Human Rights and Scientists in China

by Wang Juntao

Wang Juntao, a Chinese economist and physicist, was the focus of a successful appeal by the scientific community on behalf of a persecuted colleague. Sentenced in 1991 to thirteen years in prison for his activities in the democracy movement, he was released on April 23, 1994, and flown to the United States for medical treatment. He has been living in the United States since his release.

China, considered by many to be the most dictatorial country in the world, will hopefully move in the direction of democracy in the post-Deng era and during this period, scientists in China will play an important role. It may only be realized after China becomes democratic that scientists in China have played such an important role—perhaps greater than their counterparts elsewhere in the world. Because of their special role, Chinese scientists have made great sacrifices.

Since 1979 Peking University has been a center of the democracy movement in China, with many of the leaders in the famous student movements having been physics students. This is seen in the fact that there are more physicists amongst the people abroad who are struggling for China's democracy than any other profession. Also, during the 1957 anti-rightist campaign in China, of the over four hundred people persecuted at Peking University in twenty different academic departments, over one hundred of them were from the Physics Department.

Parents in China stress the natural sciences over the social sciences and they hope that their children will study the natural sciences. Therefore, many of the most outstanding students in China enter these fields. In their pursuit of the truth, these science students learn please see “China” on page 2

Scientists Face Decommunization Challenge

A new type of human rights problem of special importance to the scientific and academic communities is arising in several of the former Soviet bloc countries of Central and Eastern Europe. In an effort to eliminate the vestiges of Communist Party influence and power, several newly democratic governments in the region have adopted what are called “decommunization” or “lustration” (cleansing) policies, aimed at removing those persons closely identified with the communist regime and its secret police apparatus from positions of authority.

Scientists and teachers are among the principal targets of these decommunization efforts for a variety of reasons. Appointments to scientific and teaching positions, especially at the higher policy-making levels, tended to be tightly controlled during the communist years. Scientific work frequently was associated with military or national security applications, and was likely to involve international contacts and exchanges. Teachers were viewed as critical to gaining support for the communist regime from the younger generations and from the public as a whole.

Democratic reformers believe screening these professions is necessary to remove persons who received favorable treatment under the communist system and are closely tied to its ideology.

Unfortunately, the methods chosen to carry out lustration often involve many of the same totalitarian approaches the reformers applying it so loudly condemn. Many people are targeted for dismissal please see “Decommunisation” on page 4
not only the natural sciences, but they also encounter many social and political problems. As a result, many come to oppose the political dictatorship and begin to seek freedom in society.

**Fighting for Change**

In my case, I was born into a high-level Communist Party family. In 1976 I became aware of the dictatorial nature of my government, and I took part in a huge movement to oppose the dictatorship. As a result, although I was only seventeen years old, I was imprisoned for over seven months. After Deng Xiaoping came to power again in 1978, I first thought that he would help to establish democracy in China, due to the suffering he endured from Mao Zedong's dictatorship during the Cultural Revolution. When I enrolled in university, I registered for courses in physics, thinking that in the future my country would need people with strong backgrounds in the technological sciences and economics for its development.

I soon realized, however, that Deng Xiaoping did not want China to become democratic. So with my colleagues, I began to participate again in the democratic movement. We started the journal *Beijing Spring*, and I became the vice-chief editor. At the same time, we tried to make Peking University into an autonomous, free, and democratic community; it soon became the center of the democracy movement in China.

In 1980 we set up the first free competitive elections in the People's Republic for delegates to the local People's Congress to introduce a modern democratic election system into China. Because of these activities, I was nearly expelled from university. Even though I spent most of my time in political work, I still completed my physics studies, and upon graduation in 1982, I was assigned to work in the China Atomic Energy Research Institute, China's largest institute.

**Working for Democracy**

But as conditions in China changed, I felt that China needed people willing to work for democracy and in 1984, I quit this job in order to devote my time to work for China's democratization. I spent two years in various occupations around the country in order to gain a wide array of perspectives on our national conditions. Then, in 1986, together with my colleagues in Beijing, the political and cultural center of the country, we set up a democratic "castle" completely independent of the government.

Our goal was to promote democratic ideas among China's intellectuals through research, publications, education, and meetings. We distributed several million copies of books, trained about 300,000 students in our correspondence schools, and published both a journal and a weekly newspaper. We also supported democratic elements in other fields with equipment and financial resources. Because we were successful in setting up a wide network among the intellectuals and cadres, I was able to organize the Capital Joint Liaison Group during the 1989 democracy movement, which gathered together all the leaders of the student, intellectual, worker, citizen, cadre, and journalist groups that were demonstrating in Tiananmen Square.

**Prison**

For these efforts, I was named a "Black Hand" of the movement by the Chinese government, and in 1991, I was sentenced to thirteen years imprisonment for conspiring to subvert the government. Even though I had hepatitis B, I was sent to a filthy, non-ventilated, dark cell, not more than three square meters in size, that was infested with mosquitoes, flies, and many other insects. The prison guards refused to provide me with any medical treatment whatsoever. I had no choice but to rebel against my conditions, and I asked my relatives to appeal to international organizations and governments, asking them to put pressure on the Chinese authorities.

As a result, on August 13, 1991 my wrists were locked in two sets of very tight handcuffs, and I was sent to an even dirtier and smaller cell. In order to defend my basic human rights and to maintain my self respect, as well as to oppose the political oppression in my country, I began a hunger strike. From that time, until my release four and one-half years later, I went on twenty-one hunger strikes; the longest lasting fifty-eight days, including seventeen days without water.

Because of international pressure, my struggle was successful. My prison conditions and treatment continually improved, and on April 23, 1994 I was miraculously sent from the prison hospital directly to the Beijing airport and put on a plane for New York.

My experience shows that international pressure can help the human rights situation in China. There, scientists are more respected than perhaps any other professionals; their opinions are thought to represent the truth. Because of this, and also because many contemporary leaders were trained in the natural sciences, all scientists' work can be very effective. American scientists did many things that helped improve my prison conditions and bring my release. When I arrived in America and learned of these scientists' work on my behalf, I was very moved. I am extremely grateful to the American scientists for their efforts, and I feel that I was very lucky.

But there are still many scientists in China who suffer greater political persecution than I did, and they yearn for help as they are locked in handcuffs and beaten in their dark cells. I hope that the American scientific community will remember and continue to help them.

Wang Jiantao
Internet Access to Human Rights Information Sources

The Internet has an estimated 20-30 million users worldwide and is growing by 10% every month, with corresponding growth in the range of resources available. The abbreviated list of current Internet-accessible human rights information below is taken from the final report of the CUSHRID meeting. For a copy of the complete report, please contact the Science and Human Rights Program.

1. The American Association for the Advancement of Science Human Rights Action Network (AAASHRAN) posts weekly cases of special concern to the scientific community; more than 700 participants are part of letter-writing and public awareness campaigns on behalf of persecuted scientists. Some recent cases include:
   - Mass dismissals of professors in the physical sciences in Cuba for circulating a petition seeking greater academic and political freedom;
   - Dismissals of environmental scientists and the closing of an environmental research center in Mexico to curtail criticism of environmental problems during debate on the North American Free Trade Agreement; and
   - Misuse of science by Iraq in damming of rivers to dry up vast areas of wetlands and force the death or emigration of their Marsh Arab population.

To join the AAASHRAN and receive more detailed information on how it sends the message: SUBSCRIBE AAASHRAN FIRSTNAME LASTNAME TO LISTSERV@GWUW.CWU.EDU.

Additional information can be obtained from Elisa Munoz at the AAAS Science and Human Rights program, 1333 H Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005; tel: (202) 326-6797; fax: (202) 289-4950; Internet: emunoz@aaas.org.

2. PeaceNet has extensive on-line human rights information from around the world, much of it provided by its members. PeaceNet hosts an Internet gopher and World Wide Web directory with human rights documents, information from many human rights organizations, and historical and current events notices. It provides a low cost means and offers support for organizations to electronically publish their information via a variety of tools including gopher, World Wide Web, electronic mailing lists, and auto-reply message distribution. For information contact PeaceNet (IGC) at tel: (415) 442-0220 or Internet: peaceonet@igc.apc.org.

The Institute for Global Communications (IGC) offers an electronic mailing list to link volunteers willing to provide technical assistance to organizations and individuals who need help getting online. For information contact Philip Bogdonoff, PeaceNet/DC; tel: (202) 244-4513; Internet: van-info@igc.apc.org.

3. The Global Democracy Network (GDN), a project of the Congressional Human Rights Foundation (CHRF), is a bulletin board system on human rights and democracy that has been operating since June 1994. Features include local and networked electronic mail, 60 minutes of Internet access per day at no charge, file libraries of human rights documents (e.g., State Department country reports, international treaties and conventions, press releases from Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch), the AppleSearch document retrieval system, local and Internet discussion groups, and live chat conferences.

In addition, GDN will soon have a World Wide Web page for easier access. GDN is available by telnet to chrfd.gdn.org, by gopher to gopher.gdn.org, or by direct modem connection at (202) 965-1418. For questions about the Global Democracy Network, please contact Jeff Steele at (202) 333-1407 or by electronic mail at jeff.steele@cherd.gdn.org.

4. The Human Rights Gopher Server: gopher.humanrights.org 5000. The institutional participants on the human rights gopher are independent, non-governmental, non-partisan organizations that regularly gather and disseminate information about human rights practices. If you are affiliated with an organization that meets the criteria described and you feel it should become an institutional participant, contact Robert Kimzey, Publications Director, Human Rights Watch, 485 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10017-6104; tel: (212) 972-8400, extension 297; fax: (212) 972-0905; Internet: hrwatchnye@igc.apc.org.

5. DIANA (Direct Information Access Network Association) is a consortium of human rights advocates, scholars, and law librarians from around the world collaborating to develop an electronic human rights library on the Internet. DIANA will bring together international human rights treaties and conventions, charters, and procedures of regional human rights regimes, jurisprudence of human rights decision-making bodies, legal briefs submitted before both municipal and international human rights courts, human rights treaties and other secondary materials, and human rights bibliographies. As most documents in DIANA will be complete, this will result in a source of documents human rights advocates and scholars can rely on for legal briefs, press releases, or scholarly studies. An advisory board has been created consisting of the foremost law librarians and human rights scholars and advocates. DIANA will utilize Hypertext on the World Wide Web and will be developed in stages over the next five to seven years.

The Rutgers School of Law at Newark URL http://www.rutgers.law/lawschool.html.

The University of Cincinnati College of Law is at http://www.law.uc.edu/Diana.

Contact Ronald Slye, Associate Director, Schell Center for International Human Rights, Yale Law School, P.O. Box 208215, New Haven CT 06520-8215; tel: (203) 432-1729; fax: (203) 432-8292; Internet: slye@mail.law.yale.edu.

6. Amnesty International USA. AIUSA has several public conferences on PeaceNet for press releases, letter-writing and other information. The International Secretariat in London is posting all relevant material of the Indonesia Campaign on the Internet. The CD-ROM Amnestty Interactive is available, detailing general human rights information, for $10 from Voyager Co.

Contact Diana Quick, Amnesty International, 322 Eighth Avenue, New York, NY 10001; tel: (212) 633-4246.

7. The ACLU maintains an on-line reading room for all their publication. They are adding a Civil Liberties Events and Conferences service and will accept submissions from the human rights community. The gopher address is aclu.org, port 6601. To connect with ftp, use ftp://aclu.org.

Contact Lynn Decker, ACLU Free Reading Room, Department of Public Education, 332 West 43rd Street, New York, NY 10036; tel: (212) 944-9800, extension 430; Internet: infoaclu@aclu.org.
Database Design Workshop Documenting Human Rights Violations

The credibility and effectiveness of human rights organizations rest squarely on their ability to collect, verify, analyze, and disseminate timely information on human rights violations. Personal computers present an increasingly wide range of possibilities for enhanced management of large volumes of information.

Many human rights groups are now using computer databases to manage information on abuses while performing complex analyses that are not possible on a case-by-case basis. However, effective database analysis requires careful design to capture the myriad of relations between the various parts of the data representing each violation. This is not a trivial design problem, and highly experienced teams in various countries have embarked on different design strategies. With Truth Commissions being established in various countries with a history of violations, it is important to set standards for effective use of these techniques.

Therefore, the AAAS Science and Human Rights Program hosted a workshop from July 25–29 on “Database Design for Documenting Human Rights Violations.” This event was cosponsored by Human Rights Information and Documentation Systems International (HURIDOCRS), which pioneered standard formats for registering the basic data and has also implemented a database program to manage this type of data. HURIDOCRS sent documentalist Judith Dueck from Canada and systems analyst Ricardo Cifuentes from Chile. Romilly Gregory, database specialist from the Amnesty International Secretariat in London also participated, as did Carlos Saldarriaga, systems analyst from the Asociacion Pro Derechos Humanos (APRODEH) in Peru. AAAS Science and Human Rights Program participants included database consultant Patrick Ball, intern Sean Auton, and workshop coordinator Daniel Salcedo.

The goals of the workshop were:
- to share experiences on the pros and cons of specific database structures;
- to reach consensus on substantive characteristics of any human rights database system;
- to agree on standards for data and reports, using the HURIDOCRS Standard Formats as a common basis;
- to describe and illustrate examples of country-specific situations which require customized database designs and specify to what degree a standard package may or may not be appropriate;
- to agree on a basic structure and begin implementation of (or modification of an existing) database package that can be used, at least, for demonstration purposes; and
- to plan for future collaboration in order to further standardization.

The final result is the report “A Definition of Database Design Standards for Human Rights Agencies”; a technical document for programmers that reflects the consensus of the experts at the workshop. The report establishes detailed guidelines for design standards for the implementation of human rights databases compatible with the HURIDOCRS Standard Formats.

The final report can be obtained by FTP from aaas.org. Sign on as “anonymous” and use your e-mail address for the password. Go to the pubAAASSHRP subdirectory (case sensitive). The file “database.fwd” is a one page foreword and “database.w51” is a 34-page WordPerfect 5.1 version of the full report. Please let us know if you have any problems.

The report can also be electronically forwarded by submitting a request to dsalcedo@aaas.org, or by mail from the AAAS Science and Human Rights Program.

“Decomunization”

without an opportunity for their cases to be heard or judged on an individual basis. Their guilt by association is pre-judged without providing adequate due process protections, such as the use of judicial tribunals for making determinations of guilt, the availability of legal representation, and the presumption of innocence until proven guilty. Defenders of lustration seek to justify the use of expedited procedures that eliminate most due-process protections and determine guilt on a group basis because of how long it would take to make the necessary reforms through more individualized case-by-case proceedings.

Fact-Finding Missions Sent to Europe

Concerned by reports of the negative impact of decomunization on the scientific and academic communities in Central and Eastern Europe, the Science and Human Rights Program undertook two fact-finding missions in May and October 1994 to the three countries in the region that have adopted stringent lustration laws: Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, and Germany. The results of these missions will be the subject of a detailed report scheduled to be issued by AAAS in spring 1995.

In each country, AAAS worked closely with independent human rights advocates and representatives from the scientific communities. In Bulgaria, the primary contact was the Bulgarian Helsinki Commission, the principal nonpartisan human-rights monitoring organization. Close contacts were also main-
tained with the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, and with Sofia University.

In the Czech Republic, AAAS worked closely with the Czech Academy of Science, and with a human rights group critical of lustration policies. In Germany, the primary contacts were with the labor union representing many of the dismissed science professors, and with governmental commissions supervising the review of secret police files to identify collaborators.

The AAAS analysis of the impact of lustration policies in these three countries provides the first documented information that has been made available on how decommunization is affecting the scientific and academic communities, and on the actual number of individuals affected.

**Bulgaria**

In Bulgaria, scientific and academic institutions were the primary target of lustration efforts because of the passage of the Law on Scientific Institutions (the Panev Law) in 1992, requiring all those in policy-making positions to file a certification that they were not high officials in the Communist Party or government, had not collaborated with the secret police, and did not teach courses extensively incorporating communist ideology. Unlike the lustration laws in Germany and the Czech Republic, the Law on Scientific Institutions did not call for outright dismissal from employment, but only removal from all positions of leadership and authority. Krassimir Kanev, director of the Bulgarian Helsinki Committee, said government reports indicate that implementation of this law over the past two years has resulted in between 1,000 and 3,000 demotions or exclusions from positions of authority throughout a wide range of scientific fields and organizations, including the university system, research components of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, and government agencies associated with scientific activities.

The exclusion of many of the most experienced scientists has had serious negative effects on policy-making bodies. In the universities, many faculty councils, responsible for granting degrees and awarding professorships, have been unable to perform these duties because they lack the requisite number of members to take official action. Similar problems affect the scientific councils in many of the research institutes, whose abilities to approve projects and decide on the overall direction of activities have been curtailed by the loss of many members.

**Germany**

In Germany and the Czech Republic, lustration efforts have been even more thorough, covering all public employment, and, at least in Germany, requiring outright dismissal of all those holding high-level positions in the past, or implicated as collaborators with the secret police. Special emphasis has been placed in these countries on discharging those identified as collaborators. As in Bulgaria, scientists and teachers are among the most frequent targets of the screening process.

In Germany, some of the landers (states) have applied lustration policies more stringently than others. In the State of Saxony, for example, the State Ministry of Education and Culture reports that more than 10,000 public employees have been discharged because of their past communist or secret police connections. The Gewerkschaft Erziehung und Wissenschaft (GEW), the union representing teachers at all levels, including university professors, estimates that almost 10% (80 of 900) of university professors in the former eastern zone of Berlin, along with ten at the Free University in the former western zone, have lost tenured positions because of lustration.

**Germany’s Gauk Commission**

Throughout Germany, the Gauk Commission, the group reviewing secret police files to identify collaborators, reports that approximately 10% of the 1.4 million screening requests they have received from public agencies have produced findings of prohibited connections with the secret police. Most, though not necessarily all, of these findings have resulted in dismissals.

Nearly half of the scientists working in research institutions in the east have been dismissed, and many others were forced to take lower-level positions and to accept short-term contracts. But many of these changes were attributable to structural reforms tied to efforts to upgrade and modernize the scientific research system rather than solely to lustration.

One of the most interesting cases of lustration in Germany involved Professor Heinrich Pink, President of Humboldt University in Berlin, whose dismissal was initially overturned by a Labor Court because there was no proof that he knowingly conspired with the secret police, and no evidence that any information he indirectly provided had proved harmful to anyone. An appellate court reversed that decision and affirmed Pink’s dismissal, holding that even being listed as an “unofficial collaborator” without his knowledge was sufficient to undermine public confidence in his ability to carry out his work.

**Czech Republic**

The Czech Republic (half of the former Czechoslovakia) was the first Central and Eastern European nation to adopt an employment screening law after the overthrow of the communists. Jaroslav Basta, director of the government commission reviewing secret police files, reports that in the three-year period following December 1991, when the decommunization law took effect, more than 250,000 cases were reviewed, resulting in 14,062 disqualifications for employment based on secret police collaboration alone. Basta noted that an undetermined number of additional disqualifications were based on past political associations with the Communist Party. He also pointed out that the official figures underestimate the actual number of dismissals, since many individuals, facing the obligation to undergo the review process, chose instead to withdraw their job applications or to leave their positions on a “voluntary” basis.

Jan Urban, one of the most outspoken and respected Czech dissidents during the communist years, and the head of the Civic Forum that led the “velvet revolution,” speaks out vehemently against the screening process. He feels decommunization laws provide a “smokescreen that gives society an easy scapegoat permitting them to avoid a more thoroughgoing analysis of how and why society as a whole permitted totalitarianism to exist.” He also believes that lustration, as it is currently being applied, incorporates many of the same totalitarian approaches used in the past by the communists, because “only a judicial process, working on a case-by-case basis” should be used to judge past complicity and other unlawful conduct.
AAAS Organizes Effort to Improve Human Rights Monitoring

On November 1, 1994, the Science and Human Rights Program hosted a meeting of more than fifty non-governmental groups and representatives of the U.S. government to develop more effective mechanisms for reporting and monitoring of human rights compliance needs. This effort was organized by AAAS with assistance of the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights and the American Civil Liberties Union Prison Project in response to the release of the initial compliance report of the U.S. government under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Serious questions were raised about the accuracy and completeness of the U.S. report, and, particularly, about inadequacies in the way the report made use, or more accurately, failed to make use, of statistical data as part of its analyses. Analysis of the U.S. compliance report is seen as one way to construct a more effective model of the type of reporting system that could be used under international human rights treaties more generally. Tom Jabine, and the statistical consultants network that he helped to organize under the auspices of AAAS, is playing a major role in this initiative.

This joint activity is part of a larger effort by the Science and Human Rights Program to improve reporting and information processing systems used by the international agencies under the human rights standards and instruments they are responsible for enforcing.

The Program has been conducting discussions with the United Nations Human Rights Center about organizing a more comprehensive project to improve the information systems they use to compile and track human rights compliance data. The goal is to increase the availability and use of scientific methods in reporting and monitoring human rights compliance.

At the meeting on the U.S. report, one organization was selected to coordinate collection of data and information on each of the major subject areas treated by the Civil and Political Rights Covenant, including:

- discrimination based on race/ethnicity, sex, sexual orientation and disability;
- criminal justice;
- refugee and alien rights; and
- Native American rights.

AAAS was designated as the lead group collecting information on issues of special interest to the scientific community, including the right to travel and issues connected with human scientific experimentation, both of which are covered by specific provisions of the Covenant. The AAAS statistical consultant's network will be preparing a special analysis on statistical data uses and needs.

A report compiling the findings of all the groups will be published by the end of February and submitted to the U.N. Human Rights Committee, the international body responsible for monitoring compliance under the Covenant. On March 29–31, this Committee will conduct public hearings on the U.S. report that will be attended by AAAS and a number of the groups involved in the joint initiative.

Science and Human Rights Symposia at the 1995 AAAS Annual Meeting

The 1995 AAAS Annual meeting will be held February 16-21 in Atlanta and several events will be devoted specifically to issues in Science and Human Rights. On Friday, February 17 at 5:30, The Science and Human Rights Program will be hosting a reception honoring Russian chemist Dr. Vil Mirzayanov and Chinese economist/physicist Wang Juntao (article, page 1). The reception, which will be held at the Hyatt Regency, will also feature remarks from Xu Liangying, a retired physicist and scientific historian formerly with the Institute of History of Science at the Chinese Academy of Sciences. He is one of seven Chinese intellectuals who publicly called for an end to repression of free speech and for the release of political prisoners prior to the March 1994 visit of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to China. The following day, the Scientific Freedom and Responsibility Award will be presented to Dr. Mirzayanov, who was imprisoned after revealing illegal chemical weapons experimentation, and released after a major campaign by U.S. scientists.

Four symposia will feature a range of issues on science and human rights. On Saturday morning, February 18, the Carter Center for Human Rights, with cosponsorship by the AAAS Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility, will present Scientific Methods for Improving United Nations Human Rights Compliance Mechanisms. This symposium will review the activities of the AAAS and its work with U.N. human rights treaty-monitoring bodies to develop an information management system and methods for evaluating compliance with human-rights instruments, as well as the efforts of the Center to upgrade monitoring capabilities of civil and political rights. In the afternoon, the Center has organized Scientific Methods for Promoting Human Rights Observance in Ethiopia. The Center maintains a technical assistance project with the Ethiopian Special Prosecutor's Office, supporting the work of a team of forensic anthropologists from Argentina that is working with local forensic specialists in Ethiopia to improve that country's ability to assess and document past human rights violations and establish a basis for improved forensic practice.

On Sunday morning, February 19, the symposium Threats to Academic Freedom in the U.S. and Abroad, organized by Morton Sklar of the AAAS Science and Human Rights Program, will examine some specific case studies involving academic freedom issues, and then explore the larger current issues involving abuse of academic freedom that have special impact on the scientific community, including the academic community as a popular target for repressive governments, types of abuses on the increase, and ways to bring attention to these problems and reduce the likelihood of violations. In the afternoon, Challenges to Human Rights from Developments in the Life and Health Sciences will focus on specific developments that present difficult ethical and human rights issues, and present potential ways to protect and promote human rights in the Life and Health Sciences.

The 1995 AAAS Annual Meeting will be held at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis; information is available from AAAS Meetings Department, 1333 11th Street NW, Washington, DC 20005 Tel: (202) 326-6450.
Canada–U.S. Information and Documentation Network Formed

On November 3–5, 1994, participants from over forty human rights organizations formed the Canada–U.S. Human Rights Documentation and Information Network (CUSHRID Net) "in recognition of the importance of accurate, credible, and timely human rights information and documentation." The meeting was hosted by the AAAS Science and Human Rights Program, and co-sponsored by Human Rights Information and Documentation Systems (HURODOSCS), Amnesty International-U.S.A., and Amnesty International-Canada. A meeting entitled Coordinating Human Rights Documentation in North America, held in 1993 at AAAS had recommended that such a network be formed.

"The Network exists to facilitate the exchange of ideas and information between human rights organizations; establish uniform standards for human rights documentation, information management and exchange; develop cooperative documentation and information management products to avoid duplication; train workers in various aspects of documentation and information management; and contact and exchange information with documentation networks in other parts of the world.

The Network’s charter and working group reports were formulated through extensive meetings, comment sessions, and revisions; the four working groups met to set agendas for each specialized area. The meeting included plenary addresses by featured speakers, discussion of pre-meeting recommendations in the four specialized working groups, the presentation of the reports, and a series of demonstration and training sessions attended by all participants.

The charter of CUSHRID Net creates a steering committee consisting of the four sponsoring organizations, as well as three members (the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development in Montreal, the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights in New York, and Physicians for Human Rights in Boston) elected at-large from the voting membership. The AAAS Science and Human Rights Program has agreed to serve initially as the Network’s Secretariat.

Invitations to join CUSHRID Net will be sent out to human rights groups throughout Canada and the U.S. shortly. The network hopes to attract wide participation so as to form an alliance of North American human rights groups. A complete report of the proceedings and membership information can be obtained by contacting the Science and Human Rights Program.

Persecuted Scientists in Turkey

The Science and Human Rights Program has been engaged in support work in a number of cases of persecuted scientists in Turkey. The Program is filing complaints and legal support memoranda with UNESCO and with the European Commission on Human Rights regarding:

- Dr. Remzi Kartal, dentist and member of Parliament, who was forced into exile when his political party representing the Kurdish minority was declared illegal and several of his colleagues were arrested and tried on charges of treason for speeches they made in Parliament; and
- A number of health care workers, primarily members of Tum Saglik Sen (Health Workers’ Union) who have bee detained and ill-treated.

A third case the Program has been working on in Turkey has produced excellent results. Yuvuz Onen, an engineer and co-chair of the Turkish Human Rights Foundation, had been arrested and prosecuted for publishing a book documenting cases of torture by the government. The court hearing his case dismissed the charges on January 10 after an outpouring of criticism by the international human rights community, specifically the Council of Europe, which is considering Turkey’s application for membership in the European Community (the Council's economic partnership) and had urged a negative decision based on the Onen trial.

China Mission

AAAS has organized a joint mission to China with a number of scientific affiliate societies scheduled for late April. The purpose of the mission is to help the scientific community in the U.S. assess the status of Chinese compliance with human rights and scientific freedom standards. The mission will take place at a time when expanded exchange and other joint scientific activities are being called for. The President of the AAAS and the Chair of the AAAS Board will lead the mission; they will be joined by the Presidents from two other AAAS affiliates (the American Physical Society and the American Mathematical Society) and a representative from the American Anthropological Association.

Health and Human Rights

The new journal “Health and Human Rights” is now available through the Harvard School of Public Health. The journal is dedicated to exploring the complex linkages between public health and international human rights law, and was introduced at the First International Conference on Health and Human Rights, which was held in Cambridge, Massachusetts, last September. For subscription information, please contact: Health and Human Rights, Subscription Department, P.O. Box 519, Shrub Oak, NY 10588-0519. For credit card orders, call (914) 962-6297; electronic mail orders: jlauserm@hshsuni2.harvard.edu; fax orders, (914) 962-1338. Editorial information can be obtained by contacting Health and Human Rights, 8 Story St., Cambridge, MA 02138, tel: (617) 496-4356, fax: (617) 496-4380; Internet: jlauserm@hshsuni2.harvard.edu.

Caring for Survivors of Torture

The International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT), Copenhagen and the Trauma Centre for Victims of Violence and Torture, Cape Town are calling for papers for their 15–17 November 1995 symposium entitled "Caring for Survivors of Torture: Challenges for the Medical and Health Professions." The symposium will be held in Cape Town, South Africa. For further information, please contact International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT), Borgergade 13, P.O. Box 2107, DK-1014 Copenhagen, DENMARK; tel: (45) 33-76-0600; fax: (45) 33-76-0500.
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The AAAS Science and Human Rights Program collects and disseminates information about foreign scientists, engineers, and health professionals who are victims of human rights abuses or who experience infringement of academic freedom. It also develops applications of scientific methods and techniques to the documentation and prevention of human rights abuses. The concerns of the Science and Human Rights Program are universal and independent of the ideology of any government or individuals it attempts to aid.

The Science and Human Rights Program is within the Directorate for Science and Policy Programs. That Directorate and its Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility monitor the actions of the governments of the United States and other nations which may circumscribe the freedom of scientists or restrict the ability of scientists to exercise their professional responsibilities, and report on developments affecting scientific freedom and responsibility.

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