



**PEN INTERNATIONAL WEEKLY ON-LINE
LE BULLETIN HEBDOMADAIRE DE PEN
INTERNATIONAL EN LIGNE
PEN INTERNACIONAL SEMANAL ON-LINE**

11 – 17 May 2012

PEN International's weekly on-line round-up with updates of news and alerts from the PEN Community.

We highly recommend that you visit our site – www.pen-international.org, our new [Facebook page](#) and follow us on Twitter [@pen_int](#).

El nuevo semanal on-line de PEN International con novedades y alertas desde la Comunidad de PEN. Realmente recomendamos que visite nuestro sitio: www.pen-international.org y también nuestros sitios de [Facebook](#) y Twitter [@pen_int](#).

Le bulletin hebdomadaire de PEN International avec des mises à jour d'informations et d'alertes de la communauté PEN. Nous vous recommandons fortement de consulter notre site – www.pen-international.org ainsi que nos

nouveaux sites [Facebook](#) et [Twitter @pen_int](#).

NEWS RELEASES [French/Spanish](#)

IN FOCUS: Free the Word! at Poetry Parnassus, June 27th



Poetry Parnassus, part of the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad programme, is an international celebration of literature, which will bring together the world's most exciting poets, rappers, spoken word artists, singers and storytellers for the largest poetry festival ever staged in the UK. For this unique global event PEN International is teaming up with the [Southbank Centre](#) in London and [English PEN](#) to put together a special series of Free the Word! literary events on 27 June 2012. Poets and writers from every Olympic Nation will be taking part in the event, including Seamus Heaney, Wole Soyinka, John Agard, Shailja Patel, Jack Mapange and Rafeef Ziadeh. To view the itinerary and full list of participants [click here](#).

17 May: International Literary Community Mourns the Loss of Carlos Fuentes / PEN Internacional lamenta la muerte de Carlos Fuentes

“Como persona, Fuentes encarnó los principios que defiende el PEN Internacional. Fue un aguerrido defensor de la libertad de expresión y los derechos de

los escritores y periodistas, no solo en Mexico sino en los diversos puntos del mundo donde le tocó trabajar y vivir” - Gloria Guardia, Presidenta de la Fundación Iberoamericana del PEN



The PEN International community and fans of literature around the world have been deeply saddened to learn of the loss of celebrated Latin American novelist Carlos Fuentes, described as the “catalyst for the literary explosion that introduction Latin American writers to a worldwide party”. Fuentes, who died on 15 May 2012 in Mexico City, aged 83, published over 60 works during his lifetime, including numerous collections of short stories, essays and plays. Click to read more and tributes from PEN members in [Spanish](#) or [English](#).

17 May: PEN Russia Protests Pussy Riot Detentions

/ Члены Русского ПЕН-центра просят немедленно освободить Pussy Riot

“Проведенная экспертиза не нашла в текстах песен и действиях девушек мотивов ненависти и вражды, что подтверждает отсутствие состава преступления по вменяемой им статье.”

“Close examination to the lyrics of the songs did not find that the girls’ motives were hatred and enmity which confirms the absence of evidence against them.”



Russian PEN publish an open letter in support of the Pussy Riot band members who staged the 'punk prayer' in the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour and are now in jail, charged under the article 213 of Russian Criminal Code of hooliganism, sentence for which the maximum penalty is seven years. For more information and to read the full letter [click here](#).

11 May: The Ibero-American Foundation of PEN International issues statement calling for journalist Roméo Langlois to be freed



The members of the Council of the Ibero-American Foundation of PEN

International call on the Colombian terrorist group, FARC, to free Roméo Langlois immediately and without conditions. Langlois, a French journalist and documentary-maker, was kidnapped by members of the armed group on 28 April 2012 while he was filming soldiers destroying cocaine laboratories.. [Click here](#) to find out more.

11 May: PEN Colombia calls on FARC to release Roméo Langlois / PEN Colombia exige a las FARC liberar a Romeo Langlois

PEN Colombia calls on the Colombian terrorist group, FARC, to immediately and unconditionally release the French journalist Roméo Langlois. Langlois, a French journalist and documentary-maker, was kidnapped by members of the armed group on 28 April 2012 while he was filming soldiers destroying cocaine laboratories. [Click here](#) to find out more and read Colombian PEN's press statement.

La Asociación de escritores PEN Colombia –filial del PEN Internacional–, exhorta al grupo armado irregular, Farc, a liberar de forma inmediata e incondicional al periodista y documentalista francés Romeo Langlois, quien fue secuestrado por miembros del grupo armado el 28 de Abril de 2012 cuando se encontraba filmando a los soldados mientras destruían laboratorios de cocaína. [Haga click](#) aquí para leer más.

TAKE ACTION!!

16 May: SYRIA: writer and thinker released and deported



The Writers in Prison Committee of PEN International welcomes the release on 13 May 2012 of writer and thinker Salam Kila. However PEN remains seriously concerned for Kila's well-being following his deportation to Jordan, where he has no means of support. Kila was reportedly subjected to torture while in detention. PEN International urges the Syrian authorities to immediately investigate the reported torture and bring to justice those responsible. It also protests his forced exile and separation from his family, solely for the peaceful expression of his views. To read more and send appeals [click here](#).

14 May: MEXICO: Journalist found dead 24 hours after being reported missing



The Writers in Prison Committee (WiPC) of PEN International is appalled by the news that another Mexican journalist has been found dead in suspicious circumstances. René Orta Salgado, a former reporter for El Sol de Cuernavaca, was found dead in the boot of his car on 13 May 2012. A scarf has been taped over his face using industrial adhesive tape. The WiPC calls on the Mexican authorities to carry out a thorough investigation into Orta's death, and to bring those responsible to justice. To read more [click here](#).

11 May: SYRIA: writer and thinker arrested; fears for safety

The Writers in Prison Committee of PEN International fears for the safety of leading writer and thinker Salama Kila, who was arrested on 23 April 2012 for his writings about the recent events taking place in Syria. He remains detained incommunicado at an unknown location, and is considered to be at serious risk of torture and ill-treatment. To read more and send appeals [click here](#).

PEN INTERNATIONAL BLOGS
[French](#)/[Spanish](#)

17 May: Executive Director of PEN International, Laura McVeigh writes from the Writers for Peace Committee

meeting at Bled, Slovenia



I am writing from the 44th [Writers for Peace Committee](#) meeting which takes place this week at Lake Bled in Slovenia. PEN members from around the world are gathered together to debate, discuss and develop ideas on key issues of our times. In a series of round table presentations we are hearing members' presentations on the themes of civilisation, modernity and paths to peace. To read the full blog and find out more about discussion topics, [click here](#).

11 May: Ola Larsmo, Chair of Swedish PEN, writes about his memories of Thomas von Vegesack

“En författare och intellektuell med osviklig moralisk compass”

“A Writer and Intellectual with an Unwavering Moral Compass”



Det är bara två månader sedan Thomas von Vegesack och jag satt och talade om hans senaste bok på Söderbokhandeln. I går kväll fick jag beskedet att han hade gått bort. Min första reaktion var den vanliga vid ett dödsbud: att man inte tror på det. Han var ju här nyss. Han är ju nödvändig.

Just two months ago, Thomas von Vegesack and I sat and talked about his latest book in the Söderbokhandeln. Last night I was told that he had passed away. My first reaction at the news of his death was disbelief: He was just here. He is still needed.

Click here to read the obituary in [Swedish](#) or [English](#).

EVENTS [French](#)/[Spanish](#)

**16 - 18 May: Writers for Peace Committee
Conference: Sharing - the Path to Peace / Le
Partage comme le chemin vers la Paix**

Bled, Slovenia

The PEN International Writers for Peace Committee has held annual meetings in Bled since 1968. This year, under the theme 'Sharing: the Path to Peace', representatives from PEN Centres around the world will meet to discuss and debate issues of intercultural dialogue and literature. For further details about the event, click [here](#), or contact the Writers for Peace Committee Chair, Edvard Kovac, at the [Slovenian PEN Centre](#).

12 June: Girona Manifesto Presentation

Palau de la Generalitat, Barcelona, Spain



The Girona Manifesto on Linguistic Rights will be presented at the Palau de la Generalitat in Barcelona, the city where the idea for the Manifesto was born, at the World Conference on Linguistic Rights in 1996. Developed by the translation and Linguistic Rights Committee, the Girona Manifesto is a ten point document designed to be translated and disseminated widely as a tool to defend linguistic diversity around the world. At PEN International's

77th annual Congress the PEN General Assembly approved the Manifesto. To find out more click [here](#). To read the Girona Manifesto on Linguistic Rights in over forty languages click [here](#).

Please share your centre news with us at penoffice@pen-international.org

Please send this newsletter onto other members of your centre and others who might be interested.

Por favor compartá las novedades de su centro con nosotros en penoffice@pen-international.org

Por favor envíe este boletín informativo a otros miembros de su centro y otros que podrían estar interesados.

Nous vous remercions de partager les informations de votre centre avec nous à l'adresse penoffice@pen-international.org

Veillez envoyer cette lettre d'information aux autres membres de votre centre et aux personnes qui pourraient être intéressées.

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