

ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 1989



INTERNATIONAL
 **HELSINKI** 
FEDERATION FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS

ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

1989

International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights
Rummelhardtgasse 2/18
A-1090 Vienna
Austria

The activities of the IHF in 1989 and the printing of this report were made possible thanks to contributions from:

The Ford Foundation, the Bernard Osher Foundation, the Commission des Communautés Européennes, Charter 77 Foundation, the Fund for Free Expression, Karl Johannes von Schwarzenberg and national Helsinki Committees from Denmark, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States.

We thank all the contributors for their financial support.

The International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights (IHF) is a non-governmental organization that seeks to promote compliance of the signatory states with the human rights provisions of the Helsinki Final Act and its Follow-up Documents. Its Honorary Chairman is Yuri Orlov; its Chairman is Karl Johannes von Schwarzenberg; its Vice-Chair is Jeri Laber; the members of the Executive Committee are: Jeri Laber, Marek Nowicki, Tanja Petovar, Erik Siesby, Lev Timofeyev, Max van der Stoel; its General Secretary is Gerald Nagler; its Executive Director is Yadja Zeltman; its Program Director is Hester Minnema; its Administrative Assistants are Margit Fritz and Sylvia Hordosch; its Interns are: Paula Tscherne (1989) and Liselotte Leicht (1990); its Consultants are: Jana Starek and Christine von Kohl (1990).

The IHF represents national Helsinki Committees in:

- Austria (Anton Pelinka)
- Canada (Irwin Cotler, David Matas)
- Czechoslovakia (Jiri Hajek)
- Denmark (Erik Siesby)
- Federal Republic of Germany (Annemarie Renger)
- Finland (Kalevi Suomela)*
- France (Bernard Stasi)
- Hungary (Miklos Meszöly)
- Italy (Antonio Stango)
- Netherlands (Max van der Stoel)
- Norway (Stein Ivar Aarsaether)
- Poland (Marek Nowicki)
- Spain (Jose-Ventura Olaguibel del Olmo)*
- Sweden (Ake Sparring)
- Switzerland (Rudolf Friedrich)
- United Kingdom (Lord Erik Avebury)
- United States of America (Robert Bernstein)
- USSR (Larisa Bogoraz, Lev Timofeyev)
- Yugoslavia (Drago Demsar, Tanja Petovar, Vladimir Seks)

Copies are available from:

International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights
Rummelhardtgasse 2/18, A-1090 Vienna, Austria

(c) 1990 by the International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights.
All rights reserved.
Printed by Rema-Print, Vienna, Austria.

Cover page: The Berlin Wall, November 10, 1989 (DPA)

* Admitted in 1990.

1989 - A HISTORIC YEAR

1989 was an extraordinary year for the IHF. The political situation in Europe changed completely - and so did the human rights situation.

Old communist regimes were overthrown. The Berlin Wall - a symbol of repression - was opened. Vaclav Havel - a symbol of the struggle for human rights - became president of the CSSR, now the CSFR. The IHF has been deeply involved in this remarkable development. The New York Times reported Vaclav Havel saying at a meeting with the U.S. Helsinki Watch Committee, "I know very well what you did for us, and perhaps without you our revolution could not be."

The IHF undertook numerous fact-finding missions, published reports and observed many political trials. New committees have affiliated with us: the French Helsinki Committee and the Hungarian Helsinki Committee. In Romania and Bulgaria a valuable new network of contacts has been established. Prospects for the establishment of committees in Finland and Spain increased greatly.

It was a great honor for us to receive - together with Lech Walesa - the Human Rights Prize of the Council of Europe.

1989 also meant a great loss for humanity and for the IHF with the passing of Academician Andrei Sakharov. Dr. Sakharov has been our spiritual leader and great support ever since the formation of the first Helsinki Monitoring Group in Moscow. We have learned from him and we do our utmost to continue working in his spirit defending human rights wherever necessary.

The IHF has become internationally more recognized and our expertise has been frequently used by governments, inter-parliamentarian organizations and NGO's. The changed political situation has given the IHF more leverage - thus our work has become more important in the political field as well as in the consciousness of people. However, although the human rights situation has improved, many old problems still exist. National conflicts and minority problems increase and carry with them serious human rights violations - and they occur in Eastern as well as in Western countries.

We at the IHF thank all the individuals and organizations who have helped, supported and encouraged us - we need and depend on them.

Gerald Nagler, Secretary General
Vienna, 1990

ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

1989

1989 was a most unusual year for the International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights (IHF). The year began with the constructive conclusion of the CSCE Follow-up Meeting in Vienna and ended with the collapse of communist regimes in Eastern and Central Europe symbolized by the opening of the Berlin Wall.

Of course, positive changes and improved East-West relations had begun taking place in 1988. They intensified in 1989 when Solidarity and allied democratic forces in Poland won the elections. In countries such as Poland and Hungary, our efforts turned from confrontation with the governments to dialogue with them. This does not mean that these countries became heavens for human rights activists and reformers. Abuses and harassments continue till this very day, but with less intensity and intimidation. In all countries except Romania and Turkey, human rights activists worked in the open, supplying us with more data than ever before on human rights violations in their regions.

However, during most of 1989 the work of the IHF preserved its traditional character as countries such as Czechoslovakia and Romania became even more repressive.

The IHF followed closely human rights abuses in the CSCE countries by publishing reports, observing trials, sending fact-finding missions, organizing seminars, and working with the press, human rights organizations, and the public in criticizing abuses and praising improvements. We worked closely with our affiliated national Helsinki Committees in 17 countries in promoting our program.

THE EUROPEAN HUMAN RIGHTS PRIZE

On May 10 the IHF was the recipient of the European Human Rights Prize of the Council of Europe 1989, which it shares with Lech Walesa. In announcing the Prize the Committee of the Council of Europe stated that: "THE INTERNATIONAL HELSINKI FEDERATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS HAS MADE AN EXCEPTIONAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM, POLITICAL LIBERTY AND THE RULE OF LAW WHICH ARE THE FOUNDATIONS OF ANY TRULY DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY AND REFLECTED NOTABLY IN THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS".

In accepting the award IHF Chairman Karl Johannes von Schwarzenberg used the occasion to remind the Western countries of their duty and responsibility "to help (East European) countries use their freedom so as to achieve genuine self-reliance".



Celebrating the receipt of the European Human Rights Prize, Warsaw, April 1989.
Gerald Nagler, Lech Walesa, Karl Johannes von Schwarzenberg, Yuri Orlov.

ANNUAL MEETING AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

For the first time in the history of the IHF an Annual Meeting was held in a Warsaw Pact country. The meeting took place in Warsaw, Poland, from April 21 through April 25, after the Round Table talks but before the elections. Members from 14 committees attended, as well as guests from 3 other countries. It was at this meeting that two additional Helsinki Committees, from France and Hungary, joined the IHF.

The meetings were held in an open and constructive atmosphere. Reports were presented by member committees, and future plans were discussed. A well attended seminar on the "Independence of the judiciary" was held at Warsaw University.

The IHF was also able to meet and discuss human rights violations in Poland with the Minister of Justice, the Deputies of the Ministers of Interior and Foreign Affairs, and ombudswoman Dr. Ewa Letowska.

The meetings which were carefully planned and prepared with the assistance of the Helsinki Committee in Poland would have been a total success were it not for the absence of the delegation from Czechoslovakia. A four-person delegation headed by Dr. Jiri Hajek was removed from the train at the border by the Czechoslovak border

police in the middle of the night, searched, had their papers confiscated and were sent back to Prague.



Seminar on the "Independence of the judiciary", Warsaw University, April 1989.
Marek Nowicki, Jerzy Ciemniewski, David Matas, Tanja Petovar,
interpreter, Stefan Starczewski, interpreter.

CSCE ACTIVITIES

The CSCE Follow-up Meeting in Vienna which came to an end on January 19 finished in an atmosphere of hope, creating a more constructive way of dealing with human rights violations on a governmental level. It established more permanent mechanisms to safeguard the implementation of the CSCE documents. Most notably, it established a procedure whereby any individual country concerned with human rights violations in another country can engage that country in bilateral discussions, including specific cases.

This mechanism has since been used on multiple occasions, for example:

Against CSSR on matters concerning political prisoners, and exit visas for some of its citizens;

Against Romania on matters concerning curbs on freedom of religion, freedom of expression, freedom of movement and family reunification.

The IHF served an important role in providing information about human rights violations in specific countries, and often was the initiator of such bilateral actions.

The Swiss Helsinki Committee held a public forum soon after the conclusion of the Vienna Meeting.

During the CSCE Information Forum in London in April, the Danish Helsinki Committee took part via satellite in a debate on freedom of information with the delegates to the Forum. Members of the Dutch Helsinki Committee and U.S. Helsinki Watch were public members of their countries' delegations.

In June 1989 the IHF was present in Paris at the CSCE Human Dimension meetings, where it briefed the CSCE delegations on human rights violations and issued its report *Romania. Enemy of Its Own People*. Together with the French Helsinki Committee it sponsored a seminar at the Assemblée Nationale on the "Human Rights Situation in Selective Countries".

National committees also participated actively at the Paris conference. Members of the Helsinki Committees in the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland and the United States participated as public members of their countries' delegations.

The Swiss Helsinki Committee prepared a report titled "The topic of 'Religious freedom' at the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe", and two working papers "Sending gifts to Eastern Europe" (a synopsis of customs regulations) and "Visa policy of Switzerland, especially regarding citizens of East European countries".

The Dutch Helsinki Committee submitted to the delegations a proposal regarding conscientious objection to military service.

In Sofia, at the CSCE Meeting on the Protection of the Environment in October, the Dutch delegation at the insistence of the Dutch Helsinki Committee urged the conference to discuss not only technical environmental issues, but also the right of independent environmental groups to exist and to act freely.

The monograph *Supervision of Human Rights Provisions in the Vienna Concluding Document* by F. Coomans et al. and several articles on the CSCE process were published by the Dutch Helsinki Committee in their bulletin *Helsinki Hedan*. The committee cooperated with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs in distributing to the public the Dutch translation of the Vienna Concluding Document.

IHF COORDINATION OF NATIONAL COMMITTEES

The coordination of activities of national committees and the creation of new committees remain one of the most important tasks of the IHF.

The IHF worked closely with the committees, distributing their publications and their press releases, sometimes reissuing their publications for international distribution, assisting them in their research and missions and facilitating contact with sources in investigated countries.

Two new committees, Hungary and France, joined the IHF, bringing the total up to 17. The Moscow Helsinki Group, the very first Helsinki monitoring group which was created in 1976 and forced to cease its activities in 1982, reconstituted itself and started functioning again with Press Club Glasnost merging into the reactivated committee.

There is, of course, room for growth. More committees are still needed, especially in Western countries where greater pressure needs to be exercised on the governments to liberalize their visa and asylum policies, to take measures against racial discrimination and national chauvinism, and to guarantee the right to conscientious objection to military service.

Representatives of the IHF visited the national committees on many occasions, in order to discuss with them how to proceed with their activities and to suggest to them future plans and strategies.

Since the IHF considers its work to be an integral part of the activities of the national committees, our report also includes a selection of actions taken independently by them.

BULGARIA

For most of 1989 Bulgaria was among the most repressive countries in Eastern Europe. Yet independent groups continued to spring up, most notably independent trade unions and independent ecological groups, thus incurring intensified persecution, deportation, restriction of movement, deprivation of property, brutality against demonstrators, family separation, and arrest.

In addition to the overall persecution of human rights activists the government intensified the "bulgarization" of its Turkish population. This persecution led to the expulsion and flight from the country of more than 300,000 Bulgarian Turks.

An IHF delegation composed of IHF representatives and national committee members from Norway, Poland, Switzerland and the United States left for Sofia on October 22 for a one-week fact-finding mission to investigate the condition of political prisoners and issues such as freedom of association, legal reforms and minority problems (Turks and Pomaks). The delegation met with government officials and official and unofficial groups, and travelled to southern regions to meet with representatives of the Turkish minority.

National committees were very active in following closely the events in Bulgaria and in protesting human rights violations there.

Members of the national Helsinki Committees of Norway and the United States travelled to Bulgaria and Turkey on several occasions to meet with Turks and Pomaks. The Norwegian Helsinki Committee issued a report on the Turkish minority in July 1989. U.S. Helsinki Watch published a report titled *Destroying Ethnic Identity: The Expulsion of the Bulgarian Turks* and published two issues of the newsletter *News from Bulgaria*.

U.S. Helsinki Watch testified before the U.S. Congress on the issue of ethnic Turks in Bulgaria, and in April the Italian Helsinki Committee sponsored a meeting in Rome on the human rights situation in Bulgaria.

Despite the political changes which took place in Bulgaria towards the end of the year and the stopping of the "bulgarization" process, the national minority problems continue, chiefly in the form of chauvinistic populist action instigated by a small group of the population.

CYPRUS

On Cyprus the main problem continues to be the conflict between the Greek and the Turkish communities. The Danish Helsinki Committee met with President Denktas of the Turkish part of Cyprus to discuss human rights issues.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

For most of the year the Czechoslovak regime was trying to remain in power by severely persecuting human rights activists. In Czechoslovakia political changes took place only toward the end of the year, with the Communist Party leadership resigning in a way that gave birth to the phrase of the "velvet revolution".

Throughout the year the IHF worked very intensely on problems in Czechoslovakia. A report on Human Rights in Czechoslovakia was prepared by the Czechoslovak Helsinki Committee and published jointly by the committee, the IHF and U.S. Helsinki Watch. However, attempts to hold a constructive dialogue with the government often failed. Meetings with government officials scheduled for March 6 fell through because the officials refused to meet with Dr. Jiri Hajek, an important member of the delegation.

A legal memorandum on the case of Vaclav Havel was submitted to the Municipal Court in Prague on March 20. The memorandum was prepared by the IHF, U.S. Helsinki Watch, Swedish PEN Center and the Swedish Writers Union in time for the appeal of Havel's case. The memorandum demonstrated how, in this case, the Czechoslovak authorities were violating all international covenants and laws to which they were signatory.

In June, a mission of the IHF and the U.S. Helsinki Watch staff went to Prague, Brno and Bratislava to meet with unofficial groups to investigate the human rights situation at first hand.

Especially in the fall, almost weekly, and sometimes daily, a different political trial was held in Prague, Brno, Gottwaldow or Bratislava. Members of the IHF and national committees attended most of those trials as official observers and watchdogs.

In October, a meeting of the Czechoslovak Helsinki Committee, the IHF and U.S. Helsinki Watch was prevented from taking place when nearly all the Czech members and a U.S. Helsinki Watch member were arrested and briefly detained.

National Helsinki Committees were broadly engaged in responding to the brutal action by the Czechoslovak authorities. Multiple protests and appeals accompanied by pressures on their own governments to react to the human rights violations were issued by the Dutch Helsinki Committee, the Norwegian Helsinki Committee, the Helsinki Committee in Poland, the Swedish Helsinki Committee and the Yugoslav Helsinki Committee.

The Swedish Helsinki Committee protested Vaclav Havel's detention in January to Prime Minister Ladislav Adamec. The Norwegian Helsinki Committee instituted special actions on Havel's behalf.

The Dutch Helsinki Committee issued press releases protesting among other things arrests and human rights violations in Czechoslovakia, and the Czech government's refusal to issue visas to members of the Dutch committee.

The Norwegian Helsinki Committee issued press statements on psychiatric abuse in Czechoslovakia.

U.S. Helsinki Watch published the following reports: Prison Conditions in Czechoslovakia in January; Towards a Civil Society: Independent Initiatives in Czechoslovakia in August; and News from Czechoslovakia, which was issued three times during 1989.

On November 17 members of the Helsinki Committee in Poland were in Prague and witnessed the violent beatings of peacefully assembled students by the police. Subsequently the world witnessed the collapse on November 28 of the regime of Prime Minister Ladislav Adamec, and human rights activists greeted with great joy and disbelief the emergence of Vaclav Havel, a member of Charter 77 and the Czechoslovak Helsinki Committee, as the new President.

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Almost till the very end of its existence the communist regime in the German Democratic Republic (GDR) resisted attempts at democratization. Finally, however, it ceded power to the democratic forces, symbolized by the opening of the Berlin Wall on November 9. It did so after thousands fled the country to the Federal Republic of Germany via Hungary, Poland, Czechoslovakia and Austria. Encouraged by the migration, demonstrations began to take place in many localities with Leipzig and Dresden leading the way and an opposition movement, independent of the church, began to emerge.

The IHF had been following the events in the GDR for quite some time. In July an IHF representative went to Leipzig to strengthen cooperation with human rights activists, and in January 1990 an IHF mission went to Berlin, Leipzig and Dresden. Our contacts with the independent activists continue, but discussions about the formation of a Helsinki monitoring committee were set aside pending the outcome of fast-breaking developments in that country.

National Helsinki committees also followed closely the events in the GDR. In September the Dutch Helsinki Committee organized a symposium in Utrecht on the

German question within the CSCE process. The Yugoslav Helsinki Committee issued statements in support of the independent movement in the GDR. And U.S. Helsinki Watch published News from East Germany in October.

GREECE

National minorities, especially the Turkish and Macedonian communities, were subject to harassment by the Greek authorities. Human rights violations in that country were monitored closely by the Danish Helsinki Committee and the Helsinki Committee in Poland.

HUNGARY

In general, the human rights situation in Hungary improved considerably. Freedom of the press and association were introduced, and the country witnessed the formation of many independent groups and political parties. All groups began to ready themselves for free elections.



Press conference announcing the founding of the Hungarian Helsinki Committee, Budapest, May 19, 1989. Gyula Kodolanyi, Miklos Meszöly, Karl Johannes von Schwarzenberg, interpreter, Ferenc Köszeg.

The IHF followed closely the events in Hungary and IHF staff visited the independent groups frequently. Much of the IHF's time was devoted to helping the formation of the Hungarian Helsinki Committee, which officially joined the IHF when the General Assembly convened in Warsaw in April.

The Dutch and Norwegian Helsinki Committees also worked closely with their Hungarian counterparts. U.S. Helsinki Watch sponsored a panel discussion on "Transition to Democracy: The Changes in Hungary" and wrote articles on new independent youth and trade union organizations. The Yugoslav Helsinki Committee greeted the democratization of Hungary on many occasions through press statements.

NORTHERN IRELAND

The Norwegian Helsinki Committee's report *IRA Terrorism Against British Colonialism - Human Rights Violations in Northern Ireland* is scheduled to appear early in 1990 in Norwegian, to be followed by an updated English version in the summer of 1990.

Throughout the year the Norwegian Helsinki Committee issued many press statements on the discrimination against Catholics in Northern Ireland, and commentaries on the human rights situation there.

POLAND

In June 1989 Poland became the first Warsaw Pact country where the Communist Party was forced to share power with the opposition. A non-communist government, with Tadeusz Mazowiecki as its Prime Minister, took over after the sound defeat of the communists in the first free elections in 40 years.

Also for the first time in its history the IHF held its Annual Meeting in a Warsaw Pact country. The meeting described earlier in the report was proof of how rapidly things were changing there even before the elections, since the IHF was able to conduct its meetings freely and without any interference. The only time friction arose between the IHF and the government was concerning the meetings with government officials, who objected to our inclusion in the IHF delegation members of the Helsinki Committee in Poland. Ultimately they withdrew their objections and all visits included representatives from the committee.

Much of the monitoring of the changing human rights situation in Poland was done by the Helsinki Committee there.

The committee issued reports on the human rights situation in Poland in 1988 and in 1989. It prepared reports on the Polish judiciary and on the elections to the Sejm and Senate, which were then presented to the United Nations Human Rights Commission. The committee submitted to the Minister of Justice its views on the draft of a government report concerning observance of the international Bill of Human Rights in 1987-89.



Laying of flowers at the grave of Father Popieluszko, Warsaw, April 1989.

The committee's paper on "Civil Rights - Law and Legality" served as a basis for the round table debates on legal matters and the judiciary. The paper called for the removal of restrictions on access to publications in libraries and prompt ratification of international documents, such as the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the United Nations Convention on Refugees.

The Helsinki Committee in Poland has also begun to set up the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, which consists of an Eastern European Documentation Center and a Human Rights Education Program. Within that framework it organized debates on criminal law reforms, prepared a syllabus for courses in human rights and began looking into problems of living and working conditions in Silesia.

Other national committees also monitored the rapidly changing situation in Poland.

The Dutch Helsinki Committee worked closely with their Polish colleagues and helped them set up the Eastern European Documentation Center.

U.S. Helsinki Watch monitored conditions under which candidates ran for office, and reported violations such as harassment of opposition candidates, wire-tapping, restrictive access to media, etc. Findings were published in News from Poland. It sent a mission in June to reinvestigate prison conditions in Poland at the invitation of the Polish government, as a follow-up to a 1987 report on the same topic.

The Norwegian Helsinki Committee followed closely the political developments in Poland, made frequent trips there and issued a report on The Center- and Right-Wing Parties in Poland. It also hosted Lech Walesa in early January 1989.

Soon after the IHF Annual Meeting the Canadian Helsinki Watch Group issued a report on the human rights situation in Poland. The report, written before the June elections, hence does not include the changes which took place thereafter.

ROMANIA

In January 1989, shortly before the conclusion of the Vienna CSCE Follow-up Conference, the Romanian Ambassador to the conference announced that his country would not be bound by the provisions of the Concluding Document which it considered 'inadequate'. The government's repressive actions throughout 1989 proved his statement to be true.

On February 21 the Chairman of the IHF testified before the European Parliament that "repression in Romania was so persistent and pervasive that it affects the entire population, leaving a whole people in a constant state of fear... Ceausescu's efforts to create 'the new man' (to use his own words) in an equalized society in its most perfect form have disastrous consequences for all who differ the slightest from the Great Conducator's ideal, be they a Gypsy, a Hungarian, an intellectual, a farmer, a believer, or a childless woman".

The Romanian government's repressive rule and severe human rights violations were amply documented in the IHF's report Romania. Enemy of Its Own People, prepared for the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE in Paris in June. The report deals with the so-called "systematization" plan, which aims at reducing the number of villages; the repression of ethnic minorities; political prisoners; and the restrictions on freedom of religion. The report documents how by isolating the Romanian people from the rest of Europe, while subjecting them to constant fear of harassment, the Ceausescu regime had made itself the enemy of its own people.

The Danish Helsinki Committee held hearings on Romania in Copenhagen in May. Other committees published reports on Romania: U.S. Helsinki Watch published a report Destroying Ethnic Identity; The Hungarians in Romania; the Norwegian Helsinki Committee Romania - This Is Me on the destruction of Romanian villages. The Italian Helsinki Committee organized a conference on "Violations of Human Rights in the Age of Ceausescu" held in October 1988 in Rome, and published its proceedings early in 1989.

The situation in Romania remained unchanged until the overthrow of the regime in December 1989. Romania resisted the changes the longest and was the only one to resist them with such severe violence. Ceausescu believed that the use of force would enable him to contain the demonstrators. However, demonstrations begun in Timisoara spread to Bucharest and other cities and violent attempts to put them down resulted in the collapse of the regime.

Reactions to the bloody events in Romania were immediate. All national Helsinki Committees organized actions on behalf of the Romanian population.

The Chairman of the IHF together with members of U.S. Helsinki Watch went to Bucharest immediately after the revolution, where they met with President Ion Iliescu and government officials as well as with the newly formed Group for Social Dialogue and the Romanian Helsinki Committee.

The chairman of the Italian Helsinki Committee went on a fact-finding mission to Timisoara while the protests were still going on. A special program to help Romania in the transition towards democracy began.

Rallies, first begun as protests against Ceausescu's reactions towards the demonstrators, took on a supportive character towards the new regime. In Poland during the rally in front of the Romanian Embassy the Romanian Ambassador joined the demonstrators and declared himself on the side of the fighters. By chance, the Helsinki Committee in Poland became the organizer of a charitable action for Romania for the entire country. Through the early days of January 1990 the committee collected 650 million zlotys (equivalent to 1000 average yearly salaries) and about 240 tons of clothing. The purchased food and medication together with clothing were sent (free of charge) by plane, eleven rail cars and road vehicles to Romania, escorted by people who made sure that the shipments would reach their destination such as church groups and well known former political prisoners. In addition each shipment contained copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (in Romanian) and some samples of articles on association and voluntary organizations.

TURKEY

Despite Turkey's signing of the United Nations and European conventions, the IHF and national Helsinki Committees continue to receive reports about large numbers of political prisoners, continuing routine torture, inhuman prison conditions, continuing persecution of journalists, detention and arrests of peaceful demonstrators, and continuing persecution of the Kurdish minority in Eastern Turkey.

In March, U.S. Helsinki Watch published *Paying the Price. Freedom of Expression in Turkey* on freedom of the press and censorship, and sent a mission to Turkey in March, which resulted in a report on *Prison Conditions in Turkey*.

When the Danish Helsinki Committee criticized Turkey on the detention of 42 journalists during the CSCE Information Forum in London the head of the Turkish delegation responded that this was an internal affair.

U.S. Helsinki Watch repeatedly petitioned the United States government to apply pressure on Turkish authorities via the CSCE process. The committee also testified before the U.S. Congress on the human rights situation in Turkey.

The Norwegian Helsinki Committee issued many press statements on human rights violation in Turkey and on the Kurdish minority.

USSR

Although the March elections to the Congress of People's Deputies gave, for the first time in the USSR, a voice to the democratic and reform forces, and eased the way for Mikhail Gorbachev towards an active presidency, reforms have not advanced as rapidly as expected, especially when compared with the rapid changes in Eastern Europe. Constitutional and legal reforms have been moving at a snail's pace and economic reforms have been even slower. This situation created a sense of uncertainty about the future of the USSR and gave rise to the rapid development of very diverse movements, both progressive and reactionary. Some republics even began toying with the idea of greater autonomy or outright secession from the Soviet Union.

Thanks to glasnost the country witnessed some improvements. Yet violations of human rights persist throughout the country. The Soviet Union still holds political prisoners; people are still kept in psychiatric hospitals for political reasons; movement within the country and travel abroad are still restricted; the list of refuseniks is still very long.

New abuses, of great concern to the IHF and its member committees, seemed to be emerging. Administrative terror such as short-term detention or harassment became a preferred way of punishment and intimidation by the police. Hatred between nationalities and chauvinism re-emerged after decades of suppression with little or no attempt at containment by the authorities.

The IHF and its member committees followed the events in the USSR very closely, and stayed in constant touch with various activists there.

IHF representatives went in September to Moscow and Kiev to meet and welcome to the IHF the members of the reconstituted Moscow Helsinki Group^{*}; to better understand the changing situation in the Soviet Union; and to begin preparing the IHF's 1990 Annual Meeting scheduled to be held in Moscow. During the visit the IHF met with people from the Human Rights Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with representatives of several official and unofficial groups, such as the Inter-Regional Deputies Group, the Moscow Tribune, Memorial, International Fund Survival and Development, Ukrainian Helsinki Union and Ruch, the Jewish Cultural Association, Lithuanian Helsinki Committee, Crimean Tartars and others.

As a result of the IHF's mission and previous ones by members of national committees, IHF affiliates concentrated primarily on the questions of legal reforms, nationality conflicts, religious freedom and individual cases.

The Italian Helsinki Committee held several conferences in Rome. One conference dealt with the human rights situation in the Ukraine. Other topics were "Beyond Glasnost. Independent Publications and Non-formal Associations in the USSR", and "The People of the USSR Towards the Crisis of the Nationality Policy". In addition, it published *Dove va la perestrojka?* in November on the problems and limits of perestroika.

^{*} Our member committee - Press Club Glasnost - merged into the reconstituted Moscow Helsinki Group.

U.S. Helsinki Watch twice sent delegations to Moscow to investigate legal reforms, the criminal justice system and the human rights situation under perestroika. The committee published *Toward the Rule of Law: Soviet Legal Reform and Human Rights in the Soviet Union Under Perestroika* and *USSR: Human Rights Under Glasnost* as well as *News from the USSR*.

The Swedish Helsinki Committee, together with the Swedish Institute of International Affairs and Studieförbundet Vuxenskolan, organized a seminar on "Democracy and Human Rights in the Baltic States", in which 15 human rights activists and scholars from those states participated.

The Swiss Helsinki Committee studied the problems of travel to the USSR by foreigners. The Norwegian Helsinki Committee experienced the travel restrictions at first hand, as one of its members was denied Soviet visas on several occasions in 1989.

The cases of political prisoners in the USSR continued to be an issue for the IHF and its member committees. The Moscow Helsinki Group published regularly a list of people it considered to be prisoners of conscience in camps and prisons. The Group appealed on several occasions to the Soviet government and organizations for the release of those individuals and the reinvestigation of borderline cases.

For most of 1989 the case of Sergei Kuznetsov drew a lot of attention in the international community. The case is proof of how slowly the country is reforming and how old habits remain. Kuznetsov, a journalist from Sverdlovsk, had published in 1988 articles critical of the first party secretary, the chiefs of the KGB and the militia. Kuznetsov was arrested and kept in isolation for most of the time, twice examined in psychiatric clinics, beaten by the local police, went on hunger strikes to protest his arrest and subsequent trial. The IHF and all national committees urged the international community to take action, including Soviet officials and organizations. For a long time efforts on his behalf seemed to lead nowhere, such as when physicians from Denmark and France offered to travel to the USSR to examine him. Kuznetsov was finally released in March 1990 after a judgement by the Court of Appeals, which sentenced him to six months prison which he had already served during pre-trial detention.

The Canadian Helsinki Watch Group continued its efforts on the fate of Raoul Wallenberg. Members of the committee were invited to the USSR in October to be given some of Raoul Wallenberg's personal property.

YUGOSLAVIA

Although Yugoslavia remains under one-party rule, fragmentation of political and economic life results in wide variations in enjoyment of rights of freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and the free flow of information from republic to republic. Economic problems and minority conflicts, especially in Kosovo, seem to have paralyzed large parts of the country. In 1989 Yugoslavia had the largest number of political prisoners in South Eastern Europe.

The IHF together with the Yugoslav Helsinki Committee devoted much of its time to the Kosovo problem even before the introduction of the state of emergency. In

September the IHF, together with the Norwegian Helsinki Committee and U.S. Helsinki Watch, went on a fact-finding mission to investigate the human rights situation in Yugoslavia, with a special emphasis on Kosovo, and to observe political trials which were taking place at the time in the region. The findings of the mission were published in a report *Yugoslavia: Crisis in Kosovo* early 1990.



IHF delegation in front of the Orthodox Theological Seminary in Prizrin, Yugoslavia, September 13, 1989. Ken Anderson, Sonja Licht, Rector Milutin Timotijevic, Kristoffer Gjøtterud, Karl Johannes von Schwarzenberg and members of the Seminary.

The Yugoslav Helsinki Committee appealed to the President of the SFRY Presidency Dr. Janez Drnovsek and the President of the Serbian Presidency Slobodan Milosevic requesting them to revoke the emergency measures and permit the establishment of democratic institutions in Kosovo. The Helsinki Committee submitted four petitions to that effect. The Chairman of the IHF made the same appeal to President Drnovsek during a meeting with him in October. IHF representatives and members of the Yugoslav Helsinki Committee met with the Vice-Minister of Justice.

In addition to trials in Kosovo, the Yugoslav Helsinki Committee observed trials in Serbia and Croatia, and followed closely attempts by the State and the Communist Party to monopolize the mass media in order to induce ethnic conflicts in the country. It appealed for equal access to the mass media for all alternative political groups and

movements, insisting that any media monopoly goes against Yugoslav regulations and internationally accepted rules.

Increasing Turbulence: Human Rights in Yugoslavia, issued by U.S. Helsinki Watch, reports the results of a mission by the committee in 1988.

ASYLUM, REFUGEES AND VISA POLICIES

The liberalization process in Eastern and Central Europe, facilitating free movement in those countries, resulted in many people attempting to emigrate or to improve their economic situation by spending some time as migrant workers in Western countries. These countries, for their part, felt threatened economically and culturally by the growing number of immigrants and consequently increased restrictions limiting entry into their countries.

The problem of granting asylum and refugee status as well as the living conditions of migrant workers is becoming an issue for investigation by the IHF. The IHF requested that national committees in Western countries study their countries' asylum and visa policies. As a result, the Dutch Helsinki Committee published The Cost of Visas and the Helsinki Final Act and issued an update to their 1984 report on asylum, a compilation of documents of the CSCE process. The visa report received special attention in the Dutch Parliament during the discussion of the budget of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Swiss Helsinki Committee published in German a report on Swiss Asylum Policy in the 80's. The report received great attention in the Swiss press.

In June, U.S. Helsinki Watch published a report on U.S. asylum policy: Detained, Denied, Deported: Asylum Seekers in the United States.

The IHF together with the Austrian Helsinki Committee worked on a report on the changing refugee and asylum policies in Austria, a country which is often the first stop for many Eastern European travellers.

The Canadian Helsinki Watch Group protested the doubling of visa charges by Canada, seeing it as a violation of the spirit of the Final Act and the Concluding Document of the Follow-up Meetings. The Norwegian Helsinki Committee issued several press statements protesting Norwegian asylum policies and new visa restrictions.

The Italian Helsinki Committee worked closely with immigrants from Eastern Europe in trying to improve living conditions in refugee centers and the general processing of applications and granting refugee status to many. The Italian Helsinki Committee and the Helsinki Committee in Poland worked together on solving the problems of family reunification in the case of almost 100 Polish children who were refused admission by the Italian authorities, but whose parents were already in Italian refugee centers.

Referring to the principles concerning freedom of religion in the Vienna Concluding Document, the Danish Helsinki Committee successfully pressured its government to

permit Turkish Imams an extended stay in Denmark where they act as spiritual advisors to Turkish immigrants. Their stay was extended from 2 to 4 years.

The Swedish Helsinki Committee began investigating restrictions on minorities in Sweden, and also looked into their government's efforts to evade existing anti-discriminatory legislation.

THE IHF, NGO'S AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

NGO's and international organizations, perceiving the need for greater understanding and cooperation between various organizations, called on the IHF and the national Helsinki Committees to share with them their knowledge and expertise in the field of human rights.

The IHF, the Canadian Helsinki Watch Group and the Yugoslav Helsinki Committee participated in an international conference "East meets West on Human Rights in a new spirit of international cooperation" in Sintra, Portugal.

The Canadian government consulted the Canadian Helsinki Watch Group on human rights issues in preparation for its sessions of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

The Norwegian Helsinki Committee testified before the European Council on the human rights situation in CSCE countries.

The European Commission for Human Rights consulted the IHF before its delegation travelled to Bulgaria to investigate human rights violations there.

The Danish Helsinki Committee was invited to a conference in Moscow on the need for an independent judiciary in the USSR, and to a conference in Bremen, Federal Republic of Germany, on the Kurdish issue. Another conference on the Kurdish problem was held in Paris and attended by U.S. Helsinki Watch.

CONCLUSIONS: A LOOK INTO THE FUTURE

With the dramatic changes in Eastern and Central Europe the IHF and its national Helsinki Committees are revising their tasks and priorities for the future.

As our report shows, the IHF will continue for some time to be preoccupied with the ongoing arrests of individuals for political reasons and with the continuation of restrictions on freedom of movement, religion, association, the press and information. It hopes that with time, sooner rather than later, those concerns will disappear in all CSCE countries. To achieve that goal, the IHF is beginning to support the transition towards democracy in those countries.

Thus the IHF can play a major role in the creation of new legislation and constitutions by establishing groups of experts who will be available to assist in the drafting of legislation in conformity with general principles and standards and acquainting those countries in transition with possible alternatives for new legislation. Inter Amicus, an international human rights institute established by the Canadian Helsinki Watch Group, and the Lawyers Group established by the Swiss Helsinki Committee, who are ready to help whenever and wherever needed, are the beginnings of such activities.

The IHF and its member committees must turn their attention towards the rise of racism, populist nationalism, chauvinism and anti-semitism in all CSCE countries, East and West.

Without any long-term educational programs our projects and efforts on behalf of human rights will be short-lived. Most Eastern and Central European countries have little or no experience with democracy. Western countries seem to experience periodic lapses of memory when basic human rights for individuals are concerned, forgetting that migrant workers need better living conditions and that prison conditions, police abuse or the death penalty are not only a problem for the Eastern European countries, but also for themselves.

All countries need an educational program on human rights and democracy suitable for all levels of society and ages. The introduction of such courses in schools is of the greatest urgency. Here, the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights with its Documentation Center and Human Rights Education Program established by the Helsinki Committee in Poland under the patronage of the IHF should become the model of such a program.

Contrary to fears by some, there is no reason to believe that the IHF and the Helsinki Committees will lose their raison d'être. On the contrary, more committees are needed - soon. To quote a member of the Helsinki Committee in Poland, "All governments, in the East and the West, must be watched by human rights monitors, because it's in the nature of governments to try to cross the line of power".

We hope that this call will be heeded by all - individuals, organizations and governments. Individuals, independent human right activists and organizations in all CSCE countries can, and we hope will, work with us by sharing information and by supporting us morally and financially whenever possible.

Menschenrechtspreis des Europarates an Lech Walesa und die Helsinki-Föderation

Am Mittwoch ist in Strassburg die Übergabe des Europäischen Menschenrechtspreises gefeiert worden, den das Ministerkomitee des Europarates dem polnischen Gewerkschaftsführer Lech Walesa und der Internationalen Helsinki-Föderation zugesprochen hat. Der Versammlungssaal war bis auf den letzten Platz besetzt, als der Gründer und Leiter der unabhängigen polnischen Gewerkschaft Solidarnosc und der Präsident der Helsinki-Föderation, von Schwarzenberg, in den Parlamentssaal geführt wurden.

Im Strassburg, 10. Mai

Schwarzenberg betonte in seiner Dankadresse den grossen Unterschied zwischen ihm und Walesa. Dieser habe seine Gewerkschaft zu einer ganz Polen umfassenden Bewegung gemacht, die heute nach jahrelanger Unterdrückung an der Gestaltung der Geschichte ihres Vaterlandes mitwirken. Er, Schwarzenberg, sei nur der Stellvertreter für die vielen unbekannten und bekannten Männer und Frauen, die sich dem Kampf um die Menschenrechte verschrieben. Aus der *Schar der Opfer*, die dieser Kampf gefordert hat und noch fordert, zählte er einige der Ermordeten, zu Tode Gequälten, in Lagern und Gefängnissen Gestorbenen auf, so den polnischen Pater *Papieluszko*, den sowjetischen Menschenrechtler *Morischenko*, den rumänischen Priester *Leza Paliy*, und nannte unter der Menge von Verbannten und langjährig Gefangenen den Ehrenpräsidenten des Helsinki-Bundes, Juri Orlow, den aufs Neue eingekerkerten tschechischen Dramatiker *Vaclav Havel*, den türkischen Zeitungsverleger *Yazici*.

Für ein Leben ohne Lüge

Auch Lech Walesa erklärte vor parlamentarischer Versammlung nicht für seine Person, sondern für die Menschheit.

Le Monde: June 3, 1989

Création d'un Comité français de surveillance des accords d'Helsinki

NRC Handelsblad: April 25, 1989

Primeur Warschau: Helsinki Federatie bijeen in Polen

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung: June 12, 1989

Moskaus Umgang mit den Menschenrechten

Neue Berichte in Paris vorgelegt / Zahlreiche Verstöße / Von Ernst Levy

East Europeans Set Own Terms on Pact

Crackdowns on Dissident Groups Called Backlash Against Rights

By Jackson Diehl
Washington Post Service

WARSAW — Within days of signing a new East-West agreement that includes strong provisions on human rights, most of Eastern Europe's Communist governments have signaled their intention to honor their new commitments to personal and political freedoms only on their own terms. Since the agreement, the governments have

"The agreement is a very positive thing, but the practice of East European states so far contradicts all the commitments that have been made," said Hester Minowa of the International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights, a monitoring group based in Vienna.

Der Standard: September 19, 1989

Schwere Vorwürfe gegen Jugoslawien

Helsinki-Föderation prangert Menschenrechtsverletzungen an „Rund 2000 Polit-Häftlinge“

The New York Times: February 5, 1990

Czechoslovakia

Rights Monitors Gather to Discuss Changes

By BRENDA FOWLER
Special to The New York Times

BRATISLAVA, Czechoslovakia, Feb. 4 — Though not quite a celebration, there was a hesitant sense of victory here this weekend as human rights monitors from 16 countries gathered to discuss the changes in Eastern Europe. "This is a sort of joy because recent events in Eastern Europe are the result of 25 years of our struggle for human rights," said Yuri Orlow, the honorary chairman of the International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights, which sponsored the conference.

Le Monde: June 2, 1989

La réunion de Paris sur les droits de l'homme

La Roumanie et la Bulgarie sont exhortées à respecter les engagements d'Helsinki

« La partie émergée
de l'iceberg »

A Vienne, la Fédération internationale des comités de surveillance des accords d'Helsinki a publié à l'occasion de la réunion de Paris un rapport recensant les diverses violations des principes d'Helsinki par les autorités de Bucarest. « Quelconque exprime des opinions un tant soit

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung: June 12, 1989
Moskaus Umgang mit den Menschenrechten
Neue Berichte in Paris vorgelegt / Zahlreiche Verstöße / Von Ernst Levy

IHF - PUBLICATIONS

(July 1990)

All publications were published by the IHF unless otherwise noted. In addition to the reports below national Helsinki Committees also publish reports in their own language.

IHF/General Publications

FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION: EAST AND WEST.
Current Law and Practice in Helsinki Signatory Countries.
December 1989, 132 pages. AS 100,-
IHF ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 1988. 20 pages

EASTERN EUROPE/General

ASSIGNMENT: EASTERN EUROPE.
Working Conditions of Foreign Journalists in Bulgaria,
Czechoslovakia, Poland and Romania. July 1987, 50 pages. AS 50,-

AFGHANISTAN

BY ALL PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT: Violations of the Laws
of War in Afghanistan. (US Helsinki Watch). March 1988, 90 pages. AS 90,-

AUSTRIA

ASYLLAND ÖSTERREICH - ZUTRITT VERBOTEN?
June 1990, 95 pages. AS 90,-

BULGARIA

DESTROYING ETHNIC IDENTITY: The Expulsion of the Bulgarian
Turks. (US Helsinki Watch). October 1989, 66 pages. AS 70,-
DESTROYING ETHNIC IDENTITY. The Turks of Bulgaria.
An Update. (US Helsinki Watch). September 1987, 58 pages. AS 70,-

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

TOWARD A CIVIL SOCIETY: INDEPENDENT INITIATIVES IN
CZECHOSLOVAKIA. (US Helsinki Watch). August 1989, 72 pages. AS 70,-
HUMAN RIGHTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA: Prepared by the
Czechoslovak Helsinki Committee. March 1989, 118 pages. AS 80,-
PRISON CONDITIONS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. (US Helsinki Watch).
January 1989, 153 pages. AS 100,-
CZECHOSLOVAKIA '88: A Different Seminar: Prague,
November 1988, 43 pages. AS 50,-

POLAND

HUMAN AND CITIZENS' RIGHTS IN THE POLISH PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC,
(1 January - 31 December 1988). Report No. 7. Prepared by the
Helsinki Committee in Poland. April 1989, 46 pages. AS 70,-

POLAND (cont.)

PRISON CONDITIONS IN POLAND. (US Helsinki Watch).
June 1988, 76 pages. AS 80,-
VIOLATIONS OF THE HELSINKI ACCORDS IN POLAND.
A SUPPLEMENT. (US Helsinki Watch). December 1988, 78 pages. AS 90,-

ROMANIA

ROMANIA, ENEMY OF ITS OWN PEOPLE. June 1989, 72 pages. AS 70,-
DESTROYING ETHNIC IDENTITY. The Hungarians of Romania.
(Helsinki Watch). February 1989, 64 pages. AS 65,-
S.O.S TRANSYLVANIA. June 1988, 60 pages. AS 50,-

SOVIET UNION

CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE USSR. (US Helsinki Watch).
February 1990, 156 pages. AS 120,-
TOWARD THE RULE OF LAW: SOVIET LEGAL REFORM
AND HUMAN RIGHTS UNDER PERESTROIKA.
(US Helsinki Watch). December 1989, 180 pages. AS 120,-
USSR: HUMAN RIGHTS UNDER GLASNOST. December 88 - March 89.
(US Helsinki Watch). 107 pages. AS 100,-
ON SPEAKING TERMS: An unprecedented Human Rights Mission
to the Soviet Union. February 1988, 65 pages. AS 50,-
SOVIET ABUSE OF PSYCHIATRY FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES.
(US Helsinki Watch). January 1988, 22 pages. AS 40,-

TURKEY

PRISON CONDITIONS IN TURKEY. (US Helsinki Watch).
August 1989, 92 pages. AS 90,-
PAYING THE PRICE. Freedom of Expression in Turkey.
(US Helsinki Watch). 1989, 136 pages. AS 140,-
TURKISH LAW. May 1988, 26 pages. (Also available in Turkish). AS 50,-
DESTROYING ETHNIC IDENTITY: The Kurds of Turkey.
(US Helsinki Watch). March 1988, 74 pages. AS 70,-
STATE OF FLUX. HUMAN RIGHTS IN FLUX. Human Rights in Turkey.
(US Helsinki Watch). December 1987, 159 pages. AS 100,-
TURKEY: Torture and Political Prisoners. March 1987, 47 pages. AS 50,-

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DETAINED, DENIED, DEPORTED. Asylum Seekers in the United States.
(US Helsinki Watch). June 1989, 87 pages. AS 80,-

YUGOSLAVIA

YUGOSLAVIA: CRISIS IN KOSOVO. March 1990, 45 pages. AS 60,-
INCREASING TURBULENCE: Human Rights in Yugoslavia.
(US Helsinki Watch). 1989, 64 pages. AS 70,-