVICTED *IN CAMERA* OF SLANDERING IRAN, AND SENTENCED TO ONE YEAR IN PRISON. RELEASED IN JANUARY 1998, HE IS LIVING IN EXILE IN GERMANY.

ALI AHMAD HAMAD AL-SNAID, JORDANIAN WRITER, WAS ARRESTED AND HELD BRIEFLY IN 1996 FOR WRITING A PLAY ABOUT THE TRIAL OF LEITH SHUBEILAT, A PROMINENT CRITIC OF THE JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT. ARRESTED AGAIN IN 1997 FOR WRITING AN ARTICLE THAT WAS DEEMED AN INSULT TO THE DIGNITY OF KING HUSSEIN, MR. SNAID WAS HELD INCOMMUNICADO AND FORCED TO SIGN A CONFESSION THAT WAS USED AS EVIDENCE DURING HIS TRIAL. HE WAS SENTENCED TO EIGHTEEN MONTHS IN PRISON, BUT THE SENTENCE WAS REDUCED TO SIX MONTHS ON APPEAL.

REYNALDO SOTO HERNANDEZ, CUBAN POET AND JOURNALIST, WAS ARRESTED SEVERAL TIMES IN 1989 AND AGAIN IN 1990. CONVICTED OF "CONTEMPT OF AUTHORITY" (*desacato*), HE SERVED THREE YEARS IN PRISON. HE WAS ARRESTED AGAIN IN 1994 AND WITHIN A WEEK WAS CHARGED, TRIED, AND SENTENCED UNDER THE VAGUELY DEFINED LAW OF "DANGEROUSNESS" THAT IS OFTEN USED TO JUSTIFY EXPEDITIOUS IMPRISONMENT OF DISSIDENTS. HE SERVED ANOTHER THREE-YEAR SENTENCE, WAS RELEASED IN SEPTEMBER 1997, AND EMIGRATED TO MIAMI IN JUNE 1998.

SUH JOONSHIK, KOREAN EDITOR AND COLUMNIST, ALSO PUBLISHED THREE VOLUMES OF LETTERS WRITTEN DURING SEVENTEEN YEARS AS A POLITICAL PRISONER. AFTER HIS RELEASE IN 1988, MR. SUH FOUNDED SARANGBANG, A HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP, AND BECAME ITS DIRECTOR. IN NOVEMBER 1997 POLICE CAME TO HIS HOME, TOOK HIS BOOKS AND THE VIDEOTAPES FROM A FILM FESTIVAL THAT HE HAD RECENTLY ORGANIZED, AND PUT HIM IN PRISON. FOLLOWING AN INTERNATIONAL PROTEST AND THE OPPOSITION'S VICTORY IN THE NATIONAL ELECTIONS, SUH WAS RELEASED ON BAIL.

AHMAD TAUFIK, INDONESIAN JOURNALIST, WAS IMPRISONED AND SENTENCED TO THREE YEARS IN PRISON FOR PUBLISHING THE MAGAZINE OF THE INDEPENDENT JOURNALISTS' UNION WITHOUT A LICENSE AND FOR EXPRESSING "HOSTILITY, HATRED, OR CONTEMPT FOR THE GOVERNMENT." TAUFIK CONTINUED TO WRITE FROM PRISON, INTERVIEWING POLITICAL INMATES, DESCRIBING PRISON CONDITIONS, AND EXPOSING CORRUPTION LIKE THE SALE OF PAROLE AND BRIBERY OF PRISON GUARDS. HE WAS RELEASED ON PAROLE IN JULY 1997.

THICH TRI SIEU, BUDDHIST MONK AND SCHOLAR, WAS ARRESTED IN 1984 AS PART OF A GOVERNMENT CRACKDOWN ON THE UNITED BUDDHIST CHURCH OF VIETNAM AND CHARGED WITH ENGAGING IN "ACTIVITY AIMED AT OVERTHROWING THE PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT." HELD WITHOUT CHARGE FOR FOUR YEARS, HE WAS CONVICTED AT A CLOSED TRIAL AND CONDEMNED TO DEATH, A SENTENCE LATER REDUCED TO TWENTY YEARS AT HARD LABOR. IN 1995 AT A POLITICAL INDOCTRINATION SESSION, HE SPOKE OUT FOR DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS AND WAS PUT IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT. HE WAS RELEASED IN SEPTEMBER 1998.

THICH TUE SI, BUDDHIST MONK, PHILOSOPHER, AND POET, WAS ARRESTED IN 1984 DURING A WAVE OF GOVERNMENT REPRESSION AGAINST THE UNITED BUDDHIST CHURCH OF VIETNAM. AS WITH THICH TRI SIEU, THICH TUE SI WAS HELD WITHOUT CHARGE FOR FOUR YEARS IN A SOLITARY CELL, THEN CHARGED WITH "ACTIVITY AIMED AT OVERTHROWING THE PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT" AND CONVICTED IN A CLOSED TRIAL WITHOUT ACCESS TO COUNSEL. AFTER AN INTERNATIONAL PROTEST, HIS DEATH SENTENCE WAS COMMUTED TO TWENTY YEARS AT HARD LABOR. IN 1994, HE JOINED OTHER POLITICAL PRISONERS TO PROTEST A BAN ON MEETING WITH A U.N. DELEGATION. HE ALSO SPOKE UP FOR BETTER PRISON CONDITIONS AND RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. HE WAS RELEASED IN SEPTEMBER 1998.

MIRIAM TALAI, SOUTH AFRICAN WRITER, WROTE STORIES AND ARTICLES CONDEMNING APARTHEID THROUGHOUT THE YEARS IT WAS LAW IN SOUTH AFRICA. THIS MADE HER A TARGET FOR POLITICAL PERSECUTION: HER BOOKS WERE BANNED; POLICE RANSACKED HER HOME, SEIZING AND DESTROYING MANUSCRIPTS; AND THE GOVERNMENT RESTRICTED HER TRAVEL. HER RECENT WORK HAS BEEN ABOUT CONDITIONS FOR BLACK WOMEN IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

HORACIO VERBITSKY, ARGENTINIAN JOURNALIST, WAS CONVICTED OF "CONTEMPT OF AUTHORITY" (*desacato*) FOR WRITING ARTICLES THAT EXPOSED CORRUPTION AND HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSE. AFTER EXHAUSTING ALL DOMESTIC REMEDIES, HE FILED A COMPLAINT (WITH HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH REPRESENTATION) BEFORE THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OF OAS. THIS RESULTED IN A SETTLEMENT IN WHICH HE DROPPED THE COMPLAINT AND THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT REPEALED THE LAW OF *desacato* THAT HAD BEEN ON THE BOOKS FOR MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED YEARS. IN 1995, MR. VERBITSKY AND OTHER ARGENTINE JOURNALISTS FORMED PERIODISTAS, AN NGO FOUNDED TO DEFEND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IN ARGENTINA.

YANG LIAN, CHINESE POET AND ESSAYIST, TOOK PART IN THE 1979 BEIJING SPRING DEMOCRACY MOVEMENT AND EDITED AN UNDERGROUND LITERARY MAGAZINE. IN 1983, GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES ATTACKED AN EPIC HE WROTE ABOUT TIBET AND BANNED HIS WRITING FOR ONE YEAR. LECTURING IN NEW ZEALAND AT THE TIME OF THE 1989 TIANANMEN SQUARE MASSACRE, HE ORGANIZED DEMONSTRATIONS. SINCE THEN ALL HIS WORK HAS BEEN BANNED IN CHINA, AND HE FLED TO ENGLAND, WHERE HE HAS BEEN LIVING IN EXILE.

ZHANG LIN, CHINESE POET, SERVED SEVERAL SENTENCES IN "REFORM THROUGH LABOR" CAMPS FOR EXPRESSING DISSIDENT POLITICAL VIEWS. UPON COMPLETING A THREE-YEAR TERM IN MAY 1997, HE FLED TO THE UNITED STATES AND APPLIED FOR ASYLUM.

Zhou Guoqiang, Chinese poet, lawyer, former factory worker, and a leader of the Beijing Workers Autonomous Federation during the 1989 protests, was charged with "counterrevolutionary propaganda and incitement" but released without being tried. He continued his pro-democracy activities and was sentenced to three years in prison in 1994. Released in March 1999, he emigrated to the United States.

Sierra Leonean Journalists received a group award through a special fund created to support thirty-five journalists exiled from Sierra Leone. While the individual situations varied in detail, all the journalists were subjected to political persecution due in large part to opinions they expressed or facts they reported.

The Hellman/Hammett grants were awarded after nominations were reviewed by a five-person selection committee composed of writers and editors. In the course of the year the selection committee approved two additional grants to writers who needed emergency aid to help in situations where their lives were in immediate danger.

MISSIONS

Africa Division

Angola: Research on arms and human rights abuses (August–September).

Angola and Zambia: Research on general human rights development (August).

Botswana, Kenya, South Africa, and Uganda: Advocacy and networking (February).

Democratic Republic of Congo: Research on repression of civil and political rights (May–June).

The Gambia: Advocacy, with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (October).

Guinea: Research on refugees (July).

Kenya: Research on state-sponsored violence (April).

SEE ALSO Botswana, Kenya, South Africa, and Uganda.

Liberia: Research on refugees (July).

Sierra Leone: Research on violence against noncombatants (July).

South Africa: Research on abuse of undocumented migrants and asylum seekers (April).

Updating on general human rights situation (June).

African Human Rights Commissions (June–July).

SEE ALSO Botswana, Kenya, South Africa, and Uganda.

Sudan: Research on famine (May).

Tanzania: Research on refugees (May–June).

Uganda: Research on human rights developments (May).

Zambia: SEE ABOVE Botswana, Kenya, South Africa, and Uganda.

Americas Division

Amsterdam: Advocacy (July).

Argentina: Advocacy mission to release *La Inseguridad Policial: Violencia de las Fuerzas de Seguridad en la Argentina* (October).

Brazil: Fact-finding, police lockups and prisons in São Paulo (November 1997).

Fact-finding, prisons in Rio Grande do Sul, Paraíba, Rio Grande do Norte, and Amazonas states (December 1997).

Fact-finding, prison conditions in São Paulo (January).

Fact-finding in Ceará on riot at the Instituto Penal Paulo Sarasate (IPPS) prison near Fortaleza (January).

Fact-finding in Natal, Rio Grande do Norte State on killing of seven prisoners at the João Chaves Penitentiary (February).

Fact-finding in Minas Gerais state on conditions in police lockups and prisons (March).

Advocacy in Alagoas: meetings with state governor and other officials regarding investigations into police involvement in organized crime (March–April).

Fact-finding on status of legislative measures relating to human rights in Brasília (May).

OBSERVATION OF TRIAL IN NATAL, RIO GRANDE DO NORTE, OF POLICE OFFICER JORGE LUIS FERNANDES FOR INVOLVEMENT IN "DEATH SQUAD" KILLINGS (MAY).
OBSERVATION OF SECOND TRIAL OF POLICE OFFICER JORGE LUIS FERNANDES IN NATAL (OCTOBER).

CANADA: CONFERENCE IN MONTREAL ON HUMAN RIGHTS LED BY THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT (FEBRUARY).
ROUNDTABLE IN OTTAWA ON HUMAN RIGHTS LED BY THE CANADIAN FOUNDATION FOR THE AMERICAS, WITH A PARTICULAR FOCUS ON CUBA (MARCH).
RESEARCH ON DEBRIEFING OF FORMER CUBAN POLITICAL PRISONERS IN TORONTO (APRIL).

CHILE: ADVOCACY, THE SECOND SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS IN SANTIAGO (APRIL).

COLOMBIA: RESEARCH ON VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW (DECEMBER 1997).
ADVOCACY ON THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT AND OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS (MAY).
ADVOCACY ON RELEASE OF WAR WITHOUT QUARTER: COLOMBIA AND INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW (OCTOBER).

COSTA RICA: CONFERENCE, INSTITUTO INTERAMERICANO DE DERECHOS HUMANOS (JUNE).

FRANCE AND SWITZERLAND: ADVOCACY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE EUROPEAN SYSTEM IN STRASBOURG AND GENEVA (NOVEMBER 1997).

GUATEMALA: ATTENDING THE FUNERAL OF BISHOP JUAN JOSÉ GERARDI (APRIL).

HAITI: ADVOCACY, INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL AGAINST VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (NOVEMBER 1997).

MEXICO: RESEARCH, TAMAULIPAS (NOVEMBER 1997).
RESEARCH, CHIAPAS, OAXACA, AND MEXICO CITY (JANUARY-FEBRUARY).
RESEARCH IN MEXICO CITY (JUNE).

PARAGUAY: ADVOCACY, TO INVESTIGATE ABUSES ON PARAGUAY-BRAZIL BORDER AND DETENTION CONDITIONS FOR MINORS (OCTOBER).

VENEZUELA: ADVOCACY ON THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT (MAY).
MISSION TO RELEASE *CASTIGADOS SIN CONDENA: CONDICIONES EN LAS PRISIONES DE VENEZUELA*, AN UPDATED SPANISH TRANSLATION OF A REPORT PUBLISHED IN 1997 (JUNE).

Asia Division

AFGHANISTAN: RESEARCH TO INTERVIEW AFGHAN REFUGEES (APRIL).

BELGIUM: ADVOCACY IN BRUSSELS, WITH E.U. OFFICIALS AND IN PARIS AND LONDON, WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS THE APRIL ASIA-EUROPE SUMMIT (ASEM). CHINA AND BURMA RIGHTS ISSUES WERE ALSO ON THE AGENDA (JANUARY).

BELGIUM AND FRANCE: ADVOCACY IN BRUSSELS AND PARIS ON CAMBODIA (JUNE/JULY).

CAMBODIA: RESEARCH AND MONITORING OF
HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS BEFORE AND AFTER NATIONAL ELECTIONS HELD ON JULY 26, 1998
(JULY/AUGUST).

CAMBODIA AND THAILAND: RESEARCH TO EXAMINE THE ABILITY OF CAMBODIANS TO EXERCISE THEIR RIGHTS TO FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, ASSOCIATION, AND ASSEMBLY IN THE PERIOD LEADING UP TO NATIONAL ELECTIONS (FEBRUARY-APRIL).

CHINA AND HONG KONG: ADVOCACY, TO DISCUSS JOINT REGIONAL ADVOCACY STRATEGIES WITH LOCAL NGOs (JANUARY).

FRANCE: SEE ABOVE BELGIUM AND FRANCE.

HONG KONG: SEE ABOVE CHINA AND HONG KONG.

INDIA: RESEARCH IN SINGRAULI, TO INVESTIGATE HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES ASSOCIATED WITH A WORLD BANK-FUNDED POWER PROJECT (FEBRUARY-MARCH).
RESEARCH ON VIOLENCE AGAINST LOW-CASTE PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY WOMEN, IN MAHARASHTRA, TAMIL NADU, AND BIHAR (JANUARY-MARCH).
ADVOCACY, TO CONSULT WITH LOCAL GROUPS WORKING ON ISSUES OF CASTE VIOLENCE (JULY/AUGUST).
RESEARCH IN DHARAMSALA, INTERVIEWS OF TIBETANS FROM EASTERN TIBET (KHAM AND AMDO) (AUGUST).

INDONESIA: ADVOCACY, TO SEEK IDEAS FROM INDONESIAN NGOS ON IMF AND WORLD BANK PROGRAMS AND HUMAN RIGHTS (FEBRUARY-MARCH).
RESEARCH ON ARBITRARY ARRESTS AND "DISAPPEARANCES" OF SOEHARTO CRITICS, AND HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN IRIAN JAYA (MARCH).
RESEARCH TO INVESTIGATE VIOLENCE AGAINST ETHNIC CHINESE AND FOLLOW UP ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN IRIAN JAYA (AUGUST).

JAPAN: ADVOCACY, TO DISCUSS ISSUES OF
HUMAN RIGHTS AND JAPANESE FOREIGN POLICY, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO CHINA, CAMBODIA, INDONESIA, AND BURMA (APRIL).

Malaysia: Advocacy, to attend Asia Pacific People's Assembly and NGO meetings parallel to APEC, and to monitor Anwar and Fernandez trials (November).

Pakistan: Research to interview survivors of massacre of ethnic Hazaras in Mazar-e Sharif, Afghanistan (September/October).

Thailand: Research on treatment of Burmese refugees and immigration detention conditions of migrants in Thailand (February-March). *See also* Cambodia and Thailand.

Europe and Central Asia Division

Armenia: Research on human rights abuse (September).

Austria: Meetings with Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) officials in Vienna regarding situation in Kosovo (March). Meetings with the OSCE in Vienna about Human Rights Watch reports on Macedonia and Uzbekistan, as well as the conflict in Kosovo. Advocated for greater incorporation of women's human rights into the work of the OSCE (April).

Azerbaijan: Investigated police abuse and elections laws (May).

Belarus: Observed politically motivated trials (February).
Collected testimony related to violations of freedom of expression (April).

Belgium: Advocacy mission to European Commission in Brussels on aid conditionality in Bosnia (April).

Bosnia: Observed women's rights in Republika Srpska (January).

France: Advocacy with Council of Europe in Strasbourg on accession procedure for Caucasus nations (January).
Council of Europe advocacy on accession of Caucasus nations (April).
Council of Europe advocacy on Croatia, Kosovo, and accession of Caucasus nations (September).

Germany and Switzerland: Visited detention facilities of Kosovar Albanian asylum seekers (September).

Germany and United Kingdom: Research on general human rights situation in Western Europe; in Belfast, made presentation at Independent Commission on Policing (October).

Macedonia: Research on police abuse (November 1997).

Poland: Advocacy related to the 1997 OSCE Review Conference in Warsaw (November 1997).

Poland, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan: Investigated freedom of conscience and other political freedoms; met with Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE Bronislaw Geremek in Warsaw, and with representatives from the Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) to discuss Human Rights Watch findings in Central Asia (May).

Montenegro, Serbia, and Kosovo: Advocacy (August).

The Netherlands: Advocacy with the OSCE High Commission on National Minorities in The Hague (April).

Russia: Investigated conditions in orphanages (March).
Investigated police abuse in Irkutsk province (April).
Investigated police abuse in Arkhangelsk, Novgorod, and Saint Petersburg (July).
Return visit to Arkhangelsk to further investigate police abuse (September).
Monitored trial of environmental activist Alexander Nikitin (October).

Serbia: *See above* Montenegro, Serbia, and Kosovo.

Switzerland: *See above* Germany and Switzerland.

Turkmenistan: *See above* Poland, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

United Kingdom: Advocacy mission to the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development on arms transfer to Turkey (April).
Monitored marching season in Northern Ireland (July). *See also* Germany and United Kingdom.

Uzbekistan: Investigated freedom of conscience in Fergana valley (March).
See also Poland.

Federal Republic of Yugoslavia: Investigated humanitarian law violations in Kosovo (February).

RESEARCH ON HUMANITARIAN LAW VIOLATIONS IN KOSOVO (JUNE).
MONITORED DETENTIONS, ARRESTS, AND MASSACRES IN KOSOVO (SEPTEMBER).

Middle East and North Africa Division

BELGIUM: HEARING ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN ALGERIA AT THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN BRUSSELS (NOVEMBER 1997).
ADVOCACY ON IMPLEMENTATION OF E.U. ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT WITH TUNISIA (JULY).

DENMARK: MEETING OF THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN HUMAN RIGHTS NETWORK, IN COPENHAGEN (DECEMBER 1997).

EGYPT: CONSULTATIONS WITH REGIONAL LABOR AND LAWYER ORGANIZATIONS ON MIGRANT LABOR ISSUES AND FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION (APRIL).
MEETINGS WITH HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS ON E.U. ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT OPPORTUNITIES, AND WITH MEDIA AND FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS CONCERNING DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE TO ESTABLISH AN INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT (MAY).
CONSULTATION WITH LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS AND INVESTIGATION OF DRAFT ASSOCIATIONS LAW (MAY-JUNE).

GERMANY: ADVOCACY ON ALGERIA, IRAN, AND OTHER REGIONAL ISSUES (DECEMBER 1997).
ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED WEST BANK AND GAZA: CONSULTATIONS WITH HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS (APRIL).
PRESENTED PAPER AT CONFERENCE ON ISRAELI HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND CONSULTED WITH NGOs ON U.N. ADVOCACY STRATEGIES (JUNE).

MOROCCO: ATTENDED CONFERENCE ORGANIZED BY MOROCCO'S CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND CONSULTED WITH LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS (APRIL).
SWITZERLAND: ADVOCACY ON ALGERIA AND OTHER ISSUES AT U.N. COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN GENEVA (MARCH).
ADVOCACY IN GENEVA ON OCCASION OF U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE REVIEW OF ALGERIA'S ADHERENCE TO THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS (JULY).

TUNISIA: INVESTIGATED CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS OPERATE (AUGUST).

UNITED KINGDOM: RESEARCH ON THE STATE OF FREE EXPRESSION ON THE INTERNET IN THE MIDDLE EAST, IN LONDON (MARCH).
ADVOCACY, MEETING WITH MEDIA, FOREIGN MINISTRY, AND NGOs IN LONDON (MARCH).
CONSULTATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS IN ENGLAND (JUNE).
PARTICIPATED IN SEMINAR ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION, IN LONDON (JUNE).

Arms Division

Angola and Zambia: INVESTIGATED ARMS FLOWS TO ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT AND UNITA REBELS, AND THE LANDMINES SITUATION (JULY-AUGUST).

Austria: ADVOCACY, MEETING WITH NGOs AND GOVERNMENT LEADERS ON LANDMINES (MAY).

BELGIUM: ADVOCACY, TO RELEASE REPORT ON BURUNDI (DECEMBER 1997).
INVESTIGATED ROLE OF OSTEND AIRPORT IN THE TRANSHIPMENT OF WEAPONS (APRIL).
ADVOCACY, TO PRESENT THE FINDINGS OF SUDAN REPORT TO THE E.U. PARLIAMENT, COUNCIL AND COMMISSION, ATTEND A CONFERENCE ON THE E.U. COMMON FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY, AND FOLLOW-UP WITH NATO ADVOCACY (SEPTEMBER).
ADVOCACY, TO ATTEND A BELGIAN GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE AND AN IANSA MEETING ON SMALL ARMS (OCTOBER).

BELGIUM AND UNITED KINGDOM: ADVOCACY, TO ATTEND THE G8 SUMMIT IN BIRMINGHAM TO PRESS THE ISSUE OF SMALL ARMS PROLIFERATION, AND TO SPEAK IN BRUSSELS TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE E.U. CODE OF CONDUCT ON ARMS TRANSFERS, AND MEET WITH NATO OFFICIALS (MAY).

BUDAPEST: ADVOCACY, GOVERNMENT/NGO REGIONAL MEETING ON LANDMINES (MARCH).

BURKINA FASO: ADVOCACY, NGO LANDMINES MEETINGS AND OAU SUMMIT (JUNE).

BURUNDI, KENYA, AND RWANDA: INVESTIGATED THE CONTINUING INFLOW OF WEAPONS TO ABUSIVE PARTIES TO ARMED CONFLICT (JULY-AUGUST).

CANADA: ADVOCACY, GOVERNMENT AND NGO LANDMINES MEETINGS (MARCH).
ADVOCACY, NGO PREPARATORY CONFERENCE FOR THE LAUNCHING OF AN INTERNATIONAL ACTION NETWORK ON SMALL ARMS (IANSA) (AUGUST).
ADVOCACY, NGO CONFERENCE ON LANDMINE MONITOR AND GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE ON MINE BAN TREATY IMPLEMENTATION (DECEMBER).
PARTICIPATION IN THE CEREMONY TO SIGN THE MINE BAN TREATY (DECEMBER 1997).

ETHIOPIA, KENYA, TANZANIA: ADVOCACY MISSION TO RAISE CONCERN ABOUT ARMS FLOWS IN GREAT LAKES AND SUDAN WITH NGOs, MEDIA, AND OAU (JULY).

FRANCE AND ITALY: ADVOCACY, TO DISCUSS OUR RESEARCH IN THE GREAT LAKES WITH THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT AND NGOs AND TO ATTEND AN NGO ARMS CONFERENCE IN ITALY (APRIL).

Germany: Advocacy, general meeting of International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) (February).

Ireland: Advocacy, conference on Landmine Monitor (September).

Italy: See above France and Italy.

Japan: Advocacy, government and NGO landmine meetings including Nagano Winter Olympics Peace Appeal (January–February).

Jordan: Advocacy mission to regional NGO conference on landmines (July).

Kenya: See above Burundi, Kenya and Rwanda; Ethiopia, Kenya, and Tanzania.

Norway: Participation in Red Cross experts meeting on small arms and international humanitarian law (May).

Advocacy, ICBL meetings including establishment of Landmine Monitor (June).

Participation in Nobel Peace Prize ceremony (December 1997).

Russia: Advocacy, first NGO conference on landmines in Russia and CIS (May).

Rwanda: See above Burundi, Kenya, and Rwanda.

South Africa: Advocacy, Non-Aligned Movement summit to press the landmines issue (August).

South Korea: Advocacy, government and NGO landmines meetings including visit to DMZ (February).

Sudan: Advocacy/research, to discuss arms flows to Sudan with the government (November 1997).

Tanzania: See above Ethiopia.

Ukraine: Advocacy, to meet with NGOs and government leaders on landmines (May).

United Kingdom: See above Belgium and United Kingdom.

Zambia: See above Angola and Zambia.

Children's Rights Division

Jamaica: Follow-up investigation of children held in adult lockups (August).

Pakistan: Investigation of juvenile justice administration in Pakistan, including treatment of children in police lockups and prisons (May).

Russia: Investigated conditions and treatment of children in Russian orphanages (January–February).

Rwanda: Investigated the impact of genocide on children (February).

Sri Lanka: Investigated the use of children as domestic workers (October–November).

United States: Investigated treatment of unaccompanied minors by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) in Berks County, Pennsylvania (June).

Investigated the trial of children as adults and the confinement of children in adult detention facilities in Maryland (July–October).

Conducted research on child migrant farmworkers in Arizona (September–October).

Women's Rights Division

Bosnia: Research on women's rights post-conflict (January–February).

Budapest: Advocacy on strategies to combat trafficking in Eastern Europe (June).

Canada: Advocacy on the International

Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR)

and

justice for victims of sexual violence (October).

France and Great Britain: Meeting with representatives from Algerian women's

rights NGOs (March).

Great Britain: See above France and Great Britain.

Italy: Advocacy, Diplomatic Conference on the Establishment of an International

Criminal Court (June-July).

Mexico: Advocacy on pregnancy discrimination (October).

Pakistan: Research on situation of women in Afghanistan (May).
Research on Afghan refugees in Pakistan (May and October).

Poland: Advocacy, regional meeting on promoting women's legal rights (November).

Russia: Advocacy on domestic violence (March).

South Africa: Advocacy on state response to violence against women (August).

Switzerland: Advocacy with the UN Human Rights Commission (April).

Tanzania: Research on violence against women in refugee camps (June-July).

United States: Research on retaliation against incarcerated women in Michigan state prisons (December 1997 and March).
Advocacy on violence against incarcerated women in California (April and September).

Uruguay: Advocacy, conference on the rights of women in the Americas (September).
Advocacy on violence against women in California (April and September).

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