

This Book is Political

PEN CANADA ANNUAL REPORT
2014/15

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ARTICLE

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

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Foreword

Jennifer Lanthier

This report gives thanks to all the members and volunteers who comprise PEN Canada and who fearlessly and selflessly give time and money to support freedom of expression. We know that by doing so you are taking a risk.

When you support PEN Canada you are taking a political stand. Freedom of expression – that fundamental human right without which Canada and democracy itself could not exist – is not partisan. But, as the past year has reminded us, it is political.

This is not an easy time to be political. It is not an easy time to stand up for free expression. Here at home and around the world the threats to authors, journalists, bloggers, cartoonists, filmmakers and more have ranged from the banal yet serious (auditing away the ability of charities to criticize laws and policies in Canada or abroad) to violent and even deadly (the flogging of Raif Badawi, the murders at *Charlie Hebdo*).

As you read through this report you will see that the path ahead holds

challenges. Fewer writers are able to make it to exile in Canada today and those who do may find themselves unable to speak or write freely for fear of reprisals to family and friends back home. Beyond our borders writers are still being imprisoned and tortured but many regimes are simply murdering them outright – it's cheaper and there are few consequences.

For many Canadians, the right to speak up, to tell our stories, may be taken for granted. The right to hear the voices and stories of others may not seem important. And for some Canadians – silenced in many ways over many decades, forbidden to speak their own language in school – expression may never have felt free. But the members and volunteers of PEN Canada know that freedom of expression is a basic human right.

It is not always popular or easy to support the right of someone to say something you oppose. It takes courage and conviction to be political.

Thank you.

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“The risks here are high and rising, and journalists are easy targets. But I can’t live in my house like a prisoner. I refuse to live in fear.”

José Armando Rodríguez, Honorary Member of PEN Canada



José Armando Rodríguez

MEXICO

José Armando Rodríguez Carreón was a veteran crime reporter for *El Diario*, a daily newspaper based in Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua state. He was shot at least eight times by an unidentified person on the morning of November 13, 2008, as he was about to drive his daughter to school. Rodríguez had covered drug-related violence and organized crime in Ciudad Juárez and, after receiving death threats, had briefly left Mexico to live in El Paso, Texas. On his return, he refused to stop covering crime stories despite receiving further death threats. Two prosecutors in charge of investigating the case have reportedly been assassinated. On May 26, 2011, the Inter American Press Association sent a letter to President Calderón, signed by hundreds of newspaper readers throughout the Americas, calling on him to intervene in order to ensure that the stalled investigation into Rodríguez's murder moves forward and those responsible are brought to justice.



*WE HAVE TAKEN
A RESOLUTE STAND
ON THE ISSUE
OF SO-CALLED
“POLITICAL
ACTIVITY”
BY CANADIAN
REGISTERED
CHARITIES.*

President's

REPORT

PEN Canada continues to grow in strength and purpose. Our focus is increasingly on freedom of expression in Canada (without abandoning our traditional interest in international issues). Of late, freedom of expression at home has seemed imperiled in ways that are new and surprising. PEN Canada's board, and its vigorous Canadian Issues Committee, seeks to be vigilant in response, monitoring attempts to stifle expression, speaking out when necessary, and attempting to influence debate and events.

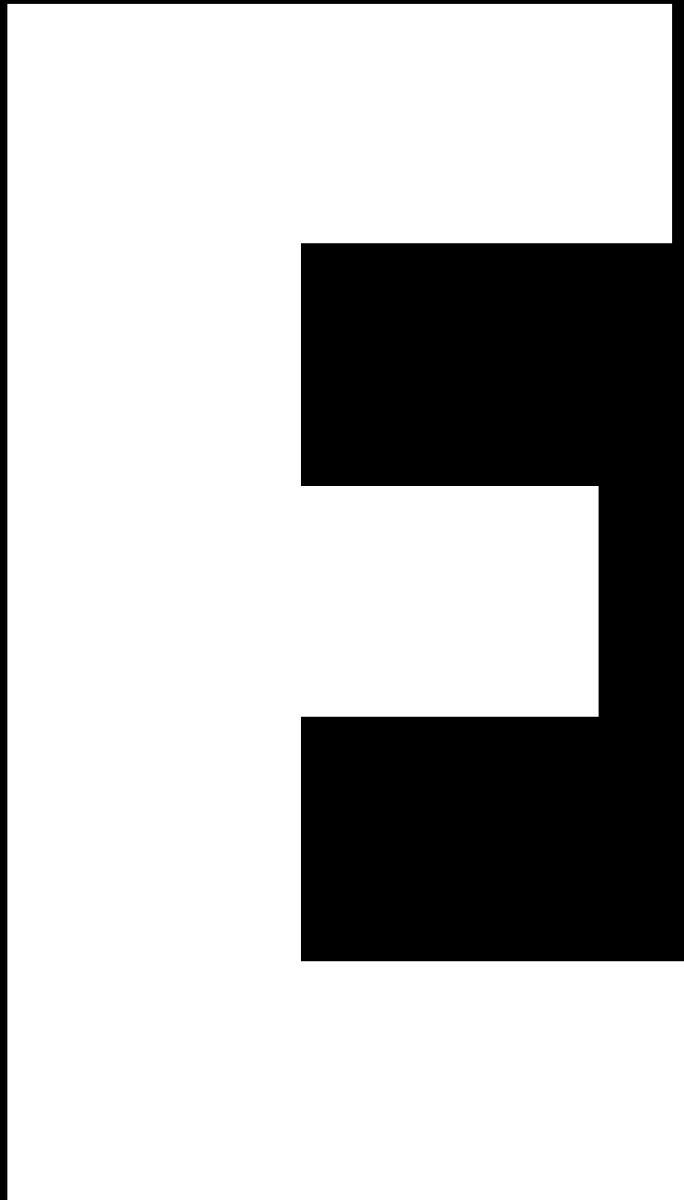
We have taken a resolute stand on the issue of so-called "political activity" by Canadian registered charities. The Canada Revenue Agency defines "political activity" expansively and seeks to limit it drastically. We believe that in many cases (including our own) this limitation is inappropriate and suppresses free and responsible expression of opinion. In PEN Canada's case, we argue that our advocacy for fundamental constitutionally guaranteed rights is central to our charitable purpose.

It is important to increase PEN Canada's domestic reach and capabilities as we become more engaged at home. Our board has been renewed, and is now truly national, with members from seven provinces. In the last few months, as president, I have visited Vancouver, Calgary, Winnipeg, Montreal and Halifax to attend PEN-related events. Our membership continues to increase and become more diverse. We now have two PEN student centres (at Ryerson University, Toronto and King's College, Halifax) and plan to create more. Our financial position is stable, although, as with most non-governmental organizations, it requires constant attention. The PEN Canada office has an energetic staff of five. With the help, financial and otherwise, of Canadians who care about freedom of expression, we will continue and expand the important work that we do.

Thank you, all of you, for your constant support and encouragement.

Philip Slayton
President, PEN Canada

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have
something
to say



“I was taught to read, research,
to question, and never stop
learning. I’ve never lost hope in
our belief that our conflicts can
be resolved through democratic
means and not with violence.
We have something to say about
peace, and the power to make
it a reality. We still do.”


Ayşe Berktaş, Honorary Member of PEN Canada



Ayşe Berktaş

TURKEY

Ayşe Berktaş, translator, women’s rights and anti-war activist was released by the Istanbul 15th High Criminal Court in December 2013 – along with five others – after 27 months of pre-trial detention. In October 2011, she had been charged under Turkey’s Anti-Terror Law with “membership of an illegal organization” for allegedly “planning to stage demonstrations aimed at destabilizing the state, plotting to encourage women to throw themselves under police vehicles so as to create a furor, and attending meetings outside Turkey on behalf of the Kurdistan Communities Union.” Berktaş is one of more than 1,800 people, including many writers and academics, swept up in mass arrests of supporters of Kurdish rights in Turkey. If found guilty, she could face up to 15 years in prison.



*SUDDENLY
IT FELT
DANGEROUS
TO PUBLICLY
OPPOSE
GOVERNMENT
POLICIES*

Executive Director's

REPORT

PEN Canada's country reports are becoming the foundation of our international work. This year, for example, we launched the first prize for investigative and public interest journalism in Honduras, following recommendations from our 2014 report. And, as I write this, our report on India goes to press. Like most of our international work promoting and defending free speech, it is very much related to politics. For example, the Indian Ministry of Home Affairs has blocked Greenpeace India from receiving foreign funds, calling their activities a "threat to national economic security." When it realized that Greenpeace India also enjoys significant domestic support, the Indian government froze the organization's bank accounts entirely. Unsurprisingly, Indian NGOs now watch what they say, lest they face similar reprisals. Our report examines incidents like these and proposes changes to the laws that enable them.

We don't yet have a report on Canada, but freedom of expression concerns here at home are growing. Canadian charities face a chill; in 2012, when the federal government allocated \$8 million to the Canada Revenue Agency to audit charities for "political activity" and announced that those with an environmental mandate would be first in line, charities all over the country felt the temperature drop by a few degrees. Suddenly it felt dangerous to publicly oppose government policies, even when doing so fit squarely within our charitable purposes. We did it anyway.

Indeed, the CRA's definition of "political activity" is so vague that almost all of our substantive work could be interpreted as political. Speaking out on the silencing of scientists and other government employees? Political. Advocating for a change in law to reduce censorship in India? Political. Calling for the release of Saudi blogger Raif Badawi, who

remains in prison awaiting the balance of a barbaric 1,000-lash punishment? Once again, political. And of course, our decision to challenge the current definition of political activity would be considered political too.

It's a tricky business being a charity these days, but we continue to do our work thanks to incredible support from our board of directors – especially Philip Slayton, who steps down as president this year. Under his leadership, PEN Canada has uncompromisingly asserted the right of charities to speak our minds. We have also become a truly national organization, with directors and events across the country and two university chapters.


None of this would be possible without our staff: Brendan de Caires, who expertly leads international

projects and programs many events; Pari Rajagopalan, whose skill and wit keep the office running, as does her deft management of memberships and donations, and Cherise Seucharan whose coordination of our Canadian Issues work has increased our capacity significantly. We dearly miss Juanita Bawagan, our first communications fellow, who left PEN to travel the world, and are excited to welcome Amy Smith this year.

Finally, we are in debt to board member Jennifer Lanthier, whose vision and skill have brought this document to fruition, and to Jim Ryce and the folks at Parcel Design, whose prowess always leaves us in awe.

Thank you to all.

Tasleem Thawar
Executive Director, PEN Canada



*PEN CANADA
ENVISIONS A
WORLD WHERE
WRITERS ARE
FREE TO WRITE,
READERS ARE
FREE TO READ,
AND FREEDOM
OF EXPRESSION
PREVAILS.*

Writers in Prison

COMMITTEE REPORT

Jim Creskey, Chair

PEN Canada's advocates, people willing to regularly write to imprisoned writers and lobby for their release, make up one leg of the Writers in Prison Committee. The letter writing aspect of the committee's work is what former PEN Canada President Charlie Foran called "old school" but necessary work. It certainly is. Though letters often go unanswered and frequently undelivered, regularly making the job appear thankless, sometimes we succeed with a personal contact. And sometimes, just sometimes, we can connect some of our work to a writer's release from prison. At the same time we discover new PEN Canada supporters. But it is hardly enough. A more personal and direct approach is now demanded because the politics and conditions of the day have changed the landscape for both the Writers in Prison and Writers in Exile Committees.

The level of state-inflicted and non-state violence against writers and particularly journalists has soared in recent years. In many countries murdered writers far exceed imprisoned ones. More writers are being threatened, attacked and murdered. There are also more writers living in camps, or on the run. Few are able to find safe permanent or even temporary havens as refugees.

At the same time fewer threatened writers are able to reach Canada. This is partly a result of the extraordinary flood of refugees around the world and especially in the Middle East. But in Canada this also comes at a time when this country's asylum and visa programs, instead of expanding to meet an unprecedented crisis, have undergone a freeze-up.

"Writers in Peril" best sums up the condition of many of the people that both our Writers in Prison and Writers in Exile Committees are now serving.

“When we are too busy to fight for freedom of expression, PEN International and PEN Canada do it for us. That’s why I am a patron of PEN Canada. They are not just fighting for other people’s freedom of expression; they are fighting for ours.”

Rita Leistner, photographer, writer, educator and PEN Canada patron

Our 2015 Honduras project, *Escribir Sin Miedo*, Writing without Fear, is a response to writers in peril.

It had several roots: a joint PEN Canada, PEN International, University of Toronto study of impunity on the killings of journalists in Honduras; the founding of a PEN centre in Honduras; and a visit Brendan de Caires and I made to Tegucigalpa, funded by the British Embassy in Guatemala.

That trip allowed us to have more than 14 meetings with writers, human rights activists and government officials. We were in search of a plan for building some degree of solidarity among Honduran journalists in the face of a near hopeless environment of self-censorship and murder with impunity.

An annual award for investigative/public interest journalism, *Escribir Sin Miedo*, arose from that visit. We also began a campaign to convince the Honduran government to drop its criminal defamation laws. At the same time the award offered an opportunity to build support for the brave members of the fledgling PEN Honduras Centre.

The other side of the Writers in Prison committee’s work is in Ottawa where the diplomatic and federal government communities are frequently subjects of our appeals for individual writers.

Anti-terrorism laws are increasingly used around the world to silence writers who are non-violently critical of government. And the death rates climb.

In Honduras alone, Canada’s most recent free trade partner, more than 50 journalists have been murdered with virtual impunity in the past decade.

For the coming year we are searching for help and support in addressing this growing crisis.

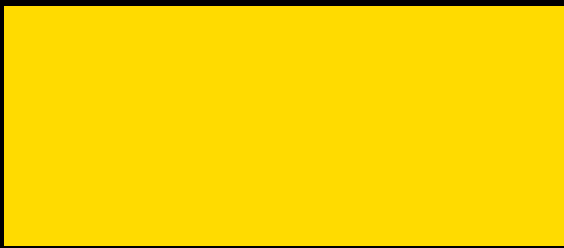
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“Free expression
is the base of human rights,
the root of human nature and
the mother of truth.”

Liu Xiaobo, Honorary Member of PEN Canada



Liu Xiaobo

CHINA

The 2010 Nobel Peace Laureate, Liu Xiaobo, is a prominent dissident writer, and former President and Board member of the Independent Chinese PEN Centre. Liu was arrested for signing Charter 08, a declaration calling for political reforms and human rights. Liu was held under Residential Surveillance, a form of pre-trial detention, at an undisclosed location in Beijing, until he was formally charged on June 23, 2009 with “spreading rumours and defaming the government, aimed at subversion of the state and overthrowing the socialism system in recent years.” The charge is said to be based on his endorsement of Charter 08 and over 20 articles published between 2001-2008. Liu was sentenced to 11 years in prison on December 25, 2009.

Canadian Issues

COMMITTEE REPORT

Elise Moser

The Canadian Issues Committee (until last year known as the National Affairs Committee) is that subset of PEN Canada that considers issues of freedom of expression at home.

Last October, death claimed longtime member Ken Filkow. Ken was a Winnipeg lawyer who also served as chair of the Manitoba Human Rights Commission. Thanks to the initiative and generous support of Philip Slayton and Cynthia Wine, Ken's memory will be honoured by PEN's new annual PEN Canada/Ken Filkow Award which recognizes individuals or groups that have made a significant contribution to freedom of expression in Canada.

We welcomed two new members, media executive Richard Stursberg and editor, journalist, and writer Paul Seesequasis. We have very good regional representation and a range of creative, legal and other talents at our disposal.

The CIC had been keeping an eye on the developing issue of the Canada Revenue Agency possibly using audits to chill dissent when we learned last July that PEN Canada itself would undergo an audit. The irony was not lost on the press or the general public; PEN received a good deal of media attention and also, as a result, some very welcome donations. As our case winds its way through the CRA we are still tracking news of other audits of groups and individuals.

Also this year the Censorship Tracker was launched in partnership with the British Columbia Civil Liberties Association (BCCLA), the Canadian Civil Liberties Association (CCLA), and Canadian Journalists for Free Expression (CJFE). It is a crowd-sourced mapping tool that we hope will help build a more complete view of when, where and what kinds of censorship occur in Canada.

“We all have the right to listen to a wide range of ideas, to stick to our beliefs or to have our minds changed. I support PEN Canada because thinking critically and discussing issues openly is the sign of a healthy, strong democracy – and without freedom of expression we could not have strong citizen participation or an engaged public debate.”

Michael MacMillan, PEN Canada patron

We are also working on three more Know Your Rights topics: Cell Phone Searches, Books in Prison, and Protesting. Each topic is addressed by an op-ed in a major publication, a long guide, a short-form pocket guide, and a “tool.” The long guide “Can the Police Search my Phone?” is up on the PEN Canada website, along with eye-catching downloadable wallpaper for your cell phone. The next two topics are coming soon. Thanks to our coordinator Cherise Seucharan for all her valuable work.

In February CIC chair Bill Kowalski wrote a post for PEN’s blog on Canada’s participation in Levitation, which gathers data on people who use any of over a hundred file-sharing sites, run by the Five Eyes intelligence alliance (Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States). Issues we are keeping tabs on include evolving questions of copyright, Omar Khadr being denied the right to be interviewed by the CBC, and various aspects of mass surveillance.

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“I have not been alone.
Not in prison, nor on
the torture bed, nor when
they announced my
death sentence.
PEN was with me.”

Faraj Sarkohi, Honorary Member of PEN Canada



Faraj Sarkohi

IRAN

Faraj Sarkohi was born in 1947 in Shiraz, Iran. In 1985, he founded the cultural magazine *Adineh*, and was its editor-in-chief for 11 years. In 1996, he was considered to be one of the spokesmen of a writers' initiative against censorship. A year later, he was arrested and condemned to death in a secret trial. Due to international protests by Western governments, human rights organizations, and PEN, the verdict was revised and converted into a one-year prison term. Global public protests prompted the Iranian government to finally grant Faraj Sarkohi a travel permit. In May 1998, he moved to Germany where he was a guest writer of the International Cities of Refuge Network (ICORN).

Honorary Members

PEN Canada works on behalf of honorary members around the world. We would welcome your help in working for the members highlighted earlier in this report as well as the writers listed below.

ETHIOPIA

On June 21, 2011 the journalist **Reeyot Alemu** was arrested and charged with planning and conspiring a terrorist act; possessing property for terrorist acts and participating in the promotion or communication of a terrorist act. On January 19, 2012 she was sentenced to 14 years in prison. While in prison Alemu has reportedly been held in unsanitary conditions and her psychological and physical health has deteriorated.

The editor and journalist **Eskinder Nega** was arrested on September 14, 2011 on terrorism-related charges brought under the 2009 Anti-Terrorism Proclamation. Nega was convicted on June 27, 2012 and given an 18-year prison sentence on July 13, 2012. On May 2, 2013 the Ethiopian Supreme Court upheld the conviction charges in a ruling PEN International and other rights groups described as “highly dubious.”

ERITREA

In September 2001, 13 newspaper journalists were arrested after President Issaias Afewerki closed Eritrea's independent newspapers, leaving only the state-run *Hadas Eritrea*. PEN Canada adopted the following as Honorary Members: **Yusuf Mohamed Ali** (editor-in-chief of *Tsigenay*), **Mattewos Habteab** (editor-in-chief of *Meqaleh*), **Dawit Habtemichael** (reporter for *Meqaleh*), **Medhanie Haile** (editor-in-chief of *Keste Debena*), **Emanuel Asrat** (editor of *Zemen*), **Temesken Ghebreyesus** (reporter for *Keste Debena*), **Dawit Isaac** (writer and co-owner of *Setit*), **Fesshaye Yohannes "Joshua"** (playwright, poet and publisher of *Setit*), **Seyoum Tsehay** (columnist for *Setit*) and **Said Abdelkader** (writer, editor of *Admas* and owner of the press that printed most of the independent newspapers. Hardly any information has been released about any of the journalists since their arrest and Abdelkader, Haile, Ali and Yohannes are believed to have died in custody due to harsh conditions and lack of medical attention. As of January 2010, Dawit Isaac was reportedly being kept in solitary confinement in a tiny cell with no windows, and was in very poor physical and mental health. He and the other inmates are said to be forbidden contact with each other and the outside world, are routinely shackled and receive almost no medical care.

MEXICO

Marco Antonio López Ortiz, a news editor for the daily newspaper *Novedades Acapulco*, was reportedly kidnapped in Acapulco, Guerrero state, on June 7, 2011. In July 2011, President Calderón's office wrote PEN International, to say that López' case had been referred to the Federal Attorney General (Procuraduría General de la República).

RUSSIA

Anna Politkovskaya, a special correspondent for the newspaper *Novaya Gazeta*, reported extensively on human rights abuses carried out by Russian forces in Chechnya and openly criticized Vladimir Putin. In 2001, she was detained by Russian officials in Chechnya and threatened with rape and torture and put through a mock execution. On October 7, 2006, Politkovskaya's body was found in the stairwell of her apartment building. She suffered a gunshot wound to the head. Nine years later, following several inconclusive trials, PEN International continues to call for an impartial investigation into Politkovskaya's murder.

“I COULDN’T SLEEP. IT WASN’T JUST THE JETLAG, THE FREEDOM, THE UNCERTAINTY OF A NEW LIFE IN EXILE ... IT WAS ACTUALLY THE MATTRESS, THE ELECTRIC LAMP BY THE BEDSIDE, AND THE BIG, BRIGHT WINDOW. THEY WERE TOO COMFY, TOO WARM AND TOO BRIGHT.”

Dieu Cay.

SYRIA

High-school student **Tal Al-Mallouhi**, a poet and blogger, was detained on December 27, 2009 after being summoned by state security officers for questioning about her blog entries. On February 14, 2011, she was convicted of “divulging information to a foreign state” and sentenced to five years in prison. Al-Mallouhi has no known political affiliations, and sources close to the family are baffled by the charges. It is feared that she could be targeted for comments and poems published in her blog.

UZBEKISTAN

Dilmurod Saidov – aka **Sayyid** – was sentenced to 12.5 years in prison on February 22, 2009 on charges of extortion and forgery according to a statement made by the head of the Agricultural Equipment and Tractor Park in Samarkand, who claimed that Saidov had sought to extort US\$15,000 from him. Saidov has reportedly been subjected to harsh prison conditions and psychotropic drugs during his detention.

To find out what you can do, please contact Brendan de Caires, Programs and Communications Coordinator at 416.703.8448 x21 or bdecaires@pencanada.ca

Released

October 21, 2014

Dieu Cay

VIETNAM

The journalist and blogger Nguyen Van Hai (also known as Dieu Cay) was released on October 21, 2014. Initially arrested in April 2008 and sentenced to 30 months in prison for alleged tax fraud, Dieu Cay was sentenced to an additional 12 years in prison on September 24, 2012 following his conviction of “conducting propaganda against the Socialist Republic of Vietnam” (Article 88 of the Criminal Code). In October 2013, Dieu Cay received PEN Canada’s One Humanity Award.

Writers in Exile

COMMITTEE REPORT

Mary Jo Leddy, Chair

The writers in exile continue to gather in Toronto every six weeks for a supper club that has become a focal point for sharing information and concerns, encouraging one another and developing new projects. It is open to anyone who wishes to attend, provided they bring some contribution to the potluck supper!

This regular gathering provides a creative and supportive atmosphere for writers (journalists, documentary filmmakers, etc.) to assist each other in informal but very real ways. Over the course of the year we have been joined by some Canadian writers and filmmakers who share our desire to be in solidarity with writers in exile.

One of our guests, Camilla Gibb, has invited the exiles group to become involved in a social justice course at Victoria College, University of Toronto. This is an important opportunity for writers in exile to share their insights with young university students who care about the world.

The supper club members have started their own online journal, *Hummingbird*. It is still being developed and we are hoping to take advantage of volunteer time and talent to ensure a steady stream of articles on the website. We are looking for editors, translators and web designers. We have a tentative agreement with *Embassy Magazine* (Ottawa) to publish some of the best articles from *Hummingbird* in a print version. Another online publication for new Canadians has expressed interest in republishing articles from *Hummingbird* on a regular basis.

This journal is our attempt to provide a way for writers in exile to contribute to the public life of Canada. As one member, Aaron Berhane, put it, “Our group wants to talk about more than the RIGHT to freedom of expression. Given what we have experienced in our own countries and knowing the fate of other writers in dangerous situations, we have a RESPONSIBILITY to exercise freedom of expression.”

*“EXILE NEVER
LEAVES YOU, IT
IS A COMPOSITE
GHOST, RISING
FROM DIFFERENT
ROOTS AND
DIFFERENT
LANGUAGES.”*

*Reza Baraheni, Writer in Exile and
former PEN Canada president*

In January of this year, the supper club drafted a series of proposals for the PEN board which we hope will allow writers in exile to exercise more responsibility. We would like to organize a national gathering of writers in exile that would enable us to develop a national network to support writers outside Toronto. We also want to offer our ideas on how we could rework the PEN website so it could provide more of a lifeline to writers in exile who are trapped in various situations throughout the world. Through our efforts to assist an Afghan filmmaker and political artist, we have become aware of a new reality for writers in dangerous situations: they are neither in prison nor are they in the relative safety of exile – they are writers in peril.

We are working with the Writers in Prison Committee to deepen our cooperation. This may involve some restructuring of our committee, a topic that could be discussed at a national gathering.

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**FOR
THOSE
WHO
WISH**

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“We want life for those who
wish death to us; and we
want rationality for those who
want ignorance for us.”

Raif Badawi, Honorary Member of PEN Canada



Raif Badawi

SAUDI ARABIA

Blogger Raif Badawi was arrested on June 17, 2012 in Jeddah after organizing a conference to mark a “day of liberalism.” The event was banned and his online forum – created to foster political and social debate in Saudi Arabia – was closed by a court order. On May 7, 2014, Jeddah’s Criminal Court sentenced Badawi to 10 years in prison, 1,000 lashes and a fine of 1 million Saudi riyals (CAD \$291,700) on charges of “founding a liberal website,” “adopting liberal thought,” and “insulting Islam.” According to PEN’s information, a written account of the verdict included two additional penalties: a 10-year travel ban and a 10-year ban on participating in visual, electronic and written media following his release. In January 2015, Badawi received the first 50 lashes prescribed by his sentence. He is the recipient of PEN Canada’s 2014 One Humanity Award.

Literary Events Report

Throughout the year, PEN Canada organizes a diverse array of literary events that raise money and awareness for freedom of expression. If you have a suggestion for an event or if you would like to host or volunteer, please contact **Pari Rajagopalan**, Office Manager, at 416.703.8448 x25.

Events during the past year included:

Who Owns Our Secrets? – A conversation on privacy, intellectual property, and free speech in the digital age. CBC Radio's **Brent Bambury** hosted the discussion with **Ray Boisvert**, **Dr. Michael Geist**, **Dr. David Lyon**, and **Micheal Vonn**. Presented in partnership with Spur Toronto at the Bluma Appel Salon. (April 2014)

Art & War – A conversation about the practice and problems of taking photographs in war zones. Internationally renowned photojournalists **Rita Leistner** and **Mike Kamber** and veteran *Newsweek* photo editor **Jamie Wellford** discussed the ethics of capturing the images and stories which emerge from conflict zones. Presented in partnership with Spur Toronto at the Munk Centre for Global Affairs. (April 2014)

PEN Picks: Linwood Barclay hosts *Sons of Perdition* – Internationally best-selling author **Linwood Barclay** discussed *Sons of Perdition*, a documentary that follows three teenage boys in their bid

to break free of a cultist community run by **Warren Jeffs**. Presented in partnership with Hot Docs at the Bloor Hot Docs Cinema. (April 2014)

Ideas in Dialogue: Still Points in a Turning World – Hosted at the Art Gallery of Ontario, authors **Wade Davis** and **John Vaillant** considered the ethics of storytelling, reportage and bearing witness in the twenty-first century. Moderated by poet and novelist **Karen Connolly**. (May 2014) *Note: Audio and event highlight video now available online.*

The Judicious Use of Solitude – Philosopher **Mark Kingwell** and author and filmmaker **David Cronenberg** discussed how crime, disease and philosophy relate to Cronenberg's decades-long engagement with writers such as **J.G. Ballard**, **William S. Burroughs** and **Vladimir Nabokov**. Presented in partnership with the International Festival of Authors at the Fleck Dance Theatre. (October 2014)

Behind the Veil of Democracy: Burma's Struggle for Freedom – A conversation about Burma's struggle for democracy and featuring Burmese authors and political activists **Nay Phone Latt**, **Khin Mya Zin**, and **Dr. Ma Thida**. Presented in partnership with the International Issues Discussion Series at Ryerson University. (November 2014)

Myanmar @ IFOA – Writers Ma Thida, Nay Phone Latt and Khin Mya Zin discuss the state of literature in Myanmar with **Karen Connelly** at the International Festival of Authors. Presented in partnership with the International Festival of Authors. (November 2014)

Fall Patron Salon – An intimate evening with **Dr. Ma Thida** and **Nay Phone Latt** and **Khin Mya Zin** at the home of the **Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson** and **John Ralston Saul**. (November 2014)

Day of the Imprisoned Writer – A conversation with **Ensaf Haidar**, wife of imprisoned Saudi Blogger **Raif Badawi**, marked the International Day of the Imprisoned Writer. Ms. Haidar also read extracts of Mr. Badawi's work, with live translation throughout by Writer-in-exile **Ayub Nuri**. Held at INSPIRE Toronto Book Festival. (November 2014).

Don't Fence Me In: A Calgary PEN talk with Patrick Finn and Chris Turner – Award-winning non-fiction author **Chris Turner** and provocative performance theorist **Patrick Finn** opened up questions of sacred cows and taboo topics in the prairie metropolis. University of Calgary philosophy professor **Mark Migotti** moderated this candid discussion of free speech in Cowtown. (February 2015)

An evening with PEN in Vancouver – Award-winning journalist **Daphne Bramham** spoke with author **Anne Giardini** about journalism and free speech. (February 2015)

The Decline and Fall of Investigative Journalism – Award-winning author **Linden MacIntyre**, journalists **Jesse Brown** and **Kathy English**, and non-fiction author **Mark Bourrie** considered public interest newsgathering in a media landscape of declining revenues, downsized newsrooms and digital strategies. In partnership with the Toronto Public Library for Freedom to Read Week. (February 2015)

Cartoonists: Foot Soldiers of Democracy – At TIFF Bell Lightbox as part of Reel Artists Film Festival in partnership with the Toronto Art Foundation. Producer **Stéphanie Valloatto** introduced two screenings of *Cartoonists: Foot Soldiers of Democracy* and moderated a panel discussion with cartoonists **Bruce MacKinnon** and **Brian Gable** and editor **Haroon Siddiqui** at the first screening. **John Ralston Saul** gave an address on the theme of freedom of speech at the second screening. (March 2015)

Members, Donors, and Partners

This list acknowledges those individuals and organizations who became members or provided support between April 1, 2014 and March 31, 2015.

Honorary Patrons

Margaret Atwood
Louise Dennys
John Ralston Saul

Platinum patrons (\$10,000+)

MacMillan Family
Foundation
Yaffe Feld Foundation
Yann Martel
and Alice Kuipers

Gold patrons

(\$5,000–\$9,999)

George and Martha
Butterfield
Janne Duncan
William and
Catherine Graham
Florence Minz
Rochelle Rubinstein

Silver patrons

(\$2,500–\$4,999)

Linwood and
Neetha Barclay
Grant and Alice Burton
Howitt/Dunbar
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NO THING IS
EVER PERFECT.
WE ALL HAVE
FAULTS AND
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CAN WE ADMIT
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LAUGHING
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