

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH WORLD REPORT 1992

Events of 1991

Human Rights Watch

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Human Rights Watch

Human Rights Watch monitors and promotes observance of internationally recognized human rights worldwide. It is composed of Africa Watch, Americas Watch, Asia Watch, Helsinki Watch, Middle East Watch and the Fund for Free Expression.

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We dedicate the 1992 Human Rights Watch World Report to the memory of Sophie C. Silberberg, a cherished colleague who died on August 24, 1991 at the age of 78. Sophie's energy, acumen and warmth were pivotal in the growth of Human Rights Watch from the Fund for Free Expression — of which she was executive director from 1978 to 1990 and vice-chair at the time of her death — to the worldwide monitoring organization of the scope and impact reflected in these pages.

PREFACE

For the past nine years, Human Rights Watch has published a report surveying the U.S. government's human rights policy in many of the countries that we monitor. For the last two years, we have also included an analysis of human rights developments in those countries. This year, we have added a discussion of each country's respect for the right to monitor human rights conditions. Finally, each chapter contains a description of Human Rights Watch's work in promoting human rights in that country.

This survey covers 57 countries, spanning every region of the world. The list of countries reviewed is not a comprehensive inventory of all governments that commit serious abuses of human rights, nor is it a catalogue of every nation in which U.S. human rights policy warrants analysis. Rather, it reflects the countries where Human Rights Watch has devoted its greatest energies — an allocation which in turn reflects the seriousness of abuses, our access to information, our ability to influence human rights practices, our priority in maintaining a balance in our work cutting across various significant political and other divisions, and our limited and often strained resources. Within each country as well, the issues covered do not necessarily span the scope of human rights abuse, but reflect areas to which Human Rights Watch has devoted its attention.

A compilation of this magnitude is a joint effort involving a large number of people, including the entire research staff of Human Rights Watch. The contributors were: Aziz Abu Hamad, Cynthia Arnson, Cynthia Brown, Holly Burkhalter, Mary Jane Camejo, Holly Cartner, Allyson Collins, Catherine Cosman, Alex de Waal, Rachel Denber, Martha Farmelo, Liesl Fitchard, Janet Fleischman, Lisa Fleischman, Robert Goldman, Eric Goldstein, Patricia Gossman, Jeannine Guthrie, David Holiday, Nicola Jefferson, Michael Jendrzejczyk, Sidney Jones, Robert Kimzey, Jeri Laber, Gara LaMarche, Ellen Lutz, Anne Manuel, Juan Mendez, Robin Munro, David Nachman, Aryeh Neier, Ivana Nizich, Rakiya Omaar, Jiwon Park, Ben Penglase, Patricia Pittman, Dinah PoKempner, Clifford Rohde, Kenneth Roth, Karen Sorenson, Thant Myint-U, Dorothy Thomas, Julie Triedman, Joanna Weschler, John White, Andrew Whitley and Lois Whitman. Scott Turner contributed immensely by managing the physical production of the volume. The report was edited by Kenneth Roth.