

X**THE OBSERVATORY**

for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders

L'OBSERVATOIRE
pour la Protection des Défenseurs
des Droits de l'Homme

EL OBSERVATORIO
para la Protección de los
Defensores de Derechos Humanos

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BOLIVIA - Repression **October 4, 2005 – Press Release**

On September 29, 2005, the police used violence to disperse a protest march organised by civil society groups, in particular the Permanent Assembly of Human Rights (*Asamblea Permanente de Derechos Humanos - APDHB*) and the Association of Family Members Killed for the Defense of Gas (*Asociación de Familiares Caídos por la Defensa del Gas*). The protesters marched in the direction of the U.S. Embassy in La Paz where they planned to request that legal papers be served to Mr. Gonzalo Sánchez de Lozada, former president of the Republic of Bolivia, and his collaborators Mr. Carlos Sánchez Berzaín and Mr. Jorge Berindoague, summoning them to testify in an investigation against them concerning the massacre of at least 65 persons who had demonstrated against the privatisation and the export of hydrocarbons in October 2003. They also demanded to lift the veil of military secrecy during the trial. The law enforcement agents sprayed the protesters with tear gas.

CHINA – Arbitrary Detentions / Harassment **October 28, 2005 - CHN 003 / 1005 / OBS 103**

In April 2005, Mr. **Tan Kai**, Mr. **Lai Jinbiao**, Mr. **Gao Haibing**, Mr. **Wu Yuanming**, Mr. **Qi Huimin** and Mr. **Yang Jianming** founded the organisation *Green Watch*, in order to convey the grievances and concerns of the residents of the village of Huaxi, in the city of Dongyang, Zhejiang province. The citizens were indeed complaining that a chemical factory was causing severe environmental pollution and significantly affecting the water supply, causing the destruction of crops and birth defects. Protests by the villagers in March and April 2005 culminated in a violent conflict with police on April 10, in which more than 400 police officers were deployed and many people injured. On April 12, 2005, Mr. Lai Jinbiao was placed under criminal detention accused of “illegally providing intelligence overseas”. He was released on May 11, and all charges were subsequently dropped.

On October 19, 2005, the six co-founders of *Green Watch* were summoned by the Public Security Bureau (PSB) of Hangzhou, Jianggan and Xihu, after having opened a bank account under Mr. Tan Kai's name for the purpose of raising the funds that would permit them to legally register as an NGO. According to Chinese Law, registration as an NGO requires a deposit of 30,000 yuan (3,074 euros) in funding capital, however, according to the Regulations on the Registration and Management of Social Organisations published by China's State Council, the founders of an organisation do not have the right to raise funds unless the organisation is legally recognised, placing them in a vicious circle.

Mr. Tan Kai was placed in detention, while the 5 others were released later that same day.

COLOMBIA – Extra-judicial execution **October 18, 2005 - COL 011 / 1005 / OBS 094** **October 28, 2005 - COL 011 / 1005 / OBS 094.1**

On October 24, 2005, the body of Mr. **Orlando Valencia**, an Afro-Colombian from Curvaradó, representative of the Community Councils (*Consejos Comunitarios*) of Jiguamiandó and Curvaradó and ardent defender of biodiversity and of its community, was found in the river Rio León, near the city of Chigorodó. It seemed that his hands had been tied prior to his death.

Mr. Orlando Valencia had been reported missing on October 15, 2005. On that day, members of the “Project of Accompaniment and Solidarity in Colombia” (*Projet Accompagnement Solidarité Colombie-PASC/Canada*), local residents and a lawyer, also member of the Commission of Justice and Peace (*Comisión de Justicia y Paz*), witnessed two paramilitaries who had followed Mr. Valencia on motorcycles, approached him and told him to “*come with us or we will kill you*”. A member of the Commission of Justice and Peace tried to intervene but he was threatened by the paramilitaries, who then ordered Mr. Valencia to get onto the motorcycle and took him away in the direction of Chigorodó.

A few hours earlier, the vehicle in which Mr. Orlando Valencia and nine other members of the Community Council of Curvaradó were driving was intercepted by the national police and all persons aboard were arrested and accused of being members of the Colombian Revolutionary Armed Forces (*Fuerzas armadas revolucionarias de Colombia - FARC*), before being released a few hours later.

In September 2005, Mr. Valencia had requested that the State provide better protection for the region's biodiversity in the face of significant destruction resulting from the palm tree growing industry and the state and para-statal agencies. He also demanded that the companies return the illegally appropriated parcels of land.

Mr. Orlando Valencia was benefiting from provisional measures of protection requested by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACHR) and was scheduled to appear soon after his death in Chicago at a conference to discuss the state of human rights in Columbia.

COLOMBIA - Assassination / Serious threats
October 21, 2005 - COL 012 / 1005 / OBS 097

On October 17, 2005, Mr. **Eislen Escalante Pérez**, president of the Association for the displaced victims of the plan for a New Columbia (*Asociación de Desplazados Víctimas del Sistema por una Colombia Nueva*), was gunned down by two hitmen on motorcycle as he was leaving his office in Barranquilla.

Mr. Escalante Pérez and Mr. **Amilkar Martínez Arias**, from the Kankuamos community (which benefits from provisional measures of protection of the IACHR), a member of this Association, and who witnessed the murder, were both involved in providing assistance to internally displaced persons (IDP) and often condemned the mismanagement of project funds aimed at the latter. When they received death threats as a consequence of these denunciations, Mr. Escalante Pérez had asked for the protection of the competent authorities, including the Ministry of the Interior; in return, he was given an Avantel walkie-talkie.

Mr. Eislen Escalante Pérez had also contributed to strengthen the Regional Network of the Colombia Europe United States Coordination - CCEEU (*Coordinación Colombia Europa-Estados Unidos*), a centre that co-ordinates Barranquilla's human rights NGOs.

Since October 15, 2005, the day after Mr. Escalante Pérez's death, Mr. Martínez has been receiving new threats via his mobile phone. This was brought to the attention of the Office of the Prosecutor General, who in turn provided a Security Administrative Department (*Departamento Administrativo de Seguridad - DAS*) escort. Mr. Martínez refused the escort, having little trust in DAS members.

COLOMBIA - Assassination / Torture / Arbitrary detention
October 25, 2005 - COL 013 / 1005 / OBS 099

On October 13, 2005, the body of Mr. **Diego Gutiérrez**, vice-president of the Association for the Communal Action (*Junta de Acción Comunal*) of Malavar was discovered in El Castillo (Meta Department), showing visible traces of torture: his body had 14 knife cuts on the left side, his testicles and his right ear were cut and his teeth had been pulled out.

This extremely violent assassination took place in the context of the repression against human rights defenders and of the strong presence of the military in Malavar, particularly that of the members of the 21st 'Vargas' Battalion of the 7th Brigade of the Colombian Army. In July 2005, they had burst into the home of Mr. **Felix Gutiérrez González**, Mr. Diego Gutiérrez's brother, arrested him without a warrant and took him to the headquarters of the Army of the City of Granada, where he had been detained for 12 hours.

COLOMBIA - Death threats / Harassment
October 27, 2005 - COL 004 / 0305 / OBS 019.1

On October 17, 2005, members of the Committee for the Integration of the Colombian Massif Region (*Comité de Integración del Macizo Colombiano - CIMA*), at Popayán (Department of Cauca), received a pamphlet from the United Self-Defence Groups of Colombia (*Autodefensa Unidas de Colombia - AUC*), accusing them of being "terrorists" and "leftists" and warning them that "they were being watched very closely".

On October 18 and 19, 2005, CIMA members in Popayán received two telephone calls urging Mr. **Miguel Alberto Fernández Orozco**, president of the Cauca section of the Central United Organisation of Colombian Workers (*Central Unitaria de Trabajadores - CUT*) and coordinator of the human rights office and of the integration office of CIMA, to leave the city before the end of the year, threatening him and his family.

Mr. Miguel Alberto Fernández Orozco is constantly being threatened and harassed because of his human rights work in favour of the local farmers and the local communities. Thus, on March 8, 2005, an envelope was sent to the offices of the Cauca section containing a death notice and threats against Mr. Fernández Orozco.

**DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO - Burglary / Theft / Arbitrary detentions /
Releases / Closure of an NGO / Threats
October 27, 2005 - RDC 007 / 1005 / OBS 101**

On October 5, 2005, on the orders of Major Chirimwami, agents from the National Intelligence Agency (*Agence nationale de renseignements* - ANR) in Uvira, North Kivu, went to the headquarters of the **Chirezi Foundation** (FOCHI), looking for its coordinator, Mr. **Floribert Kazingufu**, who is also the chief editor for the Foundation's newsletter *Le Cor*. In his absence, the agents took all the materials and documentation as well as the car of the Foundation.

In addition, the ANR agents arrested Mr. **Philippe Bebe**, responsible for raising awareness of human rights issues, and Mr. **Dieudonné Babunduzi**, Foundation member and brother of Mr. Kazingufu, who were on the premises. Both were detained for two days in the ANR's Uvira premises.

The local authorities accuse members of the Chirezi Foundation, particularly Mr. Kazingufu, of undermining State security and destabilising the regime, in relation to the activities of the Foundation, which gathers and distributes information pertaining to human rights violations within Kivu.

As of the end of October 2005, the organisation's offices remained sealed, and the material and documents that were confiscated had still not been returned. The organisation was thus unable to resume its activities.

**DJIBOUTI - Releases / Unfair dismissals
October 6, 2005 – DJI 002 / 0905 / OBS 084.1**

On October 2, 2005, Mr. **Mohamed Ahmed Mohamed**, Mr. **Ali Ibrahim Darar**, Mr. **Mohamed Abdillahi Dirieh**, Mr. **Moustapha Abchir Egueh**, Mr. **Mohamed Abdillai Omar**, Mr. **Mohamed Ahmed Ali**, Mr. **Samira Hassan Mohamed**, Mr. **Koulmiyeh Houssein** and Mr. **Djibril Houssein Awaleh**, leaders of the Harbour Workers Trade Union (*Union des travailleurs du port* - UTP) who had been arrested and taken into police custody on the night of 24 to 25 September 2005, then held until September 28 at the offices of the judiciary police, were brought before the criminal court of first instance for "threats to commit an offence, which materialised in the form of repeated public assemblies" and "participation in unlawful assemblies likely to disturb public order". All were discharged from custody and set free. Mr. **Kamil Mohamed Ali**, and Mr. **Ibrahim Moussa Sultan**, also UTP leaders, and Mr. **Ali Ahmed Aras**, UTP secretary general, who had been arrested in the same circumstances, were brought before the same court for "criminal participation in a public gathering" and "incitement to rebellion". In addition, Mr Ali Mohamed Aras was given early retirement.

On October 3, 2005, the Prosecutor office initiated an appeal proceeding against this decision. On October 9, 2005, the defence lawyer asked to report the hearing that was scheduled on October 15, due to the lack of conclusions from the Public Ministry.

Furthermore, all strikers and trade unionists who had been arrested by the National Police Force (*Forces nationales de police* - FNP) on September 25, 2005, in the port of Djibouti or at their own home, were released without any charge on September 26 and 27, 2005. However, 36 of them, including the leaders mentioned above, were able to return to their jobs because of the dismissals of which they received notice on September 24, 2005.

**ETHIOPIA – Assault
October 24, 2005 – ETH 002 / 1005/ OBS 098**

On October 16, 2005, Mr. **Daniel Bekele**, member of the Executive Committee of the Network of Ethiopian NGOs and program director at Action Aid Ethiopia, an international NGO with an anti-poverty agenda, was assaulted in Addis Ababa while in his car by two unknown armed men. One of the assailants asked him "who [did he think he was] criticising the governing party," the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF). They then struck him on the head and eyes with the butt of their pistols. Mr. Bekele eventually managed to sound his car horn, and his assailants fled when several people came to help him.

Mr. Bekele lodged a complaint at the nearest police station; however, at the end of October, no enquiry had yet been initiated.

This assault is probably linked to the activities of Mr. Bekele, who supervised the conduct of the elections on May 15, 2005. He publicly denounced the irregularities of the electoral process at that time.

**GEORGIA – Acts of defamation and intimidation
October 5, 2005 – GEO 001 / 1005 / OBS 088**

On September 27, 2005, Mr. **Ucha Nanuashvili**, executive director of the Human Rights Information and Documentation Centre (HRIDC), received a phone call from Mr. Kvaratskhelia Zaur, director of the Department for Relations with Georgian Diasporas and Inter-Ethnic Relations, who insulted him. In particular, Mr. Zaur accused Mr. Nanuashvili of being an "informer" and a "traitor", of putting out false information on the situation of ethnic minorities

in Georgia and of representing the interests of foreign powers. HRIDC had previously been threatened by several high-ranking officials in November 2004.

IRAN – Arbitrary detention / Acts of torture / Risk of torture
October 28, 2005 – Open letter to the authorities

Mr. **Akbar Ganji**, a journalist on the daily newspaper *Sobh-e-Emrooz*, detained since 2000 in the Evin prison in Tehran for having written several articles denouncing the involvement of the Iranian regime in the assassination of opponents and dissident intellectuals in 1998, was taken back to prison on September 3, 2005, despite his highly critical health condition.

Mr. Ganji was admitted to the Milad hospital in Teheran on July 17, 2005 after a hunger strike that lasted more than two months, which he finally ended during the night from August 20 to 21, 2005.

At the time of his admission to hospital, he was beaten and tortured for two days in order to make him renounce his point of view and promise allegiance to the supreme Leader, Ayatollah Khamenei. When he refused, he was taken back to prison, just when he was in a greatly weakened physical and psychological condition. During his car journey back to the prison, Mr. Ganji's eyes were blindfolded and one of his escorts tried to frighten him by pretending he wanted to strangle him. At the prison he was placed in solitary confinement in a "special" area, where torture sessions frequently take place. He therefore remains at serious risk of being subjected to such treatment again.

NIGER – Assassination attempt
October 31, 2005 - NER 002 / 1005 / OBS 104

On October 26, 2005, Mr. **Nouhou Mahamadou Arzika**, president of the Equity / Quality Coalition against the high cost of living in Niger, was the subject of an assassination attempt by Mr. Moussa Dan Foulani, a businessman close to power.

While Mr. Arzika was having a meeting with a representative of the American Ambassador, Mr. Foulani intruded into his office and tried to shoot at him, saying: "you fool, this is your last day, you won't be able to insult people any more because I'm going to kill you". But his gun was jammed, so he ordered his two companions to kill Mr. Arzika. Armed with clubs, they lunged towards him and set upon him. Mr. Arzika finally managed to escape with the help from one of his colleagues whilst one of his attackers was trying to strangle him.

On October 27, 2005, Mr. Arzika lodged a complaint to the Niamey police station. Mr. Arzika also presents radio programmes dealing with the fight against corruption, impunity and the defence of social and economic rights in Niger.

PERU – Death threats / Judicial proceedings
October 17, 2005 - PER 002 / 1005 / OBS 093

On September 8, 2005, the secretary of Mr. **Salomón Lerner**, the ex-president of the Peruvian Commission for Truth and Reconciliation (*Comisión Verdad y Reconciliación del Perú - CVR*), and president of the Union of Latin American Universities and the Catholic University of Peru's Institute of Democracy and Human Rights (*Instituto de Democracia y Derechos Humanos de la Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú*), received a phone call threatening Mr. Lerner, who was abroad at the time, with death.

Mr. Lerner, along with 12 ex-members of the CVR, including Ms. **Sofía Macher** and Mr. **Carlos Ivan Degregori**, had already received insulting e-mails, accusing them of attacking the Peruvian armed forces. The messages received by Mr. Lerner, who is of Jewish origin, were also anti-Semitic and carried the signature of an unknown group, calling himself "Pachacútec".

Mr. Lerner and the ex-members of the CVR are the subject of a complaint lodged by retired Generals José Valdivia and Wilfredo Mori, and Colonels Carlos Medina, Nelson Gonzáles, Emilio Murgueytio, Wilfredo Guadalupe, Manuel Delgado and Carlos Sánchez, who were mentioned in a CVR report as being perpetrators of human rights violations. The ex-members of the CVR are accused of "publishing lies".

PHILIPPINES – Extra-judicial executions
October 17, 2005 - PHL 001/ 1005/ OBS 092

On September 23, 2005, Mr. **Diosdado "Ka Fort" Fortuna**, president of the Filipino Employees' Union, Unity of Workers in Southern Tagalog - May First Movement - PAMANTIK-KMU, and the Anakpawis party - Southern Tagalog branch, was shot twice in the chest as he returned home on his motorcycle.

On September 30, 2005, Ms. **Victoria Samonte**, vice-president of the Caraga branch of the KMU, president of the Andres Soriano College Employees' Union, president of the ACT-BISLIG, president of the Drivers and Operators of Cumawas and Bliss Association (DOCUBA), general secretary of the Bislig City Alliance of Transport Association (BCATA), and president of the Castillo Bagong Lipunan Homeowners Association (CBLHA), was assassinated by a man who had been following her. He stabbed her after sharing a rickshaw with her, sitting behind her.

SRI LANKA – Attack / Ransacking
October 20, 2005 - LKA 001 / 1005 / OBS 095

On October 12, 2005, the headquarters of the Human Rights Commission (HRC) in Colombo was attacked and ransacked by unknown persons. The attackers set fire to documents related to the investigations conducted by the Commission. They also poured gasoline in the office.

When they arrived on the premises, the members of the Commission immediately lodged a complaint with the police. The Criminal Investigations Department was charged with conducting an investigation into these events.

SUDAN – Arbitrary detention / Ill-treatment / Judicial proceedings
October 20, 2005 - SDN 002 / 1005/ OBS 096

On October 1, 2005, Mr. **Mohamed Ahmed Alarbab**, a human rights lawyer, was arrested in Khartoum. He had been investigating the cases of persons arrested for taking part in the May 18, 2005 riots in Soba Aradi, an area populated by internally displaced persons, after the killing of 14 police officers and civilians (this incident began when the police entered the Soba area of Khartoum as part of the government project to relocate IDP's).

As of the end of October 2005, Mr. Arlarbab was still being held at the Mayo police station, without access to his family or his lawyers. He is accused of "Participating in commitment of a criminal act" (articles 21 and 24 of the Sudanese penal code), "Murder" (article 130), "Crimes against the constitutional system" (article 50), "Crimes against the State" (article 51), "Public disturbance" (article 77), and "Sheltering a criminal" (article 107).

THAILAND – Forced disappearance / Trial of suspects
October 20, 2005 – Open letter to the authorities

On March 12, 2004, Mr. **Somchai Neelapaijit**, chairman of the Muslim Lawyer's Association and vice-chairman of the Human Rights Committee of the Law Society of Thailand, was abducted. Shortly before his disappearance, he had received anonymous threatening phone calls, and he had been informed that the security forces had added his name to the list of members of terrorist groups.

Mr. Somchai Neelapaijit had worked to end the application of martial law in the southern provinces, and to promote the rule of law and justice for Muslims suspected of terrorist activities and treason. He had also revealed that certain Muslims accused of terrorism had been tortured during police interrogations. His various activities had created tensions between Mr. Neelapaijit and the security forces, which are probably involved in his forced disappearance. Five police officers are now being tried in connection with Mr. Neelapaijit's disappearance.

In October 2005, there was discussion of a possible change in the principal judge, Mr. Suwit Pornpanich, in the trial connected to Mr. Neelapaijit's disappearance, in spite of the advancement of the trial.

TOGO - Attack / Ill-treatments
October 10, 2005 - TGO 002 / 1005 / OBS 090

On October 9, 2005, Mr. **Jean-Baptiste Dzilan**, also known as Dimas Dzikodo, an independent journalist and member of the Togolese League of Human Rights (*Ligue togolaise des droits de l'Homme* - LTDH) and of the association Journalists for Human Rights (*Journalistes pour les droits de l'Homme* - JDHO), was attacked and beaten by ten unknown armed people. These people also sprayed tear gas in his face, before attempting to make him swallow a sort of acidic "pill" whose contents are unknown and which caused him several burns and left him with severe desiccation of the mucous membranes in his mouth.

In 2003, Mr. Dzilan had been arrested while scanning photos of victims of police brutality committed in the context of the presidential election of June 1, 2003, and then detained in secret for several days, during which time he suffered torture and abuse.

TUNISIA – Restriction of freedom of association / Attacks / Harassment
October 6, 2005 - TUN 005 / 1005 / OBS 089

On October 2, 2005, members of the Tunisian League of Human Rights (*Ligue Tunisienne des droits de l'Homme* - LTDH), as well as hundreds of unionists and pro-democracy activists, came to meetings organised by 11 chapter committees of the LTDH in Bizerte, Mateur, Sousse, Monastir, Sfax, Nafta-Tozeur, Kélibia-Korba, Kébili, Kairouan, Jendouba, and Gabès. Once again, the police barred access to their premises, preventing these meetings from being held, with the exception of the meeting in Gabès.

The police also surrounded the house of Mr. **Abderhamen Hedhili**, a member of the executive committee of the LTDH in Ksibet El Madiouni, and of Mr. **Mongi Ben Salah**, a unionist and member of the Monastir chapter committee of the LTDH, who was notified not to leave the town of Mognine, where he lives.

In addition, Mr. **Messaoud Romdhani**, chairman of the Kairouan chapter of the LTDH, was violently attacked by the local chief of police and was also refused a medical certificate attesting to his injuries by the head of the emergency department at the hospital, who apparently had received orders from the police. Furthermore, the Kairouan police attacked Mr. **Taoufik El Gaddeh**, secretary general of the chapter, Mr. **Naceur El Ajili**, Mr. **Abdelaziz Serri** and Mr. **Fathi El Ltaïef**, deputy secretaries general of the Regional Labour Union (*Union régionale du travail*), as well as Mr. **Mekki El Aydi**, Mr. **Mouldi Romdhani** and Mrs. **Zakia Dhiffaoui**, the latter having been questioned and arrested for several hours.

In Mateur, the police refused to record the complaint of Mr. **Mohamed Salah Nehdi**, chairman of the LTDH chapter in this town, and of Mr. **Chedly Maghraoui**, Mr. **Abderrahmane Morsani** and Mr. **Fethi Maghzaoui**, LTDH members who were also victims of police violence, and of Mr. **Chokri Dhouibi**, chairman of the Nefta chapter.

On September 16, 17 and 18, 2005, police forces had already prevented member information meetings organised by the eight local chapters of Jendouba, Bizerte, Sousse, Gabès, Monastir, Kebeli, Mahdia and Mateur. In addition, on September 19, 2005, the police had surrounded the site of the Mahdia chapter, forbidden members to enter it, and beaten Mr. **Mohamed Ataya**, chairman of the chapter.

TUNISIA – Harassment / Arbitrary detentions October 25, 2005 - TUN 006 / 1005 / OBS 100

On September 16, 2005, plainclothes policemen surrounded the office of lawyer **Hédi Menai**, a member of the regional chapter of the Bar Council, founding member and former director of the National Council for Liberties in Tunisia (*Conseil National pour les libertés en Tunisie - CNLT*), member of the Jendouba chapter of the LTDH, and coordinator of the Jendouba Federation of the Democratic Forum for Labour and Liberties (*Fédération de Jendouba du Rfdorum démocratique pour le travail et les libertés - FDTL*), and denied him access to the office. The public prosecutor with the Tribunal of Jendouba refused to intervene and to record Mr. Menai's complaint, inviting him to submit it to the Jendouba police chief who had supervised the surrounding of his office.

Two days later, Mr. **Fethi Taboui**, Mr. Menai's driver, was arbitrarily arrested, before being released on September 21, subsequent to Mr. Menai's intervention. The complaint lodged for arbitrary detention was closed by the public prosecutor's office. This arrest was probably intended to immobilise Mr. Menai, who is unable to drive. In addition, for nearly five months, Mrs. **Leila Ayadi**, Mr. Menai's secretary, has suffered continuous harassment by the police in an effort to make her leave her job.

In addition, both plainclothes and official police officers from the Jendouba police station lay regularly siege to Mr. Menai's office, in order to persuade his clients not to use his services. These acts of intimidation reached a new level when Mr. Menai became the lawyer of the family of Mr. Moncef Louhichi, who died in detention under suspicious circumstances on June 16, 2005.

UZBEKISTAN – Legal closure of an organisation October 17, 2005 - UZB 003 / 0805 / OBS 066.1

On October 11, 2005, the Tashkent's Court of Appeal rejected, without giving a precise reason, an appeal lodged by *Internews Network* against the decision to close its Uzbekistan branch. *Internews Network* is an international organisation promoting press freedom and the access to information by fostering independent medias.

On September 9, 2005, the Tashkent's Court of Appeal ordered the organisation to be dissolved, alleging that it had carried out activities without the required authorisation, and that it had used the association's logo without the consent of the Ministry of Justice.

Within two months *Internews Network* must publish details of this legal decision in newspapers, and must settle its debts as quickly as possible. However, since the organisation's assets were frozen in August 2004, it makes the organisation unable to pay even for the advertisement of the decision in the press.

UZBEKISTAN – Attacks / Threats / Acts of intimidation / Harassment October 17, 2005 - UZB 004 / 1005 / OBS 091

On September 21, 2005, an unknown person came three times to the home of Ms. **Hurshida Togaeva**, a legal expert and president of Pahtakor's regional branch of the Human Rights Society of Uzbekistan (HRSU). The same person came again during the following days and asked her son where she was. When her son told him that she was out on business, the man threatened Ms. Togaeva.

On September 23, 2005, two unknown men began watching her house. The following day, whilst she was visiting her daughter, the men followed her, punched her in the stomach, and threatened her and her family. Ms. Togaeva lost consciousness and was admitted to hospital on September 26, where she was in a coma for three days.

ZIMBABWE - Abduction / Ill-treatments
OCTOBER 27, 2005 - ZWE 003 / 1005 / OBS 102

On October 25, 2005, five members of the Mass Public Opinion Institute, Mr. **Officen Nyaungwe**, Mr. **Claris Madhuku**, Mr. **Sozwaphi Masunungure**, Mr. **Isaiah Makatura** and Mr. **Wilson Shonhiwa**, were abducted and severely beaten for three hours by a group of persons calling themselves “war veterans,” as well as by a soldier of the national army, in front of a local community of more than 100 members. The five members were conducting a research project on democracy in Africa, entitled “Africa Barometer,” in a small farming community called “Beatrice” in the Harare region.

Their assailants also demanded their identity cards, which enabled them to establish that Mr. Claris Madhuku was a relative of Mr. **Lovemore Madhuku**, Chairperson of the National Constitutional Assembly (NCA), leading them to inflict him even more severe blows. Messrs. Officen Nyaungwe, Claris Madhuku, Sozwaphi Masunungure, Isaiah Makatura and Wilson Shonhiwa were admitted to the Avenues Clinic, where two of them were hospitalised because of the severity of their injuries.

Geneva - Paris, November 2005

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