

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.

ARGENTINA

In 1998, the government consistently refused to collaborate with the judicial investigation opened by Spanish judge Baltasar Garzón into the “disappearance” of 600 Spanish citizens under the military government (1976-83), claiming that the Spanish courts did not have jurisdiction.

[Source: HRW, *World Report 1999* (1998) 100-01.]

In 1998, one of the groups that faced increasing official pressure was *Hijos por la Identidad y la Justicia contra el Olvido y el Silencio* (Children for Identity and Justice Against Oblivion and Silence), a group formed by children of “disappearance” victims.

[Source: HRW, *World Report 1999* (1998) 102.]

On 13 August 1998, the Supreme Court refused Carmen Aguiar de Lapacó’s petition for access to the military and civilian archives in an attempt to trace her daughter Alejandra, who “disappeared” under the military government. The court denied access on the grounds that the case had been legally closed, although prosecution was stated not to be the aim of the plaintiff. In late September 1998, the Supreme Court upheld the right of a man to access to government files in order to determine the whereabouts of his brother (a guerrilla leader killed in a confrontation in 1976 and whose body was subsequently hidden by the military government).

[Sources: IOC 6/98: 88; HRW, *World Report 1999* (1998) 101.]

BANGLADESH

On 27 July 1999, a mass grave, apparently from the 1971 liberation war, was discovered by workers extending a mosque in Dhaka, close to an alleged site of massacres committed by the Pakistani military and their collaborators. Once forensic investigations are completed, the Liberation Museum intends to file a case with the International Court of Justice, The Hague.

[Source: IOC 5/99: 124.]

BELARUS

In [January] 1998, Liubov Lunyova, who since 1992 had worked as a lecturer of ancient and medieval history on a fixed-term contract in the history department at the Belarusian State University in Minsk, was dismissed, most likely for being an activist for the human rights organization Minsk Spring 96. When she applied for a job at another school, the principal told her that he “would be fired within half an hour”, if he gave her a job.

[Sources: HRW, *World Report 1999* (1998) 453; HRW, *Republic of Belarus: Turning Back the Clock* (W.W.W.-summary; 1998) 4-5.]

On 22 March 1998, up to fifty men and women were arrested and beaten by the police following a peaceful demonstration in the capital, Minsk, to mark the eightieth anniversary of the independence of Belorussia (the former name of Belarus).

[Source: AI, *Report 1999* (1999) 92.]

BRAZIL

In April 1998, a series of articles in the Rio daily *O Globo* based on security force documents from 1970 to 1981 shed light on the conduct of the military campaign to eliminate the Araguaia guerrilla movement in the 1970s, demonstrating state responsibility for the detention and death of persons whose whereabouts the military had consistently denied knowledge of. The revelations prompted new calls for the release of all documents held by governmental authorities concerning the abuses by security forces and the military under the military government (1964-85).

[Source: HRW, *World Report 1999* (1998) 107.]

In April 1998, members of the Rio de Janeiro-based *Grupo Tortura Nunca Mais* (Group Torture No More) received a number of anonymous death threats and suffered other forms of intimidation, following the group's public campaign against the promotion of an army doctor alleged to have participated in torture under the military government.

[Source: AI, *Report 1999* (1999) 106.]

BURUNDI

The calls to end impunity for human rights violations, originally focusing on recent events, grew to include demands for justice for the massacres of 1972 and of even earlier years.

[Source: HRW, *World Report 1999* (1998) 33.]

CAMBODIA

The government chose to allow senior former Khmer Rouge leaders Khieu Samphan and Nuon Chea to escape justice despite the fact that the two men were believed to be the key surviving architects of the deaths of over one million Cambodians during the Khmer regime.

[Source: IOC 2/99: 102.]

CHILE

In September 1998, marches in Santiago to mark the 25th anniversary of the military coup led by General Augusto Pinochet Ugarte, former head of state (1973-90), former head of the army (-1999) and senator for life (1999-), were met with large-scale repression by the *Carabineros*. Hundreds of demonstrators were arrested.

[Source: AI, *Report 1999* (1999) 126.]

On 16 October 1998, General Pinochet was placed under restraint in the United Kingdom on request of Spain, which demanded his extradition because it sought justice for the Spanish citizens tortured and murdered under his regime. Several other governments supported this request for extradition. On 25 November, the Law Lords ruled by a three to two majority that he was not immune from extradition to

Spain, thereby reversing a decision of the High Court. On 18 December, it ruled to overturn this decision, because one of the Lords who cast the deciding vote failed to declare an affiliation with Amnesty International. The arrest emanated from an investigation by Spanish judges into the so-called Operation Condor, in which military rulers of Chile, Argentina, and Uruguay cooperated in the assassination of leftists during the 1970s. On 24 March 1999, the Law Lords finally ruled that the extradition could go ahead though only with the charges limited to crimes committed after 1988 (when the United Kingdom ratified the International Convention on Torture). On 15 April Home Secretary Jack Straw allowed extradition proceedings to go ahead, but General Pinochet's lawyers appealed against the decision.

[Sources: IOC 6/98: 87, 82, 114, 1/99: 5, 103, 2/99: 104, 124, 3/99: 118; HRW, *World Report 1999* (1998) xviii-xix, 95; AI, *Report 1999* (1999) 24, 27, 51-52, 125-26, 308, 347, 350.]

On 14 April 1999, the entire print run (1,200 copies) of "*The Black Book of Chilean Justice*" (Santiago), launched the day before and written by Alejandra Matus Acuña, a journalist based in Miami, was seized by the police, on the instruction of the Santiago High Court, and banned. It was considered insulting to the authorities. The book, the product of six years' research, examined the conduct of the Chilean High Court between its inception in 1826 and 1998, with special emphasis on the military government of President Pinochet (1973-90). A. Matus immediately flew abroad to avoid arrest; the two publishers were briefly detained.

[Sources: IOC 4/99: 130-31, 5/99: 23-24, 126-27.]

CHINA

During 1998, a "patriotic education campaign" continued to force Tibetans, especially monks and nuns, to admit, inter alia, that Tibet had always been a part of China. Authorities reported that 76 per cent of Tibetan monasteries and nunneries had been "rectified". On 3 March 1999, the fortieth anniversary of the failed Tibetan uprising against Chinese rule, two monks were arrested for shouting pro-independence slogans in the Tibetan capital Lhasa. (*see NCH #6, #10*)

[Sources: HRW, *World Report 1999* (1998) 180, IOC 3/99: 99.]

Liu Nianchun (*see NCH #10*) continued to be held in a labour camp beyond the expiration of his three-year sentence on 21 May 1998. On 20 December 1998, he was expelled to the United States. He had been arrested with others for taking part in events commemorating the June 1989 Tiananmen massacre.

[Sources: HRW, *World Report 1999* (1998) 178; IOC 2/99: 103.]

Two Guangdong (Canton) magazines, “*New Weekly*” and “*Shenzen Pictorial Journal*”, were banned by the propaganda department for mentioning the Tiananmen massacre.

[Source: IOC 2/99: 103.]

On 26 March 1999, the China News Publishing Agency banned further sales of a biography of Fidel Castro, “*The Last Revolutionary of the Twentieth Century*”, by a historian of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, after a complaint from the Cuban embassy that it “hurt” Cuba’s image.

[Source: IOC 4/99: 131.]

On 9 April 1999, the police warned reformist political thinker Bao Tong, former chief-of-staff of Premier and Chinese Communist Party secretary-general Zhao Ziyang, that his letter to the leadership, calling for an official reassessment of the 1989 Tiananmen massacre (officially an “appropriate response to a counter-revolutionary rebellion”), “endangered state security”. An estimated fifty activists were reportedly detained in the run-up to the tenth anniversary.

[Source: IOC 4/99: 131-32.]

Also see: United States.

COLOMBIA

Error: “Jorge Eliécer Gaetan” (*NCH #10*) should read: “Jorge Eliécer Gaitán”.

CONGO

In April 1998, the United Nations discontinued its most ambitious human rights investigative mission in Africa, the Secretary General’s Investigative Team (SGIT) into the alleged massacres of tens of thousands Rwandan Hutu refugees in Congo (then Zaire) during 1997, after the team had been persistently blocked by the Kabila government from examination of massacre sites. The obstruction also included the harassment of witnesses and the detention of an investigator. On 13 July 1998, the Security Council, debating SGIT’s report, condemned the massacres but did not authorise an independent investigation and prosecution of perpetrators. (*see NCH #10*)

[Source: HRW, *World Report 1999* (1998) xvii-xviii, 13-14, 20, 34, 37.]

CROATIA

On 22 December 1998, Victor Ivancic, chief editor of the satirical Split weekly *Feral Tribune*, and commentator Marinko Culic (*see NCH #5, #6, #10*) were acquitted again.

[Sources: IOC 2/99: 104; AI, *Report 1999* (1999) 143.]

CUBA

On 11 November 1997, Orestes Rodríguez Horruitiner, a leader of two opposition groups in Santiago, was sentenced to four years for enemy propaganda. In July 1997, he was arrested when during a house search books by prominent independence leaders - José Martí, Máximo Gómez and Antonio Maceo - were seized. They later served as evidence in his lawsuit.

[Source: HRW, *World Report 1999* (1998) 118.]

EGYPT

During 1998, Nasr Hamed Abu-Zeid remained under threat of death from *al-Gihad* (Holy Struggle). He and his wife continued to live in The Netherlands, fearing for their safety if they returned home. (*see NCH #6*)

[Source: AI, *Report 1999* (1999) 157.]

On 13 May 1998, the Minister of Higher Education officially requested that the American University in Cairo remove from its curriculum *Mahomet*, a biography of the Prophet written by French orientalist and historian Maxime Rodinson, because it allegedly contained “fabrications harmful to the respected Prophet and to the Islamic religion.” The book, available in Egypt since the 1970s, was withdrawn from the reading lists and removed from the library and campus bookstore.

[Sources: HRW, *World Report 1999* (1998) 349, 453; IOC 2/99: 56.]

ETHIOPIA

In 1999, Moti Biyya was in bad health following a prison transfer. In July 1999, Garuma Bekele was charged with violating the press law and with engaging in “terrorist activities”. (*see NCH #10, #12*)

[Sources: PEN Rapid Action Network 23 July 1999; IOC 5/99: 130.]

FRANCE

On 10 June 1999, the National Assembly acknowledged having fought a “war” against Algerian nationalists (1954-62), when unanimously it abandoned the official viewpoint that the event had only been “an operation for keeping order”.

[Source: IOC 5/99: 130.]

GERMANY

On 15 January 1999, it was reported that media giant Bertelsmann launched an internal but independent inquiry led by American-Israeli historian Saul Friedlander (b. 1932) into its own activities during the Nazi era.

[Source: IOC 2/99: 107.]

GREECE

In 1998, a leader of the ethnic Macedonian Rainbow party was awaiting trial on charges of incitement for having brought calendars from Macedonia bearing the names of Greek towns in Macedonian and praising the interwar pro-Macedonian policy of the Communist party. Many ethnic Macedonians who fled Greece as a result of the 1946-49 Civil War were not allowed to enter Greece in 1998, even for brief visits, or to attend events related to the fiftieth anniversary of their exodus in July.

[Source: HRW, *World Report 1999* (1998) 266.]

GUATEMALA

In February 1997, the Interamerican Commission on Human Rights admonished the Guatemalan government to actively investigate the 1982 Plan de Sánchez massacre of 268 people. In response, forensic reports and ballistic evidence disappeared from the Public Prosecutor’s Office. The entire file of another massacre of 35 men at Chichupac, Rabinal, also disappeared in 1998.

[Source: HRW, *World Report 1999* (1998) 125.]

On 25 February 1999, the official *Comisión de Esclarecimiento Histórico* (CEH; Commission to Clarify Past Human Rights Violations and Acts of Violence That Have Caused the Guatemalan Population to Suffer), set up by the United Nations in June 1994 and which in August 1997 started its work, submitted its 3,400 page report, “*Guatemala: Memories of Silence*”. Based on evidence from more than 9,000 witnesses and survivors on the cases of some 42,000 victims during the Civil War (1960-96), it concluded that the Guatemalan state had been responsible for acts of genocide against indigenous Mayan communities as well as massive human rights violations, that more than eighty per cent of the estimated 200,000 victims were Mayans, and that the military and their civilian adjuncts bore the main responsibility. It referred to the direct and indirect role of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in supporting a number of illegal operations. The Guatemalan authorities withheld information requested by the CEH and restricted access to certain military installations. In a reaction, former President Vinicio Cerezo (1986-91) said that the United States government knew about the extrajudicial executions carried out by army death squads and that they prevented him from revealing the facts while he was in office. During his visit to Guatemala in March 1999, President Bill Clinton made a limited apology for the role of the United States in the Civil War. (*see NCH #10*)

[Sources: AI, *Is Guatemala Falling Back To Its Tragic Past?* (London 13 May 1998); IOC 2/99: 108; AI, *Report 1999* (1999) 178; IOC 4/99: 135; AI *News*, May 1999: 1.]

Following the murder of Bishop Juan Gerardi in April 1998 (*see NCH #10, #13*), several other supporters and collaborators of the Recuperation of the Historical Memory Project REMHI, including researcher Pietro Notta, forensic anthropologist Carlos Federico Reyes López (*see NCH #5*) and the Archbishop, received death threats.

[Sources: AI, *Urgent Actions 139/68* (1 & 15 May 1998, 1 December 1998, 7 January 1999) and 142/98 (1 May 1998); IOC 2/99: 108; AI, *Report 1999* (1999) 178-80.]

On 20 May 1999, a document released by human rights organisations revealed that military death squads kept detailed records of their operations. The document contained photos and names of 183 victims between August 1983 and March 1985. It was smuggled out of army intelligence files and handed to human rights advocates in February 1999.

[Source: IOC 4/99: 134-35.]

GUINEA-BISSAU

During the armed rebellion from 7 June to 25 August 1998, the *Instituto Nacional de Estudos e Pesquisa* (INEP; National Institute of Studies and Research) was heavily damaged. The National

Archives and Audiovisual Archives at INEP were scattered, shredded and exposed to rain and dirt. Hundreds of audio cassettes which recorded the history of the national liberation struggle and of the different regions had disappeared. This loss of sources would seriously hamper the writing of a first general history of Guinea-Bissau. After the 25 August ceasefire INEP continued to be a military camp. INEP staff was forbidden to engage in work to rehabilitate or save it from further destruction.

[Sources include: IOC 2/99: 81-82.]

IRAN

On 29 July 1998, Mohammed Reza Zaeri, publisher of *Khaneh*, was arrested and released on bail for publishing an anonymous letter criticising Ayatollah Khomeini (d. 1989) for being responsible for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of youths during the Iran-Iraq war (1980-88) and causing Iran's international isolation by issuing a *fatwa* against writer Salman Rushdie. He was fined and given a six-month suspended sentence.

[Sources: IOC 5/98: 88, 6/98: 97.]

On 24 September 1998, the government announced that it was dissociating itself from the *fatwa* imposed on Salman Rushdie in February 1989 after the publication of *The Satanic Verses*, and from the reward offered for killing him, but several senior religious figures and members of parliament continued to support the *fatwa*. In October the 15 Khordad Foundation augmented the bounty on S. Rushdie. (see *NCH# 5*)

[Sources: IOC 6/98: 97, 1/99: 87; HRW, *World Report 1999* (1998) 357.]

Student rallies on 2 November 1998 commemorating the 1979 takeover of the United States embassy did not include the traditional burning of the United States flag and included welcoming invitations to the ex-hostages.

[Source: IOC 1/99: 87.]

On 24 November 1998, the translator and author Majid Sharif, a key member of the Committee for Research into the Books of Dr. Shariati, was found dead. [On sociologist and historian 'Alī Sharī'atī (1933-1977), once called "the Ideologue of the Iranian Revolution", see *NCH #5 & #6*].

[Source: IOC 1/99: 87.]

On 26 November 1998, the funeral in Tehran of veteran opposition leader Dariush Forouhar and his wife Parvaneh, both assassinated on 22 November, turned into a nationalist rally with some of the tens

of thousands of mourners chanting liberation slogans and praising former Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadegh (1880-1967; dismissed in 1953) who had helped inspire D. Forouhar and his Iran Nation Party.

[Source: IOC 1/99: 87.]

In December 1998, Sayed Mohsen Saidzadeh, arrested in June (*see NCH #10*), was released.

[Source: AI, *Report 1999* (1999) 199.]

On 5 January 1999, it was announced that the weekly *Shalamcheh* was banned after publishing information regarding the relationship between the late Ayatollah Abolqassem al-Khoei and the Shah's secret police.

[Source: IOC 2/99: 110.]

JAPAN

On 27 April 1998, in a landmark ruling, a district court ordered the government to pay damages to three South Korean "comfort women" forced into sexual slavery by Japanese soldiers during World War II. The ruling was a rejection of existing policy denying government compensation to individuals. During the visit of South Korean President Kim Dae-jung to Tokyo in October 1998, the Japanese Emperor, Akihito, and Prime Minister Obuchi made the strongest official apology thus far for the abuses of the past, expressing Japan's "remorseful repentance" for "the unbearable damage and pain" inflicted on the Korean people during colonial rule (1910-45). But the government announced no changes in its policy on "comfort women". A report by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on systematic rape and sexual slavery, Radhika Coomaraswamy, criticised Tokyo for failing to acknowledge any legal responsibility for the "comfort women" issue, but gave the government credit for apologising and expressing remorse to the women and for including reference to the sexual slavery in Japanese textbooks. (*see NCH #5, #6, #10*)

[Sources: HRW, *World Report 1999* (1998) 196, 197; AI, *Report 1999* (1999) 215.]

KAZAKSTAN

In May 1998, the procuracy opened an investigation alleging that the Kazak mass media had committed 273 violations of the Press Law in 1997, including "incitement of national enmity...aimed at instigating disputes and controversy over the country's history and sovereignty."

[Source: HRW, *World Report 1999* (1998) 270.]

KENYA

On 15 November 1998, *Kenya: Return to Reason* (1993), a book by opposition leader Kenneth Matiba, containing a concise record of Kenya's political, economic, and human rights history, was unbanned. It had been banned since 14 January 1994.

[Sources: IOC 1-2/94: 242, 1/99: 90.]

KUWAIT

On 18 August 1998, forty men of the Salab tribe ransacked the offices of the daily *Al-Qabas* in Kuwait City in response to the republication of a picture from the 1940s showing Salab women dancing without veils in front of men. The caption explained that the Salab acted this way because they were "a mix of Arabs and other peoples who came to Islam later".

[Source: IOC 6/98: 100.]

MACEDONIA

In January 1999, radio reporter Gorica Popova of the state-owned Macedonian Radio and Television was demoted from her editorial position to that of a "junior associate" as punishment for her commentary on a memorial service held in Novo Selo in honour of the controversial interwar historical figure Todor Aleksandrov.

[Source: IOC 2/99: 113.]

Also see: Greece.

MEXICO

On 3 May 1994, two unidentified men tried to enter the Institute of Anthropological Advice for the Maya Region in San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas, in order "to take away the computer". The Institute had compiled important historical archives which were widely consulted by representatives of non-

governmental organisations and journalists covering the Chiapas uprising which began in January 1994. The Institute's coordinator, Andres Aubry, French historian and anthropologist, had received several death threats accusing him of sympathising with the Ejército Zapatista de Liberación Nacional (EZLN) rebels. He and his wife, Angélica Inda, an archivist and writer, assisted the Comisión Nacional de Intermediación, which was conducting peace talks between the Mexican government and the EZLN. In 1998, they and other scholars were intimidated and harassed. Attacks against them included attempted detention by unidentified security forces, theft of computers, notes, and manuscripts, break-ins and vandalism of their home, and attempted break-ins at their archives. (*see NCH #11*)

[Sources: IOC 3/94: 179; *Analysis of the AAAS Human Rights Action Network Alerts: October 1993 to June 1996* (W.W.W.-text); AAAS Human Rights Action Network, *Case Me9815.Chi*, 16 November 1998.]

MOLDOVA

On 22 February 1999, the offices of the daily *Flux* were attacked by a group of veterans from the war in Afghanistan (1979-89), because it had published a critical article regarding the tenth anniversary of the withdrawal of Soviet troops.

[Source: IOC 3/99: 108]

MYANMAR

A third author possibly involved in writing and distributing a history of the student movement in Myanmar (*see NCH #8, #10*) was U Ohn Myint (?1917-), an unofficial National League for Democracy adviser. He was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment.

[Source: AI, *Report 1999* (1999) 258.]

PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY

Updated information of NCH #9 & #10: On 24 April 1996, Wa'el 'Ali Farraj, history student (?1975-) at the Islamic University in Gaza, was arrested by members of the General Intelligence Services. He had his house searched. He was interrogated about membership of Hamas and possession of weapons. During the first three days of his detention, he was hooded, severely beaten, and deprived of sleep and food. He was detained in solitary confinement without charge or trial. In August 1997, he was moved to

Gaza Central Prison where his treatment improved. The Attorney General's office informed his father that it could not intervene on the grounds that the case was a political one. On 20 February 1999 the High Court of Justice ordered his immediate release, but his arrest continued.

[Sources: *AI News*, November 1998: 7; *AI, Palestinian Authority Defying the Rule of Law: Political Detainees* (Document MDE 21/03/99, April 1999) 14.]

On 23 April 1999, it was reported that a postage stamp commemorating the October 1998 Wye Accords had cropped Benjamin Netanyahu out of a picture of Yasser Arafat and Bill Clinton. The postal services explained that it was a stamp "commemorating those who have invested a lot of effort in peace".

[Source: *IOC 5/99*: 138]

SOUTH AFRICA

In June 1998, a former agent of the Civil Co-operation Bureau was sentenced to life imprisonment for the 1989 murder of historian and anthropologist D. Webster. (*see NCH #5, #10*)

[Source: *AI, Report 1999* (1999) 307]

The release of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) report in October 1998 provoked strong reactions. Former President F.W. de Klerk reached an agreement with the TRC to remove findings against him (namely that he had been an accessory-after-the-fact to two bombings in the late 1980s) from the report, pending a further court hearing in March 1999. The African National Congress (ANC) claimed that its own abuses were justified because it was fighting a war of national liberation against an abusive regime. A court injunction, intended to delay the disclosure of some of its findings on ANC human rights violations such as the targeting of civilians and indiscriminate use of landmines, failed.

[Sources: *HRW, World Report 1999* (1998) xix, 70; *AI News*, January 1999: 1; *AI, Report 1999* (1999) 304.]

In mid-November 1998, a Jewish extremist group threatened to take action against the Muslim family of Layla Cassim, a grade-ten pupil at Crawford College. Her article, written as a history assignment and pasted on the school's notice board, reportedly "reflected the Palestinian Liberation Organisation's political philosophy. The South African Jewish Board of Deputies said that there was no evidence of anti-Semitism. On 20 November, however, L. Cassim was suspended from the college.

[Sources include: *IOC 1/99*: 99.]

SOUTH KOREA

In November 1997, Suh Joon-sik, Korean editor and columnist, director of the human rights group *Sarangbang* (1988-), was arrested. During his trial, he was charged, inter alia, with violating the National Security Law for showing the documentary “*Red Hunt*” at the 1997 Korean Human Rights Film Festival. The film detailed government collusion in a 1948 massacre of suspected pro-Communist sympathisers on Cheju Island, off South Korea. Although he was released on bail in February 1998 after protests, the charges against him were not dropped. He had already served seventeen years as a political prisoner (until 1988).

[Sources: IOC 2/98: 101; HRW, *World Report 1999* (1998) 467, 493.]

Also see: Japan.

SPAIN

In 1998 Spain’s public television channel withdrew a 1997 drama series on Philip II (1527-1598) because “it made more sense to combine it with a series on his father, Charles V, which was scheduled to be completed in 2000”. The original script included critical material on Philip’s role in inquisition trials, anti-Semitism, and the 1572 Paris Massacre. The Spanish State Memorial Society for the Philip II and Charles V Anniversaries rejected the passages and issued guidelines that Philip be portrayed as a family man of high moral standing. Academics were disturbed by what was seen as an “an attempt to brush up the darkest sides of a ruler who always preferred the brute suppression of dissidents over diplomacy or negotiations, whether it involved the Protestants in the Netherlands or the conversos (Jews converted to Christianity) in Spain.”

[Sources include: IOC 2/99: 10.]

Also see: Argentina, Chile.

SRI LANKA

In January 1998, the government made good its promise to release the reports of three regional commissions of inquiry into 16,742 “disappearances” dating back as far as 1988. In July 1998, a new commission with islandwide jurisdiction was appointed to investigate and report on about 11,000 complaints left uninvestigated by these earlier commissions. The Board of Investigation which inquired

into more than 700 “disappearances” reported in Jaffna in 1995-97, submitted its report to the President in April 1998. The Civil Rights Movement of Sri Lanka criticised the government’s failure to address the many “disappearances” of Tamils in eastern Sri Lanka from 1984 to 1988. On 14 January 1999 the police sought a court order to exhume the alleged mass graves site in Jaffna.

[Sources: HRW, *World Report 1999* (1998) 206, 208; IOC 5/98: 98, 6/98: 110, 2/99: 120; AI, *Report 1999* (1999) 311-12.]

SWITZERLAND

On 12 August 1998, Credit Suisse and Union Bank of Switzerland, the two largest Swiss banks, agreed terms on a compensation deal with Jewish Holocaust groups over monies left in Swiss banks by victims of the Holocaust. They will pay US \$1.25 billion to survivors over a three-year period.

[Source: IOC 6/98: 110.]

THAILAND

In [November] 1998, the film board rejected two revised scripts for the new version of the film *The King and I* (Twentieth-Century Fox), about King Mongkut [Rama IV] (reigned 1851-68), on the grounds that he was depicted as a tyrant rather than a scholar.

[Source: IOC 1/99: 100-01.]

UNITED KINGDOM

On 29 January 1998, Prime Minister Tony Blair announced the establishment of a new inquiry into the events of *Bloody Sunday* (30 January 1972) when British paratroopers in Derry, Northern Ireland, fired on civil rights marchers killing thirteen unarmed people. He noted that recently recovered evidence deserved a fair and impartial adjudication. Hearings were planned to begin in February 1999. On 28 July 1999, the Appeal Court in London ruled that seventeen soldiers should be granted anonymity when giving evidence to the inquiry. Relatives of the victims protested against the decision. (*see NCH #10*)

[Sources: HRW, *World Report 1999* (1998) 226, 304, 305; AI, *Report 1999* (1999) 348; IOC 5/99: 146.]

Also see: Chile.

UNITED STATES

According to State Department documents published in September 1998, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) gave the Dalai Lama over one million dollars a year for most of the 1960s for operations against China. The money supported Tibetan guerrillas in Nepal, a training base in Colorado, “Tibet Houses” to publicise the Tibetan cause, and university education for Tibetan operatives.

[Source: IOC 6/98: 114.]

In October 1998, the Clinton administration released heavily edited excerpts from a 1995 CIA investigation into death squad activities in Honduras in the 1980s. The investigation was ordered after allegations of CIA complicity in atrocities committed by a secret Honduran military intelligence unit. (*see NCH #10*)

[Source: HRW, *World Report 1999* (1998) 95-96.]

Also see: Guatemala.

VIETNAM

In September 1998, Le Manh That (known as Thich Tri Sieu) (b. 1943), a Buddhist monk of the Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam (UBCV) and professor of Vietnamese Buddhist history and literature at Van Hanh University, Saigon, author of, inter alia, *A Short History of Vietnamese Buddhism*, was released. On 2 April 1984, he was arrested with many others. He had worked for several years to compile a Vietnamese Buddhist Encyclopaedia. Held without charge for four years, he was sentenced to death at a closed trial on 30 September 1988, for membership of an illegal organisation and attempting to overthrow the government. The sentence was commuted to twenty years’ imprisonment. In 1989, he was transferred to a “re-education’ camp. In 1995 at a political indoctrination session, he spoke out for democracy and human rights and was put in solitary confinement. (*see NCH #10*)

[Sources: IOC 4/84: 44, 7/90: 24; AI, *Report 1986* (1986) 267, 1987 (1987) 275-76, 1989 (1989) 206-07, 1990 (1990) 257-58, 1991 (1991) 247, 1992 (1992) 275, 1993 (1993) 309, 1999 (1999) 361; *AI Newsletter*, January 1993: 4; HRW, *World Report 1990* (1991) 337, 1999 (1998) 214, 493; A19, *Information, Freedom and Censorship: World Report* (1991) 239; PEN, *Half-Yearly Caselist June to December 1997* (1998) 42.]

Also released under the September 1998 amnesty was Thich Quang Do (*see NCH #10*).

[Source: AI, *Report 1999* (1999) 360.]

YUGOSLAVIA (Serbia & Montenegro)

In 1998, government officials stated that they intended to disband the Faculty of Philosophy (including the History Department) at the University of Belgrade, and move its component departments to other faculties, because over seventy professors (nearly one-third of the staff) refused to sign contracts under the new University Act. The act, approved in May 1998, was widely thought to remove basic protections for academic freedom and university autonomy.

[Source: HRW, *Deepening Authoritarianism in Serbia: the Purge of the Universities* (1999) 14.]

On 11 April 1999, historian Branka Prpa was knocked unconscious when her companion, Slavko Curuvija, publisher and chief editor of *Dnevni Telegraph*, a daily critical of the Slobodan Milosevic government, was assassinated in Belgrade.

[Source: IOC 3/99: 95, 114]

ZIMBABWE

The government continued to deny the alleged massacres of thousands of non-combatants in Matabeleland during the early 1980s.

[Source: HRW, *World Report 1999* (1998) 15.]