

117 journalists remain
in prison in 25 countries
(as of 1 March 1999)

World Press Freedom Day

Algeria (2)

Send appeals to:
His Excellency Liamine Zeroual
President of the High Council of State
The Presidential Palace, El Mouradia
Algiers, Algeria
Fax: +213 2 60 96 18

Djamel Fahassi, *Alger Chaîne III*
Detained: May 7, 1995
State security officials detained Fahassi, a reporter for the government-run French-language radio station *Alger Chaîne III* and formerly a contributor to *Al-Forqane*, a weekly organ of the Islamic Salvation Front that was banned in March 1992, for unknown reasons. Officials have refused to acknowledge his arrest.

Aziz Bouabdallah, *Al-Alam al-Siyassi*
Detained: April 12, 1997
Bouabdallah, a journalist who covered Islamist groups in Algeria for the Arabic-language daily *Al-Alam al-Siyassi*, was abducted by three armed men from his home in Algiers. The men identified themselves as Algerian security agents and forced Bouabdallah into a waiting car. He is reportedly being held by authorities in an Algiers detention center and is reported to have been tortured repeatedly. Authorities have denied any knowledge of his detention.

Benin (2)

Send appeals to:
His Excellency Mathieu Kerekou
c/o Embassy in France
87 Avenue Victor Hugo
75016 Paris, France

Maurice Chabi, *Les Echos du Jour*
Pascal Zantou, *Les Echos du Jour*
Imprisoned: December 15, 1998

May 3

Chabi and Zantou, respectively chief editor and reporter for the independent daily *Les Echos du Jour*, each received a six-month prison sentence for libel. Education Minister Léonard Padonou Jijoho filed the complaint against the journalists in response to the publication of an article in the newspaper's 26 August edition which reported that he had misappropriated public funds.

Burma/Myanmar (8)

Send appeals to:
His Excellency General Than Shwe
Prime Minister and Minister of Defense
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
Ministry of Defense
Signal Pagoda Road
Rangoon, Burma

U Win Tin
Imprisoned: July 4, 1989
U Win Tin, former editor of two daily newspapers and vice-chair of Burma's Writers Association, was arrested and sentenced to three years' hard labor - a sentence that was subsequently extended. U Win Tin was active in establishing independent publications during the 1988 student democracy movement, and worked closely with democracy leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. Authorities extended U Win Tin's sentence by five years on March 28 1996, after convicting him of smuggling letters describing conditions at Insein prison to Professor Yozo Yokota, the U.N. Special Rapporteur for human rights in Burma. It has been reported that U Win Tin is seriously ill and perhaps close to death in Rangoon General Hospital, where he was transferred in early October 1997 from Myingyan jail, one of the worst in Burma.

U Maung Maung Lay Ngwe
Imprisoned: September 1990
U Maung Maung Lay Ngwe was arrested and charged with writing and distributing publications that "make people lose respect for the government." The publications were titled, collectively, Pe-Tin-Tan.

U Myo Myint Nyein, *What's Happening*
U Sein Hlaing, *What's Happening*
Imprisoned: September 1990
U Myo Myint Nyein and U Sein Hlaing were arrested for contributing to the preparation, planning and publication of the satirical news



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magazine *What's Happening*. They were sentenced to seven years in prison. On March 28 1996, they were among 21 prisoners tried inside Insein Prison and given an additional seven years sentence under the Emergency Provisions Act, for smuggling letters describing prison conditions to Professor Yozo Yokota, the U.N. Special Rapporteur for human rights in Burma.

Daw San San Nwe
U Sein Hla Oo
Imprisoned: August 5, 1994

Writer Daw San San Nwe and journalist U Sein Hla Oo were arrested on charges of spreading information damaging to the state and contacting anti-government groups. Daw San San Nwe and U Sein Hla Oo were sentenced on October 6, 1994 to 10 years and seven years in prison, respectively. Officials said they had "fabricated and sent anti-government reports to some diplomats in foreign embassies, foreign radio stations, and visiting foreign journalists." Both U Sein Hla Oo and Daw San San Nwe were previously imprisoned for their involvement in the National League for Democracy, Burma's main pro-democracy party. It is thought they are held at the Insein Prison in Rangoon.

Ma Myat Mo Mo Tun
Imprisoned: 1994

The daughter of imprisoned dissident Daw San San Nwe, Ma Myat Mo Mo Tun was arrested in 1994 and sentenced to seven years in prison for spreading information injurious to the state. She is alleged to have recorded "defamatory letters and documents," made contact with "illegal" groups and sent anti-government articles to a journal published by an expatriate group.

Ye Htut
Imprisoned: September 27, 1995

Ye Htut was arrested on charges of sending fabricated news abroad to Burmese dissidents and opposition media. Among the organizations to which Ye Htut allegedly confessed sending reports was the Thailand-based Burma Information Group (BIG), which publishes the human rights newsletter *The Irrawaddy*. Burma's official media claimed that BIG had presented a false picture of the country to foreign governments and human rights organizations. He was sentenced to seven years in prison.



Cameroon (1)

Send appeals to:
His Excellency Paul Biya
President of the Republic of Cameroon
Presidential Palace
Yaoundé, Cameroon
Fax: 237-221-699

Michel Michaut Moussala, *Aurore Plus*
Imprisoned: September 3, 1998
Moussala, editor of *Aurore Plus*, was convicted of defaming the director general of the National Ports Department of Cameroon and a deputy of the ruling RDPC party. He was sentenced to six months in prison and fined one million CFA (US\$1,783). In addition, the newspaper was ordered to suspend publication for six months. The suit cited a 16 December 1997 *Aurore Plus* article.

China (10)

Send appeals to:
President Jiang Zemin
Guowuyuan
9 Xihuangcheng Genbeijie
Beijing, People's Republic of China
Fax: 86-10-6512-5810

Hu Liping, *The Beijing Daily*
Imprisoned: April 7, 1990
Hu, a staff member of *The Beijing Daily* newspaper, was arrested on 7 April 1990 and charged with 'counter-revolutionary incitement and propaganda' and 'trafficking in state secrets', according to a rare release of information on his case from the Chinese Ministry of Justice in 1998. He was sentenced by the Beijing Intermediate People's Court to a term of 10 years in prison on 15 August 1990 and is being held in the Beijing Municipal Prison.

Zhang Yafei, *Tielu*
Imprisoned: September, 1990
Zhang, a former student at Beifang Communications University, was arrested and charged with dissemination of counter-revolutionary propaganda and incitement. In March 1991, he was sentenced to 11 years in prison and two years without political rights. Zhang edited an unofficial magazine called *Tielu* (Iron Currents) about the 1989 crackdown at Tiananmen Square.



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Chen Yanbin, *Tielu*
Imprisoned: Late 1990

Chen, a former student at Qinghua University, was arrested in late 1990 and sentenced to 15 years in prison and four years without political rights after his release. Together with Zhang Yafei, he had produced an unofficial magazine called *Tielu* (Iron Currents) about the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre. Several hundred mimeographed copies of the magazine were distributed. The government termed the publication "reactionary" and charged Chen with dissemination of counter-revolutionary propaganda and incitement.

Liu Jingsheng, *Tansuo*
Imprisoned: May 1992

Liu, a former writer and co-editor for the pro-democracy journal *Tansuo*, was sentenced to 15 years in prison for "counter-revolutionary" activities after being tried secretly in July 1994. Liu was arrested in May 1992 and charged with being a member of labor and pro-democracy groups. Court documents stated Liu was involved in organizing and leading anti-government and pro-democracy activities. Prosecutors also accused him and other dissidents who were tried on similar charges of writing and printing political leaflets that were distributed in June 1992.

Wu Shishen, *Xinhua News Agency*
Imprisoned: October or November 1992
Arrested in the fall of 1992, Wu, a Xinhua News Agency reporter, received a life sentence in August 1993 for allegedly providing a Hong Kong journalist with a "state-classified" advance copy of President Jiang Zemin's 14th Party Congress address.

Bai Weiji
Arrested: April 1993

Bai, who once worked for the Chinese Foreign Ministry monitoring foreign news and writing news summaries, was sentenced in May 1993 to 10 years in prison for passing information and leaking national secrets to Lena Sun, a correspondent for the Washington Post. His appeal was rejected in July 1993.

Ma Tao, *China Health Education News*
Sentenced: August 1993

Ma, editor of *China Health Education News*, received a six-year prison term for allegedly helping Xinhua News Agency reporter Wu Shishen provide a Hong Kong journalist with President Jiang Zemin's "state-classified" 14th Party Congress address. According to the Associated Press, Ma is believed to be Wu's wife.

Khang Yuchun
Sentenced: December 1994

Khang was tried with 16 others on charges of being members of counter-revolutionary organizations. Among the accusations against him was that he commissioned people to write articles and set up Freedom Forum, the magazine of the Chinese Progressive Alliance. He was sentenced in December 1994 to 12 years in prison for "organizing and leading a counter-revolutionary group" and an additional seven year imprisonment for "counter-revolutionary propaganda."

Wang Ming
Arrested: November 1996

Wang was sentenced to three years re-education through labor for writing "Declarations on Citizens' Freedom of Speech," an open letter which called on the government to release dissidents Wei Jingsheng and Wang Dan. He is being held in Xishanping Reeducation Brigade in Sichuan Province.

Shi Binhai, *China Economic Times*
Imprisoned: September 5, 1998

Shi, an editor with the Beijing-based *China Economic Times*, was taken from his home by National Security Ministry personnel on 5 September 1998. The Security Ministry did not give an explanation for the arrest, nor did it inform Shi's family where he was being held. Sources in China fear that Shi was arrested as a result of his work on a pro-reform book.

Cuba (5)

Send appeals to:
His Excellency Fidel Castro Ruz
President of Cuba
c/o Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations, 315 Lexington Avenue
New York, NY 10016, United States
Fax: 1-212-689-9073

Lorenzo Páez Nuñez, *Buro de Prensa Independiente de Cuba*

Imprisoned: July 10, 1997

Páez was sentenced to 18 months in prison for defaming the national police. He was detained because of his report about a police officer who allegedly killed a young man during harvest celebrations in Pinar del Río. Páez was convicted after a one-day trial during which he was not permitted legal assistance.

Bernardo Arévalo Padrón, *Línea Sur 3*

Imprisoned: November 18, 1997

On October 31, Arévalo was sentenced to six years in prison by the Provincial Chamber of the Court of Aguada de Pasajeros, a town in the province of Cienfuegos. He was convicted on the charge of "lack of respect" for Fidel Castro and Carlos Lage, a member of the Cuban State Council. The conviction stems from a story Arévalo published on the leaders' privileges. He reported that a helicopter transported meat from a farm in Aguada de Pasajeros to Havana, while the Aguada de Pasajeros inhabitants did not have enough to eat. Arévalo was detained and jailed on November 18. He is serving his sentence in Ariza prison in Cienfuegos, where he shares a filthy cell with common criminals. On November 28, the Aguada de Pasajeros Court rejected Arévalo's petition to review the conviction.

Juan Carlos Recio Martínez, *CubaPress*

Imprisoned: June 15, 1998

Authorities detained Recio Martínez, correspondent for the independent news agency *CubaPress* in the province of Villa Clara, following an incident in autumn 1997, and charged him with 'acts against state security'. He was sentenced on 6 February 1998 to one year of correctional labour. While Recio Martínez is permitted to leave the co-operative after work each day, forced labour is regarded as a form of confinement.



Manuel Antonio González Castellanos, *CubaPress*

Imprisoned: October 1, 1998

State Security agents arrested González Castellanos, a correspondent for the independent news service *CubaPress*, on charges of 'sedition' (desacato) in San Germán, Holguín Province. He was arrested after making critical statements about President Fidel Castro to State Security agents who had insulted him in the street. While the sedition charges stem from an interaction that is unrelated to his journalistic work, colleagues suspect that González Castellanos was deliberately provoked by State Security agents in retaliation for news reports about the activities of political dissidents.

Jésus Joel Díaz Hernández, *Asociación de Periodistas Independientes*

Imprisoned: 18 January 1999

Díaz Hernández, executive director of the Cooperativa Avileña de Periodistas Independientes, was arrested on the evening of 18 January. He was tried the next day and sentenced to four years in prison for acting 'in clear contradiction of the norms of socialist morals'. Further details of his arrest are unavailable, but it is feared that his arrest was related to his journalism activities.

Democratic Republic of Congo (2)

Send appeals to:

Laurent-Désiré Kabila
President of the Republic
Ngaliema, Kinshasa
Democratic Republic of Congo
Fax: 243-88-02120 / 202-234-2609

Albert Bonsange Yema, *L'Alarme, L'Essor Africain*

Imprisoned: February 7, 1998

Yema, editor of the opposition newspapers *L'Alarme* and *L'Essor Africain*, was arrested in connection with a February 7 article, published in both newspapers, calling for the release of jailed opposition leader Joseph Olengankoy. On 1 June, the State Security Court convicted Yema of 'threatening state security' and sentenced him to one year in prison. Yema is diabetic, and has been receiving treatment at the



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general hospital in Kinshasa. His conviction contravenes the country's press law, which only allows for civil penalties in such circumstances.

Mbakulu Pambu Diambu, *Radio-television Matadi*

Imprisoned: November, 1998

Diambu, president of the local chapter of the Congolese Press Union (UPC) and a broadcaster with the private station *Radio-télévision Matadi* (RTM), was arrested in late November and detained at the Matadi National Information Agency offices. Diambu was charged with breaching state security after hosting a television programme in which he allegedly interviewed representatives of rebel forces.

Ethiopia (12)

Send appeals to:

His Excellency Prime Minister Meles Zenawi
Office of the Prime Minister

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Fax: 251-1-552-030 (c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Sisay Negussie, *Agere*

Imprisoned: March 1997

Sisay appeared before court on April 7 and was detained at Kerchele prison for failing to present a bail guarantor of approximately US\$600. No further information about this case was available.

Samson Seyoum, *Tequami* and *Agere*

Imprisoned: April 18, 1997

Samson, former editor in chief of *Agere* and *Tequami*, was sentenced to an undisclosed prison term on charges of "inciting war and spreading Islamic Fundamentalism," for articles he had published in *Agere*. Detained before the sentencing and unable to produce the bail of approximately US\$730, Samson had just completed an 18-month prison sentence which he had begun in December 1995 after his conviction on charges of libel for an article in *Tequami*.

Sisay Agena, *Ethiop*

Imprisoned: September 8, 1997

Sisay, publisher of *Ethiop*, was arrested on

September 8 on as yet unknown charges and detained at the Region 14 location. He was released on bail on September 10, but on September 16 was taken back into custody and moved to the Central Criminal Investigation Office Prison.

Tamrat Gemedat, *Seife Nebelbal*

Imprisoned: October 1997

Tamrat, former editor-in-chief of *Seife Nebelbal*, was arrested on charges of involvement with the guerrilla organisation, the Oromo Liberation Front, after publishing a number of articles.

Tamrat Serbessa, *Wenchif*

Imprisoned: October 14, 1997

Tamrat, editor-in-chief of *Wenchif*, was detained at the Central Criminal Investigation Office Prison. He is charged on five counts, one of which is libel against President Negasso Gidada. This charge stemmed from a report in *Wenchif* that claimed the president was drunk at a gathering of Oromos.

Tesfaye Deressa, *Urjii*

Solomon Nemera, *Urjii*

Imprisoned: October 16, 1997

Tesfaye, editor-in-chief of the *Urjii* newspaper, and Solomon, the paper's deputy editor, were abducted from a tea room near *Urjii*'s offices. The journalists were first detained at the Central Criminal Investigation Office Prison and later taken to a district police prison and held on charges related to a report in *Urjii* about the recent killing of alleged Oromo Liberation Front members; the article contradicted the government media's version of the same story.

Garoma Bekele, *Urjii*

Imprisoned: October 27, 1997

Garoma, publisher of the newspaper *Urjii*, was detained on suspicion of being a member of the outlawed Oromo Liberation Front. Garoma



is being held at the Central Investigation Office Prison along with others who have been detained for their alleged connection to a series of bomb attacks. He has been denied bail.

Fisseha Alemu, *Tarik*

Imprisoned: March 24, 1998

Police arrested and detained Fisseha, editor in chief of the Amharic-language independent weekly newspaper *Tarik*, in March. Authorities would not provide an explanation for his arrest, but local journalists believe it was in connection with an article published on 31 January which reported that Ethiopian orthodox monks from the Tigray region were engaged in cannabis production.

Wondwossen Asfaw, *Atkurot*

Imprisoned: April 1998

Wondwossen, editor-in-chief of the privately owned newspaper *Atkurot*, was detained on unspecified charges. He remains in prison because he was unable to post bail of 10,000 birr (\$US1,500).

Tesfa Tegegn, *Beza*

Imprisoned: June 19, 1998

Tesfa, former editor-in-chief of the privately owned *Beza*, was detained and held at the Addis Ababa Central Prison on unspecified charges. This was Tesfa's second jailing in 1998. He had been detained in March and was released on bail on 10 June.

Tilahun Bekele, *Fetash*

Imprisoned: September 1998

Tilahun, editor-in-chief of *Fetash*, was detained in late September at the Ma'ekelawi Central Criminal Investigation Prison Office on charges of libel against the Crown Mineral Water Company.

Gabon (3)

Send appeals to:

His Excellency Omar Bongo

President of the Republic of Gabon

Presidential Palace

Libreville, Gabon

Fax: 233 21 664 089

Michel Ongoundou-Loundah, *La Griffe*

Raphael Ntoutoume Nkoghe, *La Griffe*

Pulcherie Beaumel, *La Griffe*

Imprisoned: August 12, 1998

Publication director Ongoundou-Loundah,



editor-in-chief Nkoghe, and reporter Beaumel of the private weekly *La Griffe*, were each sentenced to eight months in prison and fined 3,000,000 CFA (US\$5,000) in damages and interest payable to the Air Gabon Director General. The case was in connection with an article reporting that the airline was involved in ivory trafficking.

Iran (1)

Send appeals to:

His Excellency Mohammed Khatemi

President of the Islamic Republic of Iran

The Presidency, Palestine Avenue

Azerbaijan Intersection

Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Fax: +98 21 6402190

Morteza Firouzi, *Iran News*

Imprisoned: November 9, 1997

The official Iranian daily *Jomhuri Islami* reported that Firouzi, editor in chief of the English-language daily *Iran News*, was arrested on charges of espionage in late 1997. He has since reportedly been sentenced to death for spying. Prior to *Jomhuri Islami*'s announcement, Firouzi had been rumored "disappeared" for several months. It is thought that his arrest was related to articles published in *Iran News* calling for the release of foreign nationals from Iranian prisons and for warmer relations with the United States.

Iraq (1)

Send appeals to:

President Saddam Hussein

c/o Iraqi Mission to the United Nations

14 East 79th Street

New York, NY 10021

United States

Aziz al-Syed Jasim, *Al-Ghad*, *Al-Thawra*

Imprisoned: April 18, 1991

Jasim, editor of *Al-Ghad* magazine and former editor of the official daily *Al-Thawra*, was taken into custody at a secret police station in Baghdad and has not been heard from since. Reports suggest that his refusal to write a book about Iraqi President Saddam Hussein precipitated his arrest. Government officials deny that he is in prison.



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Kuwait (5)

Send appeals to:

His Highness Shaikh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Sabah,

Crown Prince and Prime Minister

Al-Diwan al-Amiri, Al-Safat

Kuwait City, Kuwait

Fax: 965-243-0121

 Ibtisam Berto Sulaiman al-Dakhil, *Al-Nida*

 Fawwaz Muhammad al-Awadi Bessisso, *Al-Nida*

 Usamah Suhail Abdallah Hussein, *Al-Nida*

 Abd al-Rahman Muhammad Asad al-Husseini, *Al-Nida*

 Ahmad Abd Mustafa, *Al-Nida*

Sentenced: June 1991

The five journalists were given life sentences for working for the Iraqi occupation newspaper *Al-Nida*. They were taken into custody after Kuwait's liberation and charged with collaboration. The trials, which began on May 19, 1991, in martial-law courts, failed to comply with international standards of justice. The defendants were reportedly tortured during their interrogations. Their defense - that they were coerced to work for the Iraqi newspaper - was not rebutted by prosecutors. On June 16, 1991, the journalists were sentenced to death. Ten days later all martial-law death sentences were commuted to life terms.

Madagascar (2)

Send appeals to:

President Didier Ratsirka

c/o Embassy of the Republic of Madagascar

2374 Massachusetts Avenue N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20008

 Harry Rahajason, *L'Express de Madagascar*

 Christian Chatefau, *L'Express de Madagascar*

Sentenced: December 28, 1998

Chatefau and Rahajason, editor-in-chief and reporter, respectively, for the newspaper *L'Express de Madagascar*, were sentenced to three-month prison terms for contempt of court. The charges stemmed from a case filed by the public prosecutor of the Antsirabe Republic, who had sued the newspaper for

allegedly insulting a magistrate in a June 1997 article. Chatefau was sentenced for delaying the publication of the plaintiff's response to the article.

Nigeria (2)

Send appeals to:

His Excellency General Abdulsalami Abubakar

Chairman of the Provisional Ruling Council

and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces

State House, Abuja

Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria

Fax: 234-95232

 Niran Malaolu, *The Diet*

Imprisoned: December 27, 1997

A special military tribunal in Jos arraigned Malaolu, editor of the daily newspaper *The Diet*, for alleged involvement in a coup plot.

He had been arrested without charge at the paper's offices. On 28 April 1998, Malaou was tried and convicted for 'information gathering' and 'implication in the alleged coup plot of December 1997', and sentenced to life imprisonment with no right of appeal. On July 10, Malaolu's sentence was reduced to 15 years. He is held in Katsina Prison, where he is reportedly critically ill and denied medical treatment.

 Oscar Kangoa, *Umoja*

Imprisoned: July 2, 1998

Kangoa, a journalist with the weekly *Umoja*,

was jailed on 2 July after being sentenced on

31 May to a 12-month prison sentence for

'slander against authorities'. He had written an

article criticising the Justice Minister. Kangoa

was allegedly not given the right to defend

himself at his trial and claims that he was treated

with brutality by police officers.

Peru (4)

Send appeals to:

His Excellency Alberto Fujimori

President of the Republic of Peru

Palacio de Gobierno, Lima 1, Peru

Fax: 51-14-266-770



Javier Tuanama Valera, *Hechos*

Imprisoned: October 16, 1990

Tuanama, editor in chief of the magazine *Hechos*, was sentenced to 10 years in prison on charges of having links to the guerrilla group Revolutionary Movement Tupac Amaru. In April 1996, he was transferred to the Huacariz prison in Cajamarca. The Oversight Commission is currently reviewing the case.

Hermes Rivera Guerrero, *Radio Oriental*

Imprisoned: May 8, 1992

Rivera, a reporter for *Radio Oriental*, was sentenced to 20 years in prison on May 13, 1994, for alleged terrorist activity. On September 5, 1995, the Supreme Court revoked the 20-year prison sentence and ordered a retrial. No further information is available on his status.

Pedro Carranza Ugaz, *Radio Oriental*

Imprisoned: November 29, 1993

Carranza, a correspondent with *Radio Oriental*, was detained on November 29, 1993, and sentenced on November 7, 1994, to 20 years in prison on charges of being a member of a terrorist group. He is currently being held in the Pisci prison in Chiclayo. The Oversight Commission is currently reviewing the case.

Augusto Ernesto Llosa Giraldo, *El Casmeno, Radio Casma*

Imprisoned: February 14, 1995

Llosa, editor in chief of the newspaper *El Casmeno* and a reporter with *Radio Casma*, was arrested in the northern city of Casma and charged with involvement in a 1986 terrorist incident in Cuzco. A secret tribunal of the Superior Court of Cuzco sentenced him to six years in prison. Llosa requested the nullification of the sentence before the Supreme Court of Peru, which was accepted. On June 30, 1997, a new verdict was reached, and Llosa was sentenced to five years.

Russia (2)

Send appeals to:

President Boris Yeltsin

The Kremlin

Moscow, The Russian Federation

Fax: 7-095-206-5173; 206-6277

Grigory Pasko, *Boyevaya Vakhta*

Imprisoned: November 20, 1997

Grigory Pasko, a military officer of the Russian Pacific Fleet and a correspondent for *Boyevaya Vakhta*, was arrested on 20 November and jailed in Vladivostok for passing classified infor-



mation to foreign agents. The charges stemmed from a series of articles by Pasko in the military newspaper *Boyevaya Vakhta*, in Japan's Asahi daily, and on the NHK television company of Tokyo that discussed the environmental hazards caused by Russia's decaying nuclear submarine fleet. Officials claimed the reports, published and aired over a three-year period, posed a threat to Russia's national security. On 14 October 1998, a closed trial against Pasko began, on charges of high treason and revealing state secrets. Pasko remains in custody and faces up to 20 years in prison if convicted.

Altaf Galejev, *Radio Titan*

Imprisoned: May 27, 1998

On 27 May 1998, Bashkir police raided the Ufa offices of *Radio Titan*, the sole independent radio station in the Republic of Bashkortostan, beating and arresting staff members and supporters. Police seized the radio equipment and detained the entire staff, including Galejev, the manager and news director, after *Radio Titan* aired interviews with three opposition candidates who were barred from the presidential elections. Galejev was held for firing shots in the air when police stormed the station's office. On June 4, he was charged with 'hooliganism' and the illegal use of firearms, and placed in a pre-trial detention center. If found guilty, he faces a possible prison sentence of up to seven years.

Sierra Leone (11)

Send appeals to:

President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah

State House

Freetown, Sierra Leone

Fax: 232-22-225-615

Dennis Smith, *Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service (SLBS)*

Gipu Felix George, *SLBS*

Olivia Mensah, *SLBS*

Maada Maka Swaray, *SLBS*

William Smith, *We Yone*

Hilton File, *WBIG-FM103*

Ibrahim B. Kargbo, *Citizen*

Imprisoned: February 1998

On August 23, File, George, Dennis Smith, Mensah, and Kargbo, along with 11 other



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Sierra Leonean citizens, were found guilty of treason for collaborating with the ousted Armed Forces Ruling Council junta. On 24 August after a four-month trial, the five journalists were sentenced to death by hanging. The journalists have appealed the sentences. Swaray and William Smith are still awaiting sentencing.

Mildred Hancile, *Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service*

Conrad Roy, *Expo Times*

Mano Mbompa Turay, *Eagle*

Amadu Jalloh, *Liberty Voice*

Imprisoned: February 1998

Hancile, a reporter and production assistant with *SLBS*; Roy, an editor with the newspaper *Expo Times*; Turay, editor of the now-defunct newspaper *Eagle*; and Jalloh, a senior journalist with the newspaper *Liberty Voice*, faced charges ranging from treason and aiding and abetting the enemy, to conspiring to overthrow a legally constituted government. They remain in detention.

Somalia (1)

Please send appeals to:

Mohamed Ibrahim Egal

President of the Republic of Somaliland

State House of Somaliland

Fax: 252-213-3414

Hassan Said Yousuf, *Jamhuria*

Imprisoned: May 25, 1998

Police arrested Yousuf, chief editor of the independent daily newspaper *Jamhuria*, for 'insulting important personalities, circulating false information and criticizing the leaders of the republic'. Yousuf was arrested in connection with reports published over a 10-month period, including articles about a dispute between the army and the government, the outbreak of Rift Valley disease, amputations ordered by an Islamic court and remarks concerning the justice system.

South Korea (2)

Please send appeals to:

President Kim Dae Jung

The Blue House

#1 Sejong-no,

Chongno-gu
Seoul, Republic of Korea
Fax: 822-770-0253

Ham Yun Shik, *One Way*
Imprisoned: February 28, 1998

Ham, publisher of *One Way* magazine, was charged with criminal defamation by President Kim Dae Jung's political party, the National Congress for New Politics, as a result of critical articles published in 1997 during the presidential campaign. On July 2, a Seoul court sentenced Ham to one year in prison for criminal defamation.

Son Chung Mu, *Inside the World*
Imprisoned: June 1, 1998

Son, the publisher of *Inside the World* magazine, was arrested on June 1. Prosecutors charged him with criminal defamation and accepting a bribe to slander then-presidential candidate Kim Dae Jung during the 1997 campaign. Son had also been charged with related 'crimes against reputation' in February by the public prosecutor's office, but had not been arrested at the time. On September 23, Son was found guilty of criminal libel and sentenced to two years in prison. The bribery charge was dropped.

Syria (8)

Send appeals to:

His Excellency Hafez al-Assad

President of the Syrian Arab Republic

Presidential Palace, Damascus, Syria

Qaiss Darwish, *Al Ka'ayda*

Imprisoned: August 1984

Darwish, a journalist with the magazine *Al Ka'ayda*, was arrested by military security agents in August 1984 and later sentenced to 15 years in prison for alleged membership in the Party for Communist Action. He is held in Sednaya Prison.



Faisal Allush
Imprisoned: 1985

Allush, a journalist and political writer who has been in jail since 1985, was sentenced in June 1993 to 15 years' imprisonment for membership in the banned Party for Communist Action. He is reportedly being held in Sednaya Prison.

Samir al-Hassan, *Fatah al-Intifada*
Imprisoned: April 1986

Al-Hassan, Palestinian editor of *Fatah al-Intifada*, who has been in jail since his arrest in April 1986, was convicted in June 1994 of being a member of the Party for Communist Action. He was sentenced to 15 years in prison.

Anwar Bader, *Syrian Radio and Television*
Imprisoned: December 1986

Bader, a reporter for *Syrian Radio and Television* who has been in jail since his arrest by the Military Interrogation Branch in December 1986, was convicted in March 1994 of being a member in the Party for Communist Action. He was sentenced to 12 years in prison.

Marwan Mohammed, *Al-Baath*
Imprisoned: October 18, 1987

Mohammed, a technician and journalist with the official *Al-Baath*, was arrested by military security agents on 18 October 1987. He was convicted and sentenced in 1993 to 10 years in prison for alleged membership in the Party for Communist Action. He is currently in Sednaya Prison.

Nizar Nayouf, free-lancer
Imprisoned: January 1992

Nayouf, a freelance journalist who has contributed to *Al-Huriyya* and *Al-Thaqafa al-Ma'arifa*, was arrested in January 1992 in Damascus with several human rights activists from the Committees for the Defense of Democratic Freedoms and Human Rights in Syria. In March 1992, he was sentenced by the State Security Court to 10 years in prison for "disseminating false information and receiving money from abroad." He was severely tortured during his interrogation. He remains in solitary confinement in Mezze military prison.

Salama George Kila
Imprisoned: March 1992

Kila, a Palestinian writer and journalist, was arrested in March 1992 by Political Security in



Damascus. His trial began in the summer of 1993. According to the London-based International PEN, Kila had "reportedly written an article on censorship in Syria for a Jordanian daily paper." The court ruled that he was guilty of a misdemeanor rather than a felony. Since the maximum sentence for a misdemeanor is three years, his release was expected in March 1995, yet he remains in prison.

Nou'man Abdo, *Al-Tariq*
Imprisoned: 1992

Abdo, a journalist working with the magazine *Al-Tariq* (an organ of the Lebanese Communist Party), was arrested in 1992 and later convicted and sentenced in 1993 to 15 years in prison for alleged membership in the Party for Communist Action. He is currently in Tadmour Prison.

Togo (2)

Send appeals to:

His Excellency President Gnassingbe Eyadéma
Office of the President

Lomé, Togo

Fax: 228 21 20 40

Elias Hounkali, *Le Nouveau Combat*
August 6, 1998

Police arrested three journalists, including Hounkali, a reporter with the privately owned weekly *Le Nouveau Combat*, for 'attacking the honour' of the president and his wife following reports published in August. His colleagues were released, while Hounkali remains in prison.

Edoh Amewouho, *Le Nouveau Combat*
November 10, 1998

Amewouho, a reporter with the privately owned weekly newspaper *Le Nouveau Combat*, was arrested in connection with the publication of two articles critical of the president and his family in the August 6-13 edition of the newspaper.

Tunisia (2)

Send appeals to:

M. Zine El Abidine Ben Ali



World Association of Newspapers

WORLD EDITORS FORUM

President of the Republic of Tunisia
Presidential Palace
Tunis, Tunisia
Fax: +216 1 744 721

Hamadi Jebali, *Al-Fajr*
Imprisoned: January 1991

Jebali, editor of *Al-Fajr*, the weekly newspaper of the banned Islamist Al-Nahda party, was sentenced to 16 years in prison by the military court in Bouchoucha on August 28, 1992. He was tried along with 279 others accused of belonging to Al-Nahda. Jebali was convicted of "aggression with the intention of changing the nature of the state" and "membership of an illegal organization." During his testimony, Jebali denied the charges against him and displayed evidence that he had been tortured while in custody. Jebali has been in jail since January 1991, when he was sentenced to one year in prison after *Al-Fajr* published an article calling for the abolition of military courts in Tunisia. International human rights groups monitoring the mass trial concluded that it fell far below international standards of justice.

Abdellah Zouari, *Al-Fajr*
Imprisoned: February 1991

Zouari, a contributor to *Al-Fajr*, the weekly newspaper of the banned Islamist Al-Nahda party, was sentenced to 11 years in prison by the military court in Bouchoucha on August 28, 1992. He was tried along with 279 others accused of belonging to Al-Nahda. He has been in jail since February 1991, when he was charged with "association with an unrecognized organization." International human rights groups monitoring the trial concluded that it fell far short of international standards of justice.

Turkey (26)

Send appeals to:
His Excellency Bulent Ecevit
Prime Minister
Basbakanlik
06573 Ankara, Turkey
Fax: 90 312 417 0476

Ismail Besikçi

Imprisoned: November 13, 1993

Besikçi, a prominent scholar and author of numerous books and articles on the Kurds in Turkey, was arrested and charged with violating the Anti-Terror Law for an article he wrote in the now-defunct daily *Yeni Ülke*. He was tried and sentenced to one year in prison. Since then, Besikçi has been found guilty of other charges arising from articles he published on the Kurdish question in *Özgür Gündem*, and for books he has written on the subject. He has now been sentenced to more than 100 years in prison and remains in Bursa Prison, with additional charges pending against him.

Hasan Özgün, *Özgür Gündem*

Imprisoned: December 9, 1993

Özgün's, Diyarbakir correspondent for *Özgür Gündem*, was charged with being a member of an outlawed organization and sentenced to 12 years and five months in prison. He is currently being held in Aydin Prison.

Serdar Gelir, *Mücadele*

Imprisoned: April 25, 1994

Gelir, Ankara bureau chief for the now-defunct weekly magazine *Mücadele*, was convicted of being a member of an illegal organization. Court records indicate that he was sentenced to 12 years and six months in jail.

Bülent Öner, *Atilim*

Imprisoned: June 15, 1995

Öner, a reporter for the leftist weekly *Atilim*, was taken into custody during a police raid on the newspaper's Mersin bureau and later charged with membership of an outlawed group. He was convicted and sentenced to 12 years and six months in jail and is being held in Erzurum Prison.

Sadik Çelik, *Kurtulus*

Imprisoned: December 23, 1995

Çelik, reporter and Zonguldak bureau chief for

Kurtulus, was charged with membership of an outlawed organisation and sentenced to 12 years and six months in prison.

Ibrahim Çiçek, *Atilim*
Imprisoned: March 15, 1996

Çiçek, former editor in chief of the leftist weekly *Atilim*, was detained on March 15, 1996, and charged with membership of an illegal organization. He was sentenced to a minimum of 15 years in prison.

Ayten Öztürk, *Kurtulus*
Imprisoned: October 13, 1997

Öztürk, publisher and editor of *Kurtulus*, was charged with leading an outlawed organization and sentenced to 22 years and five months incarceration. She is held in Ankara Closed Prison.

The following are also being held in prison in Turkey. CPJ and the Association of Turkish Newspaper Publishers/Turkish Press Council disagree as to whether they were imprisoned for journalistic activity:

Sinan Yavuz, *Yoksul Halkin Gücü*
Imprisoned: August 9, 1993

Yavuz, editor of the left-wing weekly *Yoksul Halkin Gücü*, was charged with being a member of an outlawed group. He was sentenced on December 29, 1994, to 12 years and six months in jail, and sent to Canakkale Prison.

Hüseyin Solak, *Mücadele*
Imprisoned: October 27, 1993

Solak, Gaziantep bureau chief of *Mücadele*, was arrested and charged with membership of the outlawed Dev Sol group. Solak was sentenced on November 24, 1994, to 12 years and six months in prison. He is currently being held in Cankiri Prison.

Utku Deniz Sirkeci, *Tavir*
Imprisoned: August 6, 1994

Sirkeci, the Ankara bureau chief of the leftist cultural magazine *Tavir*, was convicted of membership of an outlawed group and sentenced to 12 years and six months in prison. He is being held in Ankara Closed Prison.

Aysel Bölücek, *Mücadele*
Imprisoned: October 11, 1994

Bölücek, a correspondent in Ankara for *Mücadele*, was arrested at her home and charged with belonging to an outlawed organization. Bölücek was sentenced to 12 years and



six months on December 23, 1994. She is being held in Canakkale Prison.

Özlem Türk, *Mücadele*
Imprisoned: January 17, 1995

Türk, a reporter for *Mücadele*, was arrested and charged with being a member of an outlawed organization. According to court documents, she was sentenced to 15 years in prison. She is being held in Canakkale Prison.

Baris Yildirim, *Tavir*
Imprisoned: March 21, 1995

Yildirim, a columnist for the leftist cultural magazine *Tavir*, was imprisoned for membership of an illegal organization and sentenced to 12 years and six months in prison. He is being held in Buca Prison in Izmir.

Burhan Gardas, *Mücadele*
Imprisoned: March 23, 1995

Gardas, the Ankara bureau chief for *Mücadele*, was sentenced to two 15-year prison terms for belonging to an illegal organization. He is reportedly serving these sentences successively at Aydin Prison.

Necla Can, *Kurtulus*
Imprisoned: April 9, 1995

Can, a reporter for the leftist weekly *Kurtulus*, was convicted on December 21, 1997, of belonging to an outlawed organization and sentenced to 12 years and six months in prison. She is being held in Istanbul's Umraniye Prison.

Özgür Güdenoğlu, *Mücadele*
Imprisoned: May 24, 1995

Güdenoğlu, *Mücadele's* Konya bureau chief, was sentenced to 12 years and 6 months in prison for membership of an outlawed organization. He is being held in Konya Prison.

Fatma Harman, *Atilim*
Imprisoned: June 15, 1995

Harman, a reporter for *Atilim*, was taken into custody during a police raid on the newspaper's Mersin bureau in June 1995. She was sentenced in 1996 to 12 years and six months in prison on charges of belonging to an outlawed group. Harman was last reported in Sakarya Prison.



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Erdal Dogan, *Alinteri*

Imprisoned: July 10, 1995

Dogan, an Ankara reporter for *Alinteri*, was detained by police on July 10, 1995, and later tried and convicted of membership of an outlawed organisation. He was sentenced to 12 years and six months in prison and has been confined to Bursa Prison.

Erhan Il, *Devrimci Emek*

Imprisoned: February 16, 1996

Il, a reporter for the magazine *Devrimci Emek* and editor in chief from 1993 to 1994, was charged with belonging to an outlawed organisation.

Yazgöl Güder Öztürk, *Kurtulus*

Imprisoned: March 31, 1996

Öztürk, a reporter for *Kurtulus*, was convicted of membership of an illegal organisation and is being held in Sagmalcilar Prison.

Serpil Günes, *Alinteri*

Imprisoned: September 7, 1996

Günes, an editor and owner of *Alinteri*, was charged with membership of an outlawed organization and publishing propaganda. Günes is being held in Usak Prison.

Nabi Kimran, *Iscinin Yolu*

Imprisoned: September 9, 1996

Kimran was imprisoned on charges arising from his work as editor of the leftist weekly *Iscinin Yolu*, which was subject to repeated government harassment during his tenure. Kimran is currently being held in Sakarya Prison for alleged membership of an outlawed organization.

Dogan Guzel, *Özgür Gündem*

Imprisoned: July 31, 1998

Guzel, a cartoonist for the now-defunct pro-Kurdish daily *Özgür Gündem*, was charged with insulting the state and armed forces. The charge stemmed from four cartoons published in *Özgür Gündem* between May 1993 and October 1993. Guzel was sentenced to 40 months in prison.

Eylem Kaplan, *Ülkede Gündem*

Ayşe Oyman, *Ülkede Gündem*

Imprisoned: November 18, 1998

Kaplan and Oyman, reporters for the pro-Kurdish daily *Ülkede Gündem* in Malatya, were arrested in a nationwide police round-up of journalists working with the publication. They are charged with aiding an outlawed organization. The prosecution accused them of collecting political and military information 'under the cover of news'. The prosecution alleged the journalists had travelled to rebel military camps and taken photographs of guerrillas, and 'they brought to the newspaper bureau interviews that praised the members of the PKK in the name of news'. Their trial has begun.

Ali Kemal Sel, *Ülkede Gündem*

Imprisoned: November 19, 1998

Sel, the Malatya bureau chief for the pro-Kurdish daily *Ülkede Gündem* since December 1996, was arrested in a nationwide police roundup of journalists working for the publication. He was charged with aiding an outlawed organization and accused of collecting political and military information 'in the name of news' and passing it on to an outlawed group. His trial has begun.

Uzbekistan (1)

Please send appeals to:

His Excellency Islam Karimov

President of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Fax: 3712 395 525

Shadi Mardiev, *Samarkand Regional Radio*

Imprisoned: November 15, 1997

On 11 June 1998, the Syrdariya regional court sentenced Shadi Mardiev, a 62-year-old reporter with the state-run *Samarkand regional radio station*, to 11 years in prison for defamation and extortion. He had been held in pre-trial detention since November 1997. The case stemmed from a 19 June 1997 broadcast in which he satirized the corrupt practices of a deputy prosecutor. Mardiev's health has repor-



tedly deteriorated during his imprisonment. On 3 August 1998, the Supreme Court rejected his appeal.

Vietnam (2)

Send appeals to:
His Excellency Le Kha Phieu
General Secretary of the Central Committee
Communist Party of Vietnam
1 Hoang Van Thu
Hanoi, Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Bui Minh Quoc, *Lang Biang*
Imprisoned: September 1997

Quoc, a poet, journalist and correspondent for North Vietnamese radio during the Vietnam War, was placed under house arrest in the southern town of Dalat. He was the president of the Dalat Writer's Association and the editor of the literary and cultural magazine *Lang Biang* before his pro-democracy ideas attracted the attention of authorities in 1990. Since that time, the magazine has been closed down. The order of administrative detention issued against Quoc came after he was accused of circulating pro-democracy letters.

Nguyen Ngoc Tan
Imprisoned: Unknown

Details of the arrest and imprisonment of journalist Nguyen Ngoc Tan were not known at the time of writing.

Source: The Committee to Protect
Journalists
(updated by WAN)



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