

# TAKE ACTION

Postcards  
to the edge.

PEN Canada works on behalf of writers, at home and abroad, who have been forced into silence for writing the truth as they see it. PEN Canada is for debate and against silence. We lobby governments in Canada and internationally; organize petitions; send letters, faxes and postcards for the release of persecuted writers; and conduct public awareness campaigns about freedom of expression.

We work for the release of imprisoned writers internationally, and to ensure that those responsible for the increasing number of murdered writers and journalists are brought to justice. At home, we work for freedom of expression within a national context, and to develop increased opportunities for writers living in exile in Canada.

We work so that stifled voices can be heard once again.

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# Foreword

They are invisible, the ones at the centre of our work. They are hidden, in prisons, under house arrest, obliterated by murder, or, more ominously, have simply disappeared without a trace.

Our job – your job – the job of all of us who believe in this organization, is to shine the light into the corners where our honorary members are hidden, and to ask the hard questions: why is this person locked away? Who killed this person? Where is this person who has disappeared?

PEN Canada asks these questions daily on your behalf, through all the work it does. But you can also take direct action of your own.

In this annual report you will find postcards featuring some of our honorary members whose situations cover a broad range of our activities, featuring, when possible, illustrations of their faces. We ask that you detach them and mail them to the governments concerned.

Why the portraits? That's part of shining the light. Each time one of these cards goes through the postal system and government bureaucracies of the country involved in the case, countless people see the image, read our concerns, and know what has been done, and to whom. Our released members often report being recognized by postal workers, and even strangers on the street, after their release.

Please mail your postcards today.

# President's Message

As I write this, I am only weeks away from the end of my term as President of PEN Canada—so this message is a kind of postcard from the edge. And as I look in and out, back and into the immediate future, there is one thing above all that I want to say: I think we should choose growth. We should get bigger, involving and serving more people, doing more and better work. The time is now, in part because our financial position has strengthened to the point where it has become possible to hire additional staff urgently needed to support continuing growth. Over the last two years, our membership has almost doubled. This took hard work to achieve, effort that rather than exhausting an available “pool” has made clear that if determined to do so we can attract many more members. We now have more associate members, more student members, more young writer members, and more members overall from outside Ontario. But the potential for growth is still largely untapped, particularly as it continues to be the case that a disproportionate share of our members come from Toronto and Ontario. I’m delighted to report that PEN Canada’s board has committed itself to what we are calling cross-Canada outreach, and a new board position dedicated to chairing this effort has been established. We are now poised to achieve a stronger presence and a stronger voice across the whole of our country. And so hurrah, with huge thanks to PEN Canada’s valiant board, staff, and many supporters.

PEN CANADA  
DEFENDS FREEDOM  
OF EXPRESSION  
BY ASSISTING  
WRITERS AROUND  
THE WORLD  
PERSECUTED OR  
EXILED FOR THE  
EXPRESSION OF  
THEIR THOUGHTS.

**YANGON  
UNION OF MYANMAR**

# **AUNG SAN SUU KYI**

DAW AUNG SAN SUU KYI, WRITER AND LEADER OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE FOR DEMOCRACY (NLD), RECEIVED THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE IN 1991, AND HAS BEEN HELD UNDER DE FACTO HOUSE ARREST BY THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT OF MYANMAR FOR MORE THAN 11 OF THE LAST 17 YEARS. UNDER SUU KYI, THE NLD WON AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY IN THE 1990 GENERAL ELECTIONS BUT WAS NEVER ALLOWED TO RULE. HER MOST RECENT STINT OF “PROTECTIVE CUSTODY” BEGAN IN MAY 2003 FOLLOWING VIOLENT CLASHES BETWEEN OPPOSITION AND PRO-GOVERNMENT SUPPORTERS. DESPITE EXTRAORDINARY INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE THE RULING JUNTA RECENTLY EXTENDED HER HOUSE ARREST, WHICH SHE IS SERVING AT HER HOME IN YANGON.

In May 2007, 58 former heads of state signed a letter calling for Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's unconditional release. In addition, 14 UN special rapporteurs have also called for her release. In Myanmar some 50 activists have been arrested recently for protesting on her behalf.

# **NLD**

*PEN Canada considers Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to be detained in violation of Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We call upon the State Peace and Development Council to show its commitment to political dialogue in Myanmar by securing the immediate and unconditional release of Aung San Suu Kyi and all others detained in Myanmar for the peaceful expression of their views.*



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Nobel laureate, writer and pro-democracy leader **Daw Aung San Suu Kyi** has spent more than 11 of the past 17 years in unlawful detention in Myanmar and recently has had her house arrest extended, despite international protest. I join with members of PEN Canada in calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Aung San Suu Kyi and all other writers unlawfully imprisoned in Myanmar in contravention of their universal right to freedom of expression.

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NAME

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ADDRESS

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SIGNATURE

**PEN** CANADA  
*for* FREEDOM *of* EXPRESSION

**Senior General Than Shwe  
Chairman, State Peace  
and Development Council  
C/o Ministry of Defence  
Signal Pagoda Road  
Yangon  
Union of Myanmar**



*Handwritten text in a cursive script, partially obscured by other elements.*

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*"Hope is not the conviction that something will turn out well, but the certainty that something makes sense regardless of how it turns out."* VACLAV HAVEL

BY ISOBEL HARRY

# Executive Director's Report

The Annual General Meeting and Annual Report each June afford the ideal opportunity to reflect and take stock of our progress in the past year and to contemplate the development of our plans for the year to come.

## Organisational considerations

To do valuable work, you need an irrefutable mission and a robust organization. The need for PEN's mandate, to defend everyone's right to freedom of expression, as per Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, is undeniable. Read Writers in Prison Committee Chair Alan Cumyn's report on page 14 and National Affairs Chair Christopher Waddell's piece on page 20 for the latest on why PEN's work matters more than ever. Organizationally, you need dedicated people. PEN's volunteer board is stellar: a board that supports the work continuously, often through massive efforts. PEN members pitch in to write the appeals of the Rapid Action Network. Our volunteers stand up for PEN at nights and weekends. Our student interns are glad to show up and be counted. PEN staff is hard-working and loyal. Patrons, sponsors and funders are generous to a fault. Everyone is standing on guard.

### **You need a strong structure behind all this goodwill.**

You need good governance policies to define roles and relationships and duties and responsibilities so that these are clearly understood by all. The board's new governance committee, led by treasurer Hank Bulmash, is updating PEN's guidelines to ensure the organisation's smooth runnings and compliance with current non-profit governance practices. You need to think strategically about what works, what doesn't, and how to improve same. You need to know the latest thinking on management, on structures, on trends such as social entrepreneurship and venture philanthropy! Not necessarily to adopt them all but to be able to place yourself in the larger world context for non-profits today. You put all this in place so that the organization not only works well but positively hums with the sound of all that creative thinking that keeps it relevant.

My own motivation has been greatly sustained by professional development I undertook in January, beginning with an intensive two and half day program offered by the Rotman School of Management at U of T, entitled Governance Essentials. This was followed in February by acceptance into the Executive Directors' Institute offered by Maytree Foundation and the Schulich School of Business at York University. This program ends in June with graduation, and I highly recommend it to any fledgling or veteran E.D. of a non-profit. Not only does it provide the tools we all need in our jobs but it gives us cutting-edge thinking from top leaders in the fields of governance, leadership, management, human resources, as well as a great network of peers.

Going to school on occasional Fridays throughout the year with a group of 20 or so motivated colleagues to pore over management questions and enact scenarios with talented instructors who empowered us with new ways of seeing, and even, it must be said, of being, was surprisingly (to me in any case) refreshing.

Some committees are revamping their thinking too: the fundraising committee is re-writing PEN's marketing pitches to focus on PEN's programs and the benefits of supporting them; Martha Butterfield has done an enormous amount for PEN on the fundraising front. The membership committee, under Michael Helm, with administrator Caitlin Smith's insights, has done great work this past year in finding new members across Canada: our members now number over 1000. We're eyeing the rest of the country not only for members but for ideas on how to engage them in meaningful support for PEN. The PEN Benefit committee, under chairs Janet Somerville and Ellen Seligman, has implemented a series of recommendations developed from previous events, to streamline and make this production more manageable. Last fall's Uncensored event really took off thanks to Louise Dennys' communications committee. Bruce MacDougall not only offers legal advice on national censorship issues but has successfully reeled in media sponsorships several years running. Munir Pervaiz, chair of the Writers in Exile Committee, has completed hard work on an operational policies document that will be an enormous boon in the years ahead; he also spearheaded the first roundtable discussion, held in May, which is also informing the way forward. Alison Gordon, the redoubtable editor of the newsletters and annual reports, continues to find fresh ways to bring readers the news.

## Programs and Partnerships

PEN's many vital partnerships have played a solid role in PEN's successes this past year. We've benefited greatly from the crucial support of the Maytree Foundation and the International Development Research Centre for the development of the Writers in Exile Network over the last two years. RBC Financial Group continues to fund the PEN Canada/RBC Writer's Fellowship for New Canadians, at the University of Saskatchewan. The City of Toronto funded a place and a laptop for a writer in exile at the Toronto Writers' Centre. Earlier this June I attended the inauguration of the PEN Canada Writers in Exile Program in Edmonton; partners in this new initiative are the Writers Guild of Alberta, the University of Alberta (Faculty of Arts), the Edmonton Community Foundation, the Canada Council, Edmonton Arts Council, Athabasca University, MacEwan College, Edmonton Public Library, Edmonton Journal and Edmonton Litfest. Please see page 32 for a list of all our institutional partners and participating writers.

Corporate partners, in addition to RBC, include McClelland & Stewart for *Writing Life*, Osler Hoskin and Harcourt LLP, Conros Corporation, Relay/HDS Retail and HarperCollins. Alliance Atlantis donated the services of its graphic design team to produce PEN Canada's first-ever Public Service Announcement. Coming soon to your TV screens.

Other partners this year have included *Acta Victoriana*, the magazine of Victoria College that sponsored a great event for PEN with Margaret Atwood and writers in exile Emma Beltrán and Reza Baraheni; RU by Rosemarie Umetsu who hosted PEN readings, auction and cocktail party on World Book Day in their fashion atelier; and the International Festival of Authors at Toronto's Harbourfront, directed by Geoffrey Taylor, who have given over their Opening Night to PEN Canada's Annual Benefit for the third year in a row.

We've also benefited from association with the Toronto Public Library for our annual Freedom to Read event at the Toronto Reference Library; with Starbucks for sponsorship of the PEN *Writing Life* readings tent at the Word on the Street; with Canadian Journalists for Free Expression and Paramount on the premiere of *A Mighty Heart*; with the Ontario Council for International Cooperation for their Women in Development panel; with Sheridan College, and Joyce Wayne in particular, for their innovative new program for internationally-trained journalists. Thanks to *Ideas* magazine of the University of Toronto's Faculty of Arts and Science and to the *Hart House Review* for including PEN within their pages last year. Can't forget our stalwart media sponsors *The Globe and Mail* and the *Toronto Star*; couldn't do it without them! We're also grateful to Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General, and to His Excellency Jean Daniel Lafond for initiating the series of luncheon discussions entitled Art Matters. Last December PEN Canada and PEN Québec members and GG Literary Awards winners were invited to discuss the right to freedom of expression in the arts at Rideau Hall. This was a rare and inspirational opportunity for the two centres to meet and chat bilingually on matters of substance. Thanks also to the Fisher Rare Book Library for agreeing to become the repository for the PEN Canada archives. In a couple of years it will be possible for the public to conduct research through PEN's documents dating back to its inception.

We're so lucky to have the ongoing support of Soapbox Design Communications' Jim Ryce and Gary Beelik and their talented crew, our *pro bono* designers for going on eight years now. Theirs is the gift that keeps on giving! Thanks to Michel Blondeau at ecentricarts for our web design; to Amber Lin for *pro bono* web maintenance assistance, despite her heavy new commuting schedule between Canada and the U.S!

Huge thanks to Janne Duncan at Fasken Martineau for by-laws and other legal advice, freely given this last year and for so many years previously. As usual all these partners and more are listed in this Annual Report. We are very grateful to them: PEN is much stronger for these affiliations.

With the start of our new Trillium-funded collaboration project last November, we have a three-year partnership with Art for Real Change theatre collective. Anjula Gogia is the coordinator contracted to manage the resulting TAXI Project – Freedom of Expression through the Arts. Anjula comes to PEN with a wealth of experience as the manager of the Toronto Women’s Bookstore for the last ten years as well as human rights work with Amnesty. We’re delighted that she has jumped in most imaginatively and has already secured funds to enhance the program. She’s also at the forefront of our efforts to develop relations with new allies and re-connection relations with existing partners especially for events; we hope to develop one national event per year that will eventually include all parts of Canada. Ambitious, yes! So we always welcome your thoughts!

A real thrust of the TAXI project (and of Readers & Writers before it) is to further our educational capacity by going into secondary schools to further students’ civic engagement through awareness of their right to freedom of expression. We are in discussions with UNESCO to expand our project called Freedom of Expression in the Classroom and produce a CD-ROM that students and teachers can use on their school computers. Other ideas in the works (funded collaboratively by the Ontario Arts Foundation and PEN Canada) include creative writing workshops to begin in the fall. This is bringing us into contact with educational curriculum experts who are expanding our understanding of how to communicate PEN’s mandate to another generation of teachers and learners.

It’s been almost 25 years since a small group of writers met in Margaret Atwood’s and Graeme Gibson’s kitchen and agreed to start English-speaking PEN Canada in Toronto (while the original PEN Canada, now PEN Québec and exclusively francophone, stayed in Montreal where it was founded in 1926). PEN is growing, changing, and now seems a natural point to ask ourselves some important questions about mandate and mission and effectiveness. And that is what we are committed to doing in the months ahead, with input from board, staff and supporters. But one thing remains unchanged: our commitment to those writers around the world who need our help in enabling their voices to be heard unchallenged.

### Acknowledgements

Heartfelt thanks to David Cozac, who left his position as Programs Coordinator in March, for his commitment to PEN’s mission. His contributions shall be missed and we wish him the very best in his next undertakings.

Thanks to PEN’s staff Caitlin Smith and Anjula Gogia, who can be counted on enthusiastically to put PEN’s interests first in all their work. Thanks to our dedicated interns this past year: Aidan Johnson, Mitch Mackay, Sarah Grubb, Farah Jamil and Debra Ross; to our superb volunteer helper Rose Rodrigo and to our summer student Alexandra Lalonde; we are really grateful for your assistance.

And to PEN Canada president Constance Rooke, who has been devoted to the cause of free expression these last two years, an enormous thank you! The three superb anthologies that she has edited as fundraisers for PEN with M&S over the last ten years, including last year’s *Writing Life*, stand as a most visible testimonial to her invaluable contribution to PEN Canada.

# Article 19

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes the freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.



VIET NAM

CEN

S ( LE  
DINH NHAN

LE DINH NHAN (RELIGIOUS NAME: THICH HUYEN QUANG) , THE ACTING HEAD OF THE INSTITUTE FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE DHARMA, UNIFIED BUDDHIST CHURCH OF VIET NAM (UBCV), WAS ARRESTED IN LATE 1994 FOR PUBLISHING AN OPEN LETTER CRITICIZING GOVERNMENT POLICY ON FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND RELIGIOUS EXPRESSION.

He was held under “temple arrest” until mid-1995, when he was transferred to an isolated area in Quangai. In 2003, he was moved to Nguyen Thieu Monastery, Binh Fonh Province, where he was held incommunicado with security guards reportedly permanently stationed at the gates. In September 2006 he was reportedly hospitalized in Ho Chi Minh City to receive treatments for heart disease and a lung infection.

Le Dinh Nhan is the author of renowned books on Buddhism and Oriental philosophy written over the last 30 years. He is said to be one of the most respected religious leaders of Vietnamese Buddhists. But his life is reported to be in danger due to poor health.

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*PEN Canada believes that Le Dinh Nhan has been detained in violation of his right to freedom of expression, as guaranteed by Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to which Viet Nam has acceded. We call for his immediate and unconditional release, as well as the release of all other writers unlawfully held in Viet Nam.*

IP





Vietnamese religious leader **Le Dinh Nhan (Thich Huyen Quang)** has suffered more than 12 years of various forms of detention and house arrest for his writings advocating freedom of speech and religion. A respected leader among Vietnamese Buddhists, he is said to be in extremely poor health. I join with other members of PEN Canada in calling for his immediate and unconditional release, and the release of other writers unlawfully imprisoned in Viet Nam in contravention of their universal right to freedom of expression.

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ADDRESS

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SIGNATURE

**PEN** CANADA  
*for FREEDOM of EXPRESSION*

**His Excellency Tran Duc Luong**  
**President, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam**  
**Hanoi**  
**Socialist Republic of Viet Nam**



# Writers in Prison Committee Report

This June marks my sixth and final year as Chair of the Writers in Prison Committee, and I thought it might be useful to look back at my first annual report, written in June 2002 after I had served a year in the post. It was in some ways a stellar year: Brigadier General José Francisco Gallardo Rodríguez of Mexico was released after serving more than eight years in prison for writing about the need for a military ombudsman in his country. PEN Canada's Isobel Harry was among those who had visited Gallardo in prison and who pressed for his case to be brought before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. In 2002 as well three Ethiopian journalists, Tesfaye Deressa Kumsa, Garoma Bekele Wakessa, and Solomon Nemara Gerosa, arrived in Toronto after a long struggle by PEN Canada, and others, to get them released and safely into exile. And in June 2002 editor Asiye Zeybek was acquitted and freed after serving four years in prison during which she suffered torture and rape. Elisabeth Zila-Olin of Swedish PEN met with Zeybek soon after she was released and wrote:

*Asiye was in a state of shock from joy and listened more than she talked. Thin and pale, she looked more like a schoolgirl than a woman of 31, but alert and interested in all that I had to tell her. A lot of people were there, her parents, her family, her prison mates, who kept coming and going, hugging her and just looking at her, but we still could have a long talk. I told her how we had first found out about her case and how it took us a long time to reach her, and she told us how letters had started coming at the end of 1999, how some had come to her and some were lost, both those written by her and by us. She told us of prison, of how the friendship among prison mates kept them alive, how food was scarce and everybody thin, how she had never lost hope, but paradoxically never expected to be released this specific, 30th, hearing...*

In China that year Tohti Tunyaz, a Uighur historian, was serving an eleven-year prison sentence for allegedly “stealing state secrets for foreign persons” and “inciting national disunity”, and Russia's Grigory Pasko was appealing his conviction for passing on military secrets after he wrote about the Russian Navy's practice of dumping nuclear waste into the Pacific Ocean. Finally, 2002 also saw the adoption of Iran's Siamak Pourzand as an Honorary Member of PEN Canada. Pourzand, a journalist and film critic and husband of another PEN Canada Honorary Member, Mehrangiz Kar, had disappeared the previous November, only to turn up in custody. In May 2002 he also was sentenced to eleven years in prison on trumped-up charges of espionage.

Five years later, Siamak Pourzand, Tohti Tunyaz and Asiye Zeybek all remain on PEN Canada's active Honorary Member list. Pourzand is on conditional medical leave, Tunyaz remains almost unreachable in prison, and Zeybek is living in exile in Sweden after she shockingly was sentenced in absentia to twelve years' imprisonment for belonging to the Marxist-Leninist Communist party.

In many other ways, however, the list of Honorary Members has changed significantly. Pasko was freed, to international fanfare, in January 2003. Later that year Tehran's notorious Evin prison, where Pourzand was being held, was the site for the still unsolved murder of Canadian photojournalist Zahra Kazemi, then in 2006 the release of Akbar Ganji, who had become an international cause célèbre after a tumultuous hunger strike, and the release of Nasser Zarafshan this year. Zarafshan, a lawyer who represented some of the families of murdered writers from the infamous "serial killings" case of the late 1990s, and who had served five years on trumped-up charges, vowed to re-open his law office.

As welcome as Zarafshan's release has been, this past year has had its share of shattering news. In October 2006 Anna Politkovskaya, well-known in PEN circles around the world for her tireless defence of freedom of expression, was gunned down outside her apartment in Moscow. Her case remains unsolved, and will join that of Zahra Kazemi's in the lengthening list of "impunity" cases in which attacks against writers remain unpunished and, for the most part, poorly investigated. In January 2007 Turkish writer Hrant Dink, whom PEN Canada had supported in his fight against Turkey's insult laws, was similarly gunned down when leaving his newspaper office in Istanbul. Nineteen men are being tried in connection with his murder. And this winter brought the horrifying, though still unconfirmed, news from Eritrea that four of PEN Canada's nine Honorary Members imprisoned since a 2001 crackdown on journalists — Fessahaye Yohannes, Yusuf Mohamed Ali, Medhanie Haile and Said Abdulkader — have died in prison over the last few years. It has been singularly difficult to get news of the Eritrean journalists and to engage the Eritrean government in any kind of dialogue about their treatment, although a media campaign launched this spring has raised awareness in Canada.

Behind all of these names of writers persecuted for the act of writing, of communicating thoughts and ideas to others, are real people with families, loved ones, hopes, fears, yearnings, strengths, feelings, failings, dreams, desires. For some our files are thick with information, correspondence, details, and for others we know only the barest of facts: their names, why we think they were arrested, where we suspect they are being held. Sometimes our very best efforts lead to silence, failure, stalemate. Sometimes the collective outrage of many different centres leads to a sudden change of an authoritarian heart, as happened this May in Uzbekistan when journalist and human rights campaigner Umida Niyazova was sentenced to seven years and then a few days later walked free after the weight of press releases, letters, emails and faxes from around the world hit home. Her sentence was suspended, some restrictions still apply, we will have to continue to monitor her case, but she is no longer in jail.

It has been my privilege to carry on this work for the past six years, in keeping with PEN Canada's long tradition of effective advocacy on behalf of persecuted writers. My special thanks to Isobel Harry, who has been a wonder to work with all along, to David Cozac and Caitlin Smith, to all the volunteer minders and RAN email and letter writers who have kept the pressure on, and to PEN members at large for supporting our work. Case upon case, year upon year, we have made a real difference in many lives.

**ERITREA**

**EMANUEL ASRAT  
TEMESKEN GHEBREYESUS  
MATTEWOS HABTEAB  
DAWIT HABTEMICHAEL  
DAWIT ISSAC**

IN SEPTEMBER 2001, THE GOVERNMENT OF ERITREA SHUT DOWN ALL EIGHT INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPERS, AND ARRESTED PROMINENT JOURNALISTS AS PART OF A WIDESPREAD GOVERNMENT CRACKDOWN ON POLITICAL OPPOSITION AND INDEPENDENT VOICES IN THE MEDIA. AT THE TIME, POLITICIANS AND EDITORIAL WRITERS HAD BEEN CALLING FOR DEMOCRATIC REFORM AND RESPECT FOR FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS.

Since their detention, none of the journalists has been charged with any crime, despite the fact that Eritrean law forbids holding prisoners for more than 30 days without charge. All those detained have had their bank accounts frozen and assets confiscated. Their relatives have not been allowed to visit them, and their whereabouts, condition and legal status remain a mystery.

Responses from the authorities have varied wildly over the years, from outright denials that a clampdown has taken place, to claims that the journalists were merely sent to carry out their national service, to explanations that the closures and mass arrests were necessary for the sake of national unity or were effected because of the failure of the newspapers to comply with laws covering media licences. However, a more likely explanation is that the crackdown was an attempt to stamp out criticism of the Eritrean government's treatment of students and political dissenters, and its prosecution of the war against Ethiopia.

*PEN Canada is greatly discouraged that the government of Eritrea has refused to provide the international community with a proper and full explanation for the action taken against these journalists. We believe that these men were simply doing their job, yet were punished in clear violation of their right to freedom of expression, as guaranteed by Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We demand the disclosure of information about the writers and that authorities release them from custody as soon as possible.*



Journalists Emanuel Asrat, Temesken Ghebreyesus, Mattewos Habteab, Dawit Habtemichael and Dawit Issac were arrested in September 2001 as part of a campaign to suppress independent media in Eritrea. I join with members of PEN Canada in calling for a full accounting of their status, as well as that of four of their colleagues rumoured to have died in custody. I call for their release, and the release of all other journalists and writers imprisoned in Eritrea in contravention of their universal right to freedom of expression.

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SIGNATURE

**PEN** CANADA  
*for* FREEDOM *of* EXPRESSION

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**President Isaias Afewerki**  
**State of Eritrea**  
**P. O. Box 257**  
**Asmara**  
**Eritrea**





# MOSCOW

RUSSIA

## ANNA POLITKOVSKAYA

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ANNA POLITKOVSKAYA WAS FOUND SHOT DEAD IN THE ELEVATOR OF HER MOSCOW APARTMENT BUILDING ON OCTOBER 7, 2006.

A journalist who covered the war in Chechnya, Politkovskaya had been receiving threats since 1999 after she wrote articles claiming that the Russian armed forces had committed human rights abuses in Chechnya.

Politkovskaya was the winner of numerous international awards for her courage, including the 2004 Olaf Palme Award that was set up by the family of the murdered Swedish prime minister. The prize was given to honour her work for the “long battle for human rights in Russia.” In May 2007 UNESCO posthumously awarded her the Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize.

A murder investigation is now under way. Vitaly Yaroshevsky, deputy editor of the newspaper Novaya Gazeta for which Politkovskaya worked, is certain that her murder is linked to her writing, a view shared by Russian human rights observers. The Moscow deputy prosecutor has also told the press that the possible link between her death and her journalism will be investigated. But the Committee for the Protection of Journalists reports Politkovskaya's is the thirteenth contract-style slaying of a journalist in Russia since Vladimir Putin took power in 2000. None of the killers has been convicted to date.

*PEN Canada believes that a full investigation and prosecution of those responsible is not only fitting for a crime of this gravity but is also necessary to demonstrate the will of the Russian government to put an end to ongoing murderous attacks on media practitioners in Russia. Impunity for many of those who perpetrated the reported murders of over 40 journalists since 1992 has been a shameful hallmark of successive Russian administrations.*

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Russian journalist **Anna Politkovskaya** was murdered in her Moscow apartment building on October 7, 2006, quite probably because of her investigative writing on the war in Chechnya. The murder remains unsolved. I join with members of PEN Canada to demand a full investigation into her murder and the prosecution of those involved, as well as unstinting investigations into the many other unsolved murders of journalists and writers in Russia in recent years.

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NAME

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SIGNATURE

**PEN** CANADA  
*for* FREEDOM *of* EXPRESSION

**His Excellency Vladimir Putin  
President of the Russian Federation  
Office of the President  
4 Staraya Square, Moscow 103132  
Russia**



# National Affairs Report

Four cases in the last year show that while some progress is being made on protecting freedom of expression in Canada it doesn't take much for that freedom to be threatened.

That's partly because some positive developments risk being undercut by new legislation designed to reintroduce measures that can restrict freedom of expression that the courts or Parliament have previously deemed unacceptable. At PEN Canada we must watch all these activities closely and speak out loudly and regularly whenever freedom of expression is put at risk.

Usually three themes dominate the activities of the national affairs committee – legislation, decisions of the courts and PEN Canada's responses to specific cases where authorities attempt to limit or act in a fashion that threatens freedom of expression. This year was no different.

On the legislation front the opposition parties in Parliament combined to prevent the Conservative government from extending two provisions of the Anti-Terrorism Act passed in 2001. PEN Canada has long spoken out in conjunction with many other groups in opposition to these provisions.

The first forced individuals, without being charged, to appear before investigatory hearings to respond to questions and supply documents without the ability to refuse to answer on the grounds of self-incrimination. The second gave the police the power if they believed a terrorist act was going to be committed to arrest individuals without warrant or charge and hold them for up to 72 hours before a show cause hearing determined whether the person should be released or held for a longer period of time.

Both provisions circumvent our justice system's traditional way for investigations, arrests and the laying of charges. The federal government has never explained why these extra powers were required and passed after September 11, 2001 nor have they ever been used.

PEN Canada believes all Canadians should be pleased that these provisions have not been extended. However, the Conservative government has pledged to introduce replacement legislation this year. When that happens PEN Canada will join others in examining the proposals in detail and will speak out if they again circumvent the safeguards in existing legal procedures that protect civil liberties.

Another victory for freedom of expression was the Conservative government's decision not to appeal the Ontario court's overturning of sections of the Security of Information Act in the Juliet O'Neill case. As a result sections of what was once the Official Secrets Act are no longer in effect.

Again here the federal government will likely introduce replacement legislation. PEN Canada believes it is essential that any new legislation contains four specifics;

- a precise definition of what is secret that balances when it is in the public interest to know something and provides Canadians with a better sense of when secrets override that public interest;
- a definition of what is national security and how that term will be applied in classifying documents;
- a government-wide document classification scheme so that all departments classify documents (secret, top secret, etc.) the same way and all apply the same definition of secret to documents;
- a change in legislation so that a more senior judicial official than a justice of the peace hears applications of search warrants when national security is being invoked to ensure that the public interest is balanced against claims of national security when deciding whether to issue search warrants.

Without these provisions journalists and writers will continue to face harassment from authorities trying to use the claim of government secrets to protect information that the public has a right to know.

A ruling from the Supreme Court of Canada in January was much less encouraging as it upheld a decision from the British Columbia Court of Appeals denying advance funding for a suit by the Little Sister's bookstore in a two decade-long fight against Canada Customs which stopped books coming across the border to the bookstore. The ruling said the case should not receive advance funding because it does not meet the test of having issues that relate not just to the litigant but to the general public.

However PEN Canada believes that it should concern the public that Customs officers are restricting freedom of expression with no knowledge, skills or training to play the role of censors. The court itself acknowledged that when it said in a previous decision in this case that Canada Customs acted systematically inappropriately in confiscating material entering the country.

On its own Little Sister's does not have the financial resources to continue the fight against Canada Customs. The Court did not acknowledge that individuals and small enterprises need financial support to challenge the arbitrary power of the state when it is employed against them. This is an essential check on the abuse of power by authorities and one that PEN Canada believes should be supported by public funds. Censoring and restricting freedom of expression in a free and democratic country is always a matter of compelling national interest, and it is very disappointing that the Supreme Court does not share that view.

Finally the age-old issue of book banning emerged again this past year. This time it was the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board outside Toronto removing David Guterson's award-winning novel *Snow Falling on Cedars* from school library shelves and Grade 11 English class reading lists after a single anonymous complaint about the book's sexually explicit content.

PEN Canada spoke out against such rash and unnecessary action. Banning a book after a complaint is the equivalent of being considered guilty until proven innocent. If someone objects to a book then the Board can review it, but the book should remain on the shelves until the Board rules otherwise. That could take months; and, during that time, the book is out of circulation based on that one complaint.

In the Dufferin-Peel case a committee, after its review, decided to keep *Snow Falling on Cedars* on the grade 11 curriculum and on the shelves in the board's secondary school libraries. It concluded the novel "offers senior students the opportunity to apply faith and reason in order to explore deep truths about the meaning of life."

It was the right decision and came after considerable public outcry including the voice of of PEN Canada. Turning the spotlight on such cases is the best way to protect freedom of expression. Although there have been advances in the past year, they are never enough that they can't be reversed, meaning we need to continue watching closely and challenging those who take steps that restrict such freedoms.



Censoring and restricting freedom of expression in a free and democratic country is always a matter of compelling national interest, and it is very disappointing that the Supreme Court does not share that view.

TURKEY

# RAGIP ZARAKOLU

RAGIP ZARAKOLU'S STAUNCH BELIEF IN FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, HIS VOCAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST BOOK BANNINGS AND HIS PERSISTENCE IN PUBLISHING WORKS THAT VIOLATE TURKEY'S REPRESSIVE CENSORSHIP LAWS HAVE RESULTED IN A SERIES OF INDICTMENTS DATING BACK TO THE EARLY 1970S. HE WAS FIRST ARRESTED IN 1971. FOLLOWING A CONVICTION AND A THREE-YEAR STAY IN PRISON, ZARAKOLU STEADFASTLY REFUSED TO ABANDON HIS CAMPAIGN FOR FREEDOM OF THOUGHT, STRIVING FOR AN "ATTITUDE OF RESPECT FOR DIFFERENT THOUGHTS AND CULTURES TO BECOME WIDESPREAD IN TURKEY."

In the 30 years since his release, Zarakolu has continued to defy Turkey's censorship laws, especially Article 312 of Turkey's Penal Code, which outlaws "making divisive propaganda via publication." The Belge Publishing House, which Zarakolu owns, has operated under a barrage of charges brought by Turkish authorities against him and his late wife, Ayse Nur resulting in their imprisonment, the wholesale confiscation and destruction of books, and the imposition of heavy fines.

Since his wife's death in 2002, Zarakolu has continued to face numerous prosecutions. He is currently on trial for the publication of *An Armenian Doctor in Turkey: Garabed Hatcherian: My Smyrna Ordeal of 1922*, by Dora Sakayan. He is charged with "insult to the Turkish state."

HIS STORY  
WILL BE FREE  
ALL OF US

*PEN Canada considers the charges brought against Ragip Zarakolu to be in direct conflict with his right to free expression as guaranteed by Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which Turkey has ratified, and is calling for the immediate and unconditional discontinuation of further legal actions against him.*



I join with other members of PEN Canada in deploring the continued legal persecution of **Ragip Zarakolu** and other Turkish writers and editors who are being denied their universal right to freedom of expression guaranteed by Article 19 of the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights, which Turkey has ratified.

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NAME

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ADDRESS

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SIGNATURE

**Prime Minister Rəcəp Tayyip  
Erdogan  
TC Easbaskanlik  
Ankara  
Turkey**

**PEN** CANADA  
*for* FREEDOM *of* EXPRESSION



## CHINA

# TOHTI TUNYAZ

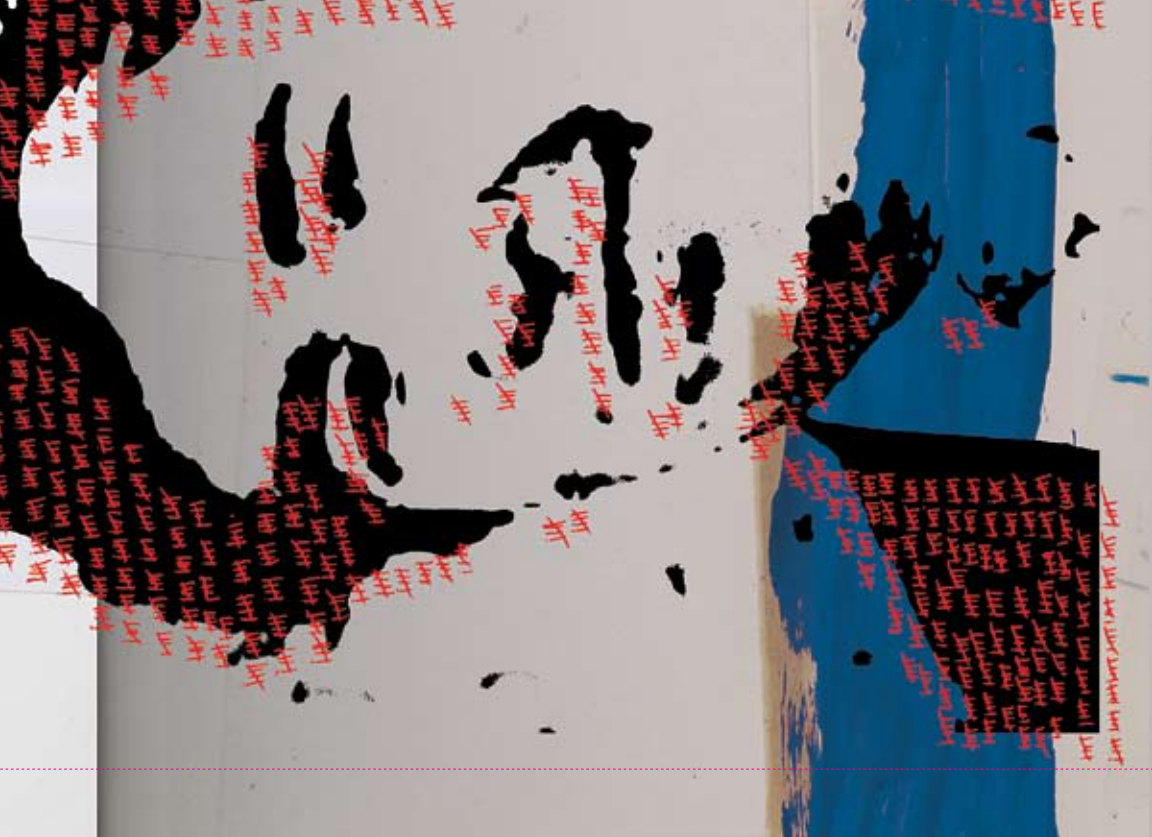
SINCE 1998 TOHTI TUNYAZ (MUZART), AN ETHNIC UIGHUR HISTORIAN AND WRITER FROM THE XINJIANG UIGHUR AUTONOMOUS REGION, CHINA, HAS BEEN SERVING AN 11-YEAR SENTENCE FOR ALLEGEDLY “INCITING NATIONAL DISUNITY” AND “ILLEGALLY ACQUIRING STATE SECRETS.” TUNYAZ WAS A PH.D. STUDENT IN JAPAN STUDYING UIGHUR HISTORY AND ETHNIC RELATIONS AND WAS ARRESTED IN CHINA WHILE PERFORMING RESEARCH. CHINESE AUTHORITIES ALLEGE THAT HE IS THE AUTHOR OF *THE INSIDE STORY OF THE SILK ROAD*, A BOOK SUPPOSEDLY PUBLISHED IN JAPAN IN 1998 BUT WHICH NO ONE HAS BEEN ABLE TO FIND. CHINESE AUTHORITIES BELIEVE THE BOOK ADVOCATES UIGHUR INDEPENDENCE.

Tohti Tunyaz has published articles in Japan on Uighur history and is the author of a 1995 book on Uighur history published in Beijing. His family remains in Japan. While he has been in prison in Urumqi, Xinjiang, it has been extremely difficult to get information about his condition.

# W A I C H

# E L

*PEN Canada believes the detention of Tohti Tunyaz is in violation of his right to freedom of expression as guaranteed by Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. PEN Canada calls for the immediate and unconditional release of Tohti Tunyaz as well as for all charges against him to be dropped. We also request that, while he remains in jail, Tunyaz be provided with any medical care that he requires and that visits by family and friends be permitted on a regular basis.*



Hand-drawn illustration of a landscape with a blue sky, a black silhouette of a person, and a black silhouette of a mountain range. The background is white with scattered black ink splatters. The drawing is surrounded by red text, which appears to be a mix of random characters and words, possibly a form of graffiti or a stylized message.

Uighur historian and writer **Tohti Tunyaz (Muzart)** is serving an 11-year sentence for allegedly writing a book advocating Uighur independence. *The Inside Story of the Silk Road* was supposedly published in 1998 in Japan, but no proof of the book's existence has been produced. I join with members of PEN Canada in calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Tohti Tunyaz, and for an end to the repression of free expression in the People's Republic of China.

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NAME

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ADDRESS

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SIGNATURE

**PEN** CANADA  
for FREEDOM of EXPRESSION

**His Excellency Hu Jintao**  
**State President**  
**State Council**  
**Beijing 100032**  
**People's Republic of China**





# Membership Report

For the first time in its history, PEN Canada now has more than 1000 members. In fact, we're at 1100 and our numbers have been climbing steadily for the past couple of years. This past fiscal year we've gained over 230 new members thanks to the work of office staff, current members, and fellow travelers of the cause across the country.

What accounts for the growth? We've made a point of attaching membership promotion, usually in the form of one or two minute pitches, to fundraisers – readings, musical performances, and events in support of other PEN initiatives, such as the Writers in Exile Network. This spring, PEN was a sponsor of a pre-release screening of *The Lives of Others* in Toronto, just prior to its winning the Academy Award for best foreign film, and upon hearing our pitch, the director, the implausibly-named Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck, made a point of acknowledging the importance of PEN Canada's work. Some of our members – Rohinton Mistry, Nelofer Pazira, John Ralston Saul, and others – have arranged with local hosts to talk about PEN and wave around membership forms during their public appearances. We continue to find new members among the readers of the *Writing Life* anthology, and through targeted letters of appeal to potential new members or former ones whose membership has lapsed.

We've begun to increase our presence among groups under-represented in our ranks, such as journalists, editors, academics, and film and television writers, and the growth here seems likely to continue now that the PEN board has found representatives from most of these groups to fill vacant positions. Volunteers have helped us do mailings to public libraries in every large city (and many small ones) in the country. And we've finally begun to gather more student memberships, and have enlisted the help of students in universities from Nova Scotia to B.C. to help us promote PEN in campus media and at local events. At the *Acta Victoriana* event at the University of Toronto in November, Margaret Atwood, Reza Baraheni and Emma Beltrán helped us find 39 new members, 27 of whom were students.

A good measure of the breadth and force of PEN's appeals is the success of the Free Expression Circle, which invites members to donate whatever they can beyond the annual fee. Our goal this year was \$15,000 in donations (this doesn't include patron or sponsor donations); we brought in more than \$20,000. One writer, upon the publication of her first book, was inspired to send us \$500 on top of the membership fee.

In short, we now have a hard-won momentum. But we'll lose it unless more people add their energy and talents to the effort of reminding potential members about our good work. What makes people join? Hearing about our programs, yes, but especially hearing the stories of the people PEN supports, in Canada and internationally, whoever tells those stories. One of the most memorable moments from this past year was the visit of Iranian journalist Akbar Ganji, one of our honorary members, to the Toronto PEN office. He stressed that without the support of PEN Canada, he would not have been released from prison last year and might well have suffered the grave fate of others in Iran and elsewhere who have voiced unauthorized opinions.

Anyone who wants to help will have the support of our office. We'll send membership forms, or even a brief script, if you like. And the stories here, on our website, and in our newsletters are yours to retell.

I want to thank everyone who helped with membership this year. As for the year to come, here's an important last point: PEN continues to gain members outside of Ontario, and we've recently added a new board member from the west, but the potential support available is largely untapped. So here's a direct appeal to current members to search out new ones in every last territory of the country. Canada is one of the world's great collection points for histories and stories, and the country as a whole should be represented in the defense of those stories, ancient or unfolding; literary, filmic, journalistic, or simply spoken; generated here at home or far away. People of integrity everywhere recognize a great need to defend our public utterances, so we should give as many as possible a chance to answer that need through PEN Canada.

CHINA

Y A

SHI  
TAO

H O

JOURNALIST, POET, DISSIDENT AND INTERNET WRITER SHI TAO IS SERVING A 10-YEAR SENTENCE IN CHANGSHA, CHINA AFTER AUTHORITIES ARRESTED HIM IN NOVEMBER 2004 FOR ALLEGEDLY “LEAKING STATE SECRETS.” HE HAD EMAILED NOTES DETAILING THE PROPAGANDA MINISTRY’S INSTRUCTIONS TO THE MEDIA ABOUT COVERAGE OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE CRACKDOWN AT TIANANMEN SQUARE. THE CHANGSHA INTERMEDIATE COURT VERDICT AGAINST SHI TAO REVEALS THAT YAHOO! HOLDINGS (HONG KONG) LTD. PROVIDED CHINESE POLICE WITH DETAILED INFORMATION THAT ENABLED THEM TO LINK SHI’S PERSONAL EMAIL ACCOUNT AND THE SPECIFIC MESSAGE CONTAINING THE ALLEGED “STATE SECRET” TO THE IP ADDRESS OF HIS COMPUTER.

Yahoo! has refused to offer any details beyond the following statement: “Just like any other global company, Yahoo! must ensure that its local country sites must operate within the laws, regulations and customs of the country in which they are based.” Yahoo! is not believed to be under any legal obligation to co-operate with the Chinese police, but they did sign a 2002 “Public Pledge on Self-Discipline for the Chinese Internet Industry.” Under the pledge Yahoo! agreed to help the government monitor and censor electronic communications involving information that could “jeopardize state security” or “disrupt social stability” and to report any such online communications to Chinese government authorities.

Shi Tao is held at the National Security Bureau of Hunan Province, Changsha, where he performs forced labour, including assembling stone beads as well as cleaning. He has restricted access to reading material and is only permitted to write letters to his family.

*PEN Canada believes that Shi Tao has been convicted in clear violation of his fundamental right to freedom of expression, as guaranteed by Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We call for his immediate and unconditional release, and urge that the government of the People’s Republic of China cease its repression of journalists and writers in the country.*

! C



Journalist and poet **Shi Tao** is serving a 10-year sentence for allegedly “leaking state secrets” because of e-mails he sent detailing the Propaganda Ministry’s instructions to the media about coverage of the anniversary of Tiananmen Square. He was arrested through the cooperation of his internet provider. I join with members of PEN Canada in calling for his immediate and unconditional release, and urge that the People’s Republic of China cease repression of writers and journalists.

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NAME

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ADDRESS

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SIGNATURE

**PEN** CANADA  
*for FREEDOM of EXPRESSION*

**Ms. Wu Aiyong**  
**Minister of Justice**  
**10 Chaoyangmen Nandajie**  
**Chaoyang District**  
**People’s Republic of China**



WRITERS

IT'S

Writers in Exile Network  
Placements

EXILE

NET

WORK



**Acadia University, Wolfville**

Benjamín Santamaría Ochoa,  
Mexico  
*Writer in Residence*

**Banff Centre for the Arts**

Sasan Ghahreman, Iran  
*Leighton Studios*

Andrea Hila, Albania  
Reza Baraheni, Iran  
*International Literary Translation  
Centre*

Goran Simic, Bosnia  
*Fleck Fellow*

Saboor Siasang, Afghanistan  
*Leighton Studios*

**Bibliothèque Gabrielle-Roy  
of the Institut Canadien,  
Quebec City**

Gerard Alexis, Haiti  
*Writer in Residence*

**Carleton University, Ottawa**

Amatoritsero Ede, Nigeria  
*Writer in Residence\**

Sheng Xue, China  
*Writer in Residence*

**George Brown College**

Mir Hussain Mahdavi, Afghanistan  
*Lecturer in Residence*

Aaron Berhane, Eritrea  
*Lecturer in Residence*

Benjamín Santamaría Ochoa,  
Mexico  
*Lecturer in Residence*

**Laurentian University**

Hassan Chérif Kala, Chad  
*Lecturer/Writer in Residence*

**Massey College  
(University of Toronto)**

Admiral Mahic, Bosnia  
*Scholar at Risk*

Goran Simic, Bosnia  
*Scholar at Risk*

Martha Kumsa, Ethiopia  
*Scholar at Risk*

Reza Baraheni, Iran  
*Scholar at Risk*

Patricia Suarez, Colombia  
*Scholar at Risk*

Fereshteh Molavi, Iran  
*Scholar at Risk*

**McMaster University, Hamilton**

Nooshin Salari, Iran  
*Writer in Residence*

**Ryerson University, Toronto**

Sheng Xue, China  
*Creative non-fiction course*

Tahir Gora, Pakistan  
*Creative non-fiction course*

Efrem G. Medhin, Eritrea  
*Creative non-fiction course*

**Sheila Copps & Associates,  
Hamilton**

Joao de Almeida Domingos, Angola  
*Indefinite use of writing  
space at office*

Nooshin Salari, Iran  
*Indefinite use of writing  
space at office*

**Toronto Writers' Centre**

Petronila Cleto, Philippines  
Gordana Icevska, Macedonia  
Sheng Xue, China  
Emma Beltrán, Mexico  
Rajah, Sri Lanka  
Oscar Vigil, El Salvador  
*Writers in Residence*

Luis Alberto Matta, Colombia  
*City of Toronto/PEN Canada Writer  
in Exile Fellowship*

**Trent University, Peterborough**

Goran Simic, Bosnia  
*Writer in Residence*

Benjamín Santamaría Ochoa,  
Mexico  
*Writer in Residence*

**University of Alberta, Edmonton**

Jalal Barzangi, Iraq  
*PEN Canada/Writers' Guild  
of Alberta Writer in Exile Program*

**University King's College, Halifax**

Genc Tirana, Albania  
*Writer in Residence\**

**University of Saskatchewan**

Ameera Javeria, Pakistan  
*PEN Canada/RBC Writer's  
Fellowship for New Canadians*

**University of Toronto**

Reza Baraheni, Iran  
*Centre for Comparative Literature*

**York University, Toronto**

Tesfaye Kumsa, Ethiopia  
*Master of Arts, Communications;  
tuition waived*

Reza Baraheni, Iran  
*Writer in Residence, Winters College*

*\*The Author Residencies program of the  
Canada Council for the Arts graciously  
provided funding for these placements.*

# “INTER”

UZBEKISTAN

## MAMADALI MAKHMUDOV

MAMADALI MAKHMUDOV IS A WELL-KNOWN WRITER AND MEMBER OF THE UZBEK WRITERS UNION AND UZBEK CULTURAL FOUNDATION. HIS FIRST MAJOR WORK, *IMMORTAL CLIFFS*, WAS PUBLISHED IN 1981. THE WORK WAS ATTACKED BY THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT, BUT FOLLOWING THE COLLAPSE OF THE SOVIET REGIME, HE WAS AWARDED THE CHOLPAN PRIZE.

Makhmudov's troubles with the Uzbekistani government began in 1994. He was charged with “terrorism” after a firearm was produced in a raid of his home. The charges were subsequently dropped. He was next charged with embezzlement and abuse of his position as chairman of the Cultural Foundation and sentenced to four years' imprisonment. After an international human rights investigation, he was released early as part of a presidential amnesty.

In February 1999 Makhmudov was charged with threatening the president and constitutional order, based apparently on evidence that he possessed copies of the banned *Erk* newspaper, voice of the Erk political party, and because of his association with writer Muhammad Salih, Erk's exiled leader. He was sentenced to 14 years in prison. In a letter smuggled from the courtroom, Makhmudov alleged that he had been repeatedly tortured. He also described how the inmates of his prison were forced to chant 500 times daily, “We love the president of Uzbekistan and the Uzbek people. From the bottom of our hearts, we ask forgiveness.”

While in prison, Makhmudov has had three heart attacks and his health is very poor.

*PEN Canada believes that Mamadali Makhmudov has been convicted in violation of his right to freedom of expression and association as guaranteed by Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which Uzbekistan has ratified. PEN Canada calls for his immediate and unconditional release and that he receive the necessary medical attention.*



Distinguished writer **Mamadali Makhmudov** is serving a 14-year sentence in brutal conditions in Uzbekistan for allegedly possessing banned writings and associating with political opponents of the ruling regime. He has suffered three heart attacks while in prison, and his health is poor. I join with members of PEN Canada in calling for his immediate and unconditional release.

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NAME

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ADDRESS

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SIGNATURE

**His Excellency Islam Karimov**  
**President of the Republic of Uzbekistan**  
**Rezidentsiya prezidenta**  
**Tashkent 70000**  
**Republic of Uzbekistan**

**PEN** CANADA  
*for FREEDOM of EXPRESSION*



# MIND ERS

As part of PEN Canada's work to effect the release from prison of its Honorary Members, some of our membership serves as volunteer minders. The member selects one or more of the cases of an imprisoned writer. The minder then takes on the role of monitoring developments in the situation of the Honorary Member. The key roles that the minders play are to write regular letters of support to the imprisoned writer and/or to family members and letters of appeal to the relevant government officials. If they have the time and the inclination, minders are also welcome to draft petitions; highlight the case through op-ed pieces in the local newspaper; alert other media to the situation of the Honorary Member; or make presentations to local schools or community organizations. The work that minders do proves invaluable to that done by PEN Canada.

If you are interested in becoming a minder, please contact us at [wipc@pencanada.ca](mailto:wipc@pencanada.ca).

#### HONORARY MEMBER

Zahra Kazemi, CANADA/IRAN  
Hada, INNER MONGOLIA, CHINA  
Tohti Tunyaz, XINJIAN, CHINA  
Zheng Yichun, CHINA  
Li Zhi, CHINA  
Drepung Monks, TIBET, CHINA  
Nine Journalists, ERITREA  
Ko Ang Tun / U Myo Htun, BURMA  
Aung San Suu Kyi, BURMA  
Win Tin, BURMA  
Asiye Uzel Zeybek, TURKEY  
Ragıp Zarakolu, TURKEY  
Rakhim Esenov, TURKMENISTAN  
Muhammad Bekzhon, UZBEKISTAN  
Yusif Ruzimuradov, UZBEKISTAN  
Mamadali Makhmudov, UZBEKISTAN  
Le Dinh Nhan, VIET NAM  
Nguyen Vu Binh, VIET NAM

#### MINDER

Douglas Donegani  
Jane Kay  
Carol Devine  
Kevin Tierney  
Patrick Woodcock  
Mark Frutkin  
Lisa Pasold  
Liza Potvin  
Ron Graham  
Dave Glaze  
Ziggy Pattinson  
Ziggy Pattinson  
Celia Ferrier  
Patrick Woodcock  
Patrick Woodcock  
Clayton George Bailey  
Chi Dang  
Chi Dang

ERITREA

**SAID ABDULKADER  
YUSUF ALI  
MEDHANIE HAILE  
FESSAHAYE YOHANNES**

THESE FOUR ERITREAN JOURNALISTS WERE ARRESTED AS PART OF THE CLAMPDOWN ON INDEPENDENT EXPRESSION IN THE MEDIA IN SEPTEMBER 2001. EIGHT INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPERS WERE SHUT DOWN, AND NINE PROMINENT JOURNALISTS WERE ARRESTED AND DETAINED WITHOUT CHARGE TO THIS DAY.

International human rights organizations have been trying, unsuccessfully, to determine the whereabouts and legal status of these journalists since then. The Eritrean government has issued nothing but contradictory statements.

Of all the journalists arrested during that September, the cases of these four have taken on particular urgency. In September 2006, a report circulated on-line claimed that three of the journalists — Yusuf Ali, Medhanie Haile and Said Abdulkader — had died in prison from ill-treatment. In early February 2007, another credible report surfaced that Fessahaye Yohannes had also died in prison.

# FOREIGN SPIES

*PEN Canada is deeply disturbed at the Eritrean authorities' practice of detaining independent journalists under the spurious guise of national security. It calls on the Eritrean authorities to confirm or deny with evidence the fate of Yusuf Ali, Medhanie Haile, Said Abdulkader and Fessahaye Yohannes, to investigate and account for their deaths if indeed they have died in custody, and prosecute those involved in any wrong-doing.*



21 No



I join with members of PEN Canada in concern for the journalists **Yusuf Ali, Medhanie Haile, Said Abdelkadar** and **Fessahaye Yohannes** who were arrested in September 2001 as part of a crackdown on independent press in Eritrea. Concerned by rumours of their subsequent deaths from ill-treatment in prison, I call upon your government to confirm or deny with evidence these rumours; to investigate and account for their deaths if they occurred; and to prosecute those responsible.

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NAME

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ADDRESS

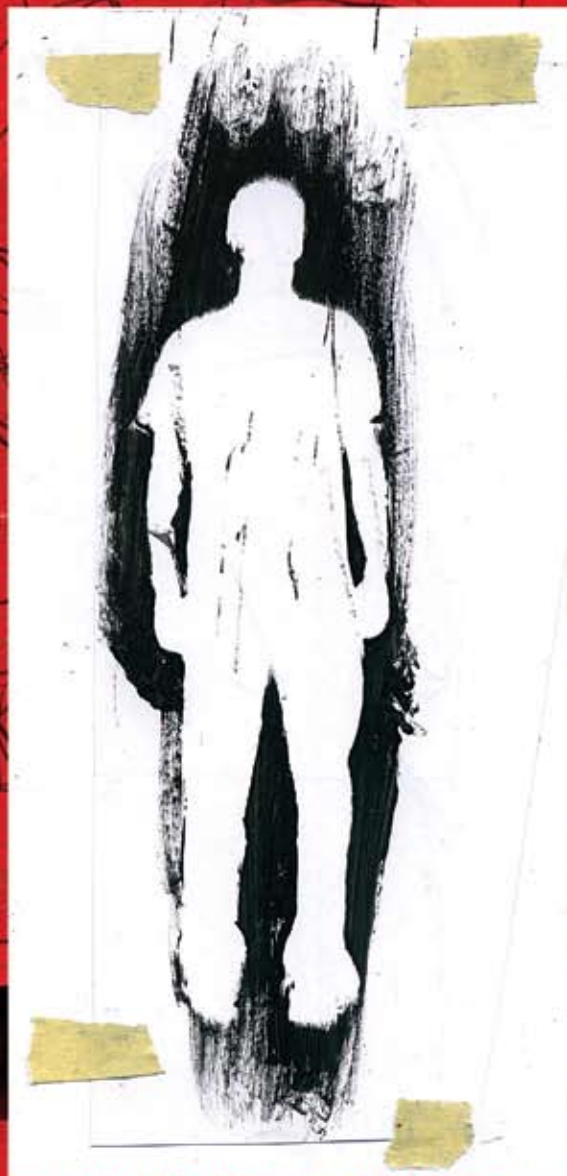
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SIGNATURE

**PEN** CANADA  
*for FREEDOM of EXPRESSION*

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**President Isaias Afewerki**  
**State of Eritrea**  
**P. O. Box 257**  
**Asmara**  
**Eritrea**



Detail same  
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# Honorary Members



## CANADA

**Zahra Kazemi**, a Canadian photojournalist of Iranian descent, was murdered in Tehran in July 2003 after being imprisoned and tortured for taking photographs outside Evin prison. Kazemi's body was buried in Shiraz, southern Iran, on July 22, 2003, contrary to the wishes of her son, Stéphane Hachemi. Calls for the body to be exhumed and repatriated to Canada have fallen on deaf ears. To date, no one in Iran has been brought to justice for Kazemi's murder. A show trial in 2004 resulted in the acquittal of an Iranian security agent. The government of Iran also publicly stated that her death was an accident, despite overwhelming evidence that the journalist was severely tortured, including sexually assaulted, while in custody.

## CHINA AND AUTONOMOUS REGIONS

A lecturer at Beijing Language Institute (now Beijing Language and Culture University), **Hu Shigen** was detained on May 27, 1992, and held illegally for four months before he was formally arrested and charged. The reason for his arrest was his founding of the Liberal Democratic Party of China (LDPC) and Free Labour Union of China; for having drafted documents for the LDPC, including a "Statement on the Question of Human Rights in China," and for writing articles commemorating the victims of the Tiananmen Square massacre. Hu, now aged 53, was charged with organising and leading a counter-revolutionary group and with counter-revolutionary propaganda. He was sentenced on December 16, 1994, at the Hohhot Intermediate People's Court, Inner Mongolia, to 20 years' imprisonment and five years' deprivation of political rights. He is held at Beijing No. 2 Prison, Chaoyang District, 100023. Hu is said to have been tortured in prison and suffering from poor health.

**Yang Tongyan** (pen name Yang Tianshui) is a freelance writer, former teacher and office worker, and member of the Independent Chinese PEN Centre (ICPC). He was detained on December 25, 2004, and a second time on December 23, 2005. The cause of his arrest was for Internet writing and publishing dissident articles, and for participating in unlawful activities against the State. Yang, 45, was ultimately charged with subversion of State power and sentenced on May 16, 2006 to twelve years in prison and four years' deprivation of political rights. He is held at the Detention Centre of the Public Security Bureau of Zhenjiang City, Jiangsu.

**Hada** was one of the founders, in 1992, of the Southern Mongolian Democratic Alliance (SMDA) for the peaceful promotion of human rights and Mongolian culture. The Chinese authorities reportedly viewed the SMDA as a threat to "national unity." Hada and the SMDA published an underground journal, *The Voice of Southern Mongolia*, and he also finished a book, *The Way Out for the Southern Mongols*. In October 1989, he opened the Mongolian Academic Bookstore in Hohhot. The bookstore was closed down immediately after his arrest in 1995, and all its books, research papers and other properties were confiscated as criminal utilities and evidence. Hada is imprisoned in the fourth Prison of Inner Mongolia, in city of Chi Feng (Ulaan-Hada). He is reportedly prohibited from talking to other inmates, allowed only limited contact with his family and denied proper medical care.

**Tohti Tunyaz** (Muzart) is an ethnic Uighur historian and writer from the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region, China. On March 10, 1999, he was sentenced to eleven years' imprisonment and two years' deprivation of political rights. Tunyaz had reportedly been watched by security police for some time prior to his arrest, and is said to have been arrested with allegedly sensitive material. Some reports claim that the content of this material was on ethnic relations published for classified circles only; others that it was material published for the general public. Tunyaz is said to have been formally charged with "inciting national disunity" and "stealing state secrets for foreign persons," charges that were amended by the High People's Court of the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region. He has a wife and children in Japan. One son was able to visit his father in prison in 2002.

Officials from the Changsha security bureau detained journalist, poet and dissident writer **Shi Tao** near his home on November 24, 2004. This came several months after he e-mailed notes detailing the Propaganda Ministry's instructions to the media about coverage of the anniversary of the crackdown at Tiananmen Square. On December 14, authorities issued a formal arrest order, charging Shi with "leaking state secrets." On April 27, 2005, the Changsha Intermediate People's Court found Shi guilty and sentenced him to a 10-year prison term. The court verdict reveals that Yahoo! Holdings (Hong Kong) Ltd provided Chinese police with detailed information that enabled them to link Shi's personal email account and the specific message containing the alleged "state secret" to the IP address of his computer. Shi Tao is a member of the Independent Chinese PEN Centre. In late December 2005, it was reported that Shi Tao was suffering from respiratory problems and skin inflammation as a result of forced labour.

**Zheng Yichun**, a Professor of English, was arrested by the security services in Yinkou, Liaoning Province, on December 3, 2004, and charged with "suspicion of inciting subversion of state power." The Prosecutor's Office cited 63 of Zheng's articles as evidence for the charges against him. They were among 300 articles that the police confiscated from his home. Zheng, a prolific Internet writer and poet, has published several books on a number of topics, including political reform, increased capitalism in China and an end to the practice of imprisoning writers. Zheng's trial on April 26, 2005, lasted less than three hours. Zheng was convicted on July 21, 2005, of "incitement to subversion of state power" for his critical writings, many of which were posted on-line on overseas Web sites. He was sentenced to seven years in prison on September 20 by the Yingkou Intermediate People's Court, Liaoning Province. Zheng is being held in the No.1 Prison in Panjin City, Liaoning Province. His health has reportedly already taken a turn for the worse since his arrest.

**Li Zhi** is an Internet writer and financial official in the Dazhou municipal government, Sichuan Province. He was arrested on August 8, 2003, by Sichuan Province State Security Police after posting an essay on an overseas Web site that accused Sichuan officials of corruption. Police seized his computer. Li was officially charged on September 3 with "conspiracy to subvert state power" for having contact with foreign-based dissidents. The Dazhou Intermediate People's Court sentenced Li, aged 33, to eight years in prison on December 11. Observers said the punishment was particularly harsh for a cyber-dissident. Li is imprisoned in Sichuan Province and is said to be suffering from a worsening Hepatitis B condition.

The group of Buddhist monks in the Drepung Monastery, known as the Tibetan Freedom Organization, produced pro-democracy leaflets, a Tibetan translation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the first Tibetan political manifesto calling for a democratic system based on Buddhist tradition. On November 30, 1989, they were convicted and sentenced from 17 to 19 years in prison for various charges of espionage and “counterrevolutionary” organizing. It is thought that the long sentences given to the members of the group were intended as a warning to other Tibetan “separatists.” Of the ten monks who were imprisoned, only one remains incarcerated: **Ven Ngawang Phulchung**. Phulchung is serving a 19-year prison term. His sentence is due to expire on April 15, 2008.

#### ERITREA

**Yusup Mohamed Ali, Mattewos Habteab, Dawit Habtemichael, Medhanie Haile, Emanuel Asrat, Temesken Ghebreyesus, Dawit Isaac, Fessahaye Yohannes and Said Abdulkader** were arrested in the days following September 23, 2001. They have yet to be sentenced. The detentions came in the wake of the closing down of all eight independent newspapers by the authorities on September 18, 2001 (these include the weeklies *Meqaleh*, *Setit*, *Tsigenay*, *Zemen*, *Wintana* and *Admas*). The authorities have either denied that a clampdown has taken place claiming instead that the journalists have merely been sent to carry out their national service; or that the closures and mass arrests were necessary for the sake of national unity; or were effected because of the failure of the newspapers to comply with laws covering media licences. However, a more likely explanation is that the crackdown was an attempt to stamp out criticism of the Eritrean government’s treatment of students and political dissenters, and its prosecution of the war against Ethiopia.

#### IRAN

Iranian intelligence services abducted journalist and film critic **Siamak Pourzand** on November 24, 2001. On March 6, 2002, Iranian judicial authorities started closed and unannounced proceedings against Pourzand. He was sentenced to eleven years in prison on April 13, 2002, on charges of “undermining state security through his links with monarchists and counterrevolutionaries.” It is widely believed that the charges against him are based on “confessions” that are thought to have been exacted under duress. Pourzand was re-arrested on March 30, 2003, after being conditionally released in December 2002. The targeting of Pourzand is thought to be connected to his position as manager of the Majmue-ye Farrhangi-ye Honari-ye Tehran, a cultural centre for writers, artists and intellectuals, or to his articles critical of the Islamic regime. As of April 2005, Pourzand has been on conditional medical leave from prison. Every two months, he is required to submit to the medical office at Evin for a medical report on his condition.

#### BURMA/MYANMAR

The leader of the National League for Democracy (NLD) and writer was taken into “protective custody” following violent clashes between opposition and pro-government supporters on May 30, 2003. **Aung San Suu Kyi** sustained non-life threatening injuries during the demonstration. Aung Sang Suu Kyi has been under house arrest at her lake-side home in Rangoon/Yangon since then. Most of the NLD’s offices have been shut down and the government has ordered the indefinite closure of the country’s universities and colleges. Aung San Suu Kyi was held under de facto house arrest for six years from July 1989 to July 1995, and again from September 2000 to May 2002. Suu Kyi was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in October 1991.

Student activist and writer **Ko Aung Tun** was arrested in February 1998 and reportedly sentenced in March 1998 to 13 years' imprisonment for writing a book on the history of the student movement in Myanmar. According to the official reports, Ko Aung Tun was charged under the 1962 Printers and Publishers Registration Act, the Unlawful Association Act and the Emergency Provisions Act. At a March 1, 1998 press conference, the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) claimed that Aung Tun was arrested for "collaborating with terrorist groups." Ko Aung Tun is detained at Insein Prison.

The prominent journalist, writer and Central Executive Committee member of the National League for Democracy (NLD), **Win Tin** was arrested on July 4, 1989, during a nation-wide crackdown by the authorities on the opposition. Win Tin, now aged 76, was publicly accused of guiding and influencing **Aung San Suu Kyi**. He was also accused of being a "leftist" politician who urged the NLD to adopt a civil disobedience campaign against martial law, quoting the works of philosopher Henry David Thoreau and the example of Mahatma Gandhi. Despite the political allegations against him, he was formally charged with a criminal offence and sentenced to three years' hard labour in October 1989. In June 1992, just a few months before completion of his three-year sentence, Win Tin was sentenced to an additional 10 years' imprisonment under Section 5(j) of the 1950 Emergency Provisions Act. Win Tin's third prison sentence was imposed on March 28, 1996, bringing the total years of incarceration to 20. Since the start of 2006, he has no longer been able to receive visits from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Win Tin is entitled to a twice-monthly visit from a relative for 20 to 25 minutes.

## RUSSIA

**Anna Politkovskaya** was found shot dead in the elevator of her Moscow apartment building on October 7, 2006. A journalist who covered the war in Chechnya, Politkovskaya had been receiving threats since 1999 after she wrote articles claiming that the Russian armed forces had committed human rights abuses in Chechnya. Despite these threats she continued to write and in 2003 published *A Dirty War: A Russian Reporter in Chechnya*, followed by other books. In 2002 Politkovskaya was one of the few outsiders allowed into the Moscow theatre in an attempt to negotiate with Chechen rebels the release of hundreds of hostages. In 2004, she fell seriously ill as she attempted to fly to Beslan to cover the hostage crisis there, leading to speculation that she had been deliberately poisoned to stop her from reporting on the crisis. A murder investigation is now under way. Vitaly Yaroshevsky, deputy editor of the newspaper *Novaya Gazeta* for which Politkovskaya worked is certain that her murder is linked to her work, a view shared by Russian human rights observers. The Moscow deputy prosecutor has also told the press that the possible link between her death and her journalism will be investigated.

## TURKEY

**Asiye Güzel Zeybek** was arrested in February 1997 during a demonstration protesting alleged links between Mafia groups and the government. Zeybek was the editor-in-chief of *Atilim*, a radical newspaper, and was accused under Article 168 of the Penal Code of connections with the now-banned Marxist-Leninist Communist Party and specifically of running and distributing the MLCP journal *İşçinin Yolu (Worker's Path)*. The initial trial proceedings against Zeybek were commenced in February 2001, four years after her arrest. A series of hearings were since held. At the conclusion of a lengthy trial, Zeybek was released on June 5, 2002, after spending five years and four months in prison. On October 16, 2002, Zeybek was sentenced to a heavy sentence of 12 and a half years' imprisonment for belonging to the MLCP. She currently lives in Sweden.



**Ragip Zarakolu's** staunch belief in freedom of expression, his vocal campaign against book bannings and his persistence in publishing works that violate Turkey's repressive censorship laws have resulted in a series of indictments dating back to the early 1970s. The Belge Publishing House, which Zarakolu owns, has operated under a barrage of charges brought by Turkish authorities. He is currently on trial for an article published in the journal *Ozgur Politka* on March 8, 2003. The article was entitled "Sana Ne" ("Of No Interest") and its lambasting of what Zarakolu describes as Turkey's "aggressive and derogatory language used against the Kurdish region in Iraq" has seen the publisher once again fall foul of Article 312. Convictions under Article 312 carry sentences of between six months and two years.

#### TURKMENISTAN

**Rakhim Esenov**, a respected novelist, historian and freelance correspondent for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL), remains under investigation in Turkmenistan on the charge of "inciting social, national and religious hatred using the mass media" with his novel *Ventsenosny Skitalets (The Crowned Wanderer)*. If convicted, he faces up to four years' imprisonment. Esenov, 78, was questioned by members of the Turkmen Ministry of National Security (MNB) upon his return to Turkmenistan on February 23, 2004, following medical treatment abroad. Already in poor health following a heart attack only two days prior to his arrest, Esenov suffered a stroke during interrogation and was taken to hospital. Esenov was initially accused of smuggling 800 copies of his banned novel – which had been seized by customs officials in January 2004 – into Turkmenistan from Russia.

#### UZBEKISTAN

**Muhammad Bekzhon** was deported from Ukraine in March 1999 on accusation of involvement in a series of explosions in Tashkent. Several others were arrested in connection with these events, including writer Mamadali Makhmudov. It is thought that Bekzhon's arrest is linked to his association with the exiled opposition leader Muhammad Salih (his brother) and that the charges are linked to his work on *Erk*, the opposition party's newspaper, although it has been banned since 1994. Bekzhon was sentenced to 15 years in prison in March 1999. His sentence is set to expire in March 2014. He is held in Kagan Prison in Bukhara. There are concerns that Bekzhon has been tortured.

Journalist and opposition politician **Yusif Ruzimuradov** was deported from Ukraine in March 1999 on accusation of involvement in a series of explosions in Tashkent. Several others were arrested in connection with these events. It is thought that Ruzimuradov's arrest is linked to his association with the exiled opposition leader Muhammed Salih and that the charges are linked to his work on *Erk*, the opposition party's newspaper (where Ruzimuradov was editor-in-chief), although it has been banned since 1994. Some of the defendants testified to having been tortured under interrogation including beatings, electric shock and threat of rape of female family members. Ruzimuradov was sentenced to eight years in prison in March 1999, on charges of attempting to "overturn the government by force," "membership of an illegal organization" and "slander" of the Uzbek President. His sentence is set to expire in March 2008. He is held in Navoi Prison.

**Mamadali Makhmudov** is a well-known poet in Uzbekistan. He was taken into custody in February 1999 and taken to an unknown location. He “reappeared” in May and was charged with threatening the president and constitutional order. These charges appear to be based on the evidence that he possessed copies of the banned *Erk* newspaper, voice of the banned Erk political party, and because of his association with writer Muhammad Salih, Erk’s exiled leader. Makhmudov was sentenced to 14 years in prison. Makhmudov received a Hellman/Hammett grant in 2000, given to recognize the courage of writers around the world who have been targets of political persecution and are in financial need.

#### VIET NAM

**Le Dinh Nhan**, the Acting Head of the Institute for the Propagation of the Dharma, Unified Buddhist Church of Viet Nam (UBCV), was arrested on December 29, 1994, for publishing an open letter criticizing government policy on freedom of speech and religious expression. He was held under “temple arrest” until around mid-1995, when he was transferred to an isolated area in Quangai. Since 2003, he has been at Nguyen Thieu Monastery, Binh Fonh Province, held incommunicado with security guards reportedly permanently stationed at the gates. Le Dinh Nhan has been the author of renowned books on Buddhism and Oriental philosophy for the last thirty years. He is said to be one of the most respected religious leaders of Vietnamese Buddhists.

A writer and leading member of the Democracy Club for Viet Nam, **Nguyen Vu Binh** was arrested by police on July 21, 2002 at his home in Hanoi following a search of his home and seizure of books and other materials. The police, to whom he had to report daily, put him under house arrest and close surveillance. He was re-arrested on September 25, 2002. On July 16, 2002, Binh and 16 other writers, relatives of detainees and retired government officials wrote an open letter to the government calling for political reform and the release of political prisoners. His re-arrest on September 25 is thought to be linked to the on-line publication of one of his critical essays, ‘Some Thoughts on the China-Viet Nam Border Agreement.’ Nguyen was convicted of espionage by the Hanoi People’s Court in a three-hour trial on December 31, 2003. He is said to have “written and exchanged, with various opportunist elements in the country, information and materials that distorted the party and state policies.” He was also accused of communicating with “reactionary” organisations abroad. The Hanoi Supreme Court upheld his sentence on appeal on May 5, 2004. Nguyen’s seven year prison sentence is set to expire on September 24, 2009. That is to be followed by three years’ house arrest. Nguyen is held in a cell with two criminal convicts and is said to be in poor health, and to be denied urgent medical treatment for undiagnosed chronic gastrointestinal disease and high pressure. His wife expressed renewed concerns about his health in October 2006.

“PEN IS ABOUT  
PERSISTENT  
INTERVENTIONS,  
LETTERS, PHONE  
CALLS, PRESSURE:  
ALL EFFORTS IN AN  
ENDLESS CAMPAIGN  
WHICH WRITERS  
CAN'T AFFORD TO  
TURN THEIR BACKS  
ON. FOR THAT  
MATTER, I DON'T  
THINK ANYONE CAN.”

# FATAL

IRAN

ZAHRA

KAZEMI

BL

JULY 10, 2007, WILL MARK THE FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF ZAHRA KAZEMI'S DEATH FROM INJURIES SUSTAINED THROUGH TORTURE WHILE IN CUSTODY IN TEHRAN. A CANADIAN RESIDENT WHO HELD DUAL CANADIAN/ IRANIAN CITIZENSHIP, THE 54-YEAR-OLD WAS ARRESTED ON JUNE 23, 2003, AS SHE WAS PHOTOGRAPHING THE RELATIVES OF DETAINEES OUTSIDE EVIN PRISON. SHE DIED OF HORRENDOUS INJURIES IN CUSTODY.

There has been no progress in her case since November, 2005, when an Iranian appeals court upheld the earlier acquittal of Reza Aghdam Ahmadi, the only person ever to be formally accused, but ordered the case reopened, "due to the possibility that some other people were involved" in Kazemi's death.

Lawyers for Kazemi's family have consistently met resistance on the part of Iranian judicial authorities in their attempts to have justice done. The failure to prosecute those responsible for Kazemi's murder became glaringly apparent last year during the inaugural session of the new United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva. One of the Iranian delegates was Tehran chief prosecutor Said Mortazavi, who is believed to have been the individual who inflicted the fatal blow against Kazemi.

*PEN Canada believes that Zahra Kazemi was detained and killed in clear violation to her right to freedom of expression as guaranteed in Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which Iran has ratified. We join with the Kazemi family's lawyers in demanding that a fair and impartial trial be held, one that would establish the true circumstances in which Kazemi died and which would punish those responsible for the crime.*

WV



# Zaira

a 54 year old woman  
newborn p10 reah t59 2

Iranian-Canadian photojournalist **Zahra Kazemi** died in custody in Tehran in July of 2003, after being detained in Evin prison for photographing relatives of detainees. Four years after her death, no one has been held accountable. I join with members of PEN Canada to demand a full and impartial investigation into the circumstances of Kazemi's death and the prosecution of those found responsible.

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NAME

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ADDRESS

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SIGNATURE

**PEN** CANADA  
*for FREEDOM of EXPRESSION*

**His Excellency Ayatollah Sayed  
Ali Khamenei  
The Office of the Supreme Leader  
Shoahada Street, Qom  
Islamic Republic of Iran**



Zahra  
Zahra  
a 54 year old woman

Honorary Members

**PLEASE**

**MM**



## CHINA

**Journalist Gao Qinrong** was released from prison on December 7, 2006. His freedom came five years ahead of his expected release, in 2011, when his sentence was due to expire. Gao was arrested in December 1998 after writing about corruption at an irrigation project in Shanxhi Province in central China. He was sentenced to 13 years in prison in April 1999 for “corruption” and “pimping.”

## IRAN

Iranian-Canadian scholar **Ramin Jahanbegloo** was released from prison on August 30, 2006. He had been held without charge in Tehran’s notorious Evin Prison since the end of April 2006. It is thought that Jahanbegloo was released on bail; however, no confirmation on that detail has yet been made. Jahanbegloo was arrested, allegedly under charges of espionage and for violating security measures in April, but was never formally charged while in custody. In July, Intelligence Minister Gholam Hossein Mohseni Ejehi accused Mr. Jahanbegloo of being involved in U.S. efforts to overthrow the Iranian government.

## IRAN

Writer, translator and barrister **Nasser Zarafshan** was released on March 17, 2007. Zarafshan was arrested in October 2000 after giving a speech in which he stated that the intelligence services had murdered five Iranian intellectuals in 1998 in Tehran. He was initially charged with publishing information about the assassinations, imprisoned in December 2000, and released after one month, pending trial. While in detention, Zarafshan’s office was reportedly searched, and weapons and alcohol were allegedly found. Zarafshan was sentenced on March 19, 2002, to five years’ imprisonment (2 years for disseminating state secrets, 3 years for the possession of firearms) and 70 lashes for the possession of alcohol. Zarafshan denied the firearms and alcohol charges and claimed these were planted in his office by the authorities.

## UZBEKISTAN

On April 3, 2006, a court in the capital, Tashkent, freed **Sobirjon Yakubov**, a reporter for the state-run weekly newspaper *Hurriyat (Liberty)*, for lack of evidence against him. Yakubov was detained on April 11, 2005, on suspicion of religious extremism and participation in an illegal Islamic organization, and criminally charged three days later with “undermining the constitutional order of Uzbekistan.” Yakubov’s colleagues said the charges against him were politicized and he was being punished for writing about Islam and advocating democratic reforms, according to press reports.

## VIET NAM

Cyber-dissident **Pham Hong Son** was released on August 30, 2006, several months ahead of his scheduled release. However, he faces three years of restricted movements and government surveillance. Son, a medical doctor who spent more than four years in prison after posting pro-democracy writings on-line, was included in a presidential amnesty apparently intended to clear the way for Viet Nam’s accession to the World Trade Organization.

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TEL 416.703.8448 FAX 416.703.3870  
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