

CONGRESSIONAL CASEWORK

Human Rights Watch continued to work closely with three casework groups composed of members of the United States Congress: the Congressional Friends of Human Rights Monitors, the Congressional Committee to Support Writers and Journalists, and the Congressional Working Group on International Women's Human Rights. All three groups are nonpartisan and bicameral.

Human Rights Watch initiated the formation of these groups to enable concerned members of Congress to write letters to governments that commit or condone violations against human rights monitors, writers and journalists, or gender-based abuses of women's human rights. Human Rights Watch supplies the groups with information about appropriate cases of concern; the groups, in turn, determine which cases they would like to pursue.

The goals of the congressional casework groups are threefold. First, their letters help to pressure governments to end their persecution of human rights monitors, writers and journalists, and women — abuses which are either committed or routinely tolerated by governments. Second, members of the congressional groups are informed about important incidents of violence and intimidation. Third, copies of the letters are sent to U.S. ambassadors in the relevant countries to inform them about cases of concern and to local press from the countries in question so that they can consequently bring additional attention to human rights violations.

The Congressional Friends of Human Rights Monitors

Human Rights Watch helped to form the Congressional Friends of Human Rights Monitors in 1993 to support and protect our persecuted colleagues. Letters on their behalf have condemned killings, "disappearances," assaults, harassment, and threats, calling for arrest and prosecution of those responsible. During 1997, the group consisted of twenty-five senators and one hundred members of the House of Representatives. Steering committee members were Sen. James Jeffords, Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, Rep. Tony Hall, and Rep. Constance A. Morella. In the four letters sent in 1997, the group voiced concern over events in Colombia, Mexico, Nigeria, and Turkey. In Mexico, visits by foreign human rights workers were cut short when the monitors were expelled after government officials claimed that the visitors had the wrong type of visa. In Colombia, there was an attack on the home of two rights activists, Drs. Mario Calderón Villegas and Elsa Constanza Alvarado Chacón of the Center for Investigation and Popular Education (CINEP) in May; both monitors were killed, as was Dr. Alvarado's mother. The Congressional Friends expressed their outrage and deep concern over the attack and the consistent persecution of human rights advocates in Colombia.

The Congressional Committee to Support Writers and Journalists

In 1997, the Congressional Committee to Support Writers and Journalists was made up of sixty-seven representatives and fifteen senators, and was headed by Sen. Bob Graham, Rep. Jim Leach, and Rep. John Lewis. The committee wrote to the heads of state in Argentina, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Nigeria, and Turkey, focusing on cases in which freedom of expression was threatened, restricted, or otherwise impaired. In Argentina and Iran, journalists and writers were murdered, while in Nigeria, the state ordered the execution of authors who were accused of being "conspirators against the state." In Turkey, Ertuğrul Kürkçü and Ayenur Zarakolu—respectively an editor and a publisher of a Turkish translation of a Human Rights Watch report—were tried for "defaming and belittling" the state security service. In Kyrgyzstan, a defamation case was brought against a newspaper editor, Ryspek Omurzakov.

In October, Argentine Minister of Foreign Relations Santos Goni responded to a letter sent by the committee regarding the brutal murder of photojournalist José Luis Cabezas. He noted that because of the investigation, "many police officers have been expelled from the police force of the province of Buenos Aires (where the homicide took place) and are being investigated for alleged direct or indirect involvement in criminal activities that could have led to this crime." Minister Goni further stated his government's commitment to assure press

FREEDOM.

EARLY THIS YEAR, Taoiseach (PRIME MINISTER) JOHN BRUTON OF IRELAND RESPONDED TO A LETTER SENT BY THE COMMITTEE REGARDING THE JULY 1996 MURDER OF IRISH JOURNALIST VERONICA GUERIN, WHO HAD REPORTED ON DUBLIN'S CRIMINAL UNDERWORLD. MR. BRUTON ECHOED THE COMMITTEE'S CONDEMNATION OF THE CRIME AND PLEDGED TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO BRING MS. GUERIN'S MURDERER TO JUSTICE AND PROTECT PRESS FREEDOM IN IRELAND.

Congressional Working Group on International Women's Human Rights

THE CONGRESSIONAL WORKING GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS, WHICH WAS FORMED IN APRIL 1994 TO PROMOTE ACCOUNTABILITY FOR VIOLATIONS OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS WORLDWIDE, IS A BIPARTISAN GROUP COMPOSED OF TWENTY SENATORS AND THIRTY-TWO MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. THE FOUR MEMBERS OF THE WORKING GROUP'S STEERING COMMITTEE ARE SEN. PATTY MURRAY, SEN. OLYMPIA J. SNOWE, REP. JOE MOAKLEY, AND REP. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA. IN 1997 THE GROUP WROTE LETTERS OF PROTEST TO KING BIRENDRA BIR BIKRAM SHAH DEV OF NEPAL ON THE CASE OF A TIBETAN WOMAN REFUGEE WHO WAS GANG-RAPED AFTER CROSSING INTO NEPAL FROM TIBET AND TO MINISTER OF LABOR ASSAD HARDAN OF LEBANON ON THE ABUSE OF AN ETHIOPIAN DOMESTIC WORKER.

MONITORS 1997

EVERY YEAR HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH HONORS HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORS FROM AROUND THE WORLD FOR THEIR COMMITMENT TO THE DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS. IN CHALLENGING THE WORLD'S POWERFUL HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSERS, THEY ARE OFTEN AT GRAVE RISK. WE WORK CLOSELY WITH THEM TO CONDUCT INVESTIGATIONS AND DEVISE STRATEGIES TO END ABUSES. FOR 1997, THE PEOPLE WE HONORED WERE:

ALBANIA

Fatos Lubonja

FATOS T. LUBONJA WAS BORN IN TIRANA IN 1951. HE GRADUATED FROM TIRANA UNIVERSITY IN THEORETICAL PHYSICS IN 1974 AND WAS ARRESTED IN THE SAME YEAR AND SENTENCED TO SEVEN YEARS IMPRISONMENT FOR "AGITATION AND PROPAGANDA AGAINST THE STATE" BECAUSE OF HIS POLITICAL WRITINGS. IN 1979, WHILE SERVING HIS FIRST SENTENCE, HE WAS CHARGED AGAIN AND SENTENCED TO ANOTHER TEN YEARS IN PRISON AND LABOR CAMPS. HE WAS RELEASED IN 1991 WITH MOST OF ALBANIA'S POLITICAL PRISONERS AND CO-FOUNDED ALBANIA'S FIRST EVER HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP (FORUM FOR THE DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS, WHICH LATER BECAME THE ALBANIAN HELSINKI COMMITTEE).

SINCE THEN, HE HAS BEEN ONE OF ALBANIA'S MOST OUTSPOKEN HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST, UNLIKE MOST FORMER POLITICAL PRISONERS, AND MANY OF ALBANIA'S INTELLECTUALS, LUBONJA OPENLY CRITICIZED THE AUTHORITARIAN GOVERNMENT OF SALI BERISHA. SINCE 1994 HE HAS BEEN BOTH EDITOR AND PUBLISHER OF *PEPJEKJA* ("ENDEAVOR"), ALBANIA'S LEADING CRITICAL SOCIAL/POLITICAL JOURNAL. HE IS THE AUTHOR OF THREE BOOKS, INCLUDING A NOVEL HE WROTE WHILE IN PRISON. IN 1997 FATOS SERVED AS SPOKESMAN OF THE FORUM FOR DEMOCRACY, A COALITION OF ORGANIZATIONS AND POLITICAL PARTIES UNITED IN OPPOSITION TO THE GOVERNMENT OF SALI BERISHA.

CAMBODIA

Dr. Lao Mong Hay

DR. LAO MONG HAY IS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE KHMER INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRACY, ONE OF THE FIRST NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS CREATED TO STIMULATE DEBATE ON DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN CAMBODIA AFTER THE KHMER ROUGE ERA. FOUNDED IN NOVEMBER 1991 SHORTLY AFTER THE PARIS ACCORDS, THE INSTITUTE HAS TAKEN ON SUCH DIVERSE AND HIGH-PROFILE PROJECTS AS PRODUCING A WEEKLY TELEVISION ROUND-TABLE ON CONTROVERSIAL PUBLIC ISSUES OF THE DAY, TRAINING PROVINCIAL POLICE LEADERS AND THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS IN HUMAN RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL LAW, AND CONDUCTING GRASSROOTS EDUCATION IN ELECTORAL DEMOCRACY.

Dr. Lao and the Institute have come under government pressure, particularly with regard to their educational television programming, a novelty in a country with little tradition of independent journalism and where the broadcast media have been dominated by political factions. In October the Information Ministry cancelled Dr. Lao's panel discussion show on state-run TVK. The move came in retaliation for Lao Mong Hay's criticism of Cambodia's record on democracy following the July 5-6 coup. Many outspoken democracy activists and politicians left the country after the coup, but Dr. Lao Mong Hay decided to remain, in Phnom Penh and outspoken.

Prior to assuming the leadership of the Institute, Dr. Lao was director of the Cambodian Mine Action Center, a unique government-supported agency dedicated to mine clearance and mine education that grew out of the United Nations peace-keeping mission. In that capacity, Dr. Lao urged the Cambodian government to take a leading role in the campaign to immediately ban the production, stockpiling and use of landmines worldwide, a cause recently awarded the Nobel Prize. Human Rights Watch is honored to have him as a member of the advisory board of the Arms Project since 1996.

CHINA

Wei Jingsheng

Except for a six-month period between September 1993 and March 1994, Wei Jingsheng, China's most prominent dissident, has spent most of his adult life in prison. Now forty-eight, he was first jailed in 1979 for his participation in the Democracy Wall Movement. His famous essay, "The Fifth Modernization," argued that in addition to four kinds of modernization advocated by Deng Xiaoping, China also needed democracy. That essay was followed by another calling Deng an autocrat. For these words, Wei Jingsheng was sentenced on October 16, 1979 to fifteen years in prison.

His recently-published collection of prison letters, *The Courage to Stand Alone*, makes it clear that his treatment in prison was always harsh. He spent long periods in solitary confinement, and his health deteriorated sharply. In late 1993, he was released in what was widely interpreted as an attempt by China to deflect human rights criticism in pursuit of its ultimately unsuccessful bid to host the 2000 Olympic Games. Wei immediately went back to advocating political reform, meeting with activists, journalists, and others, and writing for foreign and domestic publications.

On April 1, 1994, he was again taken into custody, and after a delay of eighteen months was convicted of "counterrevolution." In November, the Chinese government released Wei on medical parole.

LEBANON

Dr. Muhamad Mugraby

Dr. Muhamad Mugraby, a Lebanese attorney with a busy corporate and commercial law practice in Beirut, is also a well-known defender of human rights in his country. He has long championed the independence of the judiciary, not only in Lebanon but regionwide. In 1967, he introduced civil rights and civil liberties as courses at the Lebanese University School of Law, where he taught for many years. He is also an outspoken critic of Syria's increasingly tight grip on Lebanon, and believes that human rights in Lebanon cannot be restored without addressing the harmful impact of the ubiquitous Syrian role in the country's affairs.

As a human rights lawyer and activist, Dr. Mugraby has focused on some of the most serious human rights problems in Lebanon, such as incommunicado detention, torture, and the expanding use of military courts to try civilians. He is not afraid to take on politically sensitive cases. He has represented property owners and tenants in the old city of Beirut who have challenged unlawful practices of Prime Minister Hariri's Solidere—the multi-billion-dollar real estate company—carrying out the controversial physical reorganization of downtown Beirut. In March 1997, he made formal written complaints to Lebanon's public prosecutor about the unlawful detention of two Lebanese who "disappeared" in January and in March, were transferred into Syrian custody, and held incommunicado in Damascus. Both demarches called on Lebanese authorities to investigate these cases, and

PROSECUTE THE PERPETRATORS AND THEIR ACCOMPLICES.

DR. MUGRABY HOLDS DEGREES FROM THE LEBANESE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, AND COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL, WHERE HE WAS AN INTERNATIONAL LAW FELLOW FROM 1963-65 AND WHERE HE EARNED TWO MASTERS DEGREES AND A DOCTORATE. HE IS A MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION AND THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LAWYERS.

COLOMBIA

Carlos Rodriguez

CARLOS RODRIGUEZ IS A DISTINGUISHED LAWYER, TEACHER, AND WRITER WHO HAS DEDICATED HIS TALENTS TO THE DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN COLOMBIA. EDUCATED AT THE PRESTIGIOUS JAVERIANA UNIVERSITY IN BOGOTA AND THE COMPLUTENSE UNIVERSITY OF MADRID, HE BEGAN HIS PROFESSIONAL CAREER IN 1974. HE IS A FOUNDING MEMBER OF ONE OF COLOMBIA'S MOST EFFECTIVE HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS, THE COLOMBIAN COMMISSION OF JURISTS. THERE, HE HAS PIONEERED THE INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS WORK IN COLOMBIA, HEADING UP THE TEAM THAT FINALLY MADE COLOMBIA A PRIORITY AT THE REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION IN GENEVA AND AT THE OFFICES OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. LARGELY THROUGH HIS EFFORTS, THE HIGH COMMISSIONER SET UP FOR THE FIRST TIME AN OFFICE IN BOGOTA TO PRESSURE THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT TO PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS.

RODRIGUEZ HAS ALSO PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN LANDMARK CASES IN THE DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN COLOMBIA. AS A MEMBER OF THE GROUP LOOKING INTO THE 1990 TRUJILLO MASSACRE, HE HELPED PERSUADE THE GOVERNMENT TO ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE KILLINGS OF 109 PEOPLE BY AN ARMY MAJOR AND HIS PARAMILITARY ALLIES. RODRIGUEZ CONTINUES TO WORK ON OTHER IMPORTANT CASES, INCLUDING THE VILLAFINA MASSACRE, THE CALOTO MASSACRE, AND THE LOS UVOS MASSACRE, ALL OF WHICH INVOLVED THE DIRECT PARTICIPATION OF STATE AGENTS WITH PARAMILITARY GROUPS.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Dieudonne Been Masudi Kingombe

AS DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN LAW (CDH) IN LUBUMBASHI, THE SECOND LARGEST CITY IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO, DIEUDONNE BEEN MASUDI KINGOMBE OVERSEES AND COORDINATES THE WORK OF A TEAM OF THREE FULL TIME INVESTIGATORS, AND HALF A DOZEN VOLUNTEERS. DURING THE INFAMOUS MOBUTU ERA, THE CDH, WHICH WAS FOUNDED BY A GROUP OF LAWYERS IN 1992, ASSUMED A PIVOTAL ROLE IN EXPOSING ABUSES, IN PRESSING FOR ACCOUNTABILITY, AND IN MEDIATING BETWEEN VICTIMS AND THE AUTHORITIES. THE CENTER'S REPORTS ALSO EXPOSED THE CORRUPTION AND INEPTITUDE OF THE JUDICIARY, AND DENOUNCED NATIONAL AND REGIONAL POLITICIANS FOR RELYING ON ETHNIC MANIPULATION TO CONSOLIDATE THEIR HOLD ON POWER.

WITH THE ADVENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ALLIANCE OF DEMOCRATIC FORCES FOR THE LIBERATION OF CONGO, THE CENTER, AS BEFORE, SPEARHEADED THE LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMUNITY'S EFFORTS TO DENOUNCE THE FAR-TOO-FAMILIAR ABUSES PERPETRATED BY THE AGENTS OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT. ON JULY 31, 1997 CENTER STAFF VISITED DETAINEES HELD AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE NEW POLITICAL POLICE. IN A SCATHING, TWO PAGE OPEN LETTER TO THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR AFTER THAT VISIT, CDH DENOUNCED THE ARBITRARY DETENTION OF 89 INDIVIDUALS, AND THE TORTURE AND BEATINGS SOME OF THEM HAD SUFFERED. IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED, MOST OF THEM, INCLUDING HIGH-PROFILE POLITICAL DETAINEES, WERE RELEASED.

BEEN MASUDI IS ALSO THE INSPIRATION BEHIND THE "CONCERTATION," THE UMBRELLA FORUM OF ALL HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS IN LUBUMBASHI THAT ACT TOGETHER TO RAISE HUMAN RIGHTS CASES WITH GOVERNMENT AND MILITARY OFFICIALS.

RUSSIA

Marina Pisklakova

MARINA PISKLAKOVA FOUNDED THE MOSCOW CRISIS CENTER FOR WOMEN IN JULY 1993, TO FOCUS ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SET UP ONE OF THE FIRST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINES IN RUSSIA. IT TAKES UP TO 250 CALLS A MONTH. MARINA HAS EMERGED AS A LEADER IN THE FIGHT AGAINST VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN RUSSIA. SHE HAS ALSO DONE WORK ON SEXUAL VIOLENCE MORE GENERALLY AND ON TRAFFICKING OF RUSSIAN WOMEN INTO DOMESTIC WORK AND PROSTITUTION THROUGHOUT EUROPE. SHE WAS

ALSO ONE OF THE COFOUNDERS OF THE RUSSIAN ASSOCIATION OF CRISIS CENTERS FOR WOMEN.

MARINA IS CURRENTLY INVOLVED IN TWO MAJOR EFFORTS: TO OPEN THE FIRST SHELTER FOR BATTERED WOMEN IN RUSSIA, AND TO DEVELOP PILOT PROGRAMS TO COORDINATE THE LAW ENFORCEMENT, MEDICAL AND NONGOVERNMENTAL RESPONSE TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN.

UGANDA

Angelina Acheng Atyam

ANGELINA ACHENG ATYAM, A NURSE-MIDWIFE AND MOTHER OF SIX, IS THE VICE CHAIR OF THE CONCERNED PARENTS ASSOCIATION, A GROUP OF UGANDAN PARENTS WHO CAME TOGETHER TO DEMAND ACTION WHEN THEIR DAUGHTERS, 139 GIRLS FROM THE ST. MARY'S SCHOOL, WERE ABDUCTED BY THE LORD'S RESISTANCE ARMY IN OCTOBER 1996. FOR YEARS IN THE NORTHERN PART OF UGANDA THE LORD'S RESISTANCE ARMY HAS BEEN STEALING CHILDREN FOR USE IN THEIR REBEL ARMY IN THEIR ATTEMPT TO OVERTHROW THE UGANDAN GOVERNMENT. CHILDREN AS YOUNG AS EIGHT-YEARS OLD HAVE BEEN KIDNAPPED, TORTURED, RAPED, VIRTUALLY ENSLAVED, AND SOMETIMES KILLED BY THE REBEL ARMY. ANGELINA'S DAUGHTER WAS FOURTEEN WHEN SHE WAS ABDUCTED, AND REMAINS IN REBEL CAPTIVITY TODAY.

THE CONCERNED PARENTS HAVE WORKED FIERCELY TO SECURE THE RELEASE OF THEIR DAUGHTERS, AND ALL CHILDREN IN REBEL CAPTIVITY, ENCOURAGING OTHER FAMILIES TO SPEAK OUT ABOUT THE ABDUCTIONS OF THEIR CHILDREN. FAMILIES HAVE BEEN RELUCTANT TO COME FORWARD FOR FEAR OF REPRISALS. ANGELINA AND THE CONCERNED PARENTS HAVE MADE IT CLEAR, BY THEIR OWN EXAMPLE, THAT FAMILIES DO NOT HAVE TO WATCH SILENTLY AS THEIR CHILDREN ARE STOLEN FROM THEM. THEY HAVE SHOWN THAT THEY DO NOT HAVE TO TOLERATE THE INTOLERABLE. THE CONCERNED PARENTS HAVE SUCCEEDED IN BRINGING NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION TO THEIR CAUSE, AND HAVE RAISED THEIR CONCERNS WITH UGANDAN PRESIDENT YOWERI MUSEVENI AND AT HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF UGANDA AND SUDAN. ALTHOUGH THEY WERE DRAWN INTO THE TURMOIL SURROUNDING THE CONFLICT IN THE NORTH ONLY WHEN THEIR OWN CHILDREN WERE STOLEN FROM THEM, THE CONCERNED PARENTS HAVE BECOME A POWERFUL VOICE FOR ALL CHILDREN IN REBEL CAPTIVITY.

Hellman/Hammett Grants

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH administers the Hellman/Hammett grant program for writers who have been victims of political persecution and are in financial need. Every year, between \$150,000 and \$200,000 from the estates of Lillian Hellman and Dashiell Hammett is given to writers all over the world. In addition to providing much needed financial assistance, the Hellman/Hammett grants focus attention on repression of free speech and censorship by publicizing the persecution that the grant recipients endured. 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 are a tiny portion of the many writers of the world whose books have been banned or who have been exiled, imprisoned, tortured, and harassed because of their work. For the third consecutive year, eight or more Chinese writers have received Hellman/Hammett grants as the government targets all who dare to express ideas that conflict with the ruling party line. Relying on the lure of its enormous economic potential to mute international protest, China continues to repress criticism in flagrant disregard for international free expression standards. This year twelve Turkish writers received grants, representing the wide range of thought (Islamist, Kurdish, leftist, and mainstream) that is often subject to harsh repression in Turkey. Their persecution for writing about a number of issues, including the Kurdish question, the role of Islam in society, and the nature of the Turkish state, co-exists with high degrees of free expression on almost all other topics, creating a national dichotomy that permeates public debate.

In 1997, forty-five writers from sixteen countries received Hellman/Hammett grants. In addition to the recipients from Turkey and China, there were six from Vietnam and two each from Indonesia, Iran, Liberia, and Nigeria.

The recipients whose names can be safely released are:

AHMET ALTAN, Turkish journalist, was prosecuted for "insulting the government" based on two articles he wrote about the war in southeast Turkey.

Nnimmo Bassey, Nigerian poet and environmental activist, was arrested and held without charge for six weeks.

BUI MINH QUOC, Vietnamese poet and former Communist patriot, was forced from his job and banned from publishing for criticizing the government.

CHAN TIN, dissident Vietnamese Catholic priest, was sentenced to five years of hard labor for giving sermons and writing articles demanding the release of political prisoners. **RAGIP DURAN**, journalist for Turkish and international papers, was sentenced to ten months in prison and fined \$4,000 for making "separatist propaganda."

AH EROL, Turkish journalist, is the subject of thirty-seven law suits stemming from his tenure as editor of *EVRENSEL*, the leftist daily paper that was forced to close in October 1996.

GERTRUDE FESTER, South African prison poet and short story writer, spent two years in prison for African National Congress

activities and is writing a history of the women's movement within the African National Congress.

HOUSHANG GOISHIRI, Iranian novelist, was jailed by the Shah, fired from his job by the Islamic Republic, and continues to speak out in defense of basic human freedoms.

ATILLO HALIS, journalist, was convicted under Turkey's antiterror law for writing articles about new books on the cultural page of the now closed, pro-Kurdish *OZGUR GUNDEM*. **MUSTAFA ISLAMOGLU**, poet and newspaper columnist, was convicted for giving a speech that "insulted the republic" and convicted again for writing an article that was found to violate a law that protects Ataturk, the founder of modern Turkey.

SEFA KAPLAN, reporter for a mainstream weekly magazine in Turkey, was convicted of "insulting Ataturk. Rather

THAN GO TO PRISON, HE FLED TO ENGLAND.

Siaka Konneh, Liberian journalist, was arrested and tortured for exposing the Doe regime's secret killings and arbitrary arrests in 1988. In 1996, when he tried to report on the renewed fighting, his life was threatened, forcing him to flee to Guinea and Ghana and finally to seek asylum in the United States.

Ertugul Kurkcu, Turkish journalist, was charged several times, most notably for writing about an interview with Abdullah Ocalan, the leader of the PKK, a militant Kurdish rebel group.

Abdellatif Laabi, Moroccan poet and novelist, was tortured and sentenced to ten years in prison for "crimes of opinion" and then forced into exile.

Liu Hongbin, Chinese poet, whose poems were posted in Tiananmen Square during the 1989 demonstrations, fled to London. While on a return visit to his mother in 1997, he was arrested and expelled.

Liu Xiaobo, literary critic, has been repeatedly harassed and arrested for dissenting from the Chinese government party line. In October 1996, he was sentenced to three years of re-education through labor.

Abbas Maroufi, Iranian novelist and journalist, whose books are banned, has been legally barred from working in Iran.

Emad El-Meky, journalist, questioned and tortured for reporting on the political situation in Sudan, fled to Egypt. Still at risk from Sudanese agents, he has applied for asylum in the United States.

Nguyen Dinh Huy, Vietnamese journalist, is serving a fifteen-year prison term for planning to hold an international conference to promote peaceful support for democracy.

Nguyen Ngoc Lan, philosophy professor, is under strict surveillance for writing articles calling for freedom of expression and political pluralism in Vietnam.

Nguyen Van Tran, Vietnamese political commentator and Communist Party elder statesman, gradually became alienated and published a humorous collection of articles disparaging the Vietnamese Communist Party. Though under an order of suppression, he continues to publish.

Mehmet Oguz, Turkish journalist, faces a ten-month prison term for an editorial he wrote for a pro-Kurdish weekly. Several cases are pending against him for articles published in other pro-Kurdish publications.

Phan Thanh Hoai, Vietnamese physician turned author, was barred from publishing but kept writing. As the political issues that forced his "retirement" faded, he published his first book at age 67.

Fahimda Riaz, Pakistani poet, novelist, and journalist, was charged with treason by the Zia government because of her views on co-existence with India and Bangladesh.

Ahmet Sik, Turkish journalist and photographer, fled to England when he started receiving death threats after he photographed and testified about the arrest of a journalist who died in police custody.

Su Yiao Kang, author of a widely acclaimed book about the historical reasons for persistent authoritarianism in China, was put on China's "most wanted" list after the massacre at Tiananmen Square.

Wang Dan, columnist and editor, sentenced to four years in prison for his role in the June 1989 Beijing demonstrations, was released as part of China's effort to win Most Favored Nation trade status. Wang refused to be silenced and was rearrested in May 1995, held incommunicado for seventeen months, convicted in a closed trial of "conspiring to subvert the government," and is serving an eleven-year prison sentence.

Wang Yizhe was sentenced to fourteen years in prison for the major role his essays played in Democracy Wall Movement in China. Released on parole (under close police surveillance) two years early, he continued talking to foreign journalists and publishing articles in Hong Kong. As his parole was about to expire, he was told it had been extended for two years.

Isik Yurteci, editor responsible for the pro-Kurdish daily *Ozgur Gundem* when it was closed by the Turkish government, was the target of numerous law suits resulting in sentences totaling five years, ten months in prison and more than U.S.\$10,000 in fines. Cases pending in the Appeals Court would add time and dollars to his sentences.

Aysenur Zarakolu has served multiple prison terms for publishing books on the Kurds and other minorities in

TURKEY. MOST RECENTLY SHE WAS CONVICTED FOR PUBLISHING A TRANSLATION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH REPORT, *WEAPONS TRANSFERS AND VIOLATIONS OF THE LAWS OF WAR IN TURKEY*.

ZHANG YIAN LIANG, AUTHOR OF NUMEROUS ARTICLES AND POEMS ATTACKING CORRUPTION AND AUTOCRACY IN THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT, WAS MOST RECENTLY IMPRISONED FOR ARRANGING A COMMEMORATION OF THE TIANANMEN SQUARE MASSACRE. HIS TREATMENT IN LABOR CAMPS PERMANENTLY DAMAGED HIS HEALTH.

THREE *LA VOIE* JOURNALISTS, ABOU DRAHAMANE SANGARE, FREEDOM NERUDA, AND EMMANUEL KORE, WERE SENTENCED TO TWO YEARS IN PRISON FOR PUBLISHING A SATIRICAL ARTICLE THAT OFFENDED THE PRESIDENT OF IVORY COAST. OFFERED A PARDON IF THEY WOULD WITHDRAW THE APPEAL OF THEIR CONVICTION, THEY REFUSED.

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 NINE ADDITIONAL GRANTS TO WRITERS WHO NEEDED EMERGENCY FUNDS TO HELP IN SITUATIONS WHERE THEIR LIVES WERE IN IMMEDIATE DANGER.

MISSIONS

Human Rights Watch/Africa

DECEMBER 1996-JANUARY 1997/DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO: RESPECT FOR RIGHTS UNDER NEW GOVERNMENT.

FEBRUARY/MOZAMBIQUE: ADVOCACY ON LANDMINES.

FEBRUARY/ZAMBIA: RESEARCH ON HUMAN RIGHTS SINCE 1996 ELECTIONS.

MARCH/U.N. COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS: SUBMISSION ON INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN KENYA, SOMALI REFUGEES, WOMEN AND REFUGEES IN SOUTH AFRICA.

APRIL/ZAMBIA: HUMAN RIGHTS SINCE THE 1996 ELECTIONS.

APRIL/ICTR: MONITOR EFFICACY OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL TRIBUNAL ON RWANDA; INVESTIGATE GENDER-BASED CRIMES; WORKSHOP ON PROSECUTION OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE.

MAY/ICTR: TESTIMONY AT THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL TRIBUNAL ON RWANDA.

MAY/BELGIUM: TESTIMONY AT THE BELGIAN SENATE COMMISSION INVESTIGATING ROLE OF BELGIUM IN THE GENOCIDE IN RWANDA.

JUNE-JULY/BURUNDI: HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES AGAINST CIVILIANS DURING THE CIVIL WAR.

JULY/LIBERIA: PROSPECTS FOR RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS UNDER THE NEW LIBERIAN GOVERNMENT.

JULY/NIGERIA: CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY IN THE NIGER DELTA.

JULY-AUGUST/ETHIOPIA: CURRENT CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS SITUATION.

JULY-AUGUST/DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO: CIVILIAN KILLINGS AND GOVERNMENT IMPUNITY.

AUGUST/DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO: RIGHTS UNDER THE NEW GOVERNMENT.

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER/NIGERIA: INVESTIGATED TRANSITION TO CIVILIAN RULE.

OCTOBER/SOUTHERN SUDAN: UPDATED THE STATE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE 14 YEAR-OLD CIVIL WAR (MONITORED AND ENGAGED PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT IN DIALOGUE ON RULES OF WAR)..

NOVEMBER 1996/SOUTH AFRICA: RESEARCHED VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND THE MEDICO-LEGAL SYSTEM.

Human Rights Watch/Americas

MARCH/VENEZUELA: RELEASED THE "PUNISHMENT BEFORE TRIAL: PRISON CONDITIONS IN VENEZUELA" REPORT. MET WITH HIGH-LEVEL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, INCLUDING THE VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET, CONGRESS AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOS).

MARCH/COLOMBIA: ADVOCACY MISSION. MET WITH PRESIDENT SAMPER, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET, NGOS AND THE MEDIA.

APRIL/MEXICO: RELEASED "IMPLAUSIBLE DENIABILITY: STATE RESPONSIBILITY FOR RURAL VIOLENCE IN MEXICO" REPORT. MET WITH GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES INCLUDING THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, AS WELL AS NGOS.

APRIL/ MIAMI: RESEARCHED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN CUBA.

APRIL/PERU: INVESTIGATED REPORTS OF TORTURE FOR A FORTHCOMING REPORT.

MAY/COLOMBIA: INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW IMPACT OF DRUG ERADICATION IN COLOMBIA.

JUNE/BRAZIL: RELEASED THE PORTUGUESE VERSION OF THE REPORT "POLICE BRUTALITY IN URBAN BRAZIL." MET WITH STATE AND FEDERAL OFFICIALS IN RIO DE JANEIRO, SAO PAULO AND BRASILIA, AS WELL AS THE MEDIA.

JUNE-JULY/HONDURAS AND GUATEMALA: RESEARCHED VIOLATIONS FOR THE 1998 WORLD REPORT, AS WELL AS THE SPECIFIC ISSUE OF IMPUNITY IN GUATEMALA.

JULY/VENEZUELA: RESEARCHED POLICE BRUTALITY AND VIOLENCE IN THE COUNTRY.

JULY-AUGUST/COLOMBIA: RESEARCHED FORCED DISPLACEMENT OF COLOMBIANS.

JULY-AUGUST/HAITI AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: RESEARCHED VIOLATIONS FOR THE 1998 WORLD REPORT.

JULY-AUGUST/ SPAIN: MET WITH GOVERNMENTAL OFFICIALS, NGOS, THE PRESS AND MEMBERS OF THE POLITICAL OPPOSITION.

AUGUST/GUATEMALA: RELEASED "GUATEMALA'S FORGOTTEN CHILDREN" REPORT. MET WITH HIGH-LEVEL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND THE PRESS.

SEPTEMBER/BRAZIL: MET WITH PRESIDENT CARDOSO AND THE BRAZILIAN MINISTER OF JUSTICE.

SEPTEMBER/COLOMBIA: ADVOCACY MISSION. MET WITH THE PRESIDENT AND OTHER HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIALS, MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT, AND NGOS.

Human Rights Watch/Asia

JANUARY/ INDONESIA: INVESTIGATED OUTBREAKS OF ETHNIC VIOLENCE.

MARCH-APRIL/HONG KONG: INVESTIGATED PRISON CONDITIONS IN HONG KONG.

MARCH/MALAYSIA: OBSERVER MISSION TO THE TRIAL OF LABOR RIGHTS ACTIVIST IRENE FERNANDEZ AND INVESTIGATION OF ABUSES AGAINST MIGRANT WORKERS.

MARCH-APRIL/THAILAND: LEAD SESSIONS ON USING INTERNATIONAL LAW AND ON FORGING LINKAGES AMONG NGOS AS PART OF A TWO-WEEK ASIAN REGIONAL STUDY SESSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

APRIL/ GENEVA: MONITORED DEBATES ON THE CHINA RESOLUTION AT THE MEETING OF THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS

Commission.

MAY-JUNE/THAILAND: EXAMINED THE SITUATION OF BURMESE REFUGEES IN THAILAND IN LIGHT OF AN INFUX OF 20,000 KAREN REFUGEES SINCE FEBRUARY 1997.

MAY-JUNE/HONG KONG: INVESTIGATED CHINA'S CONTROL OF RELIGIOUS PRACTICE.

MAY/JAPAN: ADVOCACY MISSION. DISCUSSED JAPANESE FOREIGN POLICY WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND NGOs AND ATTENDED THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK MEETINGS IN FUKUOKA.

JULY/THAILAND AND INDONESIA: INVESTIGATED CAUSES OF ETHNIC VIOLENCE IN WEST KALIMANTAN AND COLLECTED INFORMATION ON EAST TIMOR.

AUGUST/GENEVA: ADVOCACY MISSION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF BURMESE REFUGEES IN THAILAND.

OCTOBER/VIETNAM: INVESTIGATED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS OCCURRING IN THE COURSE OF RURAL UNREST.

OCTOBER/NORTH KOREA: INVESTIGATED LINKS BETWEEN THE NORTH KOREAN FAMINE AND HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS.

NOVEMBER/INDONESIA: INVESTIGATED ALLEGED LABOR RIGHTS ABUSES.

NOVEMBER/APEC - VANCOUVER: ADVOCACY MISSION. ATTENDED THE PEOPLE'S SUMMIT ON APEC (ASIA PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION), THE PARALLEL NGO MEETING TO THE APEC SUMMIT, TO PARTICIPATE IN MEETINGS ON WORKER RIGHTS, MEDIA FREEDOM, WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND COOPERATIVE NGO STRATEGIES ON HUMAN RIGHTS.

Human Rights Watch/Helsinki

JANUARY-JULY/UZBEKISTAN: MAINTAINED PRESENCE IN TOSHKENT OFFICE, INVESTIGATED ABUSES OF MEDIA FREEDOM, POLICE BRUTALITY.

JANUARY-MARCH/NORTHERN IRELAND: INVESTIGATED POLICE BRUTALITY AND ENCOURAGED EMERGENCY LEGISLATION.

FEBRUARY/SERBIA: RESEARCHED POST-ELECTION CRACKDOWN, POLICE BRUTALITY.

FEBRUARY/ EASTERN SLAVONIA, CROATIA: PREPARATIONS FOR THE TRANSFER OF AUTHORITY IN THE REGION TO CROATIAN CONTROL.

FEBRUARY/BOSNIA AND HERCEGOVINA: MAINTAINED PRESENCE IN SARAJEVO OFFICE. RESEARCHED BIHAC.

MARCH/BOSNIA AND HERCEGOVINA: RESEARCHED ETHNIC TENSION AND INFLUENCE OF WAR CRIMINALS IN MOSTAR.

MARCH/TAJIKISTAN: MAINTAINED PRESENCE IN DUSHANBE OFFICE, GENERAL MONITORING, PRISON CONDITIONS, ETC.

MAY/ARMENIA: INVESTIGATED FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION AND THE PRESS.

JUNE/BOSNIA AND HERCEGOVINA: INVESTIGATED CENTRAL BOSNIA

JUNE/NORTHERN IRELAND: RESEARCHED SUMMER MARCHING SEASON AND REPORT FOLLOW-UP.

JUNE/KHOJENT, TAJIKISTAN: INVESTIGATED PROBLEMS OF UZBEK MINORITY.

JULY/ROMANIA: RESEARCHED ANTI-HOMOSEXUAL LEGISLATION.

AUGUST/BOSNIA AND HERCEGOVINA: INVESTIGATED POST-CONFLICT PROBLEMS FOR WOMEN.

AUGUST/TURKEY AND GREECE: INVESTIGATED FREE EXPRESSION (TURKEY) AND PROBLEMS OF TURKISH MINORITY (GREECE).

SEPTEMBER/BOSNIA AND HERCEGOVINA: RESEARCHED MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER/BOSNIA AND HERCEGOVINA: RESEARCHED EFFICACY OF INTERNATIONAL POLICE TASK FORCE.

SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER/RUSSIA: INVESTIGATED PRISON CONDITIONS THROUGHOUT RUSSIA.

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER/EASTERN SLAVONIA AND KRASINA, CROATIA: REASSESSED SITUATION IN EASTERN SLAVONIA.

NOVEMBER/AZERBAIJAN AND ARMENIA: INVESTIGATED REPRESSION OF CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS IN INCREASINGLY

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NOVEMBER/BOSNIA AND HERCEGOVINA: INVESTIGATED ETHNIC TENSION IN SARAJEVO SUBURBS

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DECEMBER 1996 & FEBRUARY 1997/EUROPE: ADVOCACY ON EURO-MEDITERRANEAN ASSOCIATION-AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL, TUNISIA AND MOROCCO.

JANUARY-FEBRUARY/EUROPE: INTERVIEWED MINORITIES IN IRAN.

MARCH-APRIL/ALGERIA: LOOKED AT HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS ON THE EVE OF LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS. INTERVIEWED JOURNALISTS, LAWYERS, POLITICAL PARTY LEADERS, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, VICTIMS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS OR THEIR RELATIVES.

MAY/TUNISIA: ATTENDED MEETING OF THE ARAB LAWYERS UNION

JUNE/FRANCE: TESTIFIED AT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT HEARING ON TUNISIA.

JUNE/EGYPT: CONSULTED WITH EGYPTIAN HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS ON POSSIBLE COLLABORATION.

JULY/EGYPT: RESEARCHED DEATHS IN CUSTODY AND THE STATE'S INVESTIGATION OF THESE DEATHS.

JULY/UK: INTERVIEWED AN IRAQI MILITARY DEFECTOR AND DO ADVOCACY ON BAHRAIN.

The Arms Project

JANUARY/TURKEY: ATTENDED TRIAL OF PUBLISHER AND TRANSLATOR OF HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH REPORT.

FEBRUARY/JAPAN: ADVOCACY AT MINE CLEARANCE CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY/VIENNA: ADVOCACY MISSION TO LANDMINE BAN TREATY CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY/MOZAMBIQUE: ADVOCACY MISSION AT NGO CONFERENCE ON LANDMINES

FEBRUARY-JULY/ERITREA, ETHIOPIA, SUDAN: RESEARCHED ARMS FLOWS.

MARCH/TURKEY: ATTENDED TRIAL OF PUBLISHER AND TRANSLATOR OF HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH REPORT.

MARCH/FORMER YUGOSLAVIA: RESEARCHED ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS USE.

APRIL/BONN: ADVOCACY MISSION TO LANDMINE BAN TREATY CONFERENCE.

MAY/SOUTH AFRICA: ADVOCACY MISSION FOR MINE-FREE ZONE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AT LANDMINE BAN TREATY CONFERENCE.

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The Children's Rights Project

MAY/UGANDA: INVESTIGATED OF ABDUCTIONS OF CHILDREN BY THE LORD'S RESISTANCE ARMY IN NORTHERN UGANDA.

JUNE/IN-COUNTRY RELEASE OF "JUVENILE INJUSTICE: POLICE ABUSE AND DETENTION OF STREET CHILDREN IN KENYA."

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MAY/MEXICO: FOLLOW-UP MISSION ON SEX DISCRIMINATION IN THE MAQUILADORAS IN MEXICO.

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JULY/INDIANA: EXAMINED CONDITIONS AT TWO SUPER-MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISONS IN INDIANA.

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NOVEMBER-DECEMBER/BRAZIL: INVESTIGATED PRISON CONDITIONS IN BRAZIL.

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MAY/COLOMBIA: INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW IMPACT OF DRUG ERADICATION IN COLOMBIA.

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