

## Introductory Remarks

The year of 1998 has been an intensive year for the Swedish Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, SHC. Thanks to increased funds we have been able to extend our activities and to develop our work in a satisfying way. This in turn created the need to increase our personal resources and to strengthen the employees already employed within the Committee. A programme officer/ administrator started at the end of 1997 and a lawyer was employed just before the end of 1998. We are happy about this enlargement of our team.

As in recent years our main activities took place in the region of the former Yugoslavia, specifically in Yugoslavia (FRY), Macedonia (FYROM), Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia. Thanks to our increased funds, provided by the Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency, Sida, we have extended our support to projects and organisations in these countries. The aim of this support is to contribute to the strengthening of the civil society and to the democratisation process. Three different types of organisations are supported:

- Human Rights organisations which monitor and report on the human rights situation
- Independent media organisations - printed as well as electronic - which have the objective to guarantee the distribution of objective information.
- Cultural organisations, which promote free ideas and attitudes, democratic values and which work against xenophobia and racism.

The support given by the SHC is moving in a direction of supporting projects, which are strategically important for the sustainability of a more democratic system. In line with this, support is provided in the form of favourable loans, aiming at giving media organisations (in this case) a chance to adjust to a market system. These loans are provided by the Media Development Loan Fund in Prague which in relation to a specific fund has a co-operative agreement with SHC. In general, support of a strategic kind requires co-ordination with other international NGOs working in the same field. An important result of 1998 is the expanded and developed co-operation and co-ordination that has taken place between NGOs, both in Sweden and internationally.

Overall the above mentioned activities have been successful, even though the circumstances in the region have been all but encouraging. The political and human rights situation in this part of the Balkan is worrying and the climate in which our partners work is generally hard. In this regard the moral and substantial support our partners get from the Swedish Helsinki Committee, has many times been described as very important and crucial.

During 1998 the Swedish Helsinki Committee was in charge of training seminars in democratic practice and human rights. Two seminars for young political leaders, mainly from the countries in the former Yugoslavia, were organised under the Democratic Leadership Programme of the Council of Europe. A training seminar in Stockholm for journalists from the countries of the former Yugoslavia, was organised in co-operation with the Swedish branch of Reporters sans Frontières. At these seminars young people met and built bridges along with receiving new skills, which was enriching and promising for everybody involved. In Belarus, the SHC contributed with Swedish expertise in human rights seminars organised by the International Helsinki Federation.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank all of you who have contributed to our activities in 1998 - funders, members, board, staff and volunteers. Your work and contributions are highly appreciated. During the year we have received many grateful words and positive signs from people who have been supported by the Swedish Helsinki Committee and whose projects have, in different ways, contributed to the strengthening of democracy. We are glad that our financial and personal resources have been strengthened so that we can continue to develop our work in a positive way. We are looking forward to a challenging 1999.

## **Project/ Organisational Support**

### **Federal Republic of Yugoslavia**

#### ***Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, Belgrade, Serbia***

A human rights organisation monitoring and reporting on the human rights situation in FRY. The main fields of activity are: legal-aid to individuals, especially refugees, media analysis, seminars/ dialogues and publishing of human rights reports. Within a year several hundred people visit the Helsinki Committee in Belgrade, getting advice, support and help from the staff. The Committee, lead by Sonja Biserko, has been active since 1994.

#### ***Montenegrin Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, Budva***

Based in Budva in the South of Montenegro this Helsinki Committee is one of few organisations in Montenegro dealing with human rights monitoring. The committee is very active monitoring, reporting, giving free legal advice, observing trials and organising seminars on different human rights topics. Consequently, the Committee is an important actor on the road of democratisation in Montenegro.

#### ***Committee for Human Rights, Leskovac, Serbia***

The Committee, situated in the south of Serbia, was established in 1996 and works with education and information on human rights to the citizens in the region. The Committee has among other things published a brochure on human rights, distributed pamphlets in schools and factories, and published a few articles in the local newspapers.

#### ***Argument, Belgrade, Serbia***

A Sociological Research Institute in Belgrade. One of Argument's projects, which is supported by the SHC, aims at starting a centre for the protection of the rights of youth in Pristina and Belgrade. The creation of this centre is planned in three phases, in which the publishing of a handbook to build political, cultural and ethnical bridges between youth of different origin is the first step.

#### ***Children's Rights, Belgrade, Serbia***

This is a new organisation working to inform about, and to protect, children's rights. The ambition of the organisation is to make a thorough study about children's situation in Serbia, to write articles on children's situation and rights, and to make their information available all over the country.

***Cinema Rex, Belgrade, Serbia***

This project, located in an old cinema in Belgrade, is a forum for alternative ideas of young people. Within the building alternative exhibitions are set up, video films which are not accepted by the state TV are shown, among others. SHC has above all, been involved, in the creation of a so called media laboratory, which provides young people access to internet, computers with lay-out programs and the possibility to create artistic media projects. Cinema Rex is part of the media group B 92 (see below).

***Centre for Cultural Decontamination, Belgrade, Serbia***

This cultural centre, lead by Mrs Borka Pavicevic, produces art exhibitions as well as dance performances and theatre plays. Additionally, the Centre has functioned as a national and international meeting place for various NGOs, thus becoming a centre for persons and organisations fighting for a democratic society. The ensemble contributed, with several performances, to the Cultural Capital City in Stockholm in June 1998.

***Radio B 92 and the radio and TV network ANEM, Belgrade, Serbia***

B92 is a professional and independent media group with various activities. Radio B92 is a very popular station broadcasting in the Belgrade area, mainly for young people. It also supplies the broader public with accurate news and information. Radio B 92 has great impact on the democratisation process, which was evident during the demonstrations in Belgrade during the winter 1996-1997, and also in the struggle against the regime in its efforts to curtail the free media through legislation and close down of TV/ radio stations. During 1997, Radio B92 established an independent network for radio- and TV stations, ANEM, in order to strengthen local radio and TV stations in a legal, moral and qualitative way.

***BETA, Belgrade, Serbia***

A very well-known and respected, independent news agency with correspondents all over former Yugoslavia as well as internationally. Along with an extensive news service in Serbo-Croatian, BETA has a special economic news service and a news service in English. BETA is the only media, which regularly covers the International War Crimes Tribunal in the Hague.

***Newspaper Danas, Belgrade, Serbia***

Danas is a relatively new daily in Belgrade, which started in the summer of 1997. The journalists behind the paper are among the best and most professional journalists in the country. In October 1998 the paper was banned (a ban that was later lifted) and subjected to huge fines according to the new Serbia Information Law. Danas managed to survive in spite of the great difficulties facing the company. Today the paper is the only serious independent political daily that is still published regularly in Serbia.

***AIM (Alternative Information Network), Belgrade, Serbia***

AIM is an independent news agency working in the whole of former Yugoslavia. The journalists prepare analytical, so-called background texts, which are spread by electronic means through the headquarters in Paris and finally published for free in other media within former Yugoslavia and internationally. Parallel to this work AIM also run training programmes for journalists, in which the SHC is involved. The Belgrade office has started an electronic training program for young journalists from local media organisations.

***The Expanded Media Centre, Belgrade, Serbia***

The Media Centre was founded by an independent group of journalists and their associations in 1994. Today the Centre has grown, which is the reason for the new name; the Expanded

Media Centre. The Centre is more than just an international press centre; it is a space for education of young journalists as well as a centre where meetings and press conferences can be held.

***“Local Press” Association of Local Independent Media, Kragujevac, Serbia***

This network was established in 1995 in order to strengthen local press in a legal, moral and qualitative way. The Association works as a network through which experiences and knowledge can be exchanged, and common actions can be organised. The network can also assist newspapers, in for example bad financial situations, with paper or better equipment.

***Magazine Monitor, Podgorica, Montenegro***

One of few independent magazines in Montenegro, which focuses on political issues. The policy is to advocate ideas for and debate on an open society with multicultural, multiethnic and multi-religious coexistence in Montenegro and in the Balkans. The magazine gained strong reputation during the war and is still respected for its high quality.

***Magazine Graffiti, Podgorica, Montenegro***

A monthly professional magazine directed to young people. The paper is run by a group of young journalists who have been educated at the Magazine Monitor and Radio Antenna M. Magazine Graffiti contains critical and sometimes satirical articles on different social topics and has become very popular among young people.

***Paper Onogost Standard, Niksic, Montenegro***

This local newspaper is mostly read by intellectuals and students in the city of Niksic. Before the new Media Law in Serbia in October 1998, a small amount of copies was sold in Belgrade. The authorities in Belgrade prohibited the selling of Onogost Standard, and the paper today have problems with the distribution of the paper which is being handled by the state-owned company Stampa. Despite of this, the paper has increased its circulation in 1998 and the paper turned biweekly in May 1998.

***HAS, Novi Pazar, Sandzak***

The bi-weekly bulletin HAS is the first independent forum for politics and culture in the Muslim region Sandzak in Serbia and Montenegro. The media climate in Sandzak is very repressive and the redaction of HAS is working under tough conditions. HAS is a member of the network “Local Press” Association of Local Independent Media.

***Magazine MM Review, Pristina, Kosovo***

MM Review, which is published in Pristina, is a magazine with the aim to create an open debate on topics such as literature, philosophy and social issues. It is one of few magazines of its kind in the Albanian speaking sphere.

***Correspondents Club, Pristina, Kosovo***

The club consists of independent journalists working for foreign media on a freelance basis. The network is now well established with a reputation of being an important and reliable source of information. Under the auspices of the Correspondents Club, many young journalists have been given the opportunity to develop their professionalism.

***Health Magazine Shendeti, Pristina, Kosovo***

A group of doctors at the hospital in Pristina is producing the Shendeti magazine, which is distributed to families all around Kosovo. The magazine contains information on health- and

family issues, which among others provide possibilities for people to solve some health problems on their own.

### ***Hareja, Prizren, Kosovo***

Hareja is a magazine for children in third grade. It is the first magazine of its kind in the Albanian language. The aim of the magazine is to provide information about culture, science, art literature, music and sports. Through its pedagogic approach the magazine tries to develop children's fantasy and creativity. Hareja is distributed and sold in schools.

### ***Kosovo on-line, Belgrade and Prishtina***

A dialogue on Internet between Albanians and Serbs on different topics. The dialogue is translated into Serbo-Croatian, Albanian and English. This project, which is a joint project between the news agency Beta (Belgrade) and the daily Koha Ditore (Prishtina), started in February 1998. During the first month more than 45 000 people visited the website "Kosovo on-line".

## **Macedonia**

### ***Helsinki Committee of Macedonia, Skopje***

Since 1994 the Helsinki Committee of Macedonia has monitored the human rights situation in the country. The Committee has an office in Skopje to which 18 local observers are associated. The main focus of the Committee is monitoring of minority rights, police behaviour and trials. In 1998 the Committee started to offer citizens free legal aid, a project which hopefully will expand during 1999.

### ***Radio VAT, Skopje***

The radio station Radio Vat is one of few radio stations broadcasting in the Albanian language. The transmissions reach into Kosovo, which is important considering the harsh situation of electronic media in Kosovo. The station has developed well, but future development is strongly dependent of the implementation of the new Macedonian law on electronic media and on the new governments (1998) approach to the media market.

### ***Fund for Independent Electronic Media, Skopje***

This is a matching project with Open Society Institute in Skopje and Budapest respectively, and Press Now (Netherlands). The aim of the Fund is to assist independent radio and TV stations in Macedonia, as well as to support the development of professional and independent radio- and TV-networks.

## **Bosnia-Herzegovina**

### ***Helsinki Committee in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Sarajevo***

Monitoring of human rights and information/ education on human rights are the main activities of the Helsinki Committee in Bosnia-Herzegovina, which was established in 1995. The Committee regularly distributes a bulletin on the human rights situation in Bosnia and special effort is dedicated to monitoring the human rights situation for refugees and displaced persons. SHK also co-operates with the regional Helsinki Committee office in Mostar, which mainly provides legal-aid in cases related to property issues.

***Helsinki Committee in Republika Srpska, Bijeljina***

The committee is located in Bijeljina in Republika Srpska, where the human rights situation is serious. Staff and members are doing a tremendous job, working under very tough conditions. The work of the Committee, which is focused on legal-aid and monitoring of human rights in Republika Srpska, is among others highly esteemed by international actors. A new project for 1998 was the "Foundation for Defence", which is a project aiming at giving defendants the right to a fair defence. The foundation consists of lawyers working on specific cases.

***Protector - The Association of Citizens, Sarajevo***

A small human rights organisation working with the purpose to document and to spread information about humane acts between people from different ethnic groups during the war in Bosnia. In 1998 Protector built two databases with testimonies, which have resulted in the publishing of two book, some articles and brochures. Protector also gives advice and support to people in questions concerning reconciliation, refugees and issues related to ethnically mixed marriages.

***Magazine Dani, Sarajevo***

An independent magazine produced in Sarajevo. The staff consists of young people with different nationalities. The magazine is highly esteemed for having high quality with accurate information and good analyses. In 1998 the magazine changed from being a monthly paper to become biweekly.

***Newsagency ONASA, Sarajevo***

ONASA is the main independent news agency in Bosnia-Herzegovina. When ONASA started its activities in 1994 the agency was part of the media company Oslobođenje, but recently ONASA has become independent. Apart from its regular news summaries, ONASA produces specialised news services on economy and elections.

***Magazine Reporter, Banja Luka***

This biweekly, established in May 1997, with the help of SHC and the Open Society Foundation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, immediately gained recognition for its professionalism. Considering the hard media climate, which is prevailing in Republika Srpska, the redaction of Reporter has managed well.

***Revolt, Banja Luka***

A new magazine for young people which contains articles and stories about everything from pop to politics. The magazine has a liberal, multi-cultural policy and its goal is to overcome the problems facing young people's future. Although Revolt is published in Republika Srpska it contains material from all parts of former Yugoslavia as well as from the rest of the world.

***Student Magazine BUM, Banja Luka***

This paper is produced by one of the Student Associations at the University of Banja Luka. The policy of the paper is to cover issues relevant to students and students and their conditions. In October 1997 the editorial team left the paper, but a new group of students successfully started working with the paper in 1998.

***Radio Drina/ DPI Drina Press International, Skelani***

Radio Drina started broadcasting in 1996. Today it reaches around 200 000 listeners and broadcasts 14 hours per day. The content consists of approximately 30% of news and information. The manager of the station, Boban Tomic, is one of the initiators creating a network of radio stations in the Eastern Republica Srpska.

**Croatia**

***Croatian Helsinki Committee, Zagreb***

The Helsinki Committee in Croatia is very active in monitoring the human rights situation in Croatia. The head office of the committee is located in Zagreb, from which several local monitoring stations has been established, in different parts of Croatia. SHC has, among others, been involved in the project of a "Summer School for Human Rights".

***Serbian Democratic Forum, Zagreb***

A human rights organisation with field offices in different parts of Croatia. The organisation provides support and legal advise to Serbs who lived in Krajina before the war. In 1998 SHC worked with Serbian Democratic Forum in two projects; the establishment of a field office in Knin and the newspaper Identity directed to refugees.

***The Centre for Reconciliation, Osijek***

The Centre works with bridge building activities between different religious groups in Eastern Slavonia. The aim is to try to regain trust between members of different churches, and in that way limit the refuge from the area. The Centre organises meetings and lectures as well as publishes articles in the so-called independent press.

***Magazine Arkzin, Zagreb***

A political and cultural magazine, produced by the organisation Arkzin. The magazine, which is directed to young readers, is published on a monthly basis. The articles in Arkzin cover a broad range of political and cultural issues and attention is given to human rights issues, especially minority rights.

***Attack, Zagreb***

A cultural centre which was created in October 1997. Attack is a forum for several NGOs, where exchange of experiences, performances of new artists and seminars are taking place. The centre is built on membership for individuals as well as organisations. The number of individual members is approximately 500. During 1998 the centre opened a bookshop and a small library. The plans for 1999 are to be able to keep the Centre open all days and to open a cybercafe.

***The Publishing House Durieux, Zagreb***

In Croatia, SHC has enabled the publishing house Durieux to produce books in the series "Ex Ponto". These books have been written by Bosnian authors in exile who otherwise would not have been able to be published. The books have been spread all through former Yugoslavia as well as through libraries in Sweden.

***Studentski List, Zagreb***

A student magazine in Croatia published by Zagreb Student Union. It has been open for all democratic opinions and ideas, and it publishes articles covering a wide range of subjects. During 1998 the magazine was published in four numbers.

### ***AIM, Zagreb***

AIM is an independent network for journalists. During 1997 AIM started "On-the-job training for young journalists", which is education by electronic means and weekend courses. The lecturers are experts in different areas and the most experienced journalists from Feral Tribune, Novi List and City Radio in Osijek are involved in the training.

### ***Radio Maestral, Pula***

This is an independent and very professional radio station in Pula. Radio Maestral started with only a few hours of broadcasting in the beginning of 1996. Today it broadcasts 24 hours a day and the number of information and news programs is increasing.

## **Latvia**

### ***Latvian Human Rights Institute, Riga***

Since 1995 the SHC has co-operated with the Latvian Human Rights Institute in Riga (associated with the University of Latvia). The co-operation has been related to the publication "Latvian Human Rights Quarterly". A board member of the SHC is a member of the Advisory Board of the institute.

## **Joint Projects with other NGOs**

### ***Soft-Loans to Independent Media***

Co-operation with the Media Development Loan Fund, MDLF, in Prague, was established during 1997. The aim of this co-operation is to support media organisations in the region of the former Yugoslavia, through loans on favourable terms. The co-operation with MDLF and SHC is based on funds provided by the Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency, Sida, and Open Society Institute (New York foundation). During 1998 loans were approved to media organisations in FRY and for 1999 loans to media organisations in Macedonia, Bosnia and Croatia will be considered.

### ***Scandinavian House, Pristina, FRY***

This project is a joint effort between three Scandinavian NGOs: The Nansen School in Lillehammer, Norway, the Olof Palme International Center in Stockholm and the Swedish Helsinki Committee. Within the so called Scandinavian House, activities aimed at creating tolerance between different ethnic groups, are planned to take place. The objective is to provide people and organisations with a neutral space for different ethnic groups in Kosovo, where meetings, dialogues and education can be organised.

### ***Swedish NGO Co-operation in Kosovo***

Alarmed by the increasing tension in Kosovo, four Swedish NGOs (including SHC) decided to increase their presence in the province. A project was developed in which each organisation followed the human rights situation in Kosovo for one month during the first half of 1998. After the four missions had been undertaken a joint report was produced. The report is a documentation of the situation and problems in Kosovo in a period when tensions increased dramatically between Serbs and Albanians.

## Seminars

### *Seminar for Journalists*

Fourteen young journalists from Croatia, Bosnia, FRY and Macedonia visited Stockholm June 6-14 1998, in order to take part in a seminar organised by the Swedish branch of Reporters sans Frontières and SHC. The seminar was a follow-up to the *Seminar on the Rights and Responsibilities of Journalists in a Democracy* held in Stockholm April, 1997. The purpose of this year's seminar was to go deeper into questions of the role of journalists in a democratisation process. Lectures and work-shops were held by Swedish and International media professionals. This year we could all notice a more professional attitude in-between the participants and it seemed like tensions built on ethnic differences were minimal. When our guests compared the two seminars they said that the first one was like "elementary school" and that this one was more like "secondary school". Our evaluation of the seminar is that it was very successful. Overall the trainers were highly appreciated and many of the participants expressed their satisfaction with the skills obtained.

### *Seminars on Crimes Against Humanity – Who is to Define the Perpetrators?*

In October, three seminars were organised on the above theme at the Book Fair in Gothenburg by the SHC, the Swedish Pen, the Swedish Rushdie Committee, Ordfront's Democracy Academy and the City of Gothenburg. These seminars were focused on the following topics:

#### *1. The Nuremberg Trial in the Light of History*

The Nuremberg Trial faced vast problems in terms of politics, law and organisation. Yet, it can be considered a milestone in defining the war crimes issue. What conclusions can be drawn from this experience in relation to future crimes against humanity.

#### *2. Nations and Cultures as Legal Entities*

Chinese leaders have argued that the idea of universal human rights is used to further Western interests. In countries like Algeria and Nigeria, governments block outside involvement in aiding the victims of violence. Will a system of international law inevitably be in conflict with the principle of national sovereignty?

#### *3. International Law Versus Power Politics*

What will make a superpower bow to a sovereign body of law? Can a system of international justice be widened to include an independent, permanent International Criminal Court- and will court decisions be enforced?

The seminars consisted of a panel discussion followed by an open discussion with all participants. An opening speech was held by Benjamin B. Ferencz, Chief Prosecutor for the U.S in the Nuremberg Trials. The panel consisted of Graham Blewitt, Deputy Prosecutor at the International War Crimes Tribunal in the Hague, Wilhelm Agrell, Historian and Expert on Security Politics, Aryeh Neier, President of the Open Society Institute (New York), Ken Wiwa, Journalist and Author, Nigerian Human Rights Activist, Ursula Owen, Editor-of – Chief for Index on Censorship, Jesús Alcalá, Jurist, Chairman of the Swedish Section of Amnesty International, Per Saland, Director and the Swedish Representative at the Rome Conference on the International Criminal Court, Over Bring, Professor of International Law at the University of Stockholm. Moderators were Arne Ruth, Chairman of the Swedish Rushdie Committee and Board Member of the SHC, and Gerald Nagler, Chairman of SHC.

***Meeting of Alumni in Sarajevo for Young Political Leaders***

The purpose of the meeting was to bring all former participants of seminars within the Democratic Leadership Programme, DLP, of the Council of Europe together and discuss the outcome of the seminars and at the same time give suggestions for future seminars. Another purpose was to provide the participants with opportunities and means to establish an Alumni Network and to elect a person who could represent the Alumni Network in the Steering Group of the DLP Programme. The First Meeting of the Alumni Network was held in Sarajevo, January 23-25 1998 and was organised by the Swedish Helsinki Committee and the OSCE Mission to Bosnia-Herzegovina, in co-operation with the Council of Europe. Out of the 90 former participants, 56 were present in Sarajevo coming from Bosnia-Herzegovina, Eastern Slavonia (Croatia), Estonia, Russia and Finland. At the meeting the Chairman of the Steering Group and the Co-ordinator of the DLP Programme were present, as well as representatives from all organising NGOs and the OSCE Mission to Bosnia-Herzegovina. Many fruitful comments and suggestions for future seminars came out as a result of the meeting. The Alumni Network was formally established and the participants and organisers felt that the meeting was stimulating and useful for future contacts and networking.

***Seminar for Young Political Leaders from Yugoslavia, Macedonia and Albania***

Within the framework of the Democratic Leadership Programme of the Council of Europe, the Swedish Helsinki Committee together with Article 19 in London organised two seminars for young politically engaged people from Yugoslavia, Macedonia and Albania, in December 1998. The aim of the Democratic Leadership Programme is to strengthen the skills of young political leaders in order to enhance democratic security, in particular in those societies where extremism represents a serious threat to nascent democracy. Forty participants took part in the one-week training seminar which was meant as a basic seminar in relation to issues of democracy. A criteria for participation was active engagement in NGOs, media organisations or political parties. The mixture of backgrounds and origin lead to fruitful discussion and important bridge-building of different cultures. The seminars were sponsored by the Council of Europe.

***Seminar on Human Rights in Belarus***

At the end of the year the SHC started to co-operate with the International Helsinki Federation on a few seminars on Human Rights in Belarus. The seminars are a part of the ongoing IHF TACIS-Democracy Project "Human Rights, Fundamental Freedoms and the Rule of Law in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine – 1997-1999". This project will continue in 1999 and the SHC will also support seminars organised in Ukraine and Moldova.

## Other Activities

### *Visits*

January 15-18 the Swedish Helsinki Committee organised a visit to Stockholm for a group of publishers and authors from Croatia, Bosnia and Serbia. The group consisted of:

- Nenad Popovic, Publisher, editor and co-founder of the Publishing House Durieux in Zagreb, Croatia.
- Ivo Banac, Professor of History, Croatian origin, Author of several books i e *The National Question of Yugoslavia: Origins, History, Politics* (1984)
- Miljenko Jergovic, Author of Bosnian origin now living in Croatia. His most famous book abroad is *The Sarajevo Marlboro* (English version published 1997)
- Janja Bec, Sociologist of Serbian origin now living in Germany, Author of the books *Why the Wars in Yugoslavia* (1993) and *The Shattering of the Soul* (1997)

During their stay the group met with other authors and publishers in Sweden, addressed the Swedish Institute of International Affairs, gave interviews to Swedish media, met with officers at the Foreign Ministry and led a discussion at the Swedish Writers Union.

Other visits to the SHC was:

- Senad Pecanin, Editor-in Chief of the Magazine Dani, Sarajevo
- Ivan Cicak, Chairman of the Croatian Helsinki Committee
- Kristine Malere, Press Secretary, Latvian National Human Rights Office, Riga
- Ante Klaric, Croatian Ombudsman, Zagreb

### *University in Exile*

This seminar was the second four-weeks course on democracy and human rights for Bosnian refugees living in Sweden. "University in Exile" was organised by Demokratiakademin (the Academy of Democracy) in co-operation with Caritas, the Swedish Red Cross and the Swedish Helsinki Committee, financed by the Swedish Ministry of Interior.

### *Intercult*

The Belgrade based Centre for Cultural Decontamination (since long supported by the SHC) took part in the programme of Stockholm – Cultural Capital of Europe 1998. The ensemble of the Centre contributed with a set of performances within in a project lead by Intercult, based in Sweden. The SHC was involved in the planning of the Centre's participation and to some extent in the funding of the project.

### *Education*

To strengthen the capacities within the Committee, staff and board members have taken part in educational courses and training. Additional to several shorter seminars on different topics, two members followed a course on International Law organised by the Swedish NGO Foundation on Human Rights. One staff member followed a training in web-design and computer lay-out.

## Planned Activities for 1999

The activities of the Swedish Helsinki Committee in 1999 will mainly be a continuation of the work realised in 1998. This work includes an extensive co-operation with organisations in Yugoslavia, Bosnia, Macedonia and Croatia, which promotes human rights and democracy and organising of seminars/ training related to the building of democracy in these countries. The intention of SHC is also to look for possibilities to extend the project support to Belarus and to support a few human rights seminars in Ukraine and Moldova.

The aim of the work related to the project support is to try to strengthen the self-sustainability of the partner organisations. The development aid to the region will not go on for ever, which is something that our co-operating partners are gradually becoming aware of and which has to be dealt with. This goal is linked to the co-operation with the Media Development Loan Fund in Prague, which assists independent media organisations with soft loans instead of grants. At the secretariat, the SHC aims at strengthening the personal resources, so that more people gradually will be actively involved in the identification and follow-up of projects. The content of the support will be more and more directed to strategically important projects, just as in 1998. Another aim is to further increase the co-ordination of NGOs which supports the same organisations and which are working in the same field.

One of the challenges of the year of 1999 will be to develop the monitoring activities related to the human rights situation in Sweden. Many activities and investigations are planned. A group within the Board will especially be involved in these activities, in co-operation with the lawyer working at the Secretariat. Of interest for further investigations are for example racially motivated crimes and the treatment of such crimes in the Swedish judiciary, pre-trial detention, treatment of asylum seekers and the use of secret surveillance methods by the police authorities.

## Acknowledgement

The Swedish Helsinki Committee would like to express our gratitude to the organisations sponsoring the activities of the Committee. Especially, we would like to thank **the Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency (Sida), the Swedish Institute, the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Bonnier Group, the Council of Europe, the Westminster Foundation for Democracy and the OSCE Mission to Bosnia-Herzegovina.**

For their engagement and trust, the Swedish Helsinki Committee would also like to thank the Board and the Members of the Committee.

Gerald Nagler  
*Chairman*

Marie Månson  
*Head of Secretariat*

## **Published Reports**

### **1998**

*Seminar for Young Political Leaders from Yugoslavia, Macedonia and Albania, Budapest, December 6-13 1998 (Council of Europe/ Democratic Leadership Programme)*

*Seminar of Journalists, Stockholm, June 6-14 1998*

*First Meeting of the Alumni Network, Sarajevo, January 23-25 1998*

*The Swedish Helsinki Committee for Human Rights: Activities in 1997*

*Annual Report of the Swedish Helsinki Committee for Human Rights 1997*

### **1997**

*Seminar for Young Political Leaders from Bosnia-Herzegovina, Budapest, November 3-7 1997 (Council of Europe/ Democratic Leadership Programme)*

*Seminar on the Rights and Responsibilities of Journalists in a Democracy: Stockholm 11-20 April 1997*

*The Swedish Helsinki Committee for Human Rights: Activities in 1997*

*Annual Report of the Swedish Helsinki Committee for Human Rights 1996*

### **1996**

*Kartläggning av lagstiftning och rastillämpning beträffande rasistisk brottslighet*

### **1995**

*Support for Democracy and Human Rights in the Former Yugoslavia: Meeting in Sweden 17-24 February 1995 with 20 Journalists from Former Yugoslavia*

*Support for Democracy and Human Rights in the Former Yugoslavia: Visit to Macedonia and Slovenia by the Former Parliamentary Ombudsman Bertil Wennergren, February 1995*

### **1994**

*Support for Democracy and Human Rights in the Former Yugoslavia: Meeting in Stockholm 20-23 March 1994*

### **1993**

*The Russian-Speaking Residents in Estonia  
Human Rights in Estonia*

### **1992**

*The Gypsies of Sweden  
Human Rights in Albania*

### **1991**

*The Gypsies of Denmark  
The Gypsies and Travellers of France*