

## IFLA/FAIFE Office:

# Annual Report 2000

### Actions

#### **Cuba, September 28, 1999**

*FAIFE reaction to violations of intellectual freedom in Cuba.* An open letter was forwarded to the President of Cuba from the Chair of the IFLA / FAIFE Committee concerning the pattern of State supported and instigated harassment of the independent libraries in Cuba. Though this action took place in 1999 the debate on the issue continued through the year 2000.

[FAIFE Report on Cuba and Independent Libraries.](http://www.faiife.dk/faiife/cubarepo.htm)  
<http://www.faiife.dk/faiife/cubarepo.htm>

#### **China, January 18, 2000**

*FAIFE reaction to the arrest of Mr Song Yongyi in China.* An open letter was forwarded to the Premier of the Peoples' Republic of China from the Chair of the IFLA / FAIFE Committee concerning the arrest of and charges against the librarian Mr Song Yongyi in Beijing, China. Mr. Song Yongyi was released on January 28th and returned to the USA.

#### **Australia, February 2000**

*Submission to the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts* in regard to the enactment of legislation to restrict Internet access by minors and to enable 'take down' notices to be issued for material deemed to be offensive following consideration of a complaint

#### **Kosova, February/March, 2000**

*Joint Kosova Libraries Mission of UNESCO, CoE and IFLA/FAIFE.* In the period February 25 to March 7 Carsten Frederiksen and Frode Bakken, President of the Norwegian Library Association visited libraries in all major regions of Kosova.

In October 2000 representatives of key players agreed to establish a Kosovo Libraries Consortium to act as the focal point, linking international interests with interests in Kosovo. The consortium, consisting of IFLA, the Council of Europe, Unesco, UNMIK Culture, the National and University Library of Kosovo and the Open Society Institute, also agreed on a plan of action, which includes:

- Establishing a network of mobile libraries throughout the country,

- Establishing an effective library infrastructure in Kosovo, including a Kosovo Library Council, which would give advice, and make recommendations to relevant bodies, on library and information services and on projects and expenditure
- Developing the role of the National and University Library, to enable it to provide central technical services and a range of services to support libraries at the regional and local level
- Developing a network of regional resource centres, supporting all types of libraries in their districts
- Holding seminars and workshops to disseminate best practice.

[Libraries in Kosova / Kosovo. IFLA/FAIFE Report no. 1/ April 2000](http://www.faiife.dk/faiife/kosova/kosorepo.htm)  
<http://www.faiife.dk/faiife/kosova/kosorepo.htm>

### **Turkey, October 13, 2000**

On the occasion of the upcoming Turkish National Day, October 29, eleven members of IFEX (International Freedom of Expression eXchange), including IFLA/FAIFE, started an *international campaign in support for the imprisoned Turkish lawyer, playwright and short-story-writer, Mr Esber Yagmurdereli*. Mr Yagmurdereli was released in January 2001.

### **Investigations**

Office investigations have been made concerning potential cases on Internet access in Haiti and exclusion of books in German libraries.

## **Cooperation and contacts**

### **BOBCATSSS**

FAIFE Workshop on intellectual freedom and codes of professional ethics at the international BOBCATSSS Symposium on Library and Information Science, Krakow, Poland, January 24-26 2000. BOBCATSSS is a conference organised by library students and the theme this year was "Intellectual Property versus the Right to Knowledge".

In relation to BOBCATSSS Carsten Frederiksen gave lectures to the organisers at the Royal School of Library and Information Science, Copenhagen and in The Students House of Copenhagen on Libraries and Intellectual Freedom and Professional Codes of Ethics in October/ November 1999.

### **IFEX**

Jan Ristarp and Carsten Frederiksen participated at the IFEX Annual Meeting in New York, USA, on the May 20-23 2000.

IFLA/FAIFE became member of the international network of freedom of expression organisations, IFEX (International Freedom of Expression exchange) on May 23 2000.

### **SAB**

Jan Ristarp participated in a series of seminars on Libraries and Democracy arranged by SAB (Swedish Library Association), Sweden, February-May 2000.

### **Visits**

The FAIFE office was visited by colleagues from Denmark, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden and Russia.

### **NFY and the Alexandria Library Project**

IFLA/FAIFE has agreed to be an active partner in the continuation of the Alexandria Library project. The project is initiated by the Norwegian Forum for Freedom of Expression (NFY) and aims to donate a database on censored publications to the new Alexandria Library when it is inaugurated. Several visits have been made to and by the Norwegian Forum for Freedom of Expression.

### **IFLA meetings**

Jan Ristarp participated in IFLA EB and PB meetings in The Hague in March 2000 and in Jerusalem in August 2000, while Carsten Frederiksen represented the Office at the joint meeting of the EB / PB and core programme directors in the Hague in December 2000.

### **ALP Advisory Board / ALP Office**

Mr Carsten Frederiksen visited the ALP Office in Uppsala and meet with the Advisory Board of the IFLA/ALP on October 17. The Board suggested a joint-programme of Division VIII and FAIFE at the IFLA conference in Glasgow 2002. It was also discussed to have a FAIFE workshop in each region during 2001, preferably in connection with major regional conferences.

### **Jerusalem**

During the IFLA Conference in Jerusalem the FAIFE Office had official and unofficial meetings with several Palestinian representatives. The main objectives were to establish useful contacts and to ensure a friendly atmosphere for future cooperation with the Palestinians and their Arab/Muslim allies in the boycott initiative. As during the boycott the Palestinians did not accept or permit official contacts with IFLA, the instrument to do this was informal cooperation with the Norwegian Library Association and other personal contacts.

The official meetings included a meeting with Mr. Faisal Hussein, the Minister for Jerusalem Affairs, in Orient House on Wednesday the 16th of August. This meeting was also joined by Mr Børge Sørensen, member of the IFLA Executive Board and Mr Ross Shimmon, the IFLA Secretary General. Furthermore the Office had two official meetings on Saturday the 19th of August; one with Mr Ali Toqan, President of the

Palestinian Library and Information Association (PLIA), in Nablus and one with Mr Ezzad Ghazzawi, President of the Palestinian Writers Association, in his office in Ramallah.

## FAIFE Committee

### New members

New members on the committee: Ms *Clara Budnik*, National Directorate of Libraries, Chile; Ms *Ana Cecilia Torres*, National University (Universidad Nacional), Costa Rica; Ms *Winnie Vitzansky*, Danish Library Association, Denmark. Ms *Sherry Jespersen*, United Kingdom, was substituted by *Mr Bob McKee*, Chief Executive of the Library Association.

### IFLA Conference in Jerusalem

The FAIFE Committee held two business meetings in Jerusalem on Sunday 13 and on Friday 18 August. The major issues were: the Office report, the Action Plan for 2001 and the Budget for 2001-2003, the Draft World Report, the Future Structure of IFLA's Core Activities, Policy Discussions, Cuba, and FAIFE Activities at the Conference.

The traditional FAIFE guest lecture was titled "*The Outsider as Insider: Speaking Earnestly about the Rushdie Case*" and was given by Professor of Journalism, Mr. Arne Ruth, Stockholm, Sweden. Mr. Ruth is a journalist and visiting professor at Stockholm's University, Sweden. He was previously the editor in chief of the leading Swedish daily *Dagens Nyheter* and chair of the Swedish Rushdie Committee. He has published works on European culture and politics and is an internationally well-known advocate for freedom of expression. The lecture attracted an audience of around 150 persons and was followed by a lively discussion and questions from the floor.

At a Poster Session Mr. Frode Bakken, President of the Norwegian Library Association and Mr. Carsten Frederiksen, Deputy director, IFLA/FAIFE Office presented the FAIFE report on the joint Kosova Library Mission of Unesco, Council of Europe and IFLA/FAIFE.

FAIFE also had a Paper Session in co-operation with CLM (Committee on Copyright and other Legal Matters) and FAIFE. The session was titled "Access to information: Challenges to Equitable and Universal Access" and three speakers addressed the issues of censorship, copyright and technology: "The way of the wowsler: censorship as a barrier to access to information" by Mr. *Alex Byrne*, Chair of the FAIFE Committee, "Copyright as a Barrier to the Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression" by Mr. *Nick Smith*, Copyright Advisor, Australian Libraries Copyright Committee, and finally Mr. *Terry Kuny*, XIST Inc. Ottawa Ontario, Canada presented a paper. The session attracted around 120 people.

The FAIFE Open Forum dealt with the Norwegian gift to the new Alexandria Library, the Alexandrina database on censored books. A presentation was given by Ms. Mette Newth, projectleader, Norway. *Ms Newth*, former director of the Norwegian Forum for Freedom of Expression, is author of 20 novels and picture books for children and young adults and Principal of the Oslo National College of the Arts. The session titled "In Honour of Memory: Introducing the Norwegian Forum for Freedom of Expression's Project dedicated to the New Library of Alexandria" took place in the major conference hall and was joined by approximately 60 delegates.

A FAIFE Workshop joint with the Section on Library Theory and Research discussed the theme: "Libraries and Codes of Ethics". The workshop included a presentation by Professor *Thomas J. Froehlich* of the School of Library and Information Science at Kent State University, Ohio, USA. His primary research focus has been ethical issues in the information professions. Mr Froehlich addressed the theories around professional ethical codes, their basis of values and their principals of intentions. Ms. *Maria Antonieta Lopes Vigário*, Portugal spoke of the process of adopting and the implementing of the professional code of ethics in portugal. Following her introduction the 30 participants discussed fictive cases illustrating the ethical dilemmas faced by librarians in their everyday work.

### **Other activities**

Besides Country reports, the Members have provided translations of Office Case reports, letters and the IFLA/FAIFE statement. Furthermore members have been providing information, e.g. in relation to the Kosova Library Mission.

Several Committee members has given lectures/papers in the issues of FAIFE during the year 2000 in their home countries or at international conferences. E.g. *Marianna Tax Choldin* has been talking on issues such as "Access to Information and Freedom of Expression: Some Thoughts on Current Issues" in Moscow, "A Decade of Change: Collapsed Walls" (at the tenth annual conference in memory of Father Aleksandr Men') in Moscow and Rostov-on-Don, "'Mein Kampf' in the Library and Other Difficult Questions: Reflections on Intellectual Freedom in Germany" in Berlin, and "Intellectual Freedom in the New Russia: Scenes from the Last Decade" in Chicago.

In March 2000 Ms. *Cendrella Abdallah* gave a presentation, "The Philisophy of FAIFE and the Role of Libraries", at a seminar regarding "Libraries in the Arab world" in Beirut.

The Chair has had articles published in Libri and Australian media.

### **Economy and administration**

In November 1999 the Office approached the Danish, Norwegian and Swedish Development Agencies with an application for basic funding of FAIFE activities for five years.

In June 2000 an agreement with Sida (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency) was signed on support of FAIFE with an amount of SEK 2.200.000 (US \$ 225.000) during the three-year period 2001-2003.

In December 2000 Danida (The Royal Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs) announced a support for the same three-year period of DKK 2.000.000. Danida will support FAIFE with DKK 1.000.000 (US\$ 118.00) in 2001, and DKK 500.000 (US\$ 59.000) a year in 2002 and 2003, though renewed applications will have to be forwarded in September/October every year.

Despite intense and fairly contacts NORAD in November 2000 concluded that it was not able to support the general programme of the FAIFE Office, but also stated positive interest in supporting specific future activities.

Furthermore the Office, in cooperation with the IFLA HQ, has sent applications to various international funds for supplementary funding. Positive responses have been received from the Danish Ministry of Culture, the Danish IFLA '97 organisation and the Norwegian organisation Fritt Ord (Free Word) on a total of US\$ 48 000.

In the period the office has had to change location twice within the premises where the office is located.

### **Director of the Office**

On September 30 2000 Jan Ristarp retired from the position of Director of the FAIFE Office and moved back to Stockholm, Sweden.

Mr Carsten Frederiksen was appointed Acting Director until the necessary funding was definitely secured and the position of director could be refilled.

On February 1 2001 Ms Susanne Seidelin, former Chief Consultant at the Danish National Library for the Blind and a member of the Board of the DAISY consortium of libraries and organisations for the blind and visually impaired, took on the position of director.

## **Publicising**

The FAIFE web-site has grown considerably, now also among others including the 40 Country Reports so far (December 2000) received by the Office, Case Reports issued by the Office, a fairly large collection of relevant papers and links.

At the end of 2000 the web-site had more than 50.000 successful hits per month and far more than 200 user sessions per day (see figure below). The international user sessions amount to around 70%, while the Danish share - including the Office - is around 3-5%. The remaining 24-25% is of unknown origin. As to be expected, the most active countries are USA, Denmark, UK, Canada, Norway, Sweden, Finland, France, Australia, New Zealand, The Netherlands, Japan and Germany, but also Russia, Spain, South Africa, Malaysia, Hungary, Croatia, Lithuania, Mexico and the United Arab Emirates, are among the frequent users.

		Hits for Home Page	Hits for Site	Page Views	User Sessions	Hits Per Day	Page Views Per Day	Sessions Per Day
<b>1999</b>	May	780	20.846	5.851	2.118	672	188	68
	June	599	17.174	5.319	1.550	572	177	51
	July	456	12.021	5.112	1.280	387	164	41
	August	4.120	17.316	8.486	944	558	273	30
	September	9.087	28.219	14.958	1.295	940	498	43
	Oktober	10.020	35.945	17.360	2.166	1.159	560	69
	November	9.356	31.692	16.303	1.756	1.056	543	58
	December	9.600	27.902	15.438	1.890	900	498	60
<b>2000</b>	January	9.807	30.623	16.913	1.857	956	528	58
	February	9.077	33.918	16.671	2.481	1.169	574	85
	March	9.843	38.902	19.318	3.500	1.254	623	112
	April	9.434	32.586	17.334	3.054	1.086	577	101
	May	8.419	44.638	18.078	3.412	1.785	723	136
	June	9.116	30.548	16.308	3.281	1.018	543	109
	July	9.467	31.581	17.938	3.491	1.018	578	112
	August	9.915	45.360	22.981	5.044	1.463	741	162
	September	9.924	50.761	24.301	6.308	1.692	810	210
	Oktober	10.345	63.861	28.351	8.119	1.995	885	253
	November	10.062	58.477	26.423	8.816	1.949	880	293
	December	10.074	51.571	23.654	6.727	1.663	763	217
<b>2001</b>	January	10.185	53.304	26.637	6.502	1.719	859	209

**Note:** The FAIFE website was launched in October 1998, but the statistics from the initial period is not available. The statistics are generated with WebTrends Web Log Analyzer

### **Mailing lists**

In September 2000 the FAIFE Office established an electronic mailing list, FAIFE-L. FAIFE-L is an electronic forum intended to foster communications among IFLA members and others concerned with the issues related to the work of FAIFE (Free Access to Information and Freedom of expression). The aim is to facilitate the exchange of information and opinions. At the same time a mailing reserved for the internal use of the Committee was established.

### **Other publications**

The IFLA/FAIFE Statement on libraries and Intellectual Freedom has been translated into 35 languages - all available on the web-site.

The findings and suggestions of the Kosova Library Mission has been published in a report (IFLA/FAIFE Report 1, 2000) delivered to both Unesco and Council of Europe. The report is to be presented at the IFLA Conference in Jerusalem.

The Office has edited an IFLA Journal Special Issue on Libraries and Intellectual Freedom, which will be published as IFLA Journal no 4 July 2000. The issue contains contributions from a variety of professionals, which are all involved in libraries and/or intellectual freedom matters in one way or another.

The Office has given interviews and written articles on FAIFE issues in several Scandinavian and some European media.