



A guide to defending writers under attack

The Writers in Prison Committee of International PEN



‘I have personally known writers who have chosen to raise forbidden topics purely because they were forbidden. I think I am no different. Because when another writer in another house is not free, no writer is free. This, indeed, is the spirit that informs the solidarity felt by International PEN, by writers all over the world’

Orhan Pamuk



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Introduction

Welcome to International PEN and the work of the Writers in Prison Committee.

This Handbook was first put together in 1998 at the request of many PEN members worldwide. They wanted some guidelines to help them with their campaigns and activities protecting the writer's right to write and to freedom of expression. In 2008, some of these same PEN members requested an update to the guidelines to help with new campaigns and to help to share our work.

The Writers in Prison Committee of International PEN (WiPC) was established in 1960. Since then, we have focussed on defending writers threatened, harassed and imprisoned because of their work. The incredible commitment of PEN members during this time, has quite literally opened prison gates and stopped those who want to censor countless voices all over the globe.

Today, we are a unique partnership between PEN members in many countries and a small team at the International PEN Head Office in London.

This Handbook is for new Writers in Prison Committees in PEN Centres, new PEN members, and PEN Centres who would like to establish a Writers in Prison Committee but want to know more first. It is also for PEN members who have been a part of the WiPC for some years and might want to refresh their approach to their work.

Of course, the Handbook is not a substitute for personal advice. If you ever have a question, or if you are in doubt or difficulty, please do not hesitate to call the Writers in Prison Committee staff in the Head Office.

Good luck with your activities and campaigns.

**Writers in Prison Committee of International PEN,
September 2009**

Part One

What is International PEN?

'In times of division between countries, International PEN is one of the rare institutions to keep a bridge constantly open'

Mario Vargas Llosa

Established in 1921, International PEN is the only worldwide writers association. It has three primary aims: the promotion of literature, the defence of freedom of expression, and the development of a world community of writers and readers. Today it has over 140 PEN Centres in more than 100 countries across the globe. The Head Office and international hub of the organisation, known as 'International PEN', is based in London and is the representative body for literature at UNESCO and the United Nations, and is a UK registered charity, number 1117088. Our membership is open to all published writers who subscribe to the PEN Charter regardless of nationality, language, race, colour or religion.



Orhan Pamuk (left) greets Arthur Miller (centre) and Harold Pinter (right), Istanbul, March 1985

What does International PEN do?

Our goal is to engage with, and empower, societies and communities across cultures and languages, through reading and writing. International PEN believes that writers can play a crucial role in changing and developing civil society. It undertakes this by addressing all areas relating to the promotion of literature and the role it has in developing understanding, both within and between cultures. This encompasses: the development of strong PEN Centres around the world, education programmes supporting engagement with reading and writing across all ages and community groups, access to books through publishing and distribution, the removal of barriers to accessing literature such as defending freedom of expression and increasing levels of literature in translation, and finally the promotion of literature through events, festivals and publications.



Members of Sierra Leone PEN school club

PEN stands for poets, playwrights, essayists and novelists and is the only truly international association of writers. Arthur Miller, Mario Vargas Llosa, Toni Morrison, Octavio Paz, Margaret Atwood, Heinrich Böll and J.M. Coetzee are among the thousands of authors, poets, editors, journalists and translators who have made International PEN the unique organisation that it is.

International PEN Charter

All PEN members are united under a common charter.
PEN affirms that:

1.

Literature knows no frontiers and must remain common currency among people in spite of political or international upheavals.

2.

In all circumstances, and particularly in time of war, works of art, the patrimony of humanity at large, should be left untouched by national or political passion.

3.

Members of PEN should at all times use what influence they have in favour of good understanding and mutual respect between nations; they pledge themselves to do their utmost to dispel race, class and national hatreds, and to champion the ideal of one humanity living in peace in one world.

4.

PEN stands for the principle of unhampered transmission of thought within each nation and between all nations, and members pledge themselves to oppose any form of suppression of freedom of expression in the country and community to which they belong, as well as throughout the world wherever this is possible. PEN declares for a free press and opposes arbitrary censorship in time of peace. It believes that the necessary advance of the world towards a more highly organised political and economic order renders a free criticism of governments, administrations and institutions imperative. And since freedom implies voluntary restraint, members pledge themselves to oppose such evils of a free press as mendacious publication, deliberate falsehood and distortion of facts for political and personal ends.

Part Two

An introduction to the Writers in Prison Committee

What is the Writers in Prison Committee?

'I believe that [journalists and human rights groups including International PEN] saved my life by writing letters, by being there, by making calls or even just by thinking or wishing that I was alive...'

Lydia Cacho, Mexican author and activist

The Writers in Prison Committee of International PEN, the WiPC, was set up in 1960 as a result of mounting concern about attempts to silence critical voices around the world. A team of volunteers was set up at the International PEN office in London to gather information and to alert the PEN membership to take action.

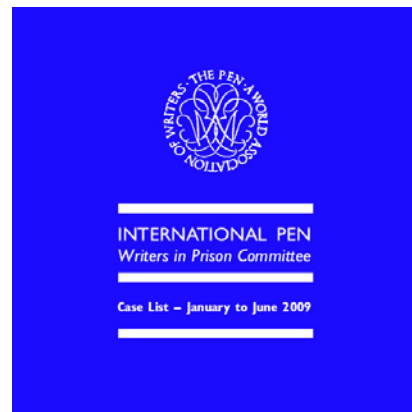
Today, the Writers in Prison Committee of International PEN is staffed by a small team of professionals who monitor around 1,000 attacks on writers, journalists, editors, poets, publishers and others every year. These attacks include long prison terms, harassment, threats, and even murder. WiPC staff members work on international campaigns in defence of freedom of expression, write and publish special reports on specific issues, and ensure that the work of the WiPC is represented in other areas of International PEN such as literary events and *PEN International* magazine. They also work with the international programmes team to enable long term change in civil society.

What does the Writers in Prison Committee do?

The Writers in Prison Committee of International PEN publishes a bi-annual country by country Case List of writers around the world who have been harassed, threatened, imprisoned or killed. It leads international campaigns, and alerts the PEN membership to urgent cases, keeps it informed about developments on individual cases of attack as well as global trends affecting free expression, and gives advice on actions and campaigns. These actions and campaigns include protest letters, lobbying governments and raising public awareness. Through writing to families and where possible directly to prisoners, PEN members provide encouragement and hope.

The WiPC is a founding member of the International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX), a global network of non-governmental organisations that monitors censorship worldwide and defends writers and journalists who are persecuted for exercising their right to freedom of expression.

Today, the Writers in Prison Committee is based in the Head Office of International PEN and works with Writers in Prison Committees in around half of the PEN Centres worldwide.



How does the Writers in Prison Committee work?

The Chair

The WiPC of International PEN, is headed by a Chair elected by WiPC Committee members for a three year term, which can be renewed once. The election is confirmed by the Assembly of Delegates. The position is voluntary and there is no salary. The Chair's role is:

- To report to the WiPC and the Assembly of Delegates, at each International PEN Congress, on the work of the WiPC
- To report to the Board of International PEN on the work of the WiPC
- To chair meetings of the WiPC, which occur annually at each Congress
- To oversee the work and budget of the WiPC with the International Treasurer and the WiPC Programme Director
- To represent the WiPC at international meetings, conferences and within the media
- With the support of the International PEN Head Office, to make final decisions on the status of controversial cases

The Writers in Prison Committee of International PEN

The day-to-day work of the WiPC of International PEN is carried out by a small team of professionals in human rights campaigning. Each world region is monitored by an expert providing research and campaign advice and documenting instances of writers and journalists facing significant threats to their work and well-being. The team at the WiPC Head Office ensures that PEN Centres with Writers in Prison Committees receive this information. It produces and distributes a bi-annual Case List and keeps up-to-date records about imprisoned and threatened writers. It also:

- Organises meetings at conferences and Congresses
- Runs the Rapid Action Network (RAN), issues regular email and website alerts on writers in urgent circumstances, distributed to the International PEN WiPC network
- Drafts letters in defence of threatened writers for the signature of the Chair of the WiPC, the International PEN International President or Secretary
- Acts as spokespeople in the case of media enquiries
- Liaises with the PEN Emergency Fund, which disburses money to prisoners or their families who are in need
- Advises the International Cities of Refuge Network on applications for placements for writers under attack, providing the same advice to PEN Centres involved in similar asylum issues
- Represents International PEN at the United Nations, the European Union, Organisation of American States, UNESCO and other international and regional organisations
- Works alongside other international and regional organisations promoting freedom of expression
- Leads international campaigns, develops strategic plans and works to co-ordinate other areas of operation

Where does the WiPC of International PEN get its information?

The WiPC of International PEN collects and analyses information from numerous sources. These include press reports, reports from individuals, embassy officials, academics, the families and friends of writers, lawyers and exile groups, and PEN members.

The WiPC will always work with PEN Centres in countries where there are free expression abuses it plans to act on, to ensure that they know of the actions and to give them an opportunity to comment. PEN Centres should also respect the need to liaise with their colleagues in other countries before taking action, and to contact the WiPC Head Office before doing so.

It also works closely with other human rights organisations such as Amnesty International, International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX), the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), Reporters sans Frontières and Human Rights Watch.

One of the most important sources of information is the PEN membership. The Head Office relies on the local WiPCs to contact us with news so that we can alert other PEN Centres and members.

Often, PEN Centres work together with local human rights organisations in their own cities or countries, sharing information or hosting joint events. Members wishing to contact other international human rights groups' Head Offices, should do so through the International PEN Head Office who have good relationships with these organisations and can communicate your enquiries quickly and efficiently.

How effective is the WiPC?

When a writer is freed from prison, censorship is lifted or circumstances improve, the WiPC cannot be certain that these changes were the direct result of their work. Sometimes political factors, the work of local groups or a change in government have equal or greater impact.

But increasingly we know that the WiPC can make a difference, because the writers on whose behalf we work, tell us so. Time and again, we receive letters explaining how the work of International PEN has positively affected daily lives in jail. Whether it was a boost to morale, or as a result of International PEN's work conditions improved, the support given by the PEN community gives writers imprisoned or on trial strength and courage.



Mohamed Erraji

CASE STUDY

Morocco: [Internet writer](#)

Mohammed Erraji, aged 29, published an article on the news website Hespress (www.hespress.com) criticising Morocco's monarchy for encouraging a culture of dependency. As a consequence, in September 2008, Erraji was arrested and sentenced in September 2008, to two years in prison and a fine for "disrespect for the king" under article 41 of the Moroccan press law, in a trial that did not conform with international standards of fairness.

The WiPC of International PEN issued a Rapid Action Alert asking PEN members to take action, protesting Erraji's two-year sentence and urging his immediate and unconditional release. The sentence was later overturned on appeal and Erraji was cleared of the charges.

The WiPC of International PEN believes that the appeals sent by PEN members contributed to the positive result in Erraji's case. Soon after he was cleared, the WiPC of International PEN received a message sent on behalf of his family and friends:

'I cannot overstate the importance of the support by organizations like the IFEX and International PEN. I would like to thank you for unconditionally standing by your principles and would like to state that your moral authority is an inspiration to all of us.'



Lydia Cacho

CASE STUDY

Mexico: [Investigative journalist](#)

Lydia Cacho Rivero is an author, investigative journalist and social activist. She was detained in December 2005 and charged with criminal defamation and 'calumny' by a businessman who was cited in her book *Los Demonios del Edén: el poder detrás de la pornografía* (*The Demons of Eden: the power behind pornography*) as having connections with a man being prosecuted for child prostitution.

She was released on bail shortly afterwards but faced between six months and four years in prison if convicted. In October 2006, Cacho's lawyers succeeded in transferring her case from Puebla to the Federal District of Mexico City where defamation had been repealed as a criminal offence in April 2006. As a result, the court dismissed the charges against Cacho on 2 January 2007 and the trial was discontinued.

International PEN, alongside various local and international organisations, campaigned for Lydia Cacho's release and for the charges against her to be dropped. Her case was also part of the WiPC's 2007 campaign against criminal defamation laws. In July 2007 a report was produced as a result.

The report is entitled '*Violence, Intimidation and Criminal Defamation in Mexico: The case of Lydia Cacho*'.

On 4 April 2007, PEN America hosted a reception for Lydia Cacho where she thanked everybody for their support and expressed her commitment to continue with her investigative journalistic work:

'...I do not think that I am taking risks unknowingly – I am doing it with more consciousness than ever because I do believe that all these people, including most of you here tonight, saved my life by writing letters, by being there, by making calls or even just by thinking or wishing that I was alive...'

Part Three

Joining the WiPC

Why should my PEN Centre join the WiPC?

No matter what the size or resource of your PEN Centre, it is worth joining the WiPC because every PEN member can make a difference. You have a unique contribution and local knowledge to bring to the WiPC and to the overall work of International PEN. You may not have money or paid staff. You may not have a government that is sympathetic to the cause of human rights or willing to listen to you. But you may have connections to a writer of national or international influence, or there may be a special relationship between your country and one where writers are in prison or under threat, which could be used to gain better and more insightful information. Or, something as small as a stamp on an envelope from the other side of the world in a place very different from yours is sometimes enough to show that there is an international community at work defending freedom of expression.

Remember! Membership of the WiPC is not automatic.
You will actively need to join this Committee.

What are the conditions of membership?

- Your PEN Centre must appoint one person and/or a Committee who are responsible for working with the International PEN WiPC Head Office. This person will also be expected to develop and support campaign work in their country.
- Your PEN Centre must either be active in the WiPC Rapid Action Network (RAN) or, at any one time, be working on behalf of at least two writers who are imprisoned or under threat.
- The PEN Centre must be up to date with its membership dues to International PEN and with other conditions of membership. For example, we cannot consider WiPCs in PEN Centres that are not yet formed or are dormant.

What does a PEN Centre receive as part of their WiPC membership?

Your membership entitles you to free copies of the WiPC's publications and the help and support of the International PEN Head Office. Each PEN Centre has a voice and one vote at all WiPC meetings and International PEN Congresses.

New Centre members are encouraged to work with established WiPC member Centres in their region. Such PEN Centres will have developed much experience and may have helpful advice to give in such areas as media relations, funding and information about local organisations.

How do I form a local WiPC?

In order for your PEN Centre to join the WiPC, you first need to check with your PEN Centre's governing body; your executive committee or your board. It would need to fully support your PEN Centre in becoming a member of the WiPC and agree to the conditions of membership. Once these steps have been completed and the WiPC of International PEN has approved the membership application, your PEN Centre will automatically become part of the WiPC.

What do I do once our WiPC is formed?

Some PEN Centres are very small and may decide that one individual will be responsible for the WiPC work. However, the commitment can be considerable as quite often there is an international campaign such as the 2008 campaign on China, or a thematic campaign such as the year-long action in 2004/05 on Anti-Terrorism and Free Expression to be organised. There are Rapid Action Alerts to respond to, letter writing to be done or media coverage to be secured. Therefore it is always recommended that, wherever possible, you form a committee of reliable and thoughtful PEN members to help you with the work.

Some PEN Centres form very formal WiPCs where membership is rotated and committee rules apply. Others have much looser structures where members opt in depending on the amount of time that they have to give. You can choose whatever system is best for you and your Centre, but be prepared to report on the activities of your committee to both your PEN Centre and to the international membership. It is very important that we share our knowledge and successes as much as possible.



'Freedom to Read,
Freedom to Write',
China campaign 2008

Making the most of your resources

Some PEN Centres have paid staff who work on behalf of their WiPC. But most are run by the members who volunteer their time.

It is important to understand the nature of your membership from the very beginning. Here are some points to consider to help you do this:

- Contact your PEN Centre and ask for a list of the members so that you can approach those who you think might be interested in helping you with your work. It could be someone who has a well-located house or apartment where meetings could be held; or access to an influential newspaper or news website; or knowledge of a country or region where the WiPC has major concerns. Or it could be something as simple as easy access to the internet and an email address.
- Once you have contacted these PEN members, decide where and how often to meet. You can of course keep in touch by email or telephone, but it is important to have regular meetings in person too.
- In your first meeting, decide which member should liaise with the WiPC of International PEN. With many PEN Centres active in the WiPC, it is difficult for the WiPC of International PEN to communicate regularly with every member. Therefore one contact point is more effective.
- This contact point needs access to an email address and telephone. Any contact person will also need access to the internet so he or she can keep up to date with regular International PEN news and access the special PEN members' area on the International PEN website.

Part Four

Joining the WiPC

Who does the WiPC work for?

Definition of 'writer':

The WiPC of International PEN works for all writers, journalists, publishers, poets, editors, translators, playwrights, songwriters, editors, internet writers and others engaged in the expression of their views in print and on the internet.

Definition of 'attack':

The WiPC will monitor and take action as appropriate in cases of direct attacks including:

- **Imprisonment**
- **Trials**
- **Physical attack**
- **Threats**
- **Ongoing harassment**

Natalia Morari



Support for writers under attack for reasons other than writings can include those who have come under attack for their peaceful political activities, have supported minority rights or have taken part in advocacy for others whose rights have been abused. Past examples include Ken Saro Wiwa, executed in 1995 for his campaign for Ogoni Rights in Nigeria, Aung San Suu Kyi, held under house arrest in Burma for her leadership of the opposition party, and, recently, Natalia Morari, Moldovan journalist arrested for organising a demonstration against election irregularities.

The WiPC does not work for:

Broadcast journalists (such as radio or television), performers, non-editorial staff of newspapers and publishing houses, technical and other support staff. The WiPC works closely with other media rights organisations, many of whom do take up these cases, including the Committee to Protect Journalists, the International Federation of Journalists and Reporters Without Borders, whose remits include broadcast journalists and staff. PEN Centres interested in campaigning on non-print writers/journalists are directed towards these organisations.

Any person engaged in violence, advocacy of racial hatred, or who has been convicted of a recognisable criminal offence. In some cases PEN does campaign for cases where it is clear that a fundamental right has been broken, such as the use of torture to gain confession, clear breaches of fair trial guarantees, and where the death penalty has been applied. See 'Judicial Concern' on page 14.

'Borderline' cases

On occasion the WiPC has turned to International PEN's Board to decide on 'borderline' cases where it is difficult to decide if the person is within International PEN's remit or is otherwise controversial. Sometimes such cases are brought to International PEN's Board at the request of PEN Centres. The International PEN Board's decision is final. It should be pointed out that if a PEN Centre wishes to work on behalf of a person – writer or other – who does not fall within the above criteria, they are free to do so but cannot expect support from the International PEN WiPC Head Office.

What is the Case List?

Every six months, on December 31 and June 30, the WiPC publishes 'the Case List', its records on all cases. It is here that you can find, country by

country, details of all writers and journalists in prison, otherwise harassed or even killed.

Writers are listed under such headings as 'disappeared', 'murdered', 'attacked', 'imprisoned', 'facing charges', 'released on bail', 'sent into forced exile', 'threatened', 'under a banning order' or 'released'. Normally, the murders, attacks and releases are listed once in one edition of the Case List but not again. Others are listed for as long as the imprisonment or other dangers facing our colleagues last.

Main Cases and Investigation Cases

Our cases fall into two main categories: main and investigation.

Main cases

This means the WiPC of International PEN has confirmed information and solid evidence to believe that the writers' cases are connected to their literary activities or freely-expressed opinions. We view their imprisonment or the attack against them as a violation of their right to freedom of expression, as upheld by Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Investigation cases

This means the WiPC of International PEN has a lot of information but we are still investigating all the facts before coming to a conclusion. We may not be sure if the individuals really are writers or that the punishment they face is connected to their right to free expression; or we may not know enough about the charges facing them. Increasingly, governments try to insist that the dissidents they are holding are criminals. Often the charges are exaggerated, so it can take some time before International PEN has established whether or not there is a case. Sometimes, International PEN may not be certain if the writers have joined terrorist groups and indeed planned or committed acts of violence that would be viewed as criminal in a court of law. In order to ensure that our credibility and neutrality is maintained, we have to go through the information we receive carefully. The investigation category allows us to monitor such cases without saying they are necessarily International PEN cases.

Judicial Concern

In some rare cases the WiPC may take action on behalf of a writer who may be imprisoned on criminal charges, such as in cases of involvement in or advocacy of violence or other criminality, and where there are clear breaches of other international human rights. This could include reports of torture or ill-treatment by prison authorities, severe malpractice in the conduct of trials, or where a person has been sentenced to death. In these cases, International PEN does not call for release but will ask for judicial review, for investigation into allegations of ill-treatment, or for the removal of the threat of execution.



Zargana, poet, detained in Burma: an honorary member of several PEN Centres

Updates

The cases in the Case List are only current for the date on which they are printed. Fully up to date information can be obtained from the WiPC of International PEN. If, for example, you are having a meeting with the ambassador of a country and want to give the ambassador International PEN's most current information, contact the WiPC of International PEN. The researcher for that region will email you the most current information available about that country or case.

Cases in your own country

When you receive a new Case List, check to see if the country where you live is listed as having writers or journalists in trouble of any kind. If there are entries in your country, try to check if the information is correct. The WiPC researchers understand that this can be difficult as the cases are often politically sensitive. If in doubt, contact the WiPC of International PEN for advice. You can request that the WiPC of International PEN keep your communication confidential if you think you or your PEN Centre could be at risk.

We ask that all PEN Centres report on cases of threatened writers in their own communities. This could be by email, phone or in person, with other people or confidentially. We ask this because it meets the standards of International PEN outlined in our Charter, which all PEN Centres have agreed to or signed.

Part Five

WiPC Activities and Resources

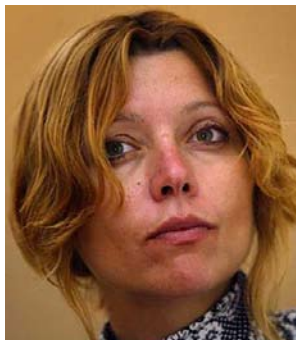
Section One: Honorary members

What is an Honorary Member?

One of the Writers in Prison Committee's oldest and most successful parts of its work has been the election of imprisoned writers to Honorary Membership of a local PEN Centre. This method of highlighting a particular case can give the chosen writer a tremendous morale boost from the attention honorary membership brings them.

Choosing your Honorary Member

Decide which of the many cases in the Case List are suitable. Depending on the size of your Centre, you could decide to have more than one Honorary Member if there are enough PEN members to share the work, which is detailed below. Go through the entire Case List carefully, searching for possible cases where you think your Centre could have particular impact, maybe because of links between your country and theirs, or if you have members who have contacts or language skills. Here are the main points to bear in mind when making your selection:



Elif Shafak, a writer from Turkey for whom PEN Centres campaigned when she was on trial

- **Be sure that you do not select an investigation case; only choose from the main cases.**
An investigation case is not appropriate for election to Honorary Membership, as the WiPC is not yet sure of the full facts of the case.
- **Try to avoid cases where there are already many other PEN Centres working for the prisoner.**
This is not a firm rule, as your PEN Centre may have something unique to offer the campaign. But try not to neglect cases forgotten by others.
- **Take up only cases where the abuse is long term, such as a long prison term or a consistent pattern of attack/threats over a long period.**
In some cases a person's situation is temporary and not part of a longer pattern of attack. You should focus on those cases where the situation has not been resolved or is unlikely to be resolved soon. See the section on the Rapid Action Network on page 20 for ideas on how to help in cases of immediate need.
- **Think about your country's relationship with the country in question.**
Sometimes this relationship might be a good reason to take on a case, sometimes not. Usually where relations are bad, you should avoid taking on a case. However if relations are good – perhaps a new trade partnership has been established, or there are historical links between the two countries – this is usually a good indicator for taking on a case. The government of the country in question will have an interest in keeping relations good and may be more willing to listen to your appeals.
- **Think about the expertise of your own membership.**
If a member has lived in a country where there are imprisoned writers, or speaks the language and understands the local politics, this is a good reason to take on a new Honorary Member.

Consult the WiPC of International PEN before you make a final decision. There could be updates to the case that you are unaware of, for example the person has been freed since the last Case List was printed. The WiPC of International PEN will make a note of the fact that you have chosen the Honorary Member and will keep you informed of any developments and connect you to other PEN Centres working on the case or others in the same country.

- **Read the WiPC Casesheet.**
When you have informed the WiPC of International PEN of your decision to elect an Honorary Member, the relevant researcher will provide you with a Casesheet. This usually contains a short background on the case and any political or other circumstances, and provides specific recommended actions, including advice on writing to prisoners and their families, relevant United Nations and

other international human rights articles, addresses for governments, photos and samples of writings, if available, and links to other sources of information on the prisoner. This information should be used along with the advice given in this handbook.

Appointing PEN members to work on a case

The member working on the case is called a 'minder' in some PEN Centres or an 'advocate' or 'case worker' in others.

- Having two members working in partnership is even better because you can share the work and responsibility.
- Try to find members with language skills relevant to the case, as this will be helpful.
- Send new Honorary Members an official letter to let them know about your decision. If you have them, enclose one of your PEN Centre's membership cards. This small token of your regard can mean a huge amount to writers in trouble.
- Where the addresses of your Honorary Members are not known – because they are in an unknown place of detention or have disappeared – or where letters from abroad may be unhelpful to their situation, you may have to send the card and letter to the family, a friend or their lawyer.

Don't Forget: Keep the WiPC of International PEN informed:

Make sure that all the information that the 'minder' has collected is shared with you as your PEN Centre's representative, and that you make sure you share this with the WiPC of International PEN . This is to keep a central record of information but also so that the Head Office can pass on developments of the case to other PEN Centres.



Adnan Hassanpour

CASE STUDY

Basque PEN has elected Iranian Kurdish journalist, writer and human rights activist Adnan Hassanpour as an Honorary Member. In July 2007, Hassanpour was sentenced to death on charges of being a mohareb ('enemy of God') and 'acting against national security', apparently for expressing his views on Kurdish issues in Iran. He is a main case for the WiPC of International PEN.

Various activities in support of Adnan Hassanpour have been organised by Basque PEN. In June 2008, under Basque PEN's initiative, Hassanpour's sister was received by the Parliament of Navarra and by the Human Rights Committee of the Basque Parliament where she spoke of her brother's plight and the human rights situation of Kurdish people in Iran. This led to a motion being passed by the Parliament of Navarra, expressing their solidarity to supporting Adnan Hassanpour, demanding the Iranian authorities to fulfil their commitments respecting freedom of expression, urging the suspension of the death penalty and calling the Spanish delegation to the UN to raise this with the UN General Assembly.

In the same visit, Adnan Hassanpour's sister received the 2008 Basque PEN Idazluma (Quill) Award. Basque PEN sends regular updates to the media on Hassanpour and other Honorary Members.

International pressure can sometimes influence authorities' attitudes and this could be one of those cases. The death sentence against Adnan Hassanpour was overturned and a new trial was opened in September 2008 on charges of 'working for outlawed parties' and 'espionage', which carry up to 20 years of imprisonment if found guilty.

Basque PEN continues to advocate on Hassanpour's case, demanding his unconditional release.

Devising your Action Plan

Create an 'Action Plan' and think about what you want to achieve. It might look something like this:

Goal One:

Make contact with the Honorary Member's family.

Goal Two:

Make contact with the prisoner.

Goal Three:

Alert your government to the case and find out their official position.

Goal Four:

Get an article about your Honorary Member printed in a major national newspaper.

Goal Five:

Persuade the embassy of the prisoner's country to meet with you.

Some of these goals may be easier to achieve than others. Goals one and two often cause the most difficulties. But be realistic about what you want to achieve, and you may find you have a positive impact on what may at first seem like a hopeless situation.

Here are some more tips to help you support your Honorary Member:

- 'Know your enemy'. Find out what you can about the people holding your prisoner as this will inform your activities.
- Contact academics in your national universities who are specialists in the region or talk to a journalist or another writer who spent time there. Academics and others specialising in the region are other

good sources. Listen to what they, and other experts you find, advise. They may have insight into how decisions are made in the country concerned and which government ministers have influence.

They may know where the head of state of the country is planning to visit in the near future – it might be your country, a neighbouring country, or a country with a PEN Centre which is also an active WiPC member (in which case you could ask that PEN Centre to write a letter to its own government regarding your Honorary Member).

- Revise your Action Plan and add new goals. Your original goals may have been achieved but others may be too difficult. Work with other PEN members to help you.

In other words – don't give up.

Writing to your Honorary Member

Establishing Contact with your Honorary Member

If you have a prison address, and the country in question is reasonably open, you could make contact with your prisoner right away. But often the prisoners that International PEN works for are unable to freely receive letters from abroad. Sometimes it is also a risk to try to contact the family – or there may be no address, even for them.

In fact, just finding someone – anyone – close to the prisoner can be a big task. But don't despair. It is possible that relatives of the prisoner may be living abroad. Often, a good way to find such people is through exiles – although always be careful as these groups often have their own agendas and can be very anti-government and therefore not impartial. Often, the relatives are already in touch with human rights groups focussed on their country. It is possible that an Amnesty International local group may already be working on the case and have contacted the family. The International PEN Head Office may be able to help you contact this local group and help with other ideas too.

Top tip: Write to the diplomats posted in the prisoner's country and ask for their help. Or write to other country's embassies.

Correspondence

It is up to you what sort of correspondence you want to have. Here is some advice as to how to write:

- At the beginning, keep your letters brief and not too personal but write often. You want to express support and solidarity but not raise expectations.
- Work with another PEN member and share the letter writing. It helps you to make sure the letters to the prisoner are regular.
- Make sure you do not make promises that cannot be fulfilled even if you do build a good friendship with the prisoner.

Remember that there will be cases where, although a prison address is available, correspondence is not permitted. Many PEN Centres find such cases difficult. However several prisoners, after their release, informed International PEN that they had been aware of PEN members' letters coming into the prison, because a prison guard or family members had told them of their existence. One such person even knew the name of the PEN member who had been writing to him! So it is worth sending short letters with your good wishes, even when there is no hope of a reply.

For examples of letters from PEN members and a letter writing guide see page 25.

Getting your Honorary Member's work translated and published

Step One: How to find a translation

It is always a good idea to try to find and translate the writings of your Honorary Member, even if these have been more journalistic than literary. This helps when publicising their cases. It can be difficult if the writer is banned as their work may never have been seen or read by anyone; or it may be too much of a risk for friends to smuggle the work out of the country.

- Check to see if any translations of your Honorary Member's work already exist in any language.
- Find someone who is visiting the country and may be able to find the work in a library or bookstore. Are there family members safely outside the country who could help you? Or specialist academics who have literary works of writers from the country? Or other PEN Centres with specialist knowledge? Make sure you copy any materials and send them to the International PEN Head Office to add to our central records.

Step Two: how to translate the work

- Find a translator whose 'mother tongue' is that of the language into which the work is to be translated or a translator who is bilingual.
- If the work is poetry, try to find a poet; if fiction, somebody who writes fiction. The translator will select as well as translate the work. Sometimes the quality of the writing may not be high. But the translator will make sure their work does not distort the words of the writer.

Step Three: how to get the translation read and heard

- Read the translation at an event or approach a famous writer or actor in your country who could read the material, perhaps on a popular radio show.
- Offer it to a literary magazine in your country, or to the international magazine dedicated to free expression, Index on

Censorship (for contact details see page 45). You could also send it to *PEN International* magazine, where there is a special section called 'Found in Translation' dedicated to introducing writing from its original language into English, French or Spanish.

- Important: Make sure that the translator and any original publisher are fully credited.
- If the publication offers payment, however small, reimburse your translator if you were not able to pay them and send a payment to your Honorary Member or their family.
- Send an extract from the published piece to everyone on your contact list; government officials, diplomats, local human rights groups, journalists, members of your PEN Centre and so on.

Rapid Action Network

The Rapid Action Network (RAN) was founded by the Writers in Prison Committee of International PEN in 1991. The RAN operates from the WiPC of International PEN and its purpose is to alert the WiPC members about worldwide developments affecting the welfare of writers and journalists. It encourages them to respond by writing an appeal and passing the information on to their contacts.

A typical development that requires a RAN action would be a report of a writer being tortured in prison or falling critically ill through neglect. RAN actions have also addressed such news as arrests, death sentences, death threats and disappearances.

How to get involved

- Give the WiPC Head Office your email address or visit the International PEN website for information about current RAN appeals.
- Respond to as many RAN alerts as possible but don't feel that you are obliged to respond to each and every one. You can decide to work only on those in countries that you have an interest in or connection with, or you may want to limit your responses to a level that you can manage.
- The first few hours and days of imprisonment are the most critical and it is at this stage that prisoners are most likely to suffer abuse and ill treatment, so it is important that you act as quickly as possible. However each RAN does include an 'act by' date which is given at the end of each alert usually one month to six weeks after the alert has been issued.
- The more PEN members who send RAN appeals, the more effective it is. Find other volunteers who are willing to receive a copy of the RAN from you and write their own letters. The letter that you send on your PEN Centre's letterhead or email is then supported by similar letters and emails from writers in your country. Some PEN Centres also place RAN alerts on their websites and invite people who are not PEN members to send appeals as well.
- All RAN alerts are public documents and can also serve as press releases. They can be distributed to your media and to other interested individuals and organisations.

It is important that only the appeal coming officially from your PEN Centre – whether signed by your PEN Centre’s president or your WiPC Chair – be on your PEN Centre’s letterhead. Remember to send any replies that you receive or any information about the case to the WiPC Head Office researchers. Your knowledge will help the Head Office and other PEN Centres with their work on the case in question.

What does a RAN alert include?

The WiPC of International PEN sends an average of 100 RANs a year. Some of these RANs are updates of earlier actions. Each alert states the confirmed facts of the case, including International PEN’s concerns. A RAN also gives the address or addresses to which you should send your appeal.

- Send a copy of your appeal to the embassy of the country in question and to your own country’s diplomats in that country.
- Alert your country’s media who follow events in that country, as they may be interested in your information.
- The WiPC of International PEN sends copies of all RANs to the United Nations and European Union and other International Governmental Organisations, so there is no need for you to do so as well.

EXAMPLE RAN:

Kenyan PEN President and member assaulted by police
24 Feb 2009



Philo Ikonya
© World Pulse Magazine

The Writers in Prison Committee (WiPC) of International PEN protests the arrest and alleged police assault of Philo Ikonya and Fwamba N C Fwamba, President and member of Kenyan PEN respectively, in Nairobi on 18 February 2009. The writers were reportedly arrested while taking part in a peaceful protest and severely beaten while in police custody. Ikonya and Fwamba, who both required hospital treatment following the attack, have been denied the right to lodge an official complaint against the police officer who assaulted them. The WiPC reminds the Kenyan authorities of their duty to protect their citizens, including their right to freedom of expression, assembly and peaceful protest, as well as freedom from cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. It calls on the authorities to conduct a full and impartial investigation into the alleged police assault as a matter of urgency and to ensure the perpetrators are brought to justice.

Philo Ikonya (f) is an author, human rights activist and the President of Kenyan PEN; Fwamba N C Fwamba is an internet writer and a member of Kenyan PEN. Both were arrested on 18 February 2009 for taking part in a peaceful protest against hyperinflation and the rising price of maize flour at a time of famine

reportedly threatening 10 million Kenyans. They were arrested outside the Kenyan parliament along with activist Patrick Kamotho, a member of Bunge la Mwananchi (People's Parliament, a civil society forum purporting to offer an alternative to the official Kenyan National Assembly).

All three were reportedly severely assaulted while in police custody, in the case of Ikonya and Fwamba while being taken to the central police station in Nairobi. The attack on Ikonya included a police officer grabbing her near her breasts, ripping her clothes and threatening to kill her and Fwamba. According to Ikonya, the same police officer carried out a similar assault on another female activist, Ann Njogu, in 2008 but despite this has since been promoted.

Ikonya was released on bail late the same night (18 February) following intervention by lawyers and local campaigners and associated media coverage, while Fwamba and Kamotho were held overnight at separate police stations. All three appeared at the High Court on the morning of 19 February, where they were charged with 'taking part in an unlawful assembly' and released on bail of 10,000 Kenyan Shillings (approx. US\$125) each.

Both Ikonya and Fwamba were hospitalised following their release to receive treatment for injuries sustained during the assault. Ikonya was taken directly to Nairobi Women's Hospital with considerable bruising to the neck, chin and underarm area and her left hand. She was also suffering from anxiety related to her treatment in custody. She was discharged on 21 February and as of 23 February said she was making a good recovery from her physical injuries. Fwamba was admitted to the men's section of the same hospital later on 19 February with stomach pain, from which he was still suffering as of 23 February.

Ikonya and Fwamba have attempted to lodge a complaint against the police officer who assaulted them but this has been denied on three successive occasions. The first time, on the night of their arrest, the officers at the police station reportedly removed the complaints book, saying that they were not allowed to make a complaint against their 'boss' and advising the writers that they would have to approach the Commissioner of Police directly. Ikonya and Fwamba are currently in the process of producing an affidavit to act as evidence against the police officer concerned.

Ikonya has been involved in a number of protests and political readings recently and believes that the arrest and assault are related to her outspokenness on political matters. 'The thing [the authorities] are most angry about is my voice,' she says.

Background

Both Ikonya and Fwamba were previously arrested on 7 August 2007 for protesting against the arbitrary arrests of members of civil society, and were charged, along with nine others, with 'taking part in an illegal demonstration'.

Ikonya had also been arrested a week earlier, on 31 July 2007, when she had paid a hospital visit to two fellow writers and three other activists who had been

arrested after taking part in a demonstration and were subsequently injured when the police car they were travelling in was involved in a traffic accident. Ikonya was detained overnight and released on bail the following day. Both of these cases are ongoing. Activist Patrick Kamotho has been arrested four times in the past.

The latest arrest of Ikonya and Fwamba takes place against a backdrop of widespread arbitrary arrests of activists in Kenya. For example, on 21 February around 23 members of Bunge la Mwananchi were reportedly arrested after attending readings commemorating Kenyan freedom fighter Kimathi Wa Chiuri and parliamentarian Pio Gama Pinto, and charged with 'being members of an illegal sect'.

The incident comes less than a month after the murder of *Weekly Citizen* journalist Francis Nyaruri, who disappeared on 15 January 2009 and whose decapitated body was found on 29 January. Prior to his death Nyaruri was reportedly threatened by local police officers following publication of articles revealing police malpractice. For full details of the case, see RAN 08/09 of 11 February 2009: <http://www.internationalpen.org.uk/go/news/kenya-journalist-murdered-following-police-threats>

Useful links

Firsthand blog accounts of the arrest and assault:

- By Philo Ikonya: <http://siasaduni.blogspot.com/2009/02/kenya-i-cannot-stand.html>, <http://kenyaimagine.blogspot.com>
- By Fwamba N C Fwamba: <http://fwambancfwamba.wordpress.com/>
Another blog report: <http://sukumakenya.blogspot.com>

Take Action

Please send appeals:

- Protesting the arrest of Philo Ikonya and Fwamba N C Fwamba, President and member of Kenyan PEN respectively, on 18 February 2009 while taking part in a peaceful protest, and the alleged assault on them while in police custody
- Reminding the Kenyan authorities of their duty to protect their citizens and their right to freedom of expression, association, peaceful protest and freedom from cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, in line with the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and the United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Kenya is party;
- Calling on the authorities to conduct a full and impartial investigation into the alleged police assault on Ikonya and Fwamba as a matter of urgency, and to ensure that the police officer responsible is brought to justice.

Send your appeals to:

President Hon. Mwai Kibaki C.G.H. M.P
President of Kenya
PO Box 30510-00100, Nairobi, Kenya
Fax: +254-20-313600
Email: pps@statehousekenya.go.ke
Salutation: Your Excellency

Commissioner of Police
Major General Mohamed Hussein Ali, M.G.H.
Commissioner of Police
PO Box 30083, Nairobi, Kenya
Fax: +254-20-240955
Messages may also be sent via the Kenya police website:
<http://www.kenyapolice.go.ke/contactus.asp>
Salutation: Dear Commissioner

And/or via Kenyan diplomatic representatives in your country.

**Please send appeals immediately.
Check with International PEN if sending appeals
after 23 April 2009.**

For further details please contact Tamsin Mitchell
at the Writers in Prison Committee London Office:
International PEN
Brownlow House
50-51 High Holborn
London WC1V 6ER
Tel: +44 (0) 207 405 0338
Fax +44 (0) 207 405 0339
Email: tamsin.mitchell@internationalpen.org.uk

Writing official appeals

There will be occasions when you will need or want to write official appeals to governments. Whether you are responding to a Rapid Action Network alert or writing a letter on behalf of your Honorary Member, one principle always applies; however terrible the human rights abuse, you should always be polite.

How to write an appeal: recommended information to include

1a: Cite relevant articles from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

For example Article 19 of the Universal Declaration is as follows:

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.

Other relevant articles are:

Article 5

No one shall be subjected to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment.

Article 9

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention, or exile.

Article 10

Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal.

The Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, commonly known as the European Convention on Human Rights, can also be cited when you are writing to governments in most European countries, Turkey and Central Asian countries:

Article 10.1

Everyone has the right to freedom of expression. This right shall include freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers.

Remember that the declaration is not a legal document but an expression of 'a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations'. In your letters you should not state therefore, that offending governments have 'violated' or 'infringed' the UDHR. You should simply express concern that the standards the UDHR upholds may have been undermined.

1b: Quote International PEN's own charter:

PEN stands for the principle of unhampered transmission of thought within each nation and between all nations, and members pledge themselves to oppose any form of suppression of freedom of expression in the country and community to which they belong, as well as throughout the world.

1c: Refer to the UN Standard Minimum Rules for Treatment of Prisoners. These include the following universally accepted rules:

- Access to legal counsel
- Availability of medical care
- Family visitation privileges
- Freedom from unnecessarily cruel treatment and punishment
- Adequate leisure, rest, diet and space
- The right to receive and send mail

2. Form of salutation and closing; opening and ending your letters

The RANs will usually specify the proper form of address for a particular government official. Otherwise, you can safely use one of the following:

- ‘Your Excellency’ for heads of state, governors, ministers and ambassadors
- ‘Dear Sir’ or ‘Dear Madam’ for local authorities, prison commanders or police chiefs
- ‘Your Honour’ for judges
- ‘Dear Admiral’, ‘General’ or ‘Captain’ etc. for military officials

Closings or endings of your letters should be polite:

- ‘Yours sincerely’
- ‘Respectfully’
- ‘Yours faithfully’

3. Three paragraph letter rule

A good model for a letter or email is to write three paragraphs.

- First paragraph: Explain your connection to International PEN and our commitment to promoting the internationally recognised right to freedom of expression.
- Second paragraph: Include the relevant details of the case you are writing about and a statement about why you are writing at this time.
- Third paragraph: State why you believe this case undermines human rights standards and ask for the matter to be corrected.

If there have been any recent positive developments in the country, welcome these as well as requesting further positive moves, such as releasing your Honorary Member.

4. What to do with your letter

- Send it on your own private letterhead or from your personal email, or work with your PEN Centre and send it from theirs.
- Address it to the official who you believe can best be said to be responsible – a head of state or minister of justice for example, and indicate at the end of the letter who you plan to copy or ‘cc’. These could be other officials, diplomats from your country or the media. These ‘ccs’ can add much weight to your letter and make it harder to ignore.
- Maximise your letter’s impact by sending copies to human rights groups and sympathetic media in the country in question. They can often help to publicise the cases more than we can from a distance, including reaching the writer who is the subject of the letter.
- Invite internationally famous writers who live in your country to sign the letter. A writer who is well known in the relevant region, or internationally known, can often cause officials to take much more notice.

Example of Appeal Letter

His Excellency Hu Jintao
President of the People's Republic of China
State Council
Beijing 100032
P.R. China

Date []

Your Excellency,

As a writer and member of the [] Centre of International PEN, the world association of writers representing members in 101 countries, I am deeply concerned by the convictions of freelance journalists Qi Chonghuai and He Yanjie, who were sentenced to four and two years in prison respectively on 13 May 2008 for blackmail and extortion. I am particularly concerned about reports of unfair trial, lack of due process and ill-treatment in both cases.

I learned from International PEN's information that Qi Chonghuai (43) and He Yanjie (34) were arrested on 25 June 2007 in the city of Jinan, following the publication of an article alleging corruption in the Tengzhou Communist Party, which was published in June 2007 on the Xinhuanet website. Qi Chonghuai was held incommunicado for the first two months of his detention, and claims to have been repeatedly assaulted and threatened by security guards throughout his eleven-month pre-trial detention. International PEN suggests that the charges may have been fabricated, leading to concerns that the journalists are targeted for their critical reporting on official corruption. Both men are held at the Tengzhou City Detention Centre, Shandong Province.

I share International PEN's fears that Qi Chonghuai and He Yanjie may be held solely for peacefully exercising their right to free expression which is protected under Article 35 of the Chinese Constitution and Article 19 of the United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which China is a signatory. As a writer who values the right to speak out without fear of attack, I add my voice to appeals for further information about the charges against the two men, and calls for a review of their cases.

Yours sincerely,

Signature []

Example of PEN Centre Appeal Letter

To the Prime Minister
Datuk Seri Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi
Prime Ministers Department
Federal Government Administration Centre
Bangunan Perdana Putra
62502 Wp Putrajaya
Malaysia

October 5th, 2008

Dear Prime Minister,

The PEN Centre of German Speaking Writers Abroad protests the detention of Raja Petra Kamaruddin, founder and editor of the website Malaysia Today. The PEN Centre is alarmed by the fact that Raja Petra Kamaruddin was sentenced without trial to two years of imprisonment on September 22nd 2008 under the Internal Security Act for his writings published online, i.e. for the peaceful and legitimate expression of his opinions.

We consider the detention of Kamaruddin to be a violation of Article 19 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and we call for his immediate and unconditional release.

The PEN Centre of German Speaking Writers Abroad was founded 74 years ago by writers forced into exile for their beliefs by the Nazi authorities and today we continue to defend the principles for which those women and men were persecuted.

We call for the immediate and unconditional release of Raja Petra Kamaruddin.

Sincerely

Irène Bourquin

For the PEN Centre of German-Speaking Writers Abroad

CC: Embassy of Malaysia in Switzerland
CC: Federal Foreign Office of Germany

Biennial Conferences

Since 1996, the WiPC of International PEN has held International Writers in Prison Committee Conferences, usually organised every two years over three days, to which full and active members of national WiPCs are invited. The conference is an opportunity to talk about and evaluate the work of the WiPC, identify countries and issues that need focus for the coming two years, share ideas and experiences, and to bring together International PEN's diverse and committed membership of activists supporting other writers' right to write.



The 7th Writers in Prison Committee Conference, Glasgow, April 2008

These conferences are hosted by a PEN Centre and costs are covered by a registration fee paid by all those attending. Participants and/or their PEN Centres must also cover their own accommodation and travel costs. The host PEN Centre and the International PEN Head Office do what they can to raise money to enable members from PEN Centres who do not have much money to attend. Each conference may be different depending on the local costs and the ability to fundraise. PEN Centres who do fundraise are asked to consider supporting another member from another PEN Centre who may not otherwise be able to attend.

Campaign and focus actions

In 2002, the WiPC held its first ever themed campaign focusing on the problem of the killings of writers and journalists, which in most cases are never resolved. So those who carry out the killings can act with impunity. Among the actions taken was a review of the killings from the previous 10 years and a focus on the most recent murders. A report in English, French and Spanish used as the centre of the campaign was produced by Canadian PEN working with the International PEN Head Office.

The campaign led to the decision to organise further annual thematic campaigns. In 2004, the WiPC produced a report on 'Anti-terrorism and Free Expression' that studied the impact on freedom of expression of the post 9/11 'war on terror'. It found that new laws had come into being that restricted freedom of expression and existing laws were being applied more harshly. It contained the results of a questionnaire sent to all PEN Centres that explored the impact of these laws and the 'climate of fear' on writers themselves. We were able to produce a report in English, Spanish, Catalan and French, and later in German, with the help of Catalan PEN. The report was launched in New York, Barcelona and Turkey and inspired actions around the world, as well as serving as a resource for academics and the press.

In 2005, the focus was to mark the 10th anniversary of the execution of Nigerian author Ken Saro Wiwa. Using his writings, letters from prison, photographs and other materials, PEN Centres staged events, readings and plays in the days around the anniversary. This also provided an opportunity to raise concerns about present-day problems faced by writers.

Internet censorship was the focus of the campaign in 2006, and in 2007/2008, a series of reports on criminal defamation laws across the globe spurred appeals and raised public awareness.

In 2008, PEN Centres used the staging of the Olympic Games in Beijing to raise concerns about the large numbers of writers suffering repression in China. This campaign had three strands; the PEN Poem Relay was an innovative web-based action that brought together internet technology, poetry and translation to give a unique perspective on concerns about the problems faced by writers. Over 100 PEN Centres took part and it was well covered in the media.

The 'We are Ready for Freedom of Expression' action, co-ordinated by PEN America, PEN Canada and Independent Chinese PEN, was also a web-based campaign and tracked the cases of over 40 writers and journalists detained in China. It provided suggestions for campaigning and included a readings event for Chinese writers in New York. International PEN's Head Office co-ordinated and advised PEN Centres, producing alerts and providing updated information and links to PEN Centres' activities on the International PEN website.

The 2009 campaign on 'Freedom to Write in the Americas' has been focusing on freedom of expression issues in this region. It has selected key countries of concern, with sections on the International PEN website that provide background on individuals under attack, country reports, advice on actions and an interactive map of attacks in the region.

Campaigns may be focussed on topics such as anti-terrorism and impunity, or on specific countries or regions, such as those on China and the Americas. They can also focus on one key case as a symbol of the fight for freedom of expression, as in the case of Ken Saro Wiwa.

Campaigns can take place over just a few weeks or throughout a year. Sometimes the main tool is a report, as for the anti-terror campaign; in others, such the Americas campaign, most of the information and advice is available on the International PEN website.



PEN Poem Relay



We Are Ready for the Freedom of Expression



'Freedom to write in the Americas' 2009 campaign

PEN Centres can be central to defining and maintaining momentum, as with the work on the China campaign. In others, the activities are more centralised, as for the criminal defamation campaign.

Each situation that is being addressed by a campaign is different and requires a different approach. The most important thing is that PEN Centres across the globe, big or small, take part.

How are campaign and focus themes decided?

Ideas for actions and campaigns are brought to the biennial Writers in Prison Committee Conferences where delegates will discuss the key issues for the coming two years and a campaign calendar is produced.

How can my PEN Centre join a campaign?

All PEN Centres with WiPCs are invited to take part in the campaign and are provided with details in advance of the action. Often a small working group of PEN Centres with specific interest in the campaign is formed to advise and assist the WiPC Head Office. We are particularly keen to have input from PEN Centres in regions directly affected by the issues raised in campaigns.

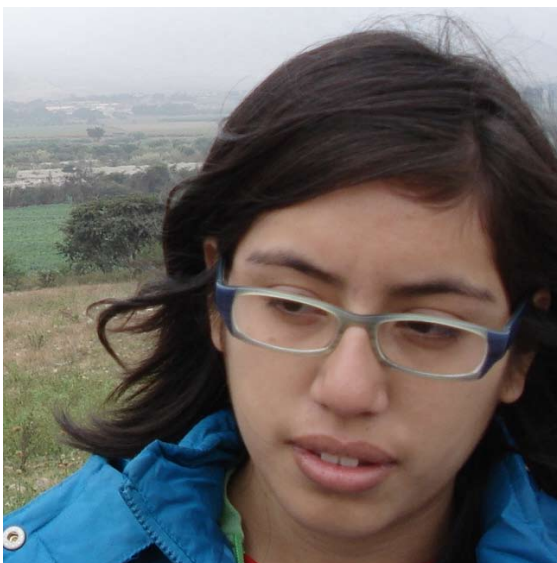
My PEN Centre is small with limited resources. How can I take part?

All activity, however small or large, has an impact. It is the quality of activities from across continents, cultures and political backgrounds that makes the difference. The range of activities of any Centre may vary from 'minimum' actions, such as writing a letter on a particular day, to full participation in all aspects of the campaign. PEN Centres are also encouraged to work together, sharing ideas and staging joint activities.

Day of the Imprisoned Writer and other international days

15 November: Day of the Imprisoned Writer

Throughout the year, PEN Centres mark special times by sending appeals, making public statements and taking part in other activities celebrating writers working under difficult circumstances. Among them is the International PEN Day of the Imprisoned Writer, held every year on November 15. The International PEN WiPC Head Office highlights between four and six writers in difficulties in different regions and sends details of their cases to all national WiPCs. It also gives information on all the writers and journalists who, since the previous November, have been killed in the pursuit of their professions. PEN Centres then use the material provided to stage public events, to write articles for the local media or to send special appeals on the writers' behalf. For many PEN Centres, this is the most important day for their work, and events and activities take place around the world. Here are just a few from 2008:



Melissa Patiño, a poet on trial in Peru,
a Day of the Imprisoned Writer focus in 2008

Malawi PEN staged an event that included a discussion of Jack Mapanje's prison writings. The event was hosted by David Rubadiri, who was in exile for 20 years after his writings were banned. The event included readings and discussion as well as a presentation of Malawi PEN and its work.

Russian PEN focussed its activities on the plight of Eynullah Fatullayev in Azerbaijan, as well as on other writers and journalists under repression in Russia. It also joined the campaign protesting the death threats against Italian author, Roberto Saviano.

Sierra Leone PEN staged a seminar, poetry reading and performance of a play to celebrate the day. The featured writers included Yulisa Amadu Maddy, a dramatist and poet who was imprisoned in the 1980s for his critical socio-political writings.

Ugandan PEN organised an event with readings of texts by imprisoned writers and a keynote speech by the Director of the Uganda Human Rights Commission on 'The writer, human rights and freedom of speech in a democracy.'

Swedish PEN awarded Lydia Cacho, a Mexican journalist featured in the 2007 Day of the Imprisoned Writer campaign, their annual Tucholsky Award granted to writers who have fought for the right to free expression.

The cases selected for any one year are considered key cases for the coming year as they illustrate the scope of the problems that PEN addresses.

Seasonal Greetings

In October each year, the International PEN WiPC Head Office prepares a list of writers in trouble where contact is possible and invites PEN members to write seasonal greetings cards to as many of the writers on the list as they can. PEN Centres are advised to send non-religious messages so that they are suitable for recipients of all faiths. The WiPC has received many reports from writers who have found these greetings enormously supportive.

The Turkish Armenian editor, Hrant Dink, was included in the 2006 Greetings Cards List. A few months later, in January 2007, he was assassinated. For many weeks after his death, PEN members received thank you notes written by Dink shortly before his death, with the bittersweet message 'Life is Precious'.



Hrant Dink



Serkalem Fasil

8 March: International Women's Day

Every March, the WiPC issues an action highlighting women writers who are under attack, calling for PEN members to send appeals calling attention to their cases. Some women who have been the subject of International PEN Womens' Day Actions include Saudi women's rights activist Waheja al-Huwaider, Lydia Cacho, Mexico's courageous defender of women and children who have suffered sexual abuse, Ethiopian journalist Serkalem Fasil, who gave birth in prison, and the quietly courageous Tibetan writer Tsering Woesser, who is suffering harassment in China.

21 March: World Poetry Day

UNESCO's World Poetry day is a good opportunity to raise cases of poets under attack. Some countries have national poetry days on other dates during the year that PEN Centres may find more relevant.

3 May: World Press Freedom Day

Media freedom organisations worldwide mark this day with publications and events. The WiPC produces action papers on this day highlighting cases of journalists on its records and collaborates with other NGOs.

Other special campaigns are included in the WiPC calendar decided on at WiPC meetings during Congresses or Conferences. In the past, PEN members have agreed to launch international petitions, co-ordinate embassy visits, or take other initiatives timed with a date of relevance to the country or prisoners in question. Ideas for such joint campaigns are always welcome.

For more ideas and suggestions regarding staging a media campaign, see page 38.

Meetings with Ambassadors and Governments



Alexander (Sasha) Tkachenko, Russian PEN WiPC Chair and Vladimir Putin, Russian PEN office, 1999

Talking to Governments

International PEN hopes to be an instrument of persuasion and opportunities to persuade are more numerous when there is dialogue. This is why International PEN has, throughout its history, always tried to talk directly to governments wherever possible. Meetings at all levels have occurred – from PEN members and staff members talking to junior ministers and desk officers through to meetings between Heads of State and Secretary Generals of the United Nations and International PEN Presidents and Secretaries. On a few occasions, these dialogues have directly resulted in improvements; the release of a prisoner or a relaxation of the conditions of imprisonment. Sometimes, the dialogues have seen no immediate results, but at least

International PEN has informed the ministers of its existence and its concern, and that is worthwhile in itself.

Embassy Visits

Try to arrange an embassy visit where members of your PEN Centre can meet with diplomats of the country you are campaigning about. It is a good idea to put the request in writing and then telephone. Sometimes, your request will be immediately successful but often you will find that there are reasons why the diplomat is not able to meet with you – the Ambassador may be very busy at the moment or may be out of the country. Politely persist. Say you understand the issues of scheduling and that you are happy to meet with an official of more junior rank or are happy to agree to scheduling a meeting a month or more in advance. It is still the obligation of the diplomats who meet with you to tell the foreign ministry back in their own country about your meeting.

Here are some points to remember on embassy visits:

- Do not go beyond the point of politeness. It is better to drop the request for a while and raise it again three months later.
- Give the official you meet your card, some literature about International PEN and some recent copies of appeals you have written on the case in question.
- Raise your concerns politely, but ensure that you make all of your prepared points.
- It is important that you, or a companion, take notes of the answers. This shows the officials that you are serious and provides important information for the rest of International PEN. However, if the official says they want to talk without you taking notes, make sure that all note-taking has stopped and respect their request not to publicise their comments.
- Request that your concern is taken to the appropriate authorities in the country in question and ask if it is possible to continue the dialogue at a later date. If your PEN Centre has the resources, you may even want to put in a request for official permission and visas for a delegation to visit the country and talk directly to government officials there.

Visits to your foreign ministry

Your foreign ministry should have a desk dealing with each country or region and representatives of this desk may be willing to meet you.

- Bring literature about International PEN, copies of recent appeals and press releases, and ask the officer how much they know about the case and whether your government has ever raised it in discussions with the government of the prisoner's country.
- Ask whether the case is officially on the list of your country's human rights concerns. The desk officer may have more in-depth knowledge of the country. If this is the case, they may have valuable advice and insights to offer which are worth recording and sending to the International PEN Head Office so that other PEN Centres working on the case are alerted.

Make sure you report on the outcome to the WiPC Head Office!



Observers from International PEN at the trial of Ragıp Zarakolu, Istanbul, November 2005

Trial observations and other missions

Some PEN Centres who have the resources have sent special missions, dispatched trial observers or published in-depth reports on specific situations. The WiPC Head Office encourages PEN Centres to discuss plans for missions with the Head Office during Congress or the WiPC Conference, to make sure these efforts are not duplicated. This has sometimes resulted in PEN Centres working together so that the campaign costs and work is shared.

Please note that when sending a mission it is advisable to enter a country with the knowledge and consent of the government, and not to enter falsely, for example with tourist visas.

Working with other NGOs

There are many non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working against abuses of freedom of expression and human rights that operate internationally, regionally and nationally. They are good sources of information and International PEN frequently exchanges information with them. These NGOs include Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and the members of the International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX), of which International PEN is a founder member. We frequently work together on joint campaigns, such as IFEX's Tunisia Monitoring Group.

PEN Centres are encouraged to work with the national NGOs in their own countries to stage joint events and shared media campaigns.

Please make sure that you do not find yourself sharing a platform or being a guest of an organisation which does not share the values of PEN. If in doubt, contact the WiPC Head Office. It is also advisable to check information from other NGOs with the WiPC Head Office to make sure that it is fully up to date and correct.

Approaching Intergovernmental Organisations

Another opportunity for reaching governments is through the Intergovernmental Organisations (IGOs), for example the United Nations, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Organisation of American States, the African Union and the European Union. Communication with these bodies is always made through the International PEN Head Office as representative of all PEN Centres. However Centres are on occasion asked by the WiPC Head Office to lobby their own countries' delegates to these bodies to ensure that our concerns are raised.

PEN Centres in the European Union can contact their Members of the European Parliament to raise questions about cases and issues there. PEN members have in the past observed meetings of IGOs on behalf of and in consultation with International PEN.

If your PEN Centre is interested in participating in International PEN's IGO programme, or would like to lobby these IGO mechanisms, you should contact the WiPC Head Office for more information and advice.

Working with Writers in Exile

PEN Centres worldwide have always welcomed as members writers who have fled their countries and provided essential support and advice as well as a community in which these exiled colleagues can continue to write despite often difficult circumstances.

Each country has different asylum laws and provides different levels of support for exiles on arrival. It is for this reason that there is no committee for exiled writers at the International PEN Head Office. However the WiPC does provide support for writers fleeing for their safety. This can include:

- Letters of support in cases where the writer is well known to International PEN; letters that can be used, for instance, in applications for asylum.
- Emergency Aid – recommending individuals to the PEN Emergency Fund (see below) and other funds to cover emergency needs such as travel, living costs and resettlement.
- Recommendations to the International Cities of Refuge Network (see below) and other placements.

The WiPC of International PEN works closely as an advisor to the International Cities of Refuge Network (ICORN) that provides placements in cities around Europe and North America for writers who are under threat or other pressure for their writings. For more information go to www.icorn.org. If you or your PEN Centre learns of a writer who would benefit from such a placement, you can apply via the ICORN website or through the WiPC of International PEN.

PEN Emergency Fund

Set up more than 30 years ago to raise funds for writers and journalists in need or distress, the PEN Emergency Fund, based in the Netherlands, assists individuals from all over the world. The needs of these writers are often brought to the Fund's attention by International PEN's Writers in Prison Committee. The Fund will then work quickly to give financial support to writers and journalists imprisoned or otherwise threatened for the practice of their right to freedom of expression. The Fund also provides support for their families. Should you wish to apply to the Emergency Fund on behalf of a writer in need, we advise that you contact the WiPC of International PEN first.

Awards

International PEN does not have an award programme, but many PEN Centres do. For example, PEN America awards writers who have struggled for their right to freedom of expression with the annual PEN/Barbara Goldsmiths Freedom to Write Award, Swedish PEN has the annual Tucholsky Prize and German PEN the Kesten Medal. The WiPC of International PEN is always available to advise on candidates for PEN Centre and other awards.

The WiPC makes submissions to the Human Rights Watch Hellman Hammett Award, and also works with the PEN Emergency Fund and OxfamNovib in the Netherlands to identify candidates for their annual free expression awards linked to the Day of the Imprisoned Writer.

Apart from awards granted by PEN Centres and the Hellman Hammett Award, the WiPC of International PEN does not nominate individuals for awards granted by other organisations.

Part Six

Media and publicity: raising public awareness and influencing opinion

Media coverage can be a very useful way to ensure your campaign work is a success. A good media campaign can reach many different audiences, publicise the work and raise the profile and reputation of an organisation, influence and mobilise public opinion and force debate, and expose freedom of expression issues that address and pressurise governments and governmental policy to effect change.

Top tips: Do your research; a good relationship with individual journalists is essential to help you to achieve media coverage and publicity for your work.

- Find out who the key media are in your country. It is well worth spending as much time as you can on this to make sure your list is as comprehensive as possible. A media release directed continually to the wrong person could have a negative effect on securing media coverage.
- Your list of key target media could include; the most widely circulated daily newspaper; the most popular TV channel or programme, radio programmes and news websites. It could also be specialist magazines or literary journals.
- Once you have decided on your list, find out about the different journalists at each publication and what they are interested in, and make a list of these people. You may want to include not only news and political journalists who cover different areas of the world, but also those who have an interest in a particular theme or subject like arts and culture or perhaps social, environmental and legal issues. Also think about whether the editor of a desk or section, a journalist, a columnist or commentator, a TV presenter or a radio producer would be most influential and take an interest in your story.

- **Familiarise yourself further with their work look at recent stories they have written or listen to a particular radio programme a few times to work out how you should talk to them.**

Media campaign strategy

It is always advisable to think about a strategy for your work before you begin contacting the media. This will include deciding which audience you want to reach, who you want to influence and what sort of media coverage you would like. It will ensure that you have a number of ways to measure whether or not your campaign is successful and what you can use again in future media work.

Considering the following questions will help you build your strategy:

What are your campaign objectives?

Try to think about two or three key aims that you would like to achieve. For example, these could be to provide support to persecuted writers in a particular country or region through letter writing and promotion of their writings, or calling for an end to censorship of particular writers or writings.

What do you want to achieve from a media campaign?

Your media campaign objectives should support the overall goals of your campaign. For example, if your campaign objective is to highlight the persecution of writers and journalists by state authorities, your supporting media campaign goal could be to put pressure on these authorities through high-profile and visible media coverage. Another media campaign aim could simply be to build stronger relationships with particular journalists who may have an interest in your work.

What are the key messages that you want to communicate?

Here you should think about the parts of your campaign that you think are most important to be heard. These messages should be very clear and simple. For example:

- Writers are being held in country x solely for having expressed their views, despite the country having signed on to international agreements that protect freedom of expression
- Individuals issue death threats against writers forcing them into hiding, with little government action being taken to protect them, suggesting that there may be some complicity.

Who are the key people/organisations/bodies you want to influence?

What change do you want to take place?

Consider your media campaign goals and your key messages and decide who you want to make sure hears your voice:

- Political – governments, embassies, foreign ministries
- Cultural – cultural institutions, high profile writers
- Social – general public, other human rights organisations

What are the key actions you can take?

Make a list of the type of publicity you would like to secure. For example:

- A news feature in a leading newspaper.
- A member of your PEN Centre in a radio discussion about the issues of your campaign
- If you hold a demonstration outside an embassy or a government building on behalf of a writer, you could make sure the media know so that they can send photographers.
- Offer to write a blog piece for a newspaper or magazine's website.
- Ask a high-profile writer who is a member of your PEN Centre to write a piece about the writer or writers who are your focus cases.

Who are the key media that will enable us to do this?

Make a list of all the key media that you could approach and who might be interested in your work. See the highlighted box of top tips for some advice.



English PEN vigil outside the Russian Embassy in London after the murder of Russian journalist Anna Politkovskaya in October 2006

Who will be our spokespeople?

- Make sure you identify these people and their availability from an early stage and find out what comments they are prepared to make.
- A high-profile writer might not have time to commit to interviews or write a piece, but might be prepared to write a statement that you could use in a press release.
- It is very important that you provide your spokespeople with brief but clear information about the campaign and the messages that you want to make sure is communicated.

What are the key campaign tools we need to implement the campaign?

Think about the materials you will need to make the campaign a success. These could include:

- a media release
- background information on your campaign
- images
- video and audio recordings and information about your PEN Centre

Providing these materials will make the journalist's job easier and him or her more likely to respond to your request for a news feature or story about your campaign.

What schedule can we put in place to ensure the above is achieved?

Make sure you allow enough time to research your campaign as well as to put it into practice.

How will we rate our success?

Decide what you want to measure; will it be the reduction of the number of writers in prison in a particular country? Perhaps a change in legislation? Or simply that you have brought your work to the attention of the general public by securing a number of articles in your national media or persuading a well-known writer in your country to speak with the media about your campaign.

What legacy do we want this campaign to have? How can it continue beyond this year?

National and international news focuses change very quickly. It is important that you have some ideas for making sure your story is still alive in the media even if their main priority has moved elsewhere. Think about how your story fits into any current debate in your country and internationally. Also think about other ways in which to place your story in the media; perhaps by organising an event or debate, a letter to the editor of a newspaper, commenting on blogs set up by major newspapers, or working more closely with the student press as well as the national media. This will make sure that your voice doesn't disappear among other stories.

A legacy for your campaign might be simply that you have built strong relationships with a group of journalists. This would be a big achievement as it will always help you in the future.

Top tip: Amnesty International provides an excellent and comprehensive guide to working with the media, detailing how to build relationships with individual journalists, advice about how to write a media release and prepare for interviews and media conferences. This information is in their campaigning manual available at <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/ACT10/002/2001/en>



Freedom to write in the Americas

Other useful publicity tools

As well as a successful media campaign, there are many other ways to raise the profile of a campaign, the work of your PEN Centre and the work of International PEN.

Additional campaign materials

Many PEN Centres as well as the WiPC Head Office produce materials to help publicise their campaigns. These include:

- Posters and postcards. Something as simple as a postcard with a printed message, the address of an embassy or government minister and the option for your PEN Centre members to sign and post it can be very effective and a way for everybody to unite quickly behind one campaign.
- Petitions.
- Writing open letters signed by high-profile writers to send to newspapers for publication.
- Ask a literary journal to publish a piece by a writer who is a focus of your campaign. Or perhaps ask a well-known writer from your PEN Centre to write a piece about your work.

PEN International magazine, for example, would like recommendations from PEN members as to voices around the world that are prevented from being heard.

International PEN materials: website, newsletter and printed materials

- Check the International PEN website for information about new campaigns, updates on cases, and also the other areas of our work such as literary events, PEN International magazine and international programmes. You can also download annual reports and an edited version of the magazine to use in a campaign media pack if you think that it would be useful to the journalist.
- Encourage members of your PEN Centre to sign up to the International PEN newsletter that is sent four times a year. The more information you have about the work of the worldwide community the easier it will make your work at a national and also international level.

Part Seven

The WiPC and International PEN

WiPC at International PEN Congress

International PEN Congresses are held once a year in different parts of the world, hosted by one, or sometimes two PEN Centres. The Writers in Prison Committee meets at every Congress. The Assembly of Delegates also meets and its agenda includes a discussion of the Writers in Prison Committee report that the Chair prepares in advance.

PEN Centres usually send two official delegates to Congresses. If these delegates are not already on your local Writers in Prison Committee, they should be briefed in advance by your Committee. They should have read the Chair's report carefully, and identified whether any PEN members from other PEN Centres will be present who are working on the same Honorary Members. If so, it is a good idea to try to meet up and discuss the case together, perhaps planning some joint actions for the year ahead.

Your delegates should be prepared to report to the WiPC on your PEN Centre's activities in the past year – the number of RANs sent or the work done for Honorary Members. At the Assembly of Delegates, your delegates will need to present any regular resolutions your PEN Centre has sponsored and possibly prepare 'in-session' resolutions. The latter are resolutions arising from an urgent situation at the time the Congress is meeting – they should only be prepared in cases of genuine emergency.



73rd International PEN Congress,
Dakar, Senegal, July 2007

It is also useful to meet with PEN Centre representatives, if there are any in attendance, from the place where your prisoner is held. A private meeting can often offer real insights into the case. It is important to remember that the PEN members in the country concerned might also be at risk, so you will need to protect your source.

Readings and other events

Many PEN Centres have held very successful public readings of works by their Honorary Members or other imprisoned writers. These readings are held to raise public awareness, attract media attention, raise funds or put pressure on governments. Sometimes readings do all of these at once. There is a lot of work to be done to find readers, find an affordable space and to advertise the event. Venues have varied from PEN offices, private homes, pavements outside embassies, student lecture rooms or

public theatres. It is important to be realistic about the audience you think your event can attract and choose a space appropriate to that size. It is better to under-estimate and have standing room only, than to over-estimate and have rows of empty seats. The WiPC Head Office has a small library of works by imprisoned writers that can be shared with WiPC members worldwide.

Empty chair: some PEN Centres have used such events to place an empty chair on the stage, as a way of powerfully reminding the audience that one person – the imprisoned writer in question – is unable to attend. A photo of the prisoner may be placed on the chair.



An empty chair at a Canadian PEN event

Working with other PEN Centres

Many PEN Centres work together to stage joint actions. Good examples are the three PEN Centres in Switzerland that frequently join together to hold events by sharing costs and activities. Also in Scandinavia there is good collaboration between PEN Centres.

The WiPC has a number of regional and country networks. Information and campaign ideas on specific countries are exchanged with PEN Centres who join the network because of their specific interest or expertise in the region. Current networks exist on the Americas, Europe, Turkey, China, and Africa and are a good way of sharing ideas even if you are situated thousands of miles away from each other.

When a new PEN Centre sets up a Writers in Prison Committee – especially if it is located close to you – offer to work with its members to provide whatever support you can. It might be a good idea to suggest that it elect one Honorary Member in

common with your PEN Centre so that there is an immediate focus for joint campaigns.

Some PEN Centres have in the past sent delegates to share their experiences with the new WiPC and to offer them training sessions. Others might assist the new PEN Centre in finding funding sources for its work or help it access computers and email.

The number of PEN Centres have quickly expanded in recent years, but some of the newer PEN Centres with few resources are still not fully integrated into the life of the organisation. Many would like to undertake WiPC work, but feel isolated geographically, perhaps because of poor communications infrastructure in their countries. Some come from countries with little or no background in non-governmental organisational activity and are unfamiliar with the notion of 'campaigning'. Others are still working to find support from writers in their own communities and struggling to keep their PEN Centre active and in existence.

In these cases there may be something that more established PEN Centres, often in more prosperous countries, can do to help. International meetings are good places to establish friendships and look at how you can work with other PEN Centres. Once you return to your own communities, try to sustain the link. In this way, some exciting new partnerships between PEN Centres can be made, International PEN's growth can be supported, and the Writers in Prison Committee can be kept vital and truly representative of all world regions.

Part Eight

Resources and Glossary

Non-governmental organisation contacts

Amnesty International (International Secretariat)

Website: <http://www.amnesty.org/>

Telephone: +44 20 7413 5500

Fax number: +44 20 7956 1157

Address: 1 Easton Street, London, WC1X 0DW, United Kingdom

ARTICLE 19 Head Office (London)

Website: <http://www.article19.org/>

Telephone: +44 20 7278 9292

Fax number: +44 20 7278 7660

Address: 6-8 Amwell Street, London, EC1R 1UQ, United Kingdom

Committee to Protect Journalists

Website: <http://www.cpj.org/>

Email: info@cpj.org

Telephone: 1 212 465 1004

Fax number: 1 212 465 9568

Address: 330 7th Avenue, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10001, USA

Human Rights Watch

Website: <http://www.hrw.org/>

Telephone: 1 212 290 4700

Address: 350 Fifth Avenue, 34th Floor, New York, NY 10118-3299, USA

Index on Censorship

Website: <http://www.indexoncensorship.org/>

Email: enquiries@indexoncensorship.org

Telephone: +44 20 7278 2313

Address: 6-8 Amwell St, London, EC1R 1UQ, United Kingdom

International Cities of Refuge Network (ICORN)

Website: www.icorn.org

Telephone: +47 51507465

Fax number: +47 51507025

Address: ICORN Administration Centre, Sølvsberget KF, Stavanger Cultural Centre, P.O. Box: 310, 4002 Stavanger, Norway
Visiting address: Sølvsberggt. 2, 4006 Stavanger

International Freedom of Expression eXchange (IFEX)

Website: <http://www.ifex.org/en/>

Telephone: +1 416 515 9622

Fax number: +1 416 515 7879

Address: 555 Richmond St W. Suite 1101, Post Office Box #407
Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5V 3B1

Reporters sans frontières (International Secretariat)

Website: <http://www.rsf.org/>

Email: rsf@rsf.org

Telephone: 33 1 44 83 84 84

Fax number: 33 1 45 23 11 51

Address: 47 rue vivienne, 75002 Paris - France

Glossary of common terms

EU	European Union
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
RAN	Rapid Action Network
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UN	United Nations
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
WiPC	Writers in Prison Committee

PEN Centre contacts

To get in touch with a PEN Centre directly, please refer to the International PEN website for details of contact names, phone numbers, email addresses and websites: <http://www.internationalpen.org.uk/go/centres>

Writers in Prison Committee

International PEN, Brownlow House, 50 – 51 High Holborn, London WC1V 6ER
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0) 207 405 0338

Fax: +44 (0) 207 405 0339

Email: wipc@internationalpen.org.uk

Website: www.internationalpen.org.uk

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