



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

12 – 19 April 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 : China

It has been a busy week at PEN International with the opening of the London Book Fair on Monday 16th with China as its headlining 'market focus' country for 2012.

The cooperation of the London Book Fair with China's General Administration of Press and Publishing (Gapp), has raised a great deal of criticism from human rights and freedom of expression campaigners who are skeptical of the possibility of real dialogue if the writers taking part are only those approved by the Chinese government.

PEN International and English PEN issued a press release stating their position on the London Book Fair, which you can find [here](#)

PEN also joined other freedom of expression organisations in signing an open letter to express disappointment that the Book Fair has not included Chinese voices of dissent in their programme of events.

- **Read the open letter, featured in the Guardian [here](#)**

PEN believes events such as the London Book Fair are fundamental opportunities for exchange between those with diverse views, especially in the case of countries like China in which freedom of expression is heavily curtailed, and was pleased that ways were found over the past week to

celebrate Chinese literature but also to engage with the issue of suppression of free speech in China.

- **Read about the impromptu protest of the author Ma Jian and the For a video of the protest click here**

For more press coverage on the London Book Fair, China and freedom of expression check our [press centre](#) or read the articles:

[The Economist](#) ; [The Guardian](#) ; [The Independent](#)



18 April: Registration now open for the 2012 PEN International Congress in Gyeongju, Korea [French](#)

PEN International and PEN Korean Centre are delighted to announce that registration for 78th PEN International Congress is now open. The Congress, which will take place in Gyeongju, Korea, runs from 9th-15th September 2012, and will focus on the theme of 'Literature, Media and Human Rights'. [Register here!](#)

Spanish version to follow.



13 April: Eskinder Nega awarded PEN American Center/Barbara Goldsmith Freedom to Write Award

*Ethiopian journalist and blogger **Eskinder Nega** was yesterday named the recipient of the PEN American Center 2012 PEN/Barbara Goldsmith Freedom to Write Award. [Find out more here](#)*

TAKE ACTION!!

19 April: BELARUS: Journalist and political activist Dimitry Bondarenko released.

The Writers in Prison Committee of PEN International welcomes the release of Dimitry Bondarenko (also referred to as Dzmitry Bandarenka) on 15 April 2012. He was released jointly with Andrei Sannikov, who ran against President Alexander Lukashenko in the 2010 presidential election. [Read more](#)

18 April: BAHRAIN: writer and human rights defender Abdulhadi Al-Khawaja's life is in danger

PEN International's Writers in Prison Committee is gravely concerned about the well-being of writer and prominent

human rights defender Abdulhadi Al-Khawaja as he enters the 65th day of his hunger strike, begun on 8 February 2012 in protest at his detention and treatment. [Read more and send appeals](#)

13 April: CAMEROON – Charges against Writer Meyomesse Reduced; Still faces Trial before Military Court [French](#)

PEN International is relieved by reports that the charges against the writer and political activist Enoh Meyomesse have been reduced once again, but we remain deeply concerned that he still faces trial before a military tribunal on charges of complicity in the armed robbery of 78 grams of gold; the writer has also recently been charged with mineral trade law violations. [Read Meyomesse's case here](#)

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



Nedim Şener and Ahmet Şık become members of the Writers in Prison Committee (WiPC)

Members of PEN Turkey since last spring, both Nedim Şener and Ahmet Şık have recently been chosen by Danish PEN as Honorary Members. Both journalists have expressed gratitude to PEN International, PEN Turkey, Danish PEN

and other sister centres for their acts of solidarity. [See more here](#)

CENTRE NEWS [French](#) / [Spanish](#)

PEN Haiti is holding its first Free the Word! festival this weekend 20 -22 April!

Follow the events by checking our [website](#) [French](#)

PEN American's tumblr **Liberez la Parole!** <http://www.tumblr.com/tagged/liberez-la-parole>

*PEN International will be offering live updates from the festival on our website and via [facebook](#) and [twitter](#), using the hashtag **#HaitiFreeTheWord**.*

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

Veuillez envoyer cette lettre d'information aux autres

membres de votre centre et aux personnes qui pourraient être intéressées.

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