



Freedom to write in the Americas

'I believe that [journalists and human rights groups including International PEN] saved my life by writing letters, by being there, by making calls or even just by thinking or wishing that I was alive...'

Lydia Cacho, Mexican author and activist

The International PEN Writers in Prison Committee 2009 campaign, **Freedom to Write in the Americas**, aims to highlight the persecution of writers and journalists in the region. It provides direct support to colleagues in trouble and raises awareness of the repression and censorship that threaten writers' rights. It calls for an end to the impunity enjoyed by those who murder to silence their critics. The main countries of focus are Mexico, Cuba and Venezuela.

For more information about the campaign and activity updates, details on writers' cases and to take action, visit:

<http://www.internationalpen.org.uk/go/freedom-of-expression/campaigns>

'The life of a prisoner is hard and desperate, even more so when the victim is innocent. I do not know what I would have done without [International PEN's] oceanic solidarity'
Yehude Simon Munaro, writer and now Prime Minister of Peru, on his release from prison in 2000



International PEN is the world writers' association. Originally founded in 1921, today it has 144 Centres in 102 countries across the globe. The Writers in Prison Committee (WiPC) was set up in 1960 as a result of mounting concern about attempts to silence critical voices around the world. An office of volunteers was set up at the International PEN head office in London to gather information and to alert the PEN membership to take action. The WiPC is now staffed by a team of experts who monitor around 1000 attacks on writers, journalists, editors, poets, publishers and others in any given year. These include long prison terms, harassment, threats and even murder. For more information about our work, visit: www.internationalpen.org.uk