

INTRODUCTION

The Network of Concerned Historians (NCH) forwards to its participants news about the domain where history and human rights intersect, as reported by the American Association for the Advancement of Science [AAAS, Washington]; Amnesty International [AI, London]; Article 19 [A19, London]; Human Rights Watch [HRW, Washington/New York]; Index on Censorship [IOC, London]; the Network of Education and Academic Rights [NEAR, London]; International PEN Writers in Prison Committee [PEN, London]; Scholars at Risk [SAR, New York]; and other sources. The fact that NCH presents this news does not imply that it shares the views and beliefs of the historians and others mentioned in it.

GENERAL

In March 2001 Japanese historian Ienaga Saburô (1913–) (*see NCH #10*) was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

In May 2000 the Preparatory Committee for the September 2001 World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance discussed five themes for the provisional conference agenda, including the provision of effective remedies. Dissent turned primarily on the reference to compensation, with former European colonial powers and the United States opposed to language that implied their acknowledgment of material obligations to remedy past abuses. This was an echo of debates within the United States on the issue of reparations to address the heritage of slavery and segregation. *See also United States.*

[Source: HRW, *World Report 2001* (2000) 501–2.]

AFGHANISTAN

On 26 February 2001, in breach of a pledge made in 1999, the Taliban issued an edict to destroy pre-Islamic and Buddhist objects, including the world's largest standing Buddha statues at Bamiyan. The

destruction went ahead in the days before 12 March. On 14 March BBC correspondent Kate Clark was given 36 hours to leave the country after she had interviewed Afghans who said they disapproved of the planned destruction.

[Sources: *UNESCO International Petition to Safeguard Afghanistan Cultural Heritage*, February 2001; IOC 2/01: 5, 3/01: 96.]

ALGERIA

When asked in November 1999 at a press conference in Italy about investigations into responsibility for killings, President Abd al-Aziz Bouteflika replied that “politics are one thing and history another. Now I am extinguishing a fire and tackling political issues, with priority given to the present.” In May 2000, Ministry of Interior officials declared that the problem of 3,000 “disappearances” and missing persons out of a population of 30 million since 1993 did not compare unfavourably with Algeria’s war of independence (1954–62), which had left some 50,000 individuals out of a population of around 9 million unaccounted for. The Ministry of Justice stated that out of the 3,019 complaints of “disappearances” received, 1,146 had been “clarified”, but only a list of seven names was provided.

[Sources: HRW, *World Report 2001* (2000) 367–68, 371; AI, *Report 2001* (2001) 29.]

See also France.

ARGENTINA

Nine people, including former presidents Brigade General Reynaldo Bignone and General Jorge Videla, and former junta member Admiral Emilio Massera, remained under house arrest in relation to the alleged kidnapping of over 200 children during the military dictatorship (1976–83). In 1996 the case had been brought by the Abuelas de Plaza de Mayo (Grandmothers of Plaza de Mayo), because it was not excluded by Argentina’s amnesty laws. It involved the armed forces’ practice of taking babies who were forcibly “disappeared” with their parents or who were born in captivity after the detention of their parents, and of handing them over to military families and others not considered subversive (*see NCH #17*).

[Source: HRW, *World Report 2001* (2000) 92, 102–3, 137, 484.]

Investigations into the fate of nationals under the dictatorship took place in Italy, Spain and Germany. In August 2000, the Israeli Parliament announced that it had formed an interministerial commission to investigate the fate of some 1,800 Jewish Argentines who had “disappeared” in 1976–

83, in order to establish the whereabouts of their bodies and bury them with the appropriate religious rites.

[Sources: HRW, *World Report 2001* (2000) 103; AI, *Report 2001* (2001) 33, 139.]

In October 2000, an Argentine judge requested the extradition of former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet and six former members of the Chilean secret police for their alleged involvement in the 1974 Buenos Aires car-bombing that killed former Chilean commander-in-chief General Carlos Prats and his wife. In November in the same case, the court found Enrique Arancibia Clavel, a former member of the Chilean secret police, guilty of double homicide and sentenced him to life imprisonment. *See also Chile.*

[Sources: HRW, *World Report 2001* (2000) 102, 109; AI, *Report 2001* (2001) 33, 69.]

AUSTRALIA

In May 2000, Prime Minister John Howard failed to participate in public events to recognize past human rights violations against indigenous peoples and indicated his opposition to proposals for reconciliation and racial tolerance developed by the government-funded Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation over the past ten years.

[Source: AI, *Report 2001* (2001) 35.]

See also Indonesia.

AUSTRIA

An international team of historians is at work to establish an accurate record of certain aspects of Austria's history in the period 1938–45.

[Source: IOC 1/01: 61.]

On 26 September 2000, the far-right Freedom Party leader Jörg Haider lost a defamation trial against *Kurier* newspaper. The journal had criticised his reference to Nazi concentration camps as “punishment centres”. The judge said that “The term ‘punishment centre’ comes from a single document from the Third Reich in 1941 which referred to mass extermination camps as punishment centres. That is the only place the term has come from.” (*see NCH #17*).

[Source: IOC 6/00: 166, also 9.]

On 18 April 2001 political scientist Anton Pelinka won his appeal in the defamation trial started by Jörg Haider over Pelinka's comments in a May 1999 interview (*see NCH # 17*)

[Source: IOC 3/01: 96–97.]

BANGLADESH

In 2000 the government did not bring to justice those responsible for past human rights violations during the armed conflict in the Chittagong Hill Tracts which lasted from the mid-1970s until 1997.

[Source: AI, *Report 2001* (2001) 43.]

On 30 November 2000, Pakistan recalled Irfanur Raja, its deputy high commissioner, from Dhaka, three days after Raja had alleged that the ruling Awami League—and not the Pakistani army—was responsible for starting atrocities in Bangladesh's 1971 war of independence.

[Source: IOC 1/01: 101.]

On 14 December 2000, the High Court upheld the death sentences on ten of the fifteen people sentenced to death by a lower court in November 1998 for the killing of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family in August 1975. A split judgment in the case of the other five was to be clarified by a judicial panel.

[Source: AI, *Report 2001* (2001) 43.]

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

Most perpetrators of the massive and grave human rights abuses committed during and in the wake of the civil war continued to enjoy immunity in 2000, although some were prosecuted domestically or by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. According to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) more than 17,5000 people remained unaccounted for, including 280 detained prisoners registered by the ICRC during the war who subsequently “disappeared”. Exhumations continued by both Muslim/Croat Federation and Republika Srpska commissions on missing persons. Some local authorities actively obstructed the preservation of sites thought to contain mass graves. *See also Croatia; Yugoslavia.*

[Source: AI, *Report 2001* (2001) 51–53.]

BRAZIL

In April 2000, a police decision to impede a march organized by 2,000 indigenous leaders from all over Brazil during celebrations of the arrival of the first Portuguese explorers to Brazil in 1500, and the violence employed by the Bahia state military police against indigenous activists, led the president of the government's indigenous institute FUNAI to resign in protest.

[Sources: HRW, *World Report 2001* (2000) 105; AI, *Report 2001* (2001) 56.]

BURKINA FASO

The widow of former President Thomas Sankara lodged a complaint against persons unknown before the Criminal Appeal Court concerning her husband's death. Sankara and at least twelve others were killed during the coup in 1987 which brought President Blaise Compaoré to power. In January 2000, the Court rejected the case saying that it was a military matter. The family intended to pursue the case before the Supreme Court.

[Source: AI, *Report 2001* (2001) 59.]

BURUNDI

Trials related to the political violence and massacres of Tutsi which followed the 1993 assassination of President Melchior Ndadaye continued in 2000. The subsequent reprisal killings of Hutu have not been investigated. Several thousand people remained in detention awaiting trial, some since 1993.

[Source: AI, *Report 2001* (2001) 61.]

CAMBODIA

In July 2000, a Memorandum of Understanding between the Hun Sen government and the United Nations over the establishment of a tribunal under Cambodian law with international participation to bring to justice those suspected of responsibility for gross human rights violations during the period of Khmer Rouge rule (1975–79) was drafted but not signed. At the end of December, debate on the draft law to establish the tribunal began in the National Assembly, but the law raised serious human rights concerns, casting doubt on the government's resolve. (*see NCH #17*).

[Sources: HRW, *World Report 2001* (2000) xxiv-xxv, 166, 176-77, 182; AI, *Report 2001* (2001) 62-63.]

CHAD

No one was brought to justice for serious human rights violations, including thousands of extrajudicial executions, which occurred under the government of Hissène Habré (1982-90). In 1992 a government Commission of Inquiry had identified the Direction de la Documentation et de la Sécurité (DDS; Directorate for Documentation and Security), which was directly responsible to Habré, as one of the main units responsible for violations. In November, a judge investigating several cases ruled that he did not have jurisdiction to try the cases because a special court to try Habré and his collaborators, provided for in a 1993 law, had never been established.

[Source: AI, *Report 2001* (2001) 67.]

On 3 February 2000, a Senegalese court, acting at the request of Chadian victims, indicted Habré on charges of complicity with torture and ordered his arrest. Habré had taken refuge in Senegal in 1991. On 4 July 2000, a court of appeal dismissed the indictment on the grounds that it could not prosecute crimes committed in Chad. An appeal against this verdict to the Court of Cassation was pending at the end of 2000. The Chadian Association of Victims of Political Repression and Crime (AVCRP) compiled information on each of 792 victims of the repression in 1982-90. The 1992 commission report had accused Habré's regime of 40,000 political murders and systematic torture. With many ranking officials of the current Idriss Déby government, including Déby himself, involved in Habré's crimes, however, the government did not pursue Habré's extradition from Senegal (*see NCH #17*).

[Sources: HRW, *World Report 2001* (2000) xxv-xxvi, 7, 482-84; AI, *Report 2001* (2001) 18, 67, 208-9.]

CHILE

In May 2000 right-wing parliamentarians (unsuccessfully) tried to persuade the Ricardo Lagos government to withdraw a Ministry of Education primary school history textbook which covered the 1973 military coup. They complained about nineteen "tendentious" or "biased" assertions, including use of the word "coup" instead of "pronouncement" to describe the events of 11 September 1973 and the statement that the 1925 Constitution recognized a "lay society" instead of freedom of religion.

[Source: HRW, *Chile: Progress Stalled; Setbacks in Freedom of Expression Reform* (March 2001)].

On 8 August 2000, the Chilean Supreme Court stripped former President (1973–90) Augusto Pinochet of his parliamentary immunity (*desafuero*). Under the 1980 constitution, Pinochet had awarded himself the non-elected post of lifetime senator when he stepped down as President in 1990. The *desafuero* allowed judge Juan Guzmán Tapia in December to prosecute Pinochet for his role in the so-called Caravana de la Muerte (Caravan of Death, a helicopter flight during which 75 suspected leftists were dumped into the sea in October 1973). The court held that, since the fact of death for several of the “disappeared” in the case could not be established, it was impossible to be sure that they had been killed during the 1973–78 period covered by the amnesty law, and the amnesty was therefore found to be inapplicable. The Supreme Court overturned the order, ruling that the judge had failed to interrogate Pinochet before issuing the order, and that mental and physical tests should be carried out to determine his fitness to stand trial before the interrogation could take place. On 7 February 2001, a previously unpublished document directly incriminating Pinochet in the “Caravana” case was published by the electronic newspaper *El Mostrador*. The presentation included a handwritten note by Pinochet, proposing ways of hiding one of the executions. By the end of 2000, a total of 202 criminal complaints had been filed against Pinochet in Chile. In June 2000, members of the Mesa de Diálogo, a dialogue set up in 1999 to deal with the issue of “disappearances” during 1973–90, signed a declaration. For the first time, the armed forces acknowledged “the responsibility of agents of organizations of the State” for grave human rights violations during 1973–90. In July Congress passed legislation to grant anonymity to those who came forward with information on the location of the remains of the “disappeared” (*see NCH #14, #17*). *See also Argentina; United States*. [Sources: HRW, *World Report 2001* (2000) xxv-xxvi, 92, 99, 109-11, 482, IOC, 02/01: 99; AI, *Report 2001* (2001) 10, 18, 68-69, 257.]

In November 2000, several Mapuche indigenous organizations filed a libel suit against historian Sergio Villalobos for a newspaper article which they called defamatory for the honor of the Mapuche people. The article, “*Araucania: Errores Ancestrales*” (Araucania: Ancestral Errors), appearing in the 14 May 2000 edition of *El Mercurio*, dealt with events that took place during the sixteenth- and seventeenth-century colonization of the Araucanians (the ancestors of the Mapuche) by the Spanish conquistadores.

[Source: HRW, *Chile: Progress Stalled; Setbacks in Freedom of Expression Reform* (March 2001)].

In December 2000, a Chilean judge upheld the conviction of Alejandra Matus on contempt charges, but in July 2001 the Santiago Appeals Court annulled the arrest order against her. Her book is still prohibited (*see NCH #14*).

[Sources include: IOC 1/00: 92; PEN, *Centre to Centre*, 2001, no.1: 2; HRW, *World Report 2000*

(1999) 112, 114, 2001 (2000) 527.]

CHINA

In February 1998 Tohti Tunyaz (pen name: Tohti Muzart), an Uighur historian and writer graduated from the Central Institute of Nationalities history department, Beijing (1984), later assigned to work for the China National Standing Committee, and studying for a Ph.D. in Uighur history and ethnic relations at Tokyo University, Japan (1996–), was arrested when returning to China to visit his relatives. Charged in April 1998 with “inciting national disunity” and “stealing state secrets for foreign persons” (later “illegally acquiring”), he was tried, and after an appeal, sentenced by the Supreme Court in February 2000 to eleven years’ imprisonment and two years’ deprivation of political rights for reasons believed to be linked to his historical research on Uighur history (which also included one published book and several papers). He is probably detained in Urumchi, Xinjiang (*see NCH #17, #22*).

[Sources: AI, *China: Gross Violations of Human Rights in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region* (1999); PEN, *Ifex Alert*, 9 May 2001, & *Rapid Action Network*, 3 October 2001.]

The central government’s Liaison Office warned Hong Kong Catholics to keep celebrations “low key” over the canonization of 120 victims of the 1900 Boxer Rebellion.

[Source: HRW, *World Report 2001* (2000) 187.]

In September 2000, relatives of 1989 Tiananmen Square victims filed a civil complaint in a New York court against Li Peng, head of the National People’s Congress in Beijing (and in 1989 Chinese premier), for human rights violations, including crimes against humanity and torture.

[Sources: HRW, *World Report 2001* (2000) 166; AI, *Report 2001* (2001) 70.]

A blacklist of eleven banned journalists and academics, given to senior editors in Guangdong on 12 December 2000, included the names of historians Liu Junning and Qian Liqun. Earlier, in April, Liu’s writings, frequently on issues of political and economic reform, had been banned from appearing in official publications and branded as “objectionable bourgeois-liberal” by the state propaganda department.

[Source: IOC 03/00: 91, 02/01: 99.]

In December 2000, riots took place in Nanjing during the commemoration of the 1937 Nanjing massacre. *See also Japan*.

[Source: IOC 02/01: 11.]

On 27 December 2000, 1989 student leader Jiang Qisheng (?1948–) was sentenced to four years' imprisonment. He had been detained in the run-up to the tenth anniversary of the Tiananmen massacre (1999). In April 1999 he had written and distributed an open letter, advocating a reassessment of the 1989 events (*see NCH #17*).

[Sources: PEN, *Ifex Alert*, 8 June 1999, 23 January 2001].

On 5 January 2001 *The Tiananmen Papers*, a book translated by Andrew Nathan and Perry Link, was published in New York. It allegedly contained secret CCP documents from the period April-June 1989 concerning the Tiananmen massacre of 4 June 1989. They were collected and smuggled abroad by Zhang Liang (a pseudonym), who said he was a CCP member.

[Sources include: IOC 02/01: 100.]

On 13 February 2001 the trial of Huang Qi, founder of a website with information on the 1989 Tiananmen massacre, began in Chengdu, Sichuan. In August 2001 he was secretly tried, but no verdict was released (*see NCH #17*).

[Sources: IOC 02/01: 101; AI, *Report 2001* (2001) 71; HRW, *Ifex Alert Update*, 9 February 2001.]

CROATIA

The new government of Ivica Racan made immediate efforts to ensure fuller cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. The fate and whereabouts of thousands of people who “disappeared” during the war years remained unknown. Despite large-scale exhumations, mostly of mass graves in eastern Slavonia, more than 1,500 Croats were still unaccounted for. Some 600 Croatian Serbs were still missing since operations Flash and Storm in 1995. The slowness with which cases were resolved was largely due to the lack of progress in negotiations between the government commissions on missing persons of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Croatia, which met twice during 2000. *See also Bosnia-Herzegovina; Yugoslavia.*

[Source: AI, *Report 2001* (2001) 83-84.]

CUBA

In April 2000 Orestes Rodríguez Horrúitiner (*see NCH #17*) was conditionally released.

[Source: AI, *Report 2001* (2001) 86.]

EAST TIMOR

With the support of the UN Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET), a Special Crimes Unit was established to investigate the hundreds of extrajudicial executions and other human rights violations by the Indonesian security forces and pro-Indonesian militia during 1999. UNTAET also provided assistance to Indonesia in its investigations into crimes committed in East Timor during 1999, but. In both cases, progress was slow.

[Source: AI, *Report 2001* (2001) 89–90, 127.]

On 15 September 2000, the United Nations announced that it would reinvestigate the killing of five Australian reporters in Balibo on 16 October 1975 in the run-up to Indonesia’s full-scale invasion of the former Portuguese colony of East Timor. They had gone into East Timor to examine rumours about an impending Indonesian attack. According to several sources, they were executed by the Indonesian army. The case of Roger East, a free-lance Australian journalist, executed during the actual invasion on 7 December 1975, may also be opened.

[Source: IOC 6/00: 173.]

EGYPT

In January 2001 the Ministry of Culture incinerated 6,000 books of poetry by medieval poet Abu Nawas, because they allegedly “violated public decency” and “threatened moral norms” by celebrating homosexuality, revelry and carousing.

[Source: IOC 02/01: 103–4.]

Islamist groups failed to publicly revoke death threats issued in previous years against civilians whom they considered political and ideological enemies, including Nasr Hamed Abu Zeid (*see NCH #6, #14*).

[Source: AI, *Report 2001* (2001) 94.]

EL SALVADOR

In September 2000, the work of the non-governmental Asociación Pro-Búsqueda de Niñas y Niños

Desaparecidos (Association for the Search for Disappeared Children) suffered a setback when its proposal that the Legislative Assembly create a commission to investigate the whereabouts of children who “disappeared” during the armed conflict (1980–92) was rejected. The army, which had initially expressed its willingness to participate, changed its position. The commission would have had power to summon people to provide information and would have had access to archives which were not open to Pro-Búsqueda. In October 2000, efforts to end impunity for past human rights violations, including massacres in which hundreds of civilians were killed, suffered a serious setback when the Supreme Court of Justice declared the 1993 General Amnesty Law to be constitutional. The judicial authorities failed to implement the recommendations of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

[Source: AI, *Report 2001* (2001) 94–95.]

ETHIOPIA

The South African government did not accede to a request by the Ethiopian government for the extradition of former Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam (who ruled in the period 1974–91). Mengistu visited South Africa from Zimbabwe, where he was living in exile, for medical treatment in late 1999. The trials of 46 officials of the former Dergue government led by Mengistu proceeded slowly on charges including genocide and extrajudicial executions. Some trials began of more than 2,200 other former officials, most of whom had been held since 1991 and were facing lesser charges (*see NCH #17*).

[Sources: HRW, *World Report 2001* (2000) 77; AI, *Report 2001* (2001) 98, 100.]

On 22 December 2000, up to two hundred Oromo students from Addis Ababa University were beaten by police when they were arrested after a fight between Oromo and other students, which started after a Tigrayan student had presented a paper in his sociology class about the Oromo which offended Oromo students. Among the arrested was fourth-year history student Badada Bayene. Up to 150 students, including Badada, were taken into police custody and were reportedly at risk of torture. Later they were released (*see NCH #20, #20[ii]*).

[Sources: AI, *Urgent Action 07/01* (12 & 19 January 2001); AI, *Report 2001* (2001) 100.]

In May 2001 Garuma Bekele was released (*see NCH #10, 12, 14, 17*).

[Source: HRW, *Ifex Alert*, 29 May 2001.]

EUROPEAN UNION

See United States.

FRANCE

Pressure grew on the Paris police authorities to grant access to its archives on the October 1961 massacre by police officers of Algerians at a peaceful demonstration in Paris during the Algerian war of independence (1954–62). Disagreement persisted about the number of demonstrators killed; figures varied between 32 and 200 (*see NCH #6, #14*). In October 2000 twelve public figures appealed to the authorities to acknowledge and condemn torture committed during the war. Generals Jacques Massu and Paul Aussaresses both admitted their direct involvement in torture and extrajudicial executions during the war. In May 2001 Aussaresses claimed that details of these abuses were regularly transmitted to François Mitterand, minister of justice at the time. He also reported that the government acquiesced in the use of torture during the 1957 Battle of Algiers.

[Sources: AI, *Report 2001* (2001) 21–22, 103; IOC 3/01: 106.]

See Haiti.

GUATEMALA

In March 2000 the new President Alfonso Portillo declared a national day in honour of the estimated 200,000 victims of Guatemala's civil conflict (1960–96), ratified the Inter-American Convention on Forced Disappearances, and admitted state responsibility for past violations. Impunity continued to prevail, however, for most human rights violations perpetrated during the conflict. Portillo also called the 1998 murder of Juan Gerardi and its botched investigation a “national embarrassment”, publicly committing himself to bringing those responsible to justice. Witnesses, prosecutors, and judges continued to receive threats related to the case. In October a long-promised report on the case was made public by Portillo but provided no new information. In June 2001 three army officers and a priest were sentenced to between twenty and thirty years' imprisonment in the Gerardi case (*see NCH #10, 13, 14, 17*).

[Sources: HRW, *World Report 2001* (2000) 93, 126–27; AI, *Report 2001* (2001) 113–14; AI, *Guatemala: Human Rights Community under Siege* (2001).]

In April 2000 a lawyer filed a suit against Nobel Peace Prize winner (1992) Rigoberta Menchú for treason for filing her case (*see NCH #17*) in Spain, a charge that carries a ten to twenty year prison term. General Ríos Montt, former president, founder of President Portillo's political party, and current president of Congress, was among those named in Menchú's suit as being responsible for genocide and torture during the period when he ruled Guatemala (March 1982–August 1983). In December the Spanish High Court ruled that it did not currently have jurisdiction to judge the crimes. The plaintiffs immediately appealed; judgment on their appeal was pending at the end of 2000.

[Sources: HRW, *World Report 2001* (2000) 128; AI, *Report 2001* (2001) 114.]

In May 2000, a database of 650,428 names, apparently compiled by military intelligence during the 1980s, was made public by a government official. Guatemalan analysts believed the coded number against each name contained information on their fate.

[Source: AI, *Report 2001* (2001) 113–14.]

In May 2000, the Centre for Legal Action in Human Rights (CALDH) assisted survivors of ten massacres to file genocide charges before the Guatemalan courts against former Head of State General Romeo Lucas García (1978–82) and several officials from his administration.

[Source: AI, *Report 2001* (2001) 114.]

In September 2000, gunmen entered the offices of the Families of the Detained and Disappeared of Guatemala (FAMDEGUA) and HIJOS (children of the “disappeared” who want their parents' fate clarified), forcing three staff members to the floor at gunpoint. The gunmen repeatedly threatened to kill the three. Office equipment and case records, including some concerning the 1982 Dos Erres massacre (in which 350 indigenous villagers were killed), were stolen.

[Sources: HRW, *World Report 2001* (2000); AI, *Report 2001* (2001) 113–14.]

See also United States.

HAITI

In November 1999 a French court dismissed a lawsuit filed by several Haitians against former dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier (ruled 1971–86), exiled in France since 1986. The suit accused him of crimes against humanity, but the court ruled that French law does not cover such crimes committed prior to 1994, except those that occurred during World War II (*see NCH #17*).

[Source: HRW, *World Report 2001* (2000) 133.]

HONDURAS

In June 2000, the Supreme Court ruled that two amnesty decrees on a 1982 case of “disappearance” and torture were unconstitutional. In July the Attorney General’s Office, who had filed the appeal against the decrees in January 1999, requested clarification, as it considered that the decision should be applicable to all military personnel suspected of human rights violations in the 1980s, especially 184 “disappearance” cases, and not just one specific case.

[Source: AI, *Report 2001* (2001) 121–22.]

INDIA

In May 2000 a new one-man Commission of Inquiry was established to investigate the 1984 riots in Delhi which claimed the lives of more than 2,500 people, mainly Sikhs. In October the retired judge presiding over the inquiry was reported to have already received over 10,000 affidavits (sworn written statements). An earlier inquiry in 1985–86 had led to proceedings against only twenty of 147 police officers found guilty of dereliction of duty. In Mumbai (formerly Bombay), recommendations made by the Srikrishna Commission of Inquiry into riots which took place in the city in 1992–93 remained unimplemented.

[Source: AI, *Report 2001* (2001) 124.]

INDONESIA

In 2000 *The Year of Living Dangerously*, a banned 1982 film about the 1965–66 killings, was screened in a sold-out theatre at the Jakarta International Film Festival. The Censorship Board released the film on the condition that its single showing would be to a private audience only (*see NCH #10, under Singapore*).

[Source: IOC 1/01: 109.]

On 1 January 2000, President Abdurrahman Wahid changed the name of Irian Jaya into Papua to signal a change in policy toward the rebellious province. The name change had not been approved by parliament by the end of the year. In December 1999, tens of thousands of Papuans had celebrated the thirty-eighth anniversary of “West-Papuan independence” in ceremonies throughout the province, the

first time that such coordinated pro-independence demonstrations were permitted. In a compromise with the authorities, both the Indonesian and West Papuan flags were raised in the 1 December ceremonies. Tension and conflict over flag raisings continued throughout 2000.

[Source: HRW, *World Report 2001* (2000) 202–3.]

On 14 March 2000, President Wahid asked for forgiveness on television for the 1965–67 massacre of suspected members of the banned Partai Komunis Indonesia (PKI; Indonesian Communist Party), and for the role of his own organization, Nahdlatul Ulama, in the killings. He also called for repeal of a 1966 decree that instituted a pattern of discrimination against families of suspected PKI followers down to the third generation. The President’s call, however, was greeted with noisy street protests from some Muslim groups and, in August, the Majelis Permusyawaratan Rakyat (MPR; People’s Consultative Assembly) set aside the proposal, leaving the 1966 decree in effect.

[Source: HRW, *World Report 2001* (2000) 204–5.]

See also East Timor.

IRAN

On 5 August 2000, Iranian authorities arrested Hojatoleslam Hassan Youssefi Eshkevari, director of the Ali Shariati Research Center and author of several books on Iranian history, after his return from Berlin where he had presented a paper on “*Dictatorship and its History*”. He was held in solitary confinement for two months and tried in October before a Special Court for the Clergy on charges of apostasy and “being corrupt on earth”, which carry the death penalty. By the end of 2000, his sentence had not been made public.

[Sources: HRW, *World Report 2001* (2000) 354; PEN, *Centre to Centre*, 2001, no.2: 3, 4; AI, *Report 2001* (2001) 130; IOC 3/01: 109.]

IRAQ

On 27 March 2001, Kurdish scholar and historian Muhammad al-Ruzbayani (?1913–) was murdered with an axe in his Baghdad home. A former adviser on Kurdish affairs to the government, he was reportedly receiving financial support from institutions in Iraq’s Kurdish-controlled areas, a factor which may have aroused the suspicion of the authorities.

[Source: IOC 3/01: 110.]

ISRAEL

In December 1999, Human Rights Watch wrote to Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak to condemn the appointment of Major General (Reserves) Amos Yaron as director-general of Israel's Ministry of Defense, urging his immediate dismissal from public service. While serving as an Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) division commander during Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982, his actions and omissions facilitated the September massacre in the refugee camps of Sabra and Shatila in Beirut. In the massacre at least 700 to 800 Palestinians, and possibly as many as several thousand, were killed by the Israeli-armed and -allied Lebanese Phalange (*Kata'eb*) militia while nearby IDF personnel looked on and did nothing to stop the sixty-two-hour indiscriminate killings.

[Source: HRW, *World Report 2001* (2000) 360–61.]

See also Argentina, Lebanon, Palestinian Authority.

ITALY

On 9 November 2000, Francesco Storace, a member of the far-right Alleanza Nazionale, voted for the creation of a commission to evaluate history textbooks in the Lazio region. This sparked a controversy because professional historians feared that it was the first step in a process in which right-wing political parties would demand the end of the anti-Fascist paradigm, a condemnation of the Communist experience and a re-evaluation of Mussolini's Nazi-backed Republic of Salò (1943–45) which fought against the partisans after the 1943 armistice.

[Sources include: IOC 1/01: 13–14.]

JAPAN

Throughout the countries occupied by Japan during World War II, women forced into sexual slavery as “comfort women” were still campaigning for individual compensation from the Japanese government. (*see NCH #5, 6, 10, 14*).

[Source: HRW, *World Report 2001* (2000) 166.]

On 28 November 2000, a Chinese survivor of the 1937 Rape of Nanking, Xia Shuqin (?1929–), filed

a libel suit against two Japanese writers who claimed that Ms. Xia's testimony of the massacre was false. The writers, Higashinakano Osamu and Magsumura Goshio, also claimed in their books, *"Thorough Review of Nanjing Massacre"* and *"Big Question in Nanjing Massacre"*, that all historical data about the massacre are not true. *See also: China.*

[Source: IOC 1/01: 104.]

In March–April 2001 South Korea, North Korea, China and Taiwan protested against a Japanese high school history textbook before and after its approval by Japan's Ministry of Education. The textbook reportedly glossed over Japan's militaristic past. The original draft of the textbook, written by the Japanese Society for Textbook Revision, a group of nationalistic historians including Nobukatsu Fujioka, reportedly described the "unopposed" annexation of the Korean peninsula (1910) as "necessary for Japan's security" and referred to the 1937 Nanjing Massacre as "nothing like a holocaust". No reference was made to the question of "comfort women". The approved version, containing more than 130 revisions, reportedly acknowledged that an "armed struggle" took place in Korea and had removed the attempt to downplay the Nanjing Massacre. Controversial sections were left in, including a description of Japanese soldiers braving "death with honour". In a joint declaration, 900 historians condemned the textbook as a distortion of history.

[Source: IOC 3/01: 102. Also consulted: *BBC News Online* (WWW-text; London) 2001: 15 March, 3 April, 4 April, 9 April]

See also: General (Ienaga Saburo).

KAZAKHSTAN

On 6 July 2000, retired historian and dissident Karishal Asanov wrote an article criticising President Nursultan Nazarbayev in the opposition weekly *SolDat*, printed in Russia. Although the issue containing the article was seized by Kazakh customs police and never distributed within Kazakhstan, a trial for defamation of the president was started against Asanov and *SolDat*'s chief editor in March 2001. On 3 April Asanov was acquitted for lack of evidence. The chief editor was sentenced to one year' imprisonment, but immediately pardoned under a presidential amnesty. The court ordered that the 6 July print run of *SolDat* should be burned. In 1992–93 Asanov had already been charged with insulting the president. After a trial, retrial and appeal, he had been acquitted.

[Sources include: HRW, *World Report 2001* (2000) 300–301; AI, *Report*, 1993: 178, 1994: 181; IOC 3/01: 111.]

LEBANON

Human Rights Watch sent a letter to Lebanese President Emile Lahoud inquiring about legal or administrative measures that the government of Lebanon initiated or was contemplating with respect to investigation and prosecution of Lebanese citizens who were known or suspected to have had direct responsibility for the September 1982 Sabra and Shatila killings. *See also Israel.*

[Source: HRW, *World Report 2001* (2000) 360.]

In January 2000 the government set up an official Commission of Inquiry into the fate of those missing and kidnapped during the civil war (1975–90). A committee for the Relatives of the Kidnapped and Missing held vigils near the premises of the weekly cabinet meetings outside the Beirut museum. In July the commission made public the conclusions of its report stating that none of the “disappeared” was alive in Lebanon and recommending that those missing for at least four years should be considered dead. Lists with names of “disappeared” were sent to Israel and Syria, who denied all knowledge of the whereabouts of those on the lists.

[Source: AI, *Report 2001* (2001) 156.]

On 23 May 2000 local residents stormed the Khiam prison, which since its opening in 1985 had been a joint enterprise of Israel and the South Lebanon Army. Within days, the facility was transformed into an informal museum, drawing thousands of Lebanese who toured the cramped cells and solitary confinement rooms, and read the names of torturers which were prominently posted on a large handwritten list near the entry gate.

[Source: HRW, *World Report 2001* (2000) 351.]

In September and October 2000, at least 90 suspected members or supporters of the unauthorized Lebanese Forces (LF) party were arrested after a church mass and demonstration in Mount Lebanon to commemorate the death of Bashir al-Gemayel, President–elect and LF founder killed in 1982. Most were detained for a few hours or days and released without charge.

[Source: AI, *Report 2001* (2001) 155.]

See also Syria.

LIBERIA

In 2000, no progress was made by the authorities in bringing to justice the perpetrators of massive human rights abuses carried out during the civil war (1990–97) or later, including in September 1998 against members of the Krahn ethnic group.

[Source: AI, *Report 2001* (2001) 159.]

In late March 2000, James Torh, the executive director of a children’s rights organization who had been detained and charged with sedition for a speech he had made about the need for a truth commission to be established in Liberia to investigate violations committed during the civil war (*see NCH #17*), was released on bail after [three or five] days and fled the country.

[Sources: HRW, *World Report 2001* (2000) 16, 57; AI, *Report 2001* (2001) 159.]

MAURITANIA

The government of President Maaouiya Ould Sid’Ahmed Taya, which came to power in December 1984 following a military coup, has consistently prevented investigations into widespread human rights violations, including political killings, “disappearances” and torture, during the late 1980s and early 1990s.

[Source: AI, *Report 2001* (2001) 167–68.]

MEXICO

The full circumstances surrounding the massacre of dozens of students on Tlatelolco Square, Mexico City, on 2 October 1968 and other political killings remained unclear.

[Source: AI, *Report 2001* (2001) 170.]

MOROCCO

In July 2000, the arbitration commission, established in 1999 to decide on compensation for the victims of “disappearance” and arbitrary detention and their families, announced that it had examined 148 of the 5,849 claims. However, the authorities failed to clarify the cases of several hundred who “disappeared” between the mid-1960s and early 1990s, most of them Sahrawis, or to acknowledge the deaths of some 70 Sahrawis who “disappeared” in secret detention between 1976 and 1991.

[Source: AI, *Report 2001* (2001) 171–72.]

In October 2000, Moroccan activists protested at Tazmamert prison (officially closed in 1991), carrying candles and red roses to commemorate those who died under horrific conditions at the secret facility in the 1970s and 1980s. The demonstrators were not permitted access to the prison itself. They called for the trial of those responsible for “disappearances”, deaths in custody, and arbitrary detention, and the return to the families of the bodies of those perished.

[Sources: HRW, *World Report 2001* (2000) 350; AI, *Report 2001* (2001) 172.]

On 2 December 2000, Communications Minister Mohamed Achaari announced a permanent ban on three weekly newspapers after they published a letter written by exiled opposition leader Mohamed Basri, in which he directly implicated Prime Minister Abderrahmane Youssoufi in an attempted coup against King Hassan II in 1972.

[Sources: IOC 1/01: 112; AI, *Report 2001* (2001) 172.]

MYANMAR

In July 1999 history teacher Ma Khin Khin Leh (?1965–) was detained with eighteen others in Pegu, on suspicion that they were planning a prodemocracy march scheduled for 19 July (Martyrs’ Day, commemorating the 1947 assassination of General Aung San, independence leader and father of opposition politician and Nobel Peace Prize winner Daw Aung San Suu Kyi). The local Military Intelligence arrested her and her three-year old daughter after officials from the State Peace and Development Council (military junta) attempted to detain her husband, Kyaw Wunna, a political activist and one of the organizers of the march, but could not locate him. The child was released after five days’ detention. In December 1999, a Special Court sentenced Ma Khin Khin Leh to life imprisonment. In January 2000, she was transferred to an unknown location (*see NCH #18*).

[Source: AAAS, Human Rights Action Network, *BU0009.Daw*, 5 December 2000.]

NIGERIA

The seven-member Human Rights Violations Commission chaired by retired judge Chukwudifu Oputa, appointed by President Obasanjo in June 1999 to investigate human rights abuses between 1966 and May 1999, began hearing evidence from witnesses. From the more than 11,000 petitions received, it selected about 150 of the most serious cases for public hearing in sessions in five cities. Witnesses described killings and torture by agents of the military government of General Sani

Abacha (1993–98). Security officials denied the most serious accusations or refused to appear before the commission. In December former head of state General Ibrahim Babangida and former military and police security chiefs obtained a High Court injunction restraining the commission from compelling them to appear before it, on the grounds that their personal security would be at risk (*see NCH #17*).

[Sources: HRW, *World Report 2001* (2000) 60; AI, *Report 2001* (2001) 182, 184.]

NORTH KOREA

In April 2000, North Korea and Japan resumed talks, including on key issues such as Japanese compensation for its occupation of the Korean peninsula (1910–45). North Korea also returned the remains of 26 United States servicemen lost in action during the Korean war (1950–53).

[Source: AI, *Report 2001* (2001) 148.]

See also Japan; South Korea.

PAKISTAN

On 14 May 2000 it was reported that dr. Younis Shaikh was imprisoned on blasphemy charges. He had asserted that Mohammed was not a Muslim until the age of 40; that his parents were not Muslims; that his first marriage, at 25, was made without an Islamic marriage contract; and that, therefore, he had never removed his underarm hair or been circumcised. He faced the death penalty.

[Source: IOC 3/01: 114.]

See also Bangladesh.

PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY

Although the High Court of Justice ordered the immediate release of Abd al-Sattar Qassim on 11 July 2000, he remained in detention until 28 July (*see NCH #15, 17*).

[Sources: HRW, *World Report 2001* (2000) 353, 358. 396; AI, *Report 2001* (2001) 187.]

See also Israel.

PERU

In October 2000, the Alberto Fujimori government proposed to extend from 1995 to 2000 two 1995 amnesty laws granting immunity for those who had committed human rights violations since 1980. The proposal was refused by the opposition and members of civil society.

[Source: AI, *Report 2001* (2001) 190.]

POLAND

President Aleksander Kwasniewski acknowledged Polish responsibility for the massacre of about 1,600 Jews in Jedwabne on 10 July 1941. Cardinal Jozef Glemp issued an apology. The massacre, formerly ascribed to the Nazis, was the subject of new research by Jan Tomasz Gross (1947–), a Polish political science lecturer at New York University.

[Source: IOC 3/01: 76–85.]

RUSSIA

Memorial, a leading human rights group investigating past and present abuses, continued to face difficulties while working inside Chechnya.

[Source: HRW, *World Report 2001* (2000) 318.]

On 28 August 2000, masked police commandos stormed the office of the Glasnost Foundation, a human rights organization, without any apparent reason. The police carrying out the raid taunted Sergei Grigoryants, historian and head of the organization, with the knowledge that he was a former dissident (*see NCH #5*).

[Sources: HRW, *World Report 2001* (2000) 318; AI, *Report 2001* (2001) 200.]

RWANDA

During 2000, an estimated 125,000 people continued to be held in detention, the overwhelming majority on charges of participation in the 1994 genocide. At least 2,283 people were tried and at least 140 sentenced to death, some after unfair trials, but there were no judicial executions. Trials of genocide suspects also continued at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in Tanzania,

where 46 leading genocide suspects were held. Since the launch of genocide trials in 1996, only 4,875 suspects had been tried. In Switzerland, ex-mayor Fulgence Niyonteze, was tried for war crimes. This was the first trial of a Rwandese genocide suspect under the national jurisdiction of a foreign country. In May 2000 the Organization of African Unity's International Panel of Eminent Personalities submitted the report of its investigation into the 1994 genocide and made recommendations to prevent conflict in the region.

[Source: AI, *Report 2001* (2001) 202–4.]

SAUDI ARABIA

Among the discriminatory measures taken against Shia Muslims was the discouragement of the traditional annual Shia mourning procession of Ashura.

[Source: HRW, *World Report 2001* (2000) 403–4.]

Saudi Arabia continued to provide refuge and financial support to Idi Amin, the exiled Ugandan leader whose regime (1971–79) was responsible for a reign of terror. Invited by the late King Faisal, Amin has been protected by government-paid Saudi guards since 1979.

[Source: HRW, *World Report 2001* (2000) 405.]

SENEGAL

See Chad.

SIERRA LEONE

Following the hostage crisis in May 2000, in which rebel forces captured UN peace-keeping troops, activity towards establishing a Truth and Reconciliation Commission, mandated to be established within 90 days of the signing of the Lomé Peace Accord (July 1999), was officially frozen by the United Nations Office of Human Rights (*see NCH #17*). On 14 August 2000, United Nations Security Council Resolution 1315 authorized to set up a Special Court for Sierra Leone with a mix of local and foreign prosecutors and judges to try crimes against humanity, war crimes, and other serious violations of international humanitarian law. The tribunal will effectively overturn the July 1999 amnesty and make possible the prosecution of those responsible for crimes during the civil war

(1991–99).

[Sources: HRW, *World Report 2001* (2000) xxiv, 23, 71–72; AI, *Report 2001* (2001) 212]

SOMALIA

In no part of the collapsed state of Somalia were public officials known to have been prosecuted for human rights violations, past or present. Several held public office now, including some prominent alleged war criminals of the former Siad Barre government (1969–91) who were nominated to the transitional national assembly by their clans.

[Source: AI, *Report 2001* (2001) 219.]

SOUTH AFRICA

Further evidence emerged about past human rights violations during trial proceedings against the former head of the chemical and biological warfare program, dr. Wouter Basson, and in hearings held by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) amnesty committee. By the end of 1999, the TRC amnesty committee had granted amnesty in 568 cases and refused amnesty in 5,287 cases, while 815 matters remained outstanding (*see NCH #14*).

[Sources: HRW, *World Report 2001* (2000) 76; AI, *Report 2001* (2001) 219–21.]

See also Ethiopia.

SOUTH KOREA

Efforts were underway to hold the United States accountable for the No Gun Ri massacre in July 1950, during the Korean War (1950–53), in which some four hundred civilians may have died.

[Source: HRW, *World Report 2001* (2000) 166.].

See also Japan; North Korea.

SPAIN

See Guatemala.

SRI LANKA

Impunity for the perpetrators of human rights abuses remained a major concern during 2000. Victims who sought justice through the courts received death threats. The report of a presidential commission of inquiry, set up in 1998 to investigate complaints of past “disappearances” not examined by three earlier commissions, was handed over to president Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga in late August 2000. The implementation of the recommendations of previous commissions and of the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, which visited the country in 1999, proceeded slowly. (*see NCH #14, #17*).

[Source: AI, *Report 2001* (2001) 225.]

SURINAME

On 31 October 2000, after the government of President Ronald Venetiaan took power, the Court of Justice ordered the prosecution of former military leader Desi Bouterse and others in connection with the so-called 1982 December murders, when fifteen journalists, academics and labour leaders were extrajudicially executed at Fort Zeelandia in Paramaribo. At the end of 2000, the Public Prosecutor’s Office was working on a summons to start a preliminary judicial investigation. Bouterse denied charges that he presided over the murders, saying that he took responsibility only because he was head of government and the military at the time. Also unresolved remained the case of the 1986 massacre of civilians at the village of Moiwana.

[Source: AI, *Report 2001* (2001) 228.]

SYRIA

Despite the presidential succession, the fate of hundreds of people who “disappeared” in connection with their involvement with the Muslim Brotherhood in the late 1970s and 1980s remained unknown. Unresolved remained the massacre of possibly as many as 1,100 unarmed prisoners at Tadmor in 1980 and the military assault on the city of Hama in 1982 in which thousands were killed. Among the 99 signatories of a September 2000 statement in the Lebanese newspaper *al-Safir* calling for the lifting of martial law (in place since 1963) and the release of political prisoners was researcher and historian Abdullah Hanna (1932–). From Beirut, a Lebanese member of parliament, Boutros Harb,

called for an “opening of the files” on some two hundred Lebanese known or suspected of being imprisoned in Syria, some of whom had been detained without trial for over fifteen years.

[Sources: HRW, *World Report 2001* (2000) 409–10; IOC 6/00: 189; AI, *Report 2001* (2001) 233–34.]

SWITZERLAND

See Rwanda.

TAIWAN

On 3 March 2001 Japanese cartoonist Yoshinori Kobayashi was barred entry following publication of a non-fiction comic in which he said that comfort women in Taiwan had volunteered to associate with occupying Japanese forces as a way out of poverty. Yoshinori was censured on the grounds that he had “insulted national dignity”.

[Source: IOC 3/01: 118–19.]

See also Japan.

THAILAND

In May 2000, after pressure from victims’ families, the government released a classified 605-page Defense Ministry report on the army’s shooting of prodemocracy demonstrators in Bangkok in May 1992, in which at least 52 people were killed. A summary had been made public in June 1999. The government censored about ten per cent of the report, however, and the May 92 Relatives Committee, an organization of families of 38 people whose fate has still not been clarified, demanded that the remaining material be revealed. The committee also called for the release of two other official reports on the incident. In June 2000 the government released a largely uncensored version, but calls to bring to justice those found responsible remained unanswered.

[Sources: HRW, *World Report 2001* (2000) 166, 223; AI, *Report 2001* (2001) 240.]

TUNISIA

On 23 October 2000, a double issue of the French weekly *Jeune Afrique—L'Intelligent* was impounded, presumably because President Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali took umbrage at a lengthy profile, “*The Tunisian Sakharov*”, of historian and human rights activist Mohamed Talbi (?1920–), specialist in medieval islamic history, former dean of Tunis University, and author of works on the medieval historian Ibn Khaldun.

[Sources include: IOC 1/01: 124.]

TURKEY

Reporter Julide Kalic of the daily *Yeni Evrense* was beaten and interrogated after photographing a police attack on a remembrance day meeting for Haci Bektas Veli (?1248–?1337), a dervish and scholar who founded a Sufi order. She was driven to a far-off police station and her film was confiscated.

[Source: IOC 6/00: 191.]

Officials put pressure on the Microsoft management to modify an article in its digital encyclopedia *Encarta*, that calls the 1915 murder of thousands of Armenians “the first genocide of the twentieth century”. The authors, including professor of political science and Armenian history Ronald Grigor Suny, were asked to “tone down” the article and remove the word “genocide”.

[Source: IOC 6/00: 191.]

In October 2000, officials warned the United States that it risked losing the use of a military base for launching air patrols over northern Iraq if the American House of Representatives approved a resolution accusing Turkey of genocide against Armenians in 1915. The resolution was not put to the vote.

[Sources include: IOC 6/00: 192.]

On 23 October 2000, Istanbul State Security Court charged Akin Birdal, vice president of the International Federation for Human Rights and former president of the Turkish Association for Human Rights, with “incitement to hatred” for his criticism of Turkey’s stance on the 1915 genocide of the Armenians. Birdal, who had also called for Turkey to apologise for the events, was accused of having openly insulted “Turkishness”.

[Source: IOC 1/01: 125, 3/01: 119.]

On 22 December 2000, it was reported that the Istanbul State Security Court ordered the confiscation

of all copies of the book “*Famous Kurdish Scientists and Intellectuals of the First Generation*”, by Mehmet Kemal Isik, describing it as “separatist propaganda”.

[Source: IOC 02/01: 120.]

On 27 March 2001, plainclothes police officers arrested archeology student Emrullah Karagoz (?1978–) and two others, and held them at the Diyarbakir Police Headquarters, where they were at risk of torture. Karagoz was previously detained in June 1999 and November 2000 for political reasons. Plainclothes police apparently raided his house several times shortly before Newroz (the Kurdish New Year which is celebrated on 21 March) (*see NCH #21*).

[Source: AI, *Urgent Action 22/01* (28 March 2001).]

TURKMENISTAN

President Saparmurad Niazov ordered that the entire printing of a new Turkmen history textbook be burned.

[Source: HRW, *World Report 2001* (2000) 331.]

UGANDA

See Saudi Arabia.

UNITED KINGDOM

On 27 March 2000, the Bloody Sunday Inquiry—a new tribunal of inquiry into the British army killings of fourteen people in Derry on 30 January 1972—opened. It was expected to last at least two years. The original tribunal, finding the army not liable for any of the deaths, was discredited. In November 2000, hundreds of soldiers were arguing that their safety was compromised by the disclosure of their identities, and that they should not have to give evidence in Londonderry. Although the decision of the inquiry chairman to disclose their names was overturned by the courts, the men were worried that their faces could be linked with previously leaked details (*see NCH #10, 14, 17*).

[Sources: HRW, *World Report 2001* (2000) 334; IOC 1/01: 103; AI, *Report 2001* (2001) 255.]

UNITED STATES

In June 2000, the National Security Archive, an NGO in Washington, released a report entitled *The Guatemalan Military: What the U.S. Files Reveal*. The report named 232 Guatemalan officers and contained information on their activities and command responsibilities, thus assisting NGOs and victims in their efforts to identify and bring to justice those responsible for gross abuses during Guatemala's civil war (1960–96). *See also Guatemala*.

[Source: HRW, *World Report 2001* (2000) 130.]

In accordance with a 1999 declassification directive, some 7,500 confidential documents on Chile in the 1968–90 period from the State and Defense Departments and other United States (US) agencies, including the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), were released by mid-2000 (*see NCH #17*). Hundreds of documents, believed to reveal details of US covert action in Chile prior to and following the 1970 election of the Salvador Allende government and of US support for the military junta, were held back on the order of CIA director George Tenet. Of particular concern was the fact that the missing documents might contain information crucial to Pinochet's trial in Chile, such as the functioning of his secret police DINA, and the CIA's liaison with it. In September 2000, the Intelligence Authorization Act required the CIA to submit a report to Congress on its relations with Pinochet's military government (1973–90). In the report the CIA revealed that it had maintained a liaison with DINA head Manuel Contreras in 1974–77. Later in 2000, the CIA and other agencies were preparing for the release of 16,000 declassified documents related to the US role in Chile. *See also Chile*.

[Source: HRW, *World Report 2001* (2000) 98, 113.]

On 19 September 2000, it was reported that newly declassified government documents showed that at least in 1950–65 United States intelligence funded and directed a campaign to bring about a federal Europe.

[Source: IOC 6/00: 192.]

In March 2001 students at Brown University, Rhode Island, stole nearly 4,000 copies of the campus newspaper *Brown Daily Herald* in protest to its publication of an advertisement denouncing reparations for slavery, placed by the conservative columnist David Horowitz. Later in April, when Princeton's *Daily Princetonian* ran the advert opposite an editorial describing Horowitz's views as "racist", the writer withdrew his payment pending an apology, describing himself as the victim of a "left-wing witch hunt". *See also General*.

[Source: IOC 3/01: 120.]

On 6 June 2001 Random House agreed to stop distributing copies of a memoir by Bryan Magee, *Confessions of a Philosopher: A Personal Journey Through Western Philosophy from Plato to Popper* (1998). In the book Magee accused lecturer Ralph Schoenman of being a CIA operative who had been planted to spy on philosopher Bertrand Russell, a noted 1960s opponent of the Vietnam war.

[Source: IOC 3/01: 121.]

See also Chile, China, Guatemala, South Korea, Turkey.

URUGUAY

In 2000, after President Jorge Battle took office in March, steps were taken to establish the fate of people who “disappeared” or were tortured under military governments between 1973 and 1985. In August the government established a Comisión para la Paz (Peace Commission) to clarify the fate of the “disappeared”. However, the 1986 Expiry Law, which granted exemption from punishment to all police and military personnel who committed human rights violations for political motives or to obey orders before 1 March 1985, prevented the perpetrators from being brought to justice. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights stated that the Expiry Law violated the American Convention on Human Rights.

[Source: AI, *Report 2001* (2001) 261.]

VENEZUELA

Of some 300 cases of human rights abuses registered by local non-governmental organizations between 1985 and 1999, only 40 had been resolved as a result of judicial proceedings.

[Source: AI, *Report 2001* (2001) 265.]

VIETNAM

In December 1999, members of the Buddhist Hoa Hoa sect in An Giang province clashed several times with police, who reportedly blocked a pilgrimage to their prophet’s birthplace, and detained and beat

some adherents.

[Source: HRW, *World Report 2001* (2000) 229.]

In 2000 Nguyen Dinh Huy (*see NCH #6, #17*) continued to be held in prison.

[Source: AI, *Report 2001* (2001) 266.]

In March 2000 the Ministry of Culture and Information ordered the confiscation and withdrawal from circulation of a book by Hanoi author Bui Ngoc Tan. The only book to be banned during the year, *Chuyen Ke Nam 2000* (An Account of the Year 2000) described the author's experience in North Vietnamese prisons between 1968 and 1973.

[Source: HRW, *World Report 2001* (2000) 228.]

In August 2000 the Ministry of Culture proposed new regulations (not yet officially adopted as of October), which would impose fines for the production or possession of "culturally inappropriate" materials, including those which "distorted Vietnam's history or defamed its national heroes".

[Source: HRW, *World Report 2001* (2000) 227.]

In September 2001 Pham Que Duong (?1933–), colonel, military historian, was arrested while campaigning for reform. In 1987 he had been dismissed as chief editor of "*Military History Journal*" (1982–87) because he had refused to obey orders not to mention exploits of dismissed officers. Investigated and accused of supporting advocates of pluralism in 1990, he resigned from the CPV in solidarity with a dissident in 1999 and became an (often harassed) pro-democracy activist.

[Sources include: HRW, *Ifex Alert*, 29 May 2001.]

YEMEN

The fate of hundreds of people who had "disappeared" in Yemen since the late 1960s remained unknown. Undertakings made by the government to investigate the cases of those who had "disappeared" since 1994 were apparently not implemented.

[Source: AI, *Report 2001* (2001) 268.]

YUGOSLAVIA

The Serbian and federal governments failed to cooperate with the International Criminal Tribunal for

the former Yugoslavia in arresting and handing over individuals, indicted for violations of international humanitarian law, including former Federal President Slobodan Milosevic. On 28 June 2001, however, Milosevic was arrested and brought to the tribunal in The Hague.

[Sources include: AI, *Report 2001* (2001) 270.]

Exhumations of grave sites led to the identification of around 260 mortal remains during 2000, but some 1260 bodies which were exhumed in 1999 and 2000 remained unidentified. Not all grave sites had been examined by the end of 2000. *See also Bosnia-Herzegovina; Croatia.*

[Source: AI, *Report 2001* (2001) 271.]

ZIMBABWE

In February 2000, a Supreme Court order granted two human rights organizations the right to sue the President's office to obtain the release of the Dumbutshena and Chihambakwe reports, both the result of commissions of inquiry, the first into clashes between guerrillas of the two former liberation armies in Bulawayo in 1981, the second into killings in Matabeleland in 1983. Neither report had ever been published. The government's response on the first of these was that only one copy of the report had ever existed, and that it had been lost. In the past, wide-ranging amnesties had been granted for human rights violations committed during the war of independence and after the large-scale atrocities in Matabeleland in 1983.

[Sources: A19, *'Who Wants to Forget?' Truth and Access to Information about Past Human Rights Violations* (2000) 9–14; AI, *Report 2001* (2001) 275.]

See also Ethiopia.