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“IMAGINATION WILL NOT BREED IN CAPTIVITY”

THE NETWORK OF CONCERNED HISTORIANS AFTER TEN YEARS

On 13 October 1995, the *Network of Concerned Historians* (NCH) was established at the History Department of the University of Groningen, the Netherlands. Its purpose was and still is to provide a bridge between international human-rights organizations campaigning for censored or persecuted historians and others concerned with the past on the one hand and the global community of historians on the other. During the last decade, NCH participated in 28 such campaigns for cases in 18 countries on all continents. NCH also produced 11 *Annual Reports* about the domain where history and human rights intersect. The 2005 *Annual Report* contained entries on 61 countries. NCH will continue its efforts during the next decade. It eagerly hopes that many colleagues from all over the world (550 are currently on the NCH list) will join it. For solidarity with our persecuted colleagues is needed as urgently as ever. What George Orwell said six decades ago, remains true: “At present we know only that imagination will not breed in captivity.”

** Read more about NCH’s origins, operation, topics, and impact, in the editorial: “The Organization that Fights for Human Rights for Historians,” on the website of the *History News Network*: <<http://hnn.us/articles/16382.html>> (10 October 2005)

** Read the background essay “Fighting Oblivion: The Activities of the Network of Concerned Historians” (2004), on <http://www.let.rug.nl/nch> or <http://dit.is/nch> (click on the left-hand margin button marked “Essay”).

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