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ALGERIA

International PEN records that three *Al-Khabar* journalists arrested on 22 January after publishing FIS communiqués (*Index 3/1992*) — Halim Belbati, Zaidi Sekia and Mohammed Sellami — were subsequently charged with encouraging army desertion and could face up to five years in prison if convicted.

ARGENTINA

After more than 40 years, the government recently decided to grant historians and other researchers access to formerly secret police and intelligence files on Nazis who sought refuge in the country. The February decision was welcomed, not without surprise, by Jewish investigators, who said the new information could help them close some of their files, and possibly open some new ones.

BELARUS (EX-USSR)

On 31 January, Belarus Television

reported that the Union of Belarus Journalists had protested against the creation by Russian President Boris Yeltsin of a new Russian Information Telegraph Agency (formerly TASS). The Union regards this as an attempt by the Russian government to 'monopolise the information market'.

BOTSWANA

International PEN records that Professor Malema, a freelance journalist for *The Mmegi Reporter*, was briefly detained on 13 January in connection with a leaked government letter about a week-long manual workers' strike. He claims he was ill-treated in custody.

BRAZIL

According to reports received by Amnesty International, army officers recently threatened seven women campaigning for an investigation into the disappearance of their children since 26 July 1991, when a total of 11 people, six of them minors, were abducted by military officers from a farm in Mage. The women, Marilene Lima De Souza, Vera Lucia Flores, Edmeia Da Silva Eusebio, Denise Vasconcelos, Euzilar Joana Da Silva Oliveira, Edneia Santos Cruz and Teresa Souza Costa, were apparently threatened with 'a fate worse than'

their children's.

BRITAIN

Sir Philip Woodfield, who led a recent secret inquiry ordered by the Home Office, decided recently that no Immigration Department officials, or Special Branch or MI5 officers, would be disciplined or reprimanded for the intelligence debacle which led to 90 innocent Arabs being detained at the start of the Gulf War.

On 18 February, Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, quashed the conviction of Stefan Kiszko, who had been wrongly convicted of the 1975 murder of 11-year-old Lesley Molseed and had spent 16 years in jail. This latest miscarriage of justice again raised questions about scientific evidence, disclosure of evidence, the reliability of confession evidence and the role of defence lawyers (cf. the 'Guildford Four' and 'Birmingham Six' cases — *Index 9/1991*).

On 20 February, the High Court cleared the *Guardian* and its former city editor, Peter Rodgers, of contempt of court in connection with an article published in the paper in May 1989 which had referred to fraud charges then pending in relation to the collapsed Savings and Investment Bank. The fraud trial, at Manchester

Crown Court, had been abandoned in its eighth day, at a cost of £265,000. The High Court ruling was hailed as one of two significant victories for press freedom within a few days. On 21 February, the Court of Appeal ruled that local authorities and government departments could not sue for libel, as such a right would stifle legitimate public debate.

BULGARIA

On 6 January, two days before the opening of the trial of former security chiefs in connection with the death in London in 1978 of émigré writer Georgi Markov, General Stoyan Savov, former Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs, was found dead in Lisichevo. Former secret police chief General Vladimir Todorov, who stands accused of destroying the secret police file on Markov (*Index 2/1992*), was released from custody into house arrest on 21 January.

BURUNDI

Ten Hutus, Justin Bucumi, Jean Ciiza, Dominique Kazimiri, Paul Mbonayo, Edi-Diomed Nijimbere, Joseph Ntahombaye, Ferdinand Ntamagendero, Joel Ntahonshikiye and Audace Simbizi are all reported to have disappeared in custody either in Bujumbura or other parts of the country following their arrest by security forces in the aftermath of a series of violent attacks on military installations which started on 23 November 1991. Relatives trying to trace them faced official denials that they had been arrested. The security forces are reported to have carried out hundreds of extrajudicial executions since the end of November 1991, and independent sources have expressed concern that at least 30 disappeared prisoners may have been executed.

According to recent reports received by Amnesty International, Jean-Berchmans Baragunzwa, director of the Gilhanga School of Masonry, and Charles Mugiraneza, a teacher, who were both arrested on 12 December 1991 on suspicion of being members of the clandestine opposition group PAUPEHUTU, have been subjected to severe beatings and other forms of cruel and degrading treatment in detention. 20 other suspected PAUPEHUTU members, held at the headquarters of the Gendarmerie's Brigade, have reportedly been kept permanently handcuffed in a five-by-four-metre cell.

International PEN records receiving reports suggesting that journalist Renovant Ndikumana (*Index 3/1991*) was shot dead and buried in a mass grave outside Bujumbura; and that photojournalist Joseph Bagalwa disappeared after being arrested in November 1991.

RAPE AND SEXUAL ABUSE BY GOVERNMENT AGENTS

In February, Amnesty International called on governments around the world to stop one of the most demeaning human rights violations inflicted on women: rape or sexual abuse at the hands of soldiers, police and prison guards. Women are raped or sexually abused by government agents in all regions of the world, and many governments persistently refuse to recognise this as a serious human rights violation. Thorough investigations are seldom held; the few perpetrators disciplined or prosecuted usually get little more than 'a slap on the wrist', and most know they can get away with it unchallenged. 'Governments,' Amnestysaid, 'can't brush rape in custody aside as a lesser abuse or an isolated act. When the rapist is a government agent, that rape is torture or ill-treatment and the state is responsible for it.'

Amnesty's report, published on 5 February, cites a dramatic case in India in 1990, when soldiers at a roadblock in Kashmir opened fire on a bus carrying a large family wedding party, then dragged the 18-year-old bride and her heavily pregnant aunt into a field, where up to six soldiers raped them. Even though the authorities eventually admitted that the two women had been gang raped, the soldiers involved faced only the lax punishment of being suspended from duty. The most extraordinary thing about this rape, according to

Amnesty, is that it was publicly reported. 'The threats of yet more violence, the social repercussions of being raped, and the apparent futility of reporting rape to the officials who condone it mean that much of this torture is never talked about.'

In many countries with an armed opposition, rape has become a military tactic in counter-insurgency operations used to intimidate women. In Uganda, soldiers have raped women and girls while 'screening' villagers in the search for rebels; and in the Philippines, women's groups have documented many cases of rape and sexual abuse of women detained during military operations. In one case, two young women were taken to a military camp for interrogation after police found them to be in possession of sweets and cigarettes which officials later claimed were provisions for rebels. Both women were sexually abused, and one of them apparently raped.

Some women run the risk of being raped or otherwise abused because they, like other political activists, are targets for government oppression. A Guatemalan trade unionist said she was kept naked throughout her interrogation and threatened with gang rape if she didn't give her interrogators the information they demanded. In Greece, 12 women were picked up after police found them sticking up political posters; at the

police station they were ordered to strip naked, were kept in an open room full of policemen who made obscene gestures and comments, and several were reportedly beaten.

In some cases, women are raped and sexually abused not because of their political involvement but simply to punish them because they happen to be related to men targeted by the authorities. In Bangladesh's Chittagong Hill Tracts in 1990, some 14 girls were taken by soldiers at gunpoint to a group of huts, stripped naked, beaten and repeatedly raped — all apparently in reprisal attacks on men involved in regional autonomy movements.

Like other forms of torture or ill-treatment, sexual abuse is often used during interrogation to break people, to make them confess to crimes and give information. Dozens of Palestinian women and girls detained in the Israeli-Occupied Territories have reportedly been sexually abused or threatened during questioning; and in Turkey, rape is one of the torture methods commonly used to extract confessions. One 20-year-old woman arrested there in May 1991 reported being repeatedly stripped, hung up by her wrists with leather straps, tortured with electric shocks on her breasts and genitals, and sexually assaulted in other ways, all to get her to sign a confession.

(See also HONG KONG.)

CAMEROON

Emmanuel Wato, Tafou Martin and Feuneu Feuzing, who were arrested together with Michel Mintcheu (*Index 3/1992*) remain detained without charge. Michel Mintcheu himself started a hunger strike during January, when he was denied hospital treatment.

CHAD

The authorities have refused to confirm the identities or reveal the places of detention of 15 people arrested between 8 and 11 January in N'Djamena, apparently on suspicion of being supporters either of a rebel attack in early January, or of an alleged coup attempt in October 1991 (*Index 3/1992*). The rebels who clashed with government forces in January are alleged supporters of Hissène Habré, who was overthrown in December 1991.

International PEN records that Sousthene Ngargoune (*Index 3/1992*) was charged on 9 January with 'disseminating news of military affairs before they had been published by the authorities', which carries a maximum five-year prison sentence, but is free, pending trial; and that on 16 February, Joseph Behidi, a lawyer defending N'Djamena *Hebdo* against defamation charges filed by soldiers, was assassinated, after which police chiefs were dismissed by the government.

CHILE

The Santiago offices of the Committee for the Defence of the Rights of People (CODEPU) suffered minor damage when they were broken into by intruders on 29 January. The next day, CODEPU received nine hostile phonecalls ranging from death threats to recordings of military marches, all termed 'warnings' by callers who identified themselves as the Nationalist Combat Front.

International PEN records that Cristian Edwards (*Index 3/1992*) was released on 1 February.

CHINA

Deputy Propaganda Minister Liu Zhongde told a conference in the eastern city of Nanking in December 1991 that citizens should be encouraged to inform on those who print and sell 'illegal publications'.

Paul Li Zhenrong (72), a Roman Catholic bishop from Hebei province, was arrested on 11 December 1991 while in hospital in Tianjin. He had undergone an operation for cancer a few days earlier. He had reportedly been on the wanted list ever since

attending an unofficial Chinese Bishops Conference held in November 1989 by Roman Catholic prelates loyal to the Vatican. According to two subsequent reports issued by Asia Watch — *Freedom of Religion in China and Political Prisoners in Tibet* (February 1992) — the authorities have been pursuing a special campaign of harassment and arrest of religious believers for the past three years.

On 7 January, a four-member official Canadian delegation investigating human rights conditions was expelled for 'engaging in activities incompatible with their status'. The delegation comprised Members of Parliament Geoff Scott, Beryl Gaffney, Sven Robinson and staff member Richard Lee.

Bao Tong, a close associate of deposed Party leader Zhao Ziyang, was reported to have been arrested again on 21 January on charges of 'counter-revolutionary incitement' and 'leaking state secrets'. A member of the Party's central committee and director of the Research Centre for Reform of the Political Structure, he was first arrested in May 1989 and accused of 'revealing Party secrets' after he allegedly told some of his colleagues about the impending imposition of martial law in Beijing in May 1989. He was released in May 1990 after a year in solitary confinement.

International PEN records that poet Wu Jiaxiang is said to have been secretly tried in November 1991; that Dan Jing has reportedly been released, but is no longer to work as a journalist; that journalist Qi Lin (*Index 3/1992*) went on trial in Beijing on 30 January; and that Wang Juntao's wife appealed for the release of her husband and Chen Ziming (*Index 2/1992*) on the first anniversary of their being sentenced in February.

COLOMBIA

At least 20 people, all members of the Paez indigenous community, were shot dead near the town of Caloto, Cauca department, on 16 December 1991, when some 60 heavily-armed men wearing hoods and combat clothing burst into the building where they were holding a religious ceremony and opened fire. Those who were not killed outright were tied up and made to lie face-down on the ground before being shot in the back. A further 10 people were wounded in the attack. President César Gaviria visited the scene of the massacre shortly afterwards and promised to set up a commission to investigate.

Lawyer and university professor Carlos Edgar Torres Aparicio and lawyer Rodolfo Alvarez, both of whom subsequently became involved in investigating the massacre, were killed in Cali, Valle department, in separate

attacks on 8 January; and when anthropologist Etnio Vidardo left his home that night to attend the wake of one his two friends, he never returned. His whereabouts remain unknown.

El Tiempo correspondent Henry Rojas Monje was killed on 28 December 1991 while on an assignment in Arauca near the border with Venezuela, possibly in retaliation for his newspaper's coverage of the region. Two soldiers were subsequently arrested.

On 22 January, journalist Carlos Llanos (39), who had received numerous death threats, was stabbed to death in the city of Cali, the home of the country's biggest drug cartel. He had been a candidate for a seat on the City Council.

Blanca Valero de Durán was shot dead on 29 January by unknown assailants as she was leaving the offices of the *Comité Regional de Derechos Humanos del Magdalena Medio* (CREDHOS) human rights organisation in Barrancabermeja, where she worked as regional secretary. CREDHOS member Huberto Hernandez had been killed in a similar fashion in March 1991, and other members have received death threats from paramilitary organisations.

International PEN records that Lacides Casas, the owner of a local radio station in Chigorodo in the north-west and also a municipal councillor, was shot and hacked to death on 17 January; that two alleged guerrillas have been arrested by the army in connection with the April 1991 murder of reporters Julio Daniel Chaparro and Jorge Torres (*Index 7/1991*); and that radio reporter Jaime Rengifo was reported in February to have been wounded in the head by gunmen in Guajira department, where a colleague of his, Albeiro Sanchez, reportedly received death threats.

COMOROS

International PEN reports that journalist Cheikh Ali Bakar Kassim (*Index 2/1992*) was freed on 2 December 1991 in an amnesty.

CONGO

On 20 January, troops fired on supporters of Prime Minister André Milongo in a week-long attempt to topple the civilian leader. Three people were killed and several wounded in Bacongo, where Mr Milongo lives, when soldiers opened fire on hundreds of his supporters who ignored orders to disperse.

COTE D'IVOIRE

The University of Abidjan was closed

by government decree early in February following student demonstrations on campus. Higher education students are increasingly taking a prominent role in opposition movements.

International PEN records that *Noire Temps* journalists Raymond Assoukou, Bailly Diegou, Fidel Djessa and Marcel Ette face charges of 'insulting the President' following publication of the 22 January edition of their paper, which carried an interview with a government critic.

CROATIA (EX-YUGOSLAVIA)

Paul Jenks (26), a British freelance photographer working for the Frankfurt-based European Press-photo Agency, died on 18 January after being hit in the head by a sniper's bullet near Osijek.

Drazen Rendulic and Father Josip Bogovic (*Index 3/1992*), who were originally feared killed, were released on 24 January. Nikola Nikolic, also at first feared killed (*Index 3/1992*), is in hospital in Knin.

CUBA

Dissident poet María Elena Cruz Varela (*Index 2/1992*) recently began serving a two-year sentence in Combinado del Sur prison outside Havana for 'defaming' the state and holding 'illegal meetings'. Six other members of the human rights group of which she is president — *Criterio Alternativo* — are also currently serving prison sentences: Fernando Velásquez Medina, Pastor Herrera Macurán (*Index 3/1992*), Jorge Pomar Montalvo, Gabriel Aguado Chávez, Hubert Luis Matos Sánchez and Eliecer Aguilar López.

The mother of a man executed in January has alleged that the government tried to buy her silence with promises of jobs, medicine, hospital treatment and even a colour television set. Elia Diaz Betancourt said she was warned by officials not to discuss the case with neighbours or the press. Her son, Eduardo, was one of three men captured after allegedly making an armed, clandestine entry into the country last year. He was the only one executed. 'I think Fidel Castro, didn't dare shoot the others because they had US passports,' Mrs Betancourt said. The Spanish newspaper *El Mundo's* correspondent, Santiago Aroca, who interviewed her and was subsequently expelled from the country, said he was beaten by police who demanded to know who had arranged the interview.

CYPRUS

International PEN records that the car belonging to *Alithia* newspaper

editor-in-chief **Alecos Constantinides** was destroyed by a bomb on 9 January. He had been the victim of a similar assassination attempt in 1981 when working for another daily newspaper.

DJIBOUTI

Following an outbreak of fighting in the north in November 1991 between government forces and the Front for the Restoration of Unity and Democracy (FRUD), an armed opposition group, the security forces rounded up over 100 people and extrajudicially executed at least 30 in Arhiba, a town mostly inhabited by members of the Afar ethnic group.

FRUD spokesman **Dr Abatte Eboh Adou**, a former Health Minister, was arrested on 17 December 1991 after meeting a visiting French government delegation, and was subsequently charged with seeking to overthrow the government, and murder, both punishable by death.

EGYPT

According to an Amnesty International report published in January, thousands of people have been arbitrarily arrested and detained without charge or trial for months at security police detention centres and prisons ever since the imposition of a State of Emergency in 1981. Political prisoners are held incommunicado, and many have been arrested simply because of being related to someone else sought by the authorities. Others have reportedly disappeared. Most of the victims are alleged members of Islamic groups.

EL SALVADOR

Javier Pérez de Cuéllar ended his term as secretary-general of the United Nations on New Year's Day by overseeing a peace accord ending the 12-year civil war. The ceasefire was scheduled to begin on 1 February. The settlement included the complete disarmament of the major guerrilla forces, the demobilisation of half of the country's 56,000-man army, and a new police force, to include former guerrilla fighters. The war claimed 75,000 lives out of a total population of five million; a further million were made refugees. The authorities subsequently announced plans to set up a 'Truth Commission' to investigate war crimes and human rights abuses committed on both sides, and to remove several top military officers accused of crimes ranging from bribery to human rights abuses. Other 'hard-liners' were expected to keep their jobs, despite pressure from the USA and human rights organisations. Most of those being ousted from their jobs looked likely to be assigned other, high-level government positions. Colonel Francisco Elen Fuentes, for example, the infantry brigade com-

mander in San Salvador, was reassigned to the Regional Association of Central American Armies in Guatemala, and Colonel **Ciro Lopez Roque**, who was described by US military advisers as incompetent, was transferred from the army to become director-general of the national police.

The Secret Army of National Salvation (ESSN) issued a death threat on 6 January against 11 members of the National Council of Churches (CNI) — **Santiago Flores, Flora Carolina Fuentes, Medardo Gomez, Julio Cesar Grande, Angel Ibarra, Victoriano Jimeno, Hugo Magana, Ignacio Meza, Carlos Najera, Roberto Palacios and Luis Serrano** — for alleged membership of the Salvadoran Communist Party and for aiding the FMLN guerrillas in the civil war. The CNI was founded in August 1991 to speak on behalf of the Protestant churches in the country, and to mediate between the FMLN and the government.

On 22 January, unidentified men abducted **Nuria Melendez de Grande**, the wife of journalist **Julio Cesar Grande** (see above), releasing her the following day after interrogating her.

The Christian Committee for the Displaced People of El Salvador (*Index* 1/1992) received death threats on 24 January from the Secret Army of National Salvation (ESSN), which said its leaders would not live to see the scheduled February ceasefire.

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

International PEN records the arrest of *Verdad* newspaper editor **Placido Miko** by security forces in Malabo on 8 February. He was reported to have been tortured in custody to make him supply names of people who 'collaborated' with *Verdad*. Several people, including opposition leaders, were arrested as a result. Miko was charged with 'insulting the Head of State and disseminating subversive propaganda inside Equatorial Guinea and abroad'. Five copies of *Verdad* were seized by the authorities.

GABON

International PEN records the arrest on 9 January and subsequent expulsion from the country of Cameroonian journalist **Charlie Ebee of Bucheron**, an opposition newspaper. He had been photographing the Prime Minister's house.

GEORGIA (EX-USSR)

On 9 January, South Ossetian leader **Torez Kulumbegov**, held prisoner in Georgia for over a year, was released.

On 22 January, Radio Tbilisi carried a Ministry of Foreign Affairs

statement giving individual Georgians the right to maintain personal contacts with foreigners purely 'on a private basis'. Members of interest groups, however, including politicians, would not be allowed foreign contacts without authorisation, since these might 'cause damage to Georgia's international relations and its interests abroad'.

GERMANY

On 11 December 1991, **Belgrade TV** protested at an alleged block on transmission by the German Post Office of a Belgrade TV journalist's report from the EC summit in Maastricht, accusing the German Post Office of violating all international conventions on the free flow of information.

On 1 January 1992, public access was granted to the four million files on East Germans and two millions files on West Germans kept by the *Stasi* (former East German secret police). As the key instrument of Communist state control, the *Stasi* had employed 85,000 full-time spies and hundreds of thousands of part-time informers.

On 20 January, the Belgrade daily *Politika Ekspres* was withdrawn from news-stands throughout the country. That day's issue carried an interview with German intellectuals **Gottfried Nimietz** and **Peter Priskil**, in which according to reports by the federal Yugoslav news agency *Tanjug*, they had expressed fears concerning a possible repetition of events in World War II when Hitler's Germany in cooperation with the Vatican 'broke Yugoslavia and carried out a genocide against the Serbian people'. **Herman Main**, president of the Association of Serbian Journalists, called the withdrawal of the newspaper a 'flagrant violation' of the freedom of speech 'aimed at a uniform informing of the German public'.

GREECE

International PEN records that **Ioannis Alafouzos**, owner of the Sky FM radio station, which is known for its criticism of the government, was beaten and arrested on 29 January after armed police raided his office and ill-treated journalists there.

GUATEMALA

An estimated 66,000 Guatemalan refugees living in Mexico are hoping to return home under a plan being worked out with the government, which reportedly gave tentative guarantees towards the end of 1991 that returning citizens would not have to participate in civil patrols, and would be given land on which to farm. Observers monitoring the negotiations, however, have expressed scepticism, commenting that

the unrest in the country would be likely to prevent any large-scale return of refugees.

David Eduardo Lorenzana Marroquin was arrested on 6 January in connection with the murder of British journalist **Anson Ng Yong**, who was found dead in his flat in Guatemala City in July 1991 (*Index* 9/1991). The arrested man had been a friend of Ng's, whose relatives reportedly believe the move may be part of an attempted cover-up.

In his annual report to Congress, Attorney-General **Ramiro de Leon Carpio** said that human rights abusers were literally getting away with murder. In his 28 January address, he admitted that 'in assassination cases with sufficient evidence to consider political motives, we continue to encounter a serious obstacle to investigation, an unbreachable wall of impunity'. The one area where respect for human rights had improved, he said, was his own: 'I'm still alive!'

International PEN records that two journalists, **Alvaro Galves Mis** and **Nestor Hernandez**, reported receiving death threats on 10 February. Hernandez had published a photograph of an army officer who allegedly attacked him.

GUINEA

On 24 December 1991, 17 new laws were introduced to provide a framework for a democratic society. Based on the Constitution approved by referendum in 1991, the laws provide for the establishment and registration of political parties, and include guarantees of press freedom. All but three of the 33 existing political associations had banded together in mid-November 1991 to form the *Forum Democratique National*.

HAITI

Radio Antilles Internationale journalist **Jean-Mario Paul** (*Index* 2/1992, 3/1992), was reported in February to be seriously ill following torture in Petit-Goave prison, where he had been denied medical treatment and access to his lawyer. **Amos Antoine**, who was arrested in October 1991 for possession of clandestine newspapers, was also reported to be in poor health after being severely beaten in prison in Jérémie.

Refugees repatriated from the USA have reported abuse by the security forces resulting in at least one death. Over 40 'double-backers' — twice-fled from Haiti — gave statements to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNCHR) in February contradicting the US's claims that returning refugees would face no harm. More than 14,000 refugees fled the island nation

following the 30 September 1991 military coup which overthrew the democratically-elected government (*Index 1/1992*). Some 10,000 of them were being held in a tent city at the US naval base at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba, and although the 'double-backers' are being considered for political asylum in the USA, repatriations from the Cuban naval base continue.

International PEN records receiving recent reports that writer and literary critic Guy Laraqee was killed near his house in early December 1991; that journalist Octalouis Denoyer was reported to be detained in Petit Goave prison in January 1992; that journalists Thony Belizaire and Evens Gabriel were beaten by pro-Tontons Macoute crowds on 7 January; and that Nathaniel Sheppard Junior and Alan Tomlinson, two foreign correspondents who had been investigating the burning of northern villagers' houses by local police, were briefly detained and threatened by police with guns and machetes on 12 February.

HONG KONG

International PEN records that a Vietnamese teacher accused of printing 'counter-revolutionary' tracts lost her appeal against repatriation recently. Before fleeing to Hong Kong, she had lived underground for several years after being arrested and raped in custody. She was pregnant when arrested and had a miscarriage as a result of the rape. (See also box, page 34.)

INDIA

Police teargassed a peaceful demonstration attended by journalists and others which took place near the Parliament House in New Delhi on 24 December 1991. The demonstrators were demanding the setting up of a parliamentary committee to look into the labour laws concerning the newspaper industry, and protesting against the alleged retrenchment of journalists and others at the Hindi-language daily, the *Navbharat Times*.

On 27 December 1991, Ghulam Rasool, a reporter for the Telugu-language daily *Udayam*, and his friend Vijay Prasada Rao, were shot dead by police in Andhra Pradesh. Human rights groups claim they were tortured before being killed. The police, however, maintain that they were 'Naxalites' (left-wing extremists) who died in an armed encounter. Rasool's colleagues believe he was killed because of his writings about the involvement of police officials in land-grabbing deals.

An episode of *Kayar* (The Rope), a television serial directed by well-known film-maker M S Sathyu, was

censored in the last week of December 1991 by the state-owned television authority Doordarshan. A sequence showing one of the programme's key characters embracing a woman, then meeting another woman, was deleted on the grounds that it might 'encourage promiscuity', and a scene showing the bare legs of a pregnant woman who is removing her clothes in front of her uncle in a desperate attempt to save her life, was also declared 'unfit for family viewing' and cut out. Sathyu subsequently filed a case against this 'highhandedness' in the Delhi High Court.

On 3 January, Ram Singh Biling (35), a reporter for *Az Di Awaz* and *Ajit*, two Punjabi daily newspapers published in Jalandhar, and district secretary of the Punjab Human Rights Organisation (PHRO), was reportedly taken into police custody.

On 21 January, Gurmeet Singh, president of the Des-Punjab Student Union and editor of the Punjabi newspaper *Paigam*, was arrested and detained for a few days by police in Sangrur district together with Harpeet Singh, another student. Two other members of their group had been arrested on 15 January, and were killed the same night.

INDONESIA

In the aftermath of the 12 November 1991 Dili (East Timor) massacre (*Index 2/1992, 3/1992*), three Jakarta-based human rights groups have reportedly been under pressure from the security forces not to investigate the incident. Infight (the Indonesian Front for Human Rights), the League for the Defence of Human Rights (LPHAM), and *Yayasan Hidup Baru* (the New Life Foundation), which had planned to send a four-person team to Dili shortly after the massacre, were prevented from leaving Jakarta, and activists from all three organisations were summoned for questioning by the army's security agency. Two of them were subjected to daily questioning, placed under town arrest and confronted with transcripts of a number of telephone conversations based on a regular tapping of their lines between 20 November and 7 December 1991. According to a government announcement on 27 February, six soldiers, including two generals, were found guilty of misconduct in connection with the massacre. The announcement did not disclose what punishment, if any, had been imposed on them. An earlier Amnesty International report (released on 6 February), found that the mandate and working methods of the government-appointed National Commission of Inquiry investigating the massacre had been fatally flawed, and judged its findings unacceptable. According to Amnesty, the government's and the military's response

was inadequate and inappropriate.

Several dozen foreign journalists — including some from Australia, the USA and Hong Kong — have been blacklisted from entering the country 'for security reasons', according to Roni Sikap Sinuraya, director-general of Immigration.

International PEN records that writer Arswendo Atmowiloto (*Index 7/1991*) recently had his five-year sentence reduced by six months on appeal.

IRAN

International PEN records no change in the circumstances of *Khorassan* editor Hojat Mussavian (*Index 3/1992*), or of translator and former Tudeh Party activist Mariam Firouz (*Index 9/1991*).

IRELAND (REPUBLIC OF)

In an interview on the late-night variety show *Nighthawks* on 16 January, Sean Doherty, a former close associate of the then Taoiseach (Prime Minister) Charles Haughey, alleged that Haughey himself and other members of his cabinet had known about the 1982 tapping of telephones belonging to political journalists Geraldine Kennedy and Bruce Arnold. When the tapping was made public in 1983, Doherty had taken full responsibility himself, and had resigned from the Fianna Fail whip. At a press conference on 21 January 1992, Doherty claimed he had at the time personally delivered transcripts of the telephone conversations to Mr Haughey, who, he alleged, never expressed any disapproval. Charles Haughey resigned as Fianna Fail leader in the wake of the new allegations.

ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

On 19 December 1991, Ibrahim Al-Zaneen, a reporter for *Al-Bayader Al-Siyasi*, was sentenced by a military court in Gaza to 26 months' imprisonment on 'security charges'.

Journalist Fayez al-Wahidi had his ID card and permit to cross the Green Line confiscated by the Israeli authorities on 23 December 1991. He was told he was forbidden to leave the Gaza strip, where he lives.

International PEN records that Marwan Hassan Mohammad Afaneh, Ihab Muhammad Ali al-Ashkar, Khader Ataya Khater Mehjez, Sami Ataya Abu Samhadani and Hassan Abdallah Hassan Sha'aban Rafati are in custody and face possible deportation in retaliation for the January killings of settlers in the Occupied Territories (although four of them had been in administrative detention at the time of the killings); and that journalist Adnan Damiri, who has spoken out

against Arab vigilante groups in the Occupied Territories, was attacked with axes and sticks on 6 February on the West Bank.

KAZAKHSTAN (EX-USSR)

On 30 January, KazTAG-TASS reported that the Kazakh Union of Journalists had appealed to the government to exempt newspapers and journals from VAT and increase the periodical publication budget without increasing prices — thereby protecting jobs. Higher electricity rates may also mean a reduction in radio and television broadcasting.

KENYA

On 5 January, police officers and security agents impounded about 30,000 copies of the weekly magazine *Society* from its printers, Kenya Litho Ltd. The government then took out an injunction preventing its distribution. Its editor, Pius Nyamora, was reported to be in hiding.

Professor Wangari Maathai, Josephat Karanja, James Orenge, George Njanja, Wanguhu Nganga, Virginia Wambui Otieno, Kimaniwa Nyoike and Abdulkadir K Hassan, all members of the Forum for the Restoration of Democracy (FORD), who held a press conference in Nairobi on 10 January at which they announced that they had evidence proving that the government intended to hand over power to the army, were arrested between 13 and 15 January and charged with 'publishing a false rumour which is likely to cause fear and alarm to the public' before being released on bail of Ksh100,000 (around US\$3,500).

Following interventions by the British and German governments, the authorities in Nairobi granted FORD spokesman abroad Raila Odinga written permission to return to Kenya. He had been refused a visa in mid-January despite an official announcement that all Kenyan exiles were free to return home.

On 15 January, George Owour and Njenga Munyori of the *Daily Nation* were manhandled and detained briefly by Nairobi police officers. They had been trying to cover a secret local government meeting about land allocation. Two other correspondents of the newspaper, Humphrey Karega and Peter Kamau, were served with intimidatory warnings by Joseph Kamotho, a top KANU politician. Peter Kamau was threatened with death for reporting on the remote Turkana district.

International PEN records receiving recent reports that journalist Jim Wallace Gichere is paralysed from the waist down after police reportedly threw him out of a window in

November 1991, in an attack which may have been linked to Gichere's friendship with opposition politician Kenneth Matiba; and that writers Ngotho Kariuki and Edward Oyugi (*Index 10/1991*) were released on bail on 14 February 1992 pending the outcome of their appeal against their seven-year sentence. They are both reported to be in bad health.

LATVIA (EX-USSR)

In February, the Association of Editors and Publishers of Latvia appealed to the world for help in the face of an acute paper shortage. Former USSR suppliers were unable to fulfil contracts, and most newspapers and magazines had used up their paper reserves. Many could close.

LEBANON

International PEN records receiving recent reports that Reuters stringer Shawki Fahs was kidnapped by Israeli forces on 20 December 1991 and held for 36 hours, possibly in an attempt to pressurise Arab guerrilla groups to release captive Israeli airman Ron Arad; and that writer Mustapha Jeha, who had been critical of Muslim fundamentalists and leftists, was shot dead on 15 January 1992 in the Christian quarter of Sbtiye.

LIBERIA

Journalists Isaac Bantu and Dan Brown were detained on 4 January at Caldwell by Independent National Patriotic Front of Liberia (INFPL) rebels. They were released three days later. A subsequent statement from the INFPL said they had been held for discouraging coverage of an INFPL press conference on 2 January.

The ECOMOG peace-keeping force recently mounted a security guard service for the offices of the *Inquirer* newspaper following threats in January of attack by breakaway INFPL leader Prince Johnson if the paper continued writing articles critical of him.

MALAWI

According to recent reports received by Amnesty International, 19 long-term detainees are still held at Mikuyu prison near Zomba. An unknown number are held elsewhere. Mary Sikwese, held at Maula prison, Lilongwe, who was arrested in 1989 for alleging that the police were responsible for her brother's death in custody, was apparently promised that she would be released in February 1991 if she retracted her allegations, but she refused to do so.

MALAYSIA

In January, the authorities refused to

allow Amnesty International to set up a branch in the country despite the fact that the National Human Rights Society of Malaysia had been granted permission to operate as a legal organisation in June 1991.

On 5 February, police arrested Anderson Mutang Urud, a member of the Kelabit ethnic group (in Sarawak), and detained him at a local police station: Andy Mutang, as he is popularly called, is a member of the Sarawak Indigenous People's Alliance (SIPA), a group established in 1991 to operate an information and research centre promoting sustainable land use and work with indigenous communities affected by logging. His arrest was thought to be connected with his protest against logging during the visit of the Canadian opposition MP Svend Robinson.

MALI

On 2 October 1991, the Ministry of Defence brought a defamation suit against *Yeelen* and *Le Scorpion* for articles it alleged disseminated 'false and slanderous information' which could 'create divisions within the army ranks'. The case was, however, dropped on 19 November 1991.

MAURITANIA

Nouakchott lawyer Alpha Wane, local co-ordinator of the Union of Democratic Forces Boubacar Messaoud, former Justice Minister Yedalli Ould Cheikh, lawyer and former Mayor Hamdi Ould Mahjoub, Ladji Tandia and Cowmba Sy, who were all arrested in Nouadhibou, the country's second largest town, on 26 January while waiting to hear results of the presidential election, were subsequently released. Around 100 people remained detained.

MEXICO

Intruders recently broke into the editorial office of *Etnias* magazine, the only journal in the country produced specifically for indigenous people, and stole money and equipment. Editor Genaro Bautista said that he and his staff were being harassed by the police.

MOLDOVA (EX-USSR)

On 28 January, Moldovapres reported that Minister of Internal Affairs Ion Costas had appealed to the International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights regarding 'armed provocations' by 'hard-line Communists' on the left bank of the Dniester against Moldovan officials and their families.

MYANMAR

According to press reports in January,

the authorities were deploying more than 75,000 troops along the country's border with Bangladesh, and had intensified persecution of Muslims, causing thousands more to flee across the frontier.

According to an Amnesty International report published in January entitled *Union of Myanmar: A long-term human rights crisis*, profound and bitter political strife continues, with political opponents engaged in various anti-government activities still being arrested and sentenced to prison terms or, in some cases, to death by the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC).

On 17 January, Asia Watch published a report entitled *Human Rights in Burma (Myanmar) in 1991*, listing the names and conditions of those detained.

International PEN records no change in the circumstances of Win Tin, Min Thien Kha, Ma Thiengi, Kyi Hia, Min Lu, Myo Myint Nyein and Sein Hlaing (*Index 8/1991*), or of Aung San Suu Kyi (*Index 2/1992*).

NICARAGUA

International PEN records receiving recent reports that Pablo Emilio Barreto of the opposition newspaper *Barricada* was one of 49 people accused of being involved in the November 1991 arson and ransacking of the office of the Mayor of Managua, Arnaldo Aleman, who had been accused of instigating the bombing of the tomb of Sandinista leader Carlos Fonseca, and that Barreto was briefly detained in December 1991 and placed under house arrest until the charges against him were thrown out of court.

NIGERIA

60 students expelled in August 1991 from Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Osun state, reportedly won their case of wrongful dismissal in December 1991. The court ruled that their constitutional rights had been violated.

According to the Civil Liberties Organisation (CLO), some 30 people including Dr Nwogu Okero, John Udeogu (18), Chika Emenyi, Wasiu Muniru, Kayode Oladimeji, Andrew Esiri, Dele Ojo Chidi Nwaguma, Godwin Oshodin, Mohamed Kabir and Ajete Kossi, a Togolese, were extrajudicially killed by the police during 1991. The CLO particularly condemned the killing by police of Busoye Agunboye (15) and Yetunde Asade (12) by officers shooting into the bus in which they were riding in September 1991.

PANAMA

A series of bombings marking the

January 1964 invasion by US forces prompted a police crackdown on suspected associates and sympathisers of ex-President Noriega (deposed in 1989), with numerous raids in and around Panama City. Police detained 20 people for interrogation following the bombings and claimed to have found several ringleaders, but after initially assessing a fire in the offices of the newspaper *Panama America* on 25 January as having also been caused by a bomb, they changed their minds two days later. Deputy Attorney-General Rogelio Arosemena dismissed the initial suspicion of a bomb in this case as part of a 'generalised psychosis among the population'. President Guillermo Endara had earlier accused *Panama America* and *Critica Libre* of having deliberately published false stories about his government, but the papers' publisher, Rosario Arias de Galindo, denied any campaign against either Endara or his government.

PERU

International PEN records that Pedro Yaranga, secretary-general of the Journalists Union in Ayacucho, was arrested on 7 January and accused of being an accomplice in the October 1991 murder of journalist Antonio Huacachi Chavez (*Index 2/1992*). He was released on 13 January after the judge found there was no evidence against him.

PHILIPPINES

According to a statement issued on 23 January by the country's National Union of Journalists (NUJP), police have been secretly classifying journalists as either 'friendly' or 'critical' of the Philippine National Police (PNP) in a clandestine operation that has raised fears of an impending crackdown on the media. According to documents obtained by the NUJP, the operation (code-named 'Oplan Malunggay') began on 21 October 1991 with instructions to regional PNP commands to hold 'discreet background investigations' on journalists 'consistently critical of the PNP in particular, and the government in general'. The Philippine Movement for Press Freedom (PMPP) has expressed particular concern that 'Oplan Malunggay' may be related to the widely-rumoured 'Oplan Noel' (no elections), reportedly launched by military plotters to thwart the 11 May general election.

International PEN records that the charges against scriptwriter Rosalie Matilac (*Index 3/1992*) were dismissed on 26 August 1991; and that journalist Roberto Roldan (*Index 1/1992*) was released in January 1992.

POLAND

Following protests in January by the

Polish Council for Christians and Jews against the recent publication by the Cracow-based publishing house, Werset, of a Polish translation of Hitler's *Mein Kampf*, the Gdansk prosecutor's office banned further distribution of the book on 17 January. In Krosno, on 20 January, the public prosecutor opened an inquiry, while police closed down the Scripta Manet publishing house, which had been acting on behalf of Werset.

ROMANIA

Following a meeting on 3 January between Prime Minister Theodor Stolojan and representatives of the Democratic Convention (which includes 14 political and other groupings), a commission was set up to supervise media coverage of the election campaign. The Democratic Convention had asked for guarantees concerning the 'neutrality' of Romanian Television.

On 7 January, Writers Union president Mircea Dinescu stated that the rising price of books and magazines was making them inaccessible to large sections of the population. He called on the government to support Romanian culture with subsidies.

RUSSIA (EX-USSR)

On 18 January, former KGB chairman Vadim Bakatin said that he had resigned in December 1991 because of an antagonistic press campaign co-ordinated by the Russian KGB following his attempts to reform the organisation. He said that the KGB was still influential, even in 'liberal' publications which had published attacks against him, but not his official response.

In January, the former Soviet news agency TASS changed its name to the Russian Information Telegraph Agency. The new agency combines TASS and the semi-official agency *Novosti*. It claims to be free of political control but will continue to act as a channel for official Russian government statements. (See also BELARUS.)

In late January, Eduard Sagaleyev, deputy chairman of TV Ostankino (formerly 'Gostelradio'), said that the government was trying to exercise financial control over the media. Paper and printing costs as well as postage costs were being raised selectively. Local journalists complained of pressure to give only positive coverage to Boris Yeltsin's government.

On 4 February, following warnings from editors that the January price increases in particular were threatening media operations, Boris Yeltsin pledged to help save the media, especially large-circulation news-

papers, from bankruptcy.

According to a February report by the International Press Institute, N Pereditsky, editor-in-chief of *Demokratichesky Don*, was dragged from his flat by men in Cossack dress who waved Cossack lashes at him. Shortly before the incident, Pereditsky had published an article critical of the Cossack movement.

On 4 February, the Moscow city government announced a ban on all rallies in Red Square except those sponsored by the government. It also announced plans to charge a fee for rallies which stop traffic. The Interfax news agency reported that all marches and rallies had been banned throughout Moscow for the weekend of 8-9 February.

The last 10 inmates of the Perm 35 prison camp were released on 7 February. Human rights activists, however, say that there are still more than 100 people imprisoned in Russia for refusing to perform military service.

International PEN records that journalist Vladimir Verbitsky, who was due to go on trial before the military prosecutor in February for 'disclosing military secrets', could face a prison sentence of up to two years.

RWANDA

According to Amnesty International, at least 24 journalists have been arrested during the past two years and some brought to trial in connection with articles considered by the authorities to be critical of government officials or policies. A government communiqué broadcast on 1 December 1991 on Rwandese state radio accused some newspapers and political parties of being on the payroll of the Rwandese Patriotic Front.

International PEN records that *Isibo* editor Sixbert Musangamfura (*Index* 10/1991) was arrested by soldiers on 16 January and accused of 'drug trafficking', although this was widely thought to be a pretext. He was freed shortly afterwards.

SIERRA LEONE

National Democratic Party (NDP) chairman Dr Alusine Fofanah, and George Khoryama, editor-in-chief of *The New Breed* newspaper, have been charged with criminal libel in connection with an article in the 8-13 January edition of the opposition newspaper, which published what it claimed were the unedited minutes of a secret meeting of the ruling APC party allegedly held on 12 December 1991 in the office of the Inspector-General of Police to discuss prolonging the war against the rebels.

According to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), which denied any knowledge of the meeting, some of the officials said to have attended were out of the country at the time. George Khoryama appeared in court in Freetown on 6 February, but the case was adjourned due to the absence of Dr Fofanah, who had left the country on 16 January. Khoryama was released on bail. Another editor, Siaka Massaquoi of *The Vision*, was arrested on 17 January and detained for three days in connection with the same edition of *The New Breed*, but no charges were brought against him.

SLOVENIA (EX-YUGOSLAVIA)

On 28 January, the trial of Yugoslav People's Army (JNA) Major Danilo Radovanovic, charged with the murder of Austrian journalists Nikolas Vogel and Norbert Werner (*Index* 10/1991) at Brnik airport near Ljubljana in June 1991, opened in Kranj. On 30 January, the *Tanjug* news agency reported that when the defence had put a question to a witness in Serbo-Croat, the prosecution had interrupted, saying that the Slovene Constitution did not allow the use of Serbo-Croat in the proceedings, but would only permit minority languages such as Hungarian or Italian. When the lawyer continued in Hungarian, however, no one else in the court could understand, and the prosecutor eventually allowed the defence to continue in Serbo-Croat.

SOUTH AFRICA

On 10 January, police confiscated 10 adult comic books from a Johannesburg bookshop specialising in comics, science fiction and the bizarre. Included were four graphic novels by Spanish artist Milo Manarasan, the *Love and Rockets* comic magazine by the Spanish-American Hernandez brothers, and *From Hell* by Alan Moore, none of them banned titles.

On 11 January, the Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging (AWB) refused to allow *Time* magazine photographer Peter Magubane to take photographs at their rally in Ventersdorp, indicating that if a black reporter came there would be trouble.

International PEN records Themba Khumalo (*Index* 7/1990) as still in jail.

SOUTH KOREA

International PEN records that writer Jang Myung-guk (*Index* 8/1991) is assumed to have been released in mid-January on expiry of his sentence.

SPAIN

A hearing by the European Court of Human Rights of the case of Miguel

Castells, a lawyer from San Sebastian and a member of the Basque Herri Batasuna Coalition, opened on 27 November 1991, having been referred to the Court by the European Commission of Human Rights in March 1991. Castells had been sentenced to a one-year jail term for 'insulting the government' following his publication of an article in 1979 in which he drew public attention to the violence committed by right-wing armed groups against Basque citizens, and had alleged that the government was responsible for such groups operating with complete impunity.

SRI LANKA

At the end of January, a report commissioned by President Premadasa found members of the army guilty of having deliberately killed 67 civilians in a village in the east of the country in June 1991. It was the first time the government had so thoroughly investigated alleged atrocities by its troops. Details of the report were published a week before Sri Lanka's Western aid donors met to decide annual aid.

International PEN records the disappearance of Thiagarajah Selvanithy, poet and founding editor of the feminist magazine *Tholi*, who was abducted on 30 August 1991 from her home by members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. The Tigers apparently said they would question her about allegations that she had passed on information to journalists and release her the same day, but there has been no word since.

SUDAN

Samuel Aru Bol (*Index* 3/1992) was released on 23 December 1991.

Amnesty International has expressed concern for the safety of Mohamed Bakhit Daldum and eight other men who remain detained uncharged in Lagoula garrison in Western Sudan, following the extrajudicial execution of 19 others from the Nuba mountains of South Kordufan, who were also detained by the army in November 1991 on suspicion of being linked to the rebel Sudan Peoples Liberation Army (SPLA). Another seven of their number were transferred to El-obeid, where they were apparently put on trial, the outcome of which is not yet known.

SWITZERLAND

International PEN records that Jean-Claude Buffle and Jacques Pilet of *Hebdo* magazine were sentenced on 17 December 1991 to a 10-day suspended sentence and a fine of 5,000 Swiss francs for 'defamation' after alleging that a wealthy banker was linked to drug-trafficking.

TAIWAN

International PEN records that former reporter Chen Wan-chen was arrested on 8 February and charged with 'preparing to commit sedition'.

TADJKISTAN (EX-USSR)

On 4 February, *Radio Rossii* reported that Russian periodicals were no longer on sale in Dushanbe news-kiosks because their prices were too high. The report blamed the monopoly still enjoyed by Soyuzpechat, the distribution agency.

TUNISIA

International PEN records that writer Mohammed al-Nouri (*Index 2/1992*) was not released on expiry of his sentence in mid-1991, and that the government has said he remains detained because an investigation is being conducted into claims that he was involved in alleged armed plots by the Islamic *al-Nahda* movement to overthrow the government; that Hamma Hamami, editor of *Al-Badil*, the Communist Workers Party weekly, was arrested on 15 January, reportedly on criminal charges for possible involvement in a fight, although there are fears that his arrest may be part of a crackdown on Islamicists and leftists following the coup in Algeria (*Index 3/1992*); and that *Al-Fajr* editor Hamadi Jebali (*Index 4&5/1991*) and *Le Maghreb* editor Omar S'habou (*Index 9/1991*) are still in jail.

TURKEY

The January issue of the monthly *Demokrat* was confiscated because of an article by sociologist Ismail Besikci entitled 'The Kurds should constitute their national assembly'. The same day, Edip Polat's book *We Have Turned Dawns into Newroz* (see below) was confiscated and its publisher, Hikmet Kocak, interrogated by the public prosecutor.

On 14 January, the fourth issue of the monthly *Newroz* was confiscated, (its three previous issues had also been confiscated), and on 18 January, *Newroz* editor Remzi Bilget was arrested in Istanbul for 'separatist propaganda'.

On 21 January, the Erzurum office of the daily *Hurriyet* was raided and stoned by 3,000 Muslim fundamentalists because its sister weekly *Tempo* had published an illustration depicting the Prophet Mohammed.

On 28 January, the 26 January issue of the weekly *Yeni Ulke* was confiscated for 'separatist propaganda'.

On 6 February, Yasar Gunaydin, the chief State Security Court prosecutor in Istanbul, was killed by urban guerrillas outside his home in the coastal Kumkapi district. His guard and driver were also killed. The identity of their attackers was not immediately known, but the revolutionary left-wing *Dev-Sol* organisation and the separatist Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) have both claimed responsibility for similar attacks in the past.

International PEN records that Deniz Teznel of *Gunes* (*Index 3/1992*) was released on bail on 17 January; that *Yeni Ulke* correspondents Ali Cihat Unlu and Rifki Turan were detained in Mus on 21 January; that Sinami Orhan of *Akdogus* was given a three-month suspended prison sentence for 'belittling Alpaslan Turkes' and is currently serving a 43-month sentence; that journalists Rafet Balli and Yalcin Kucuk have been charged with 'disseminating separatist propaganda'; that a number of journalists have been briefly detained recently, including Musa Agacik (*Newroz*), Mukaddes Celik (*Emegin Bayragi*), Guzel Aslaner (*Emegin Bayragi*), and Bahri Kayaoglu, Yahya Kocoglu and Nazim Taban (*Emegin Bayragi*); that several journalists have been attacked recently by security forces, including Tarik Akcan (*New South News*), Mehmet Aslan (Anatolian News Agency), Arap Filiz (*Cumhuriyet*) and Suat Toktas (*Gunaydin*); and that Ismail Besikci and his publisher Unsal Ozturk were arrested on 12 February because of Besikci's book, *Letter to UNESCO*. They were released after several hours.

USA

On 10 December 1991, the then-Secretary of Commerce Robert Mosbacher defied a Congressional subpoena to turn over computer tapes correcting the 1990 census, and failed to appear in order to explain why. An under-secretary claimed that Mosbacher did not have to appear because Congress 'used the wrong form'. Census figures are used in determining election districts and some federal aid. The 1990 census has been criticised as highly inaccurate, especially in its count of blacks, Hispanics, and the homeless, but Mosbacher decided last summer not to use the corrected figures.

In honour of the 200th anniversary of the Bill of Rights, on 12 December 1991, the American Bar Association released the results of a poll it had commissioned last summer. Of 507 people asked multiple choice questions, only 33% could identify the Bill of Rights as the first 10 amendments to the Constitution, and only 9% knew that its purpose was to restrict abuses by the federal government.

Ruling against *The New York Times*, a federal judge decided in December 1991 not to order NASA to release a tape from the space shuttle *Challenger* that exploded in 1986, finding that its release would invade the privacy of families of the astronauts killed in the explosion. *The Times* had argued that releasing the tape might help to determine the cause of the explosion.

General Electric, which had recently announced that it would be ending its sponsorship after 1992 of TV environmental specials created by the National Audubon Society, denied in December 1991 that its decision had been affected by protests, such as a boycott by loggers and ranchers, over programme content.

WMUR, the main television station in New Hampshire, refused to air an advertisement about AIDS produced by ACT-UP, an AIDS activist group, in January on the grounds that the visuals were 'too sexually explicit'. New Hampshire was awash with presidential candidates at the time, and ACT-UP had hoped that the advertisement might encourage the campaign debate to focus on the AIDS epidemic.

On 6 January, Stephen Comley, a Massachusetts anti-nuclear activist, was ordered by a federal judge to turn over recordings he had made of telephone conversations with a Nuclear Regulatory Commission official. Comley, who claimed that the subpoena was meant to frighten nuclear whistleblowers, said he would appeal.

Gulf War conscientious objector on moral grounds Captain Yolanda Huet-Vaughn (*Index 1/1992*) had her 30-month prison sentence reduced to 15 months on review in January.

USSR

Lithuania

On 30 November 1991, five newspapers declared a strike and printed an open letter to the government calling for a halt to economic and political assaults on the press. The protest followed a government decision to implement 25% VAT on newspapers, to restrict access to newsprint supplies for independent newspapers, and to take over papers associated with the former Communist Party. On 7 December, the plans were withdrawn although the new tax remained in force. In January, the Lithuanian Journalists Union was de-registered, but it was later invited to re-register following a protest from the International Federation of Journalists.

See also BELARUS, GEORGIA, KAZAKHSTAN, LATVIA, MOLDOVA, RUSSIA, TADJKISTAN and UZBEKISTAN.

UZBEKISTAN (EX-USSR)

On 21 January, *Radio Rossii* reported that Uzbek student leaders were planning to carry out their own investigation into clashes between demonstrators and militia which began on 6 January, since they were dissatisfied with the government version of events (*Index 3/1991*). On 22 January, the Erk Party newspaper published an appeal from opposition writers and political figures demanding that the commission's findings be made public.

VENEZUELA

El Nacional newspaper photographer Jesus Castillo was reportedly beaten by police who gave him electric shocks and confiscated his camera during a student demonstration at the country's Central University in Caracas on 23 January; and *El Globo* photographers Luis Davila and Juan Camacho, who were also covering the student demonstrations, were reportedly injured quite deliberately by police using buckshot.

The remains of at least 40 prisoners were recently discovered in a mass grave at a prison in the central city of San Juan de Moros. The discovery has raised serious questions about the country's judicial system. Current inmates have accused the prison guards of murder, but the guards claim that prisoners themselves carried out the killings during a prison rebellion last year.

El Nacional, the country's leading newspaper, was briefly closed by the government following a failed military coup on 4 February. The paper had published articles critical of the government, and President Carlos Andrés Pérez claimed these were contributing to continuing unrest. The ban on the paper was lifted on 10 February following a meeting between the President and the country's top publishers. *El Nacional* editor Alfredo Peña has reportedly been harassed repeatedly in recent months, as has press commentator José Vicente Rangel, also a well-known critic of the government.

VIETNAM

International PEN records no change in the circumstance of Dong Van Kha, Le Manh That, Pham Van Thuong and Phung Quan and his wife (*Index 3/1991*).

YUGOSLAVIA

Croatia

In early January, Croatian TV banned the screening of all films dealing with both the First and Second World Wars which portray Germany as the

aggressor. Among European Community members, Germany took the lead in supporting Croatia's declaration of independence (see below).

On 6 January, Cristian Würtenberg, a Swiss journalist who had joined the First International Croatian Platoon in November 1991, was killed near Osijek.

On 7 January, a federal airforce jet fighter shot down a European Community helicopter over Croatia, killing all the five members of an EC monitoring team on board.

Distribution of the 8 January issue of the independent weekly *Slobodni Tjednik* was banned and all copies confiscated by order of the Ministry of Information. The paper's publication of an article giving defence details was alleged to be in breach of paragraph two of the decree on information activities during a state of war.

Croatia's independence was formally recognised by all members of the European Community on 15 January. The republic had originally declared its independence on 25 June 1991. (See also CROATIA.)

Montenegro

On 17 January, Parliament adopted a declaration proposed by the Goli Otok association condemning human rights violations and the abuse of power. The association was founded by former political prisoners.

On 22 January, Montenegrin TV announced it would no longer broadcast 'advertisements of a political nature'. Opposition parties condemned the decision as 'totalitarian control of information', noting that the ban followed the recent banning of a TV broadcast giving information about a meeting to discuss the sovereignty of Montenegro, and condemning this act as a violation of the civil right of access to political information.

Serbia

On 24 December 1991, Dusan Brankovic (37) and Goran Stankovic (28) from Aleksinac, Serbia, were sentenced by the Nis military court to 15 and nine months' imprisonment respectively, for 'undermining the military and defensive power of the state' under article 121 of the federal criminal code. They had been mobilised as reservists in the Yugoslav National Army (JNA) in October 1991, and were sent to the battle front in the village of Dalj, Croatia, on 10 October, but sent back to Serbia together with some 300 other reservists after objecting to what they alleged was the inadequacy of their training. Both were freed following sentencing, pending appeal.

On 26 January, the Yugoslav People's Army (JNA) released 270 prisoners at the Bosnian-Croatian border, mostly civilians from Vukovar, Borovo Naselje and Star Gradiska.

According to a Croatian prisoner-of-war released from Sremska Mitrovica prison in January, Marin Vidic-Bili (Index 2/1992), representative of the Croatian government in Vukovar at the time of its occupation by federal army and Serbian forces in November 1991, is currently held in the prison.

International PEN records that Serbian poet Bela Csorba was arrested on 7 February because he spoke out in favour of peace in Yugoslavia. He was released on 12 February.

Kosovo: A report issued on 19 December 1991 by the Democratic League of Kosova (LDK), stated that the Serbian authorities had banned the Albanian daily newspaper *Rilindja* as well as all broadcasts in Albanian on Radio and Television Prishtina, and had dismissed more than 1,400 Albanians from their jobs. State financing was also being withdrawn from the Kosova Writers Association and from the Rilindja Publishing House, as well as from the publications *Fjala*, *Zeri I Rinise*, *Shkendija*, *Kosovarja*, *Bujku* and *Bota E Re*. The same report stated that the Serbian regime had appointed a new, Serbian senior management at Kosova Textbooks, the sole Albanian-language textbook publisher in Yugoslavia, where 65 out of the 66 staff are Albanian.

Recent reports received by Amnesty International concerning ethnic Albanians Mentor Kaçi, Sokol Dobruna, Zebel Sadiku, Deli Hagjocaj, Nuhi Bytyqi, Palush Palushaj, Naim Krasniqi, Afrim Morina, Querkin Peci, Sadik Mula and Sejdi Veseli, who were arrested in Kosovo in late December 1991 and charged with various offences including 'association with the purpose of carrying out hostile activities' and 'directing and infiltrating armed groups, arms and munitions into the territory of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRY)', suggest that they may have been tortured or otherwise ill-treated following their arrest. They were reportedly denied access to their lawyers, who were in turn denied access to their clients' case files.

A letter from the Kosovo Journalists Association addressed to the Brussels-based International Federation of Journalists was published in the Prishtina daily *Bujku* on 10 January. It accused journalists from *Tanjug*, the federal-controlled news agency, of being 'completely in the service of Serbian hegemonism and the so-called Federal Army'. *Tanjug*, which reported the text of the letter, denied the accusation.

On 12 January, Sanije Gashi (48), editor-in-chief of the Albanian-language women's magazine *Kosovarja*, was fined 6,000 dinars for publishing a photograph of Jusuf Gervalla (an Albanian rights activist murdered in Stuttgart in 1982) together with an article entitled: 'A Bitter Peace in Kosovo', on 12 December 1991. She was then arrested (on 13 January) and sentenced in Prishtina (on 16 January) to 60 days in Titova Mitrovica prison for having 'disturbed national and patriotic feelings' following publication on the cover of the magazine's 9 January issue of the following text in Albanian: 'Stop the killing of Albanian soldiers/stop the imprisonment stop the/persecutions stop the searches stop the/terror stop the hunger stop the/ dismissals from work stop the occupation/of schools stop the persecution of the/youth stop the occupation of Kosovo stop!' About 100 Albanian women held a meeting to protest against the sentence on 22 January.

According to the Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK), Serbian police raided a number of homes in Kosuric, near Pec, on 15 January, including those of Musa Rrahmani, the LDK sub-branch's deputy chairman, and the secretary of the sub-branch of the Kosovo Parliamentary Party.

On 19 January, ethnic Albanians Ejup Statovci, a former lecturer at Prishtina University's Law Faculty, was sentenced to 60 days' imprisonment for alleged 'violations of public peace and order' and the issuing of 'illegal ultimatums to the university's legitimate authorities'. In a letter to the newly-appointed Serbian educational authorities, Statovci had demanded that all Serbs leave the University buildings so that lectures could be held in Albanian. He was released on 30 January after serving 11 days of his sentence in the Titova Mitrovica prison.

On 20 January, ethnic Albanian pupils and teachers in Kosovo were warned that they would only be permitted to enter classrooms at the start of the new term if they agreed to abide by the uniform curriculum of the Republic of Serbia. On 24 January, the Prishtina Information Centre of the Democratic League of Kosovo issued a list of 49 schools where education in the Albanian language had been forbidden by the Serbian authorities. Its report noted that secondary education had thus been withdrawn from 67,200 pupils, while around 40% of ethnic Albanian primary school children were also being prevented from attending school. A week earlier, two teachers and two school heads from Ferizaj had been sentenced to 40- and 60-day jail terms for attempting to conduct classes in the Albanian language, and

two ethnic Albanian teachers in Peja had reportedly been beaten by Serbian police who were interrogating 30 teachers and heads of schools.

On 24 January, Zylbehar Hasallari and Mazllum Caja, president and secretary respectively of the Democratic League of Kosovo in the Hani i Eleziti municipality, were reportedly arrested and sentenced to 40 days' imprisonment after holding a meeting of party activists.

International PEN records receiving recent reports that Xhemal Rexhepi (Index 1/1992) was released in December 1991 on expiry of his sentence; and that Mustafe Lecaj of *Bujku* was held for 30 days from 19 December 1991 accused of 'disturbing citizens'.

Vojvodina: According to reports received by Amnesty International in December 1991, Nenad Canak (Index 2/1992) was demobilised and no charges were brought against him; and Janos Szabo (Index 2/1992) is thought to have been released from detention. Charges were brought against him and others involved in anti-war protests in the towns of Ada and Senta.

Slovenia

Slovenian independence was formally recognised by all members of the European Community on 15 January 1992. The republic had originally declared its independence on 25 June 1991. (See also SLOVENIA.)

ZAIRE

International PEN records that *La Conscience* editor Camille Muissa Monga Lihombo has reportedly been receiving threats from the military since his offices were ransacked in October 1991.

ZAMBIA

In the wake of the election results on 31 October 1991, General Shamenda, chairman of the Zambian Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU), called upon workers who suffered arbitrary dismissal, demotion, suspension or other forms of victimisation due to their advocacy of the country's return to multiparty politics, to report their cases and identify those managers and other individuals responsible, hinting that the new government, led by former trade unionist President Frederick Chiluba, would not deal lightly with them.

ZIMBABWE

Dencian Gould, an Irish teacher and squatter activist in Harare who produced a newsletter entitled *Homeless News*, was deported in January.