

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



Amnesty International – Banned Books Week 2019

Each year during *Banned Books Week* the American Library Association (ALA) calls attention to books that have been challenged in US Libraries. At the same time Amnesty International groups draw attention to people around the world who have been imprisoned, threatened, or murdered because of what they wrote or published or because of their work in the publishing or media industries. This year we look at a small sample of many hundreds of worldwide cases while we continue to acknowledge unresolved cases from past years.



**FOR MANY AUTHORS, THEIR
WORK MEANS CERTAIN DEATH.**

Your donation will help us:
www.amnesty.de

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Image from: www.adsoftheworld.com/media/print/amnesty_international_graveyard

The development of this packet relied upon reports and actions from the following organizations.

Amnesty International, including various national sections

American Library Association

Committee to Protect Journalists

Electronic Frontier Foundation

IFEX

PEN International, English PEN, PEN America, and other PEN sections

Reporters without Borders



BUYING BOOKS, AMPLIFYING VOICES: For librarians & booksellers.

The following books written by or about authors identified by Amnesty International or PEN America as individuals arrested, murdered, harassed, or exiled for their published creative works (writing, photography, etc.) are available from Amazon or other domestic and international book sellers.

Libraries and bookstores are encouraged to buy and make available books by or about authors who have been imprisoned, murdered, or harassed in light of their writing or publications. The act of **purchasing and making available** the words of such authors may **provide a disincentive to those who might jail authors** because of their ideas. Making available such texts is a counterweight to the censorship of authoritarian regimes. Inclusion of such texts in a college or university library is likely to **broaden the discussion of relevant global issues** and help students and faculty **understand the nature and effects of censorship**.

Note: Titles listed below, are not necessarily the cause of author's persecution; rather, they represent the work of the author and the possible silencing of a voice. Book descriptions and cover art are drawn from Amazon.com unless otherwise noted. Information regarding cases is drawn from Amnesty International and PEN America unless otherwise indicated.

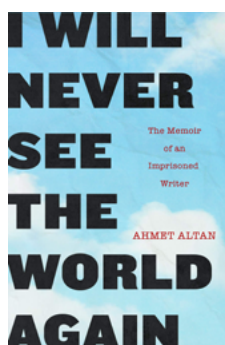
Recent Publications and/or Current Cases



AHMET ALTAN (Turkey) – Novelist / Journalist – Facing 5 to 15 years in prison

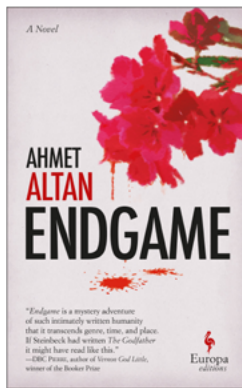
Altan is a prominent novelist, journalist and the former editor-in-chief of *Taraf*, a liberal daily newspaper. Altan was arrested in September 2016 for allegedly giving subliminal messages during a television broadcast that discussed the long history of military involvement in Turkish politics. Previously, in 2013, Altan was detained and sentenced for an editorial piece he published. He has faced other charges in light of his work as a journalist and novelist.

(PEN America, Amnesty International Banned Books Case 2018)



TURKEY – *I Will Never See the World Again: The Memoir of an Imprisoned Writer* by **Ahmet Altan**; Other Press (October 1, 2019); 978-1590519929.

“A resilient Turkish writer’s inspiring account of his imprisonment that provides crucial insight into political censorship amidst the global rise of authoritarianism.”



TURKEY – *Endgame* by **Ahmet Altan**; Europa Editions (April 18, 2017); (April 2017); 978-1609453770.

“Ahmet Altan bravely crafts a novel about the ways in which corruption envelops contemporary Turkish life ... An atmospheric and enigmatic literary noir, in which an unnamed writer visits a small town and finds himself involved in a mystery with existentialist implications.”

Washington Post 50 Notable Books of 2017.



TURKEY – *Like a Sword Wound* by **Ahmet Altan**; Europa Editions (October 2018); 978-1609454746.

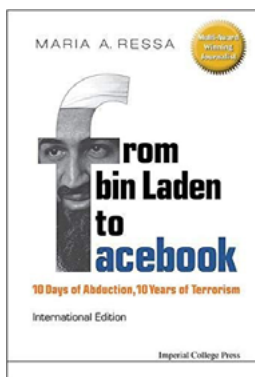
“Here is a Turkish saga reminiscent of *War and Peace*, written in lively, contemporary prose that traces not only the social currents of the time but also the erotic and emotional lives of its characters.”



MARIA A. RESSA (Philippines) – Executive Editor of Online News Website & Journalist – Facing years in prison on several charges.

Maria Ressa was named one of Time Magazine persons of the year in 2018 for her work with *Rappler*, an online news agency. *Rappler* has been a consistent critic of President Rodrigo Duterte and his administration, publishing detailed investigations into some of the thousands of extrajudicial executions committed by police and other unknown armed persons during drug-related operations. Ressa’s arrest and persecution appear to be part of a broader campaign to silence critics of the government.

(Amnesty International & PEN America)



PHILIPPINES – *From Bin Laden to Facebook: 10 Days of Abduction, 10 Years of Terrorism* by **Maria A. Ressa**; World Scientific Pub Co Inc; International edition (April 2013); 978-1908979537.

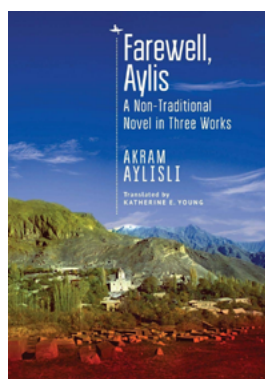
“The two most wanted terrorists in Southeast Asia — a Malaysian and a Singaporean — are on the run in the Philippines, but they manage to keep their friends and family updated on *Facebook*. ... The book forms the powerful narrative that glues together the social networks — both physical and virtual — which spread the jihadi virus from bin Laden to *Facebook*.”



AKRAM AYLISLI (Azerbaijan) – Author harassed by authorities, subject to travel restrictions and house arrest, facing charges and jail time of up to 3 years.

Since the publication of his novella, *Stone Dreams*, in 2012, writer Akram Aylisli has been subject to an officially-sanctioned harassment campaign. On March 30, 2016, on his way to speak at a literary festival in Italy, he was detained at the airport. He was later charged with hooliganism and resisting the authorities with violence, a charge that carries a penalty of up to three years in prison. He is currently living under de facto house arrest in Baku, Azerbaijan, awaiting possible trial.

(PEN America)



AZERBAIJAN – *Farewell, Aylis: A Non-Traditional Novel in Three Works* by Akram Aylisli; Academic Studies Press (November 2018); 978-1618117946; From Series: *Central Asian Literatures in Translation*

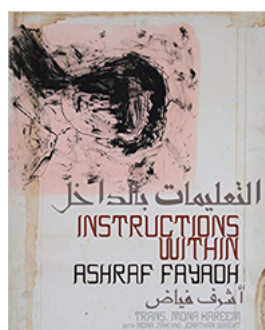
The three novellas of *Farewell, Aylis* take place over decades of transition in a country that rather resembles modern-day Azerbaijan. In *Yemen*, a Soviet traveler takes an afternoon stroll and finds himself suspected of defecting to America. In *Stone Dreams*, an actor explores the limits of one man's ability to live a moral life amid conditions of sociopolitical upheaval, ethnic cleansing, and petty professional intrigue. In *A Fantastical Traffic Jam*, those who serve the aging leader of a corrupt, oil-rich country scheme to stay alive. *Farewell, Aylis* reflects on the political firestorm surrounding these novellas and the author's situation as a prisoner of conscience in Azerbaijan.



ASHRAF FAYADH (Saudi Arabia) – Poet sentenced to 8 years & 800 lashes

Ashraf Fayadh is a Palestinian poet, artist, and curator living in Saudi Arabia, who was sentenced to eight years in prison and 800 lashes on charges of apostasy on February 2, 2016. Fayadh was first arrested in 2013 on accusations stemming from his poetry collection *Instructions Within*.

(PEN America, Amnesty International Banned Books Case 2016 & 2018)



SAUDI ARABIA – *Instructions Within* (bilingual) by Ashraf Fayadh; The Operating System (2016); 978-0986050572.

Longlisted for the Best Translated Book Award for **poetry**; Originally published by Beirut-based Dar al-Farabi in 2008.

Related Past or Ongoing Amnesty International / PEN America Cases



AIUSA / Getty Images

SHAHIDUL ALAM (Bangladesh) – Photojournalist RELEASED after spending over 100 days in prison

Alam faced charges for “online speech that hurts the image of the nation.” While covering student protests, he took photographs and provided commentary on live *Facebook* videos. That same day, he also participated in an interview with the news outlet, Al Jazeera. Many critics observe that Alam’s arrest is part of the broader trend toward increasing authoritarianism and crackdowns on free expression in Bangladesh. Alam was released on 20 November 2018.

(PEN America, Amnesty International Banned Books Week Case 2018)



BANGLADESH – *Green Fire* by Shahidul Alam; The University Press Ltd (2010); 978-9845060189

“Green Fire is a fictional account of a group of teenagers from an elite high school in the former East Pakistan who were suddenly confronted, upon graduation, with the much wider world that their privileged upbringing and exclusive schooling had largely sheltered them from ... Green Fire portrays a society that was shattered by the traumatic events immediately leading up to, and during, Bangladesh’s liberation struggle.”



BANGLADESH – *My Journey as a Witness* by Shahidul Alam; Skira (2011); 978-8857209661

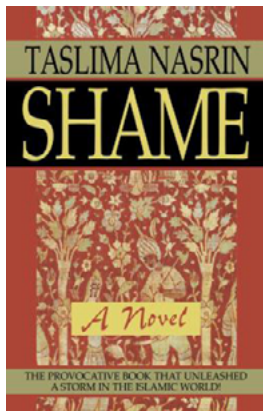
“An insight into the evolution of one of the most significant movements in contemporary photography, through the eyes and voice of the man who shaped it. An extraordinary artist, Shahidul Alam is a photographer, writer, activist, and social entrepreneur who used his art to chronicle the social and artistic struggles in a country known largely for poverty and disasters.”



taslimanasrin.com

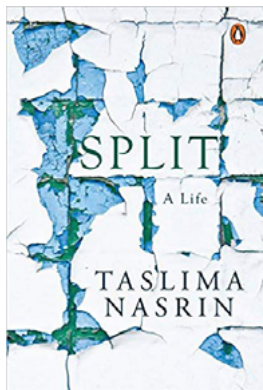
TSLIMA NASRIN (Bangladesh) – Novelist Threatened with Death; Living in Exile

In 1993 Tslima Nasrin was threatened with death for the writing and publication of *Shame*.



BANGLADESH – *Shame* by **Taslma Nasrin**; Prometheus (1997); 978-1573921657

“In late 1992, a long-standing animosity reached a crisis when Hindu extremists destroyed a mosque in Ayodhya, India. Enraged Muslims responded with a protracted persecution of Hindus throughout the subcontinent. This work recounts that campaign of retaliatory terror as experienced by one Hindu family in Bangladesh.”



BANGLADESH – *Split: a Life* by **Taslma Nasrin**; Penguin India (2018); 978-0670090181

Taslma Nasrin is known for her powerful writing on women’s rights and uncompromising criticism of religious fundamentalism. This defiance ... had led to the ban on the Bengali original of this book in West Bengal [and] Bangladesh in 2003. Nasrin was eventually driven out of Kolkata and forced to expunge passages from the book, besides facing a four-million-dollar defamation lawsuit. *Split: A Life* opens a window to the experiences and works of one of the bravest writers of our times.



BANGLADESH – *Exiled: a Memoir* by **Taslma Nasrin**; Penguin (2016); 978-0670088744

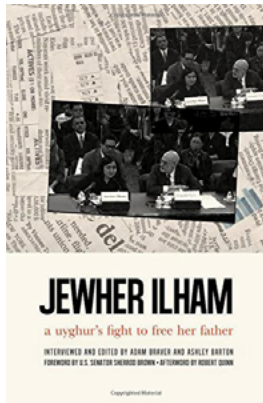
On 21 November 2007, the city of Kolkata came to a rude, screeching halt as a virulent mob of religious fanatics took to the streets. Armed with a fatwa from their ideologues, the mob demanded that Taslima Nasrin leave the city immediately. While the police stood watching ... [the government] decided to ban her book and drive her out of the city ... *Exile* is a moving and shocking chronicle of Taslima Nasrin’s struggles in India over a period of seven months.



ILHAM TOHTI (China / Uyghur) – Writer / Professor sentenced to LIFE in PRISON

Ilham Tohti is a Uyghur economist, writer, and professor who co-founder the website *Uyghur Online*, which aimed to promote understanding between Uyghurs and Han Chinese. He is currently serving a life sentence. Initially detained in 2009 in response to an online article he wrote, he had been subjected to ongoing surveillance. He was prevented from leaving the country in 2013 while travelling to take a position as a visiting scholar at Indiana University.

(PEN America, Amnesty International Banned Books Week Case 2018)



CHINA — *A Uyghur's Fight to Free Her Father* by **Jewher Ilham**; University of New Orleans Press (2015); 978-1608011056; From Series: *Broken Silence*

“When Jewher Ilham’s father, Ilham Tohti, was detained at the Beijing airport in February 2013 on charges of “separatism,” Jewher had two choices: she could stay in China or fly to America alone. Jewher boarded the plane for Indiana and began a new life apart from her family and was half a world away when her father was sentenced to life in prison...”



AI WEIWEI (China) — **RELEASED** — Artist previously detained

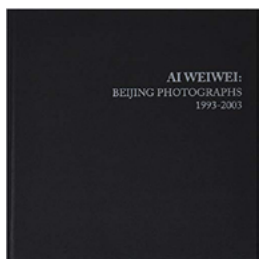
Dissident Chinese artist and activist Ai Weiwei has been free to travel since Beijing authorities returned his passport in July 2015. However, Ai was previously banned from foreign travel for four years, after police seized his passport at the Beijing airport during a crackdown on Chinese political activists in 2011. He was detained, allegedly for “economic crimes,” for 81 days. He has lived outside China since being allowed to leave in 2015.

(PEN America)



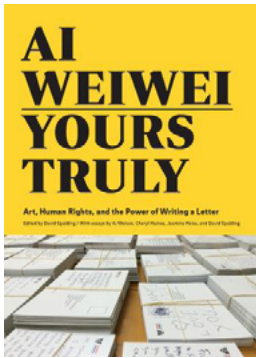
CHINA — *Ai Weiwei's Blog* by **Ai Weiwei**; The MIT Press (2011); 978-0262015219

“In 2006, even though he could barely type, China’s most famous artist started blogging. For more than three years, Ai Weiwei turned out a steady stream of scathing social commentary, criticism of government policy, thoughts on art and architecture, and autobiographical writings ... Then, on June 1, 2009, Chinese authorities shut down the blog.”



CHINA — *Ai Weiwei: Beijing Photographs, 1993-2003*; The MIT Press (2019); 978-0262015219

Ai Weiwei: Beijing Photographs 1993–2003 is an autobiography in pictures. This book, prohibited from publication in China, offers an intimate look at Ai Weiwei’s world in the years after his return from New York and preceding his imprisonment and global superstardom. The photographs capture Ai’s emergence as the uniquely provocative artist that he is today. There is no more revealing portrait of Ai Weiwei’s life in China than this. The book contains more than 600 carefully sequenced images culled from an archive of more than 40,000 photographs taken by Ai: a narrative arc carefully shaped by an artist keenly aware of photography’s ability to tell stories.



CHINA — *Yours Truly: Art, Human Rights, and the Power of Writing a Letter* by **AI Weiwei**; Chronicle Books (2018); 978-1452159294

“Five former prisoners and their loved ones reflect on the experience of receiving hundreds of postcards while imprisoned.”



LIU XIAOBO (China) — DIED IN CUSTODY while serving 11 year sentence

Renowned literary critic, writer, political activist, and 2010 Nobel Peace Prize laureate, was arrested in 2009 and charged with “inciting subversion of state power,” and sentenced in 2010 to 11 years in prison for penning seven sentences. His wife, Liu Xia, has been under house arrest since the announcement that he would be awarded the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize.

(PEN America)

XIA LIU (China) — Xia Liu lived under house arrest for nearly 8 years.

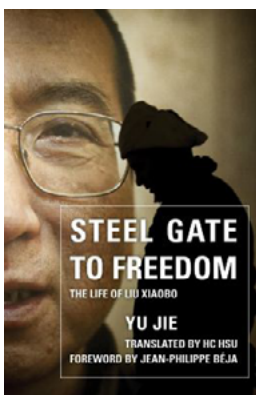
In July 2018 Liu Xia was released and left China to “start her life anew”.

(PEN America)



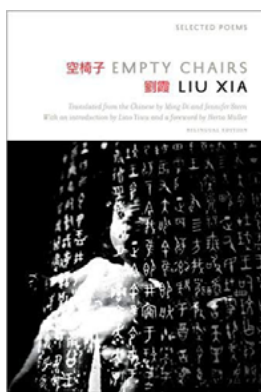
CHINA — *No Enemies, No Hatred* by **Liu Xiaobo**; Belknap Press (2013); 978-0674072329

Collection of essays and poetry written by Nobel Peace Prize winning Liu Xiaobo — a mix of politics and passions that “provide insight into all aspects of Chinese life ... chronic[ling] a leading dissident’s struggle against tyranny [and] enrich[ing] the record of universal longing for freedom and dignity.”



CHINA — *Steel Gate to Freedom: The Life of Liu Xiaobo* by Yu Jie; Rowman & Littlefield Publishers (2015); 978-1442237131

Yu Jie traces an extraordinary man’s odyssey, from growing up in the northeast and Inner Mongolia during the Cultural Revolution, through his meteoric rise in Beijing’s intellectual circles and his pivotal role in the Tiananmen protests and subsequent imprisonments, to the founding of the controversial Independent Chinese PEN and groundbreaking Charter 08, his poignant relationship with wife Liu Xia, and winning the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize. It is also a love story between two poets who, though separated by three hundred miles and eleven years behind bars, are united in their persistence to speak truth to power, inspiring countless others.



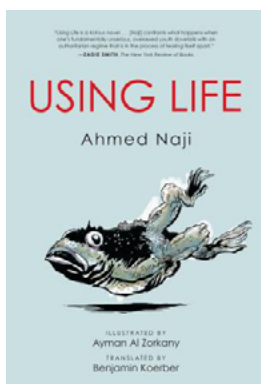
CHINA – *Empty Chairs: Selected Poems* by **Xia Liu**; Graywolf Press; (2015); 978-1555977252

Empty Chairs presents the poetry of Liu Xia for the first time freely in both English translation and in the Chinese original. Selected from thirty years of her work, and including some of her haunting photography, this book creates a portrait of a life lived under duress, a voice in danger of being silenced, and a spirit that is shaken but so far indomitable. Liu Xia's poems are potent, acute moments of inquiry that peel back to expose the fraught complexity of an interior world. They are felt and insightful, colored through with political constraints even as they seep beyond those constraints and toward love.



AHMED NAJI (Egypt) – **RELEASED** – **Served 10 months of 2 year sentence; subjected to travel ban and fine.**

Sentenced to a two-year prison sentence for “violating public modesty” after an Egyptian citizen complained that an excerpt from Naji’s book, *The Use of Life*, had caused him to experience heart palpitations and a drop in blood pressure due to certain sexual content in the story. On January 7, 2018, Naji’s retrial on charges of “violating public modesty” was referred to a criminal court, which lifted Naji’s travel restrictions and overturned the original sentence, replacing jail time with a fine. Naji was finally able to leave Egypt in July 2018.



EGYPT – *Using Life* by **Ahmed Naji**; University of Texas at Austin (2017); 978-1477314807; From series: *Emerging Voices from the Middle East*

“*Using Life* ... is a ribald, streetwise, outrageously inventive speculative fiction that hammers at the chaos and dysfunction of Egyptian life while testifying to the vitality of its counterculture. . . . Even as Egyptian authorities play to the dystopian script by attempting to punish the author for his heterodoxies, his book memorably celebrates the country’s underground seams of freedom and individual expression.” (Wall Street Journal 2017-12-22)



HOMA HOODFAR (Iran) – **Scholar / Researcher RELEASED after 3 months**

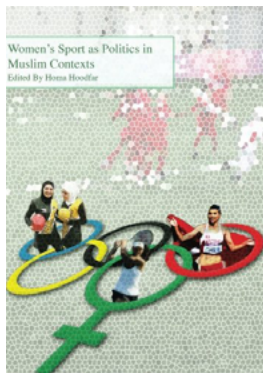
Homa Hoodfar, who is renowned for her academic work on issues related to women’s rights, development and electoral politics, had travelled to Iran on 11 February to visit her family and conduct research on women’s participation in elections. Following her arrest, she was held in solitary confinement and interrogated without a lawyer present. She was allowed just one meeting with her lawyer and very limited access to her family. On 24 June 2016, the Prosecutor General of Tehran stated that Homa Hoodfar’s “criminal” case was in connection with “her entry into fields concerning feminism and national security offences”. In September 2016 released from prison after making a bail payment of five billion rials (US\$ 159,000) and was allowed to leave the country.

(Amnesty International)



IRAN – *Sexuality in Muslim Contexts: Restrictions and Resistance* by Anissa Hélié (Editor), Homa Hoodfar (Editor); Zed Books (October 11, 2012); 978-1780322858

The book explores women's resistance against the policing of sexuality in Muslim societies. Many Muslim majority countries still use religious discourse to enforce stigmatization and repression of those who do not conform to sexual norms. In this context, Islam is often stigmatized in Western discourse for being intrinsically restrictive with respect to women's rights and sexuality. This insightful collection shows that conservative Muslim discourse does not necessarily match practices and that women's empowerment is facilitated where indigenous and culturally appropriate strategies are developed.



IRAN – *Women's Sport as Politics in Muslim Contexts* – Edited by Homa Hoodfar; Women Living Under Muslim Laws (2016); 978-1907024207

This book provides an urgently needed analysis of the bravery and creativity exhibited by Muslim women in the realm of sports, which has emerged as a major realm of contestation between proponents of women's rights and political Islamist forces in Muslim contexts. Through focused case studies, this volume tracks the many sophisticated, context-specific, and constantly evolving strategies of women's resistance to their exclusion in sport. Hoodfar and other contributors have provided a ground-breaking analysis of the landscape of gender and sports in diverse Muslim contexts.



storycorps.org

JUDE DIBIA (Nigeria) – LGBT Novelist – Living in EXILE in light of the criminalization of LGBT relationships

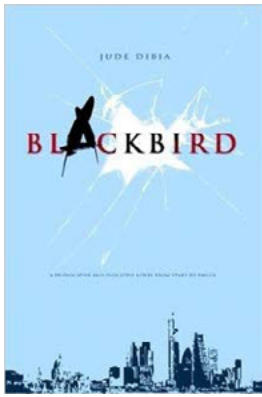
The 2015 PEN report, "Silenced Voices, Threatened Lives: The Impact of Nigeria's Anti-LGBTI Law on Freedom of Expression" documents the cases of writers unable to publish their books, poems, and stories, as well as organizations forbidden from meeting, social media communities chilled by government infiltration, and rising incidents of blackmail and extortion directed at LGBTI individuals. The report showcases Nigeria's at-risk literary and artistic traditions and discusses impact on publishing and lives. (PEN America) Jude Dibia is an author, queer rights advocate, and winner of the Commonwealth Prize and the Swedish Natur och Kultur Pris. Dibia currently lives in Sweden where he works with displaced artists as the administrator of the Malmö City refuge artists' program.

(Amazon)



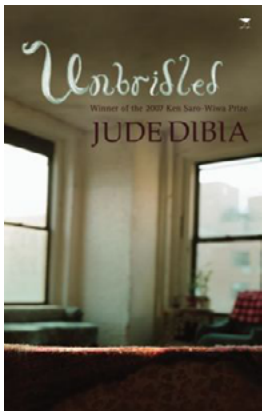
NIGERIA (LGBT) *Queer Men's Narrative* co-edited by Jude Dibia; Cassava Republic Press (October 22, 2019); 978-1911115823

A companion volume to the widely-acclaimed anthology *She Called Me Woman: Nigeria's Queer Women Speak* (2018), *Queer Men's Narrative* challenges society at large to re-think its idea of what being a man entails, and how such concepts limit men and women's freedom to be, to live and to understand each other. The selected narratives, from over 25 contributors, show some queer men, like their straight counterparts, hold on to sexism, toxic masculinity and patriarchy as a way to justify their masculinity within a society that prescribes such a role and expectations.



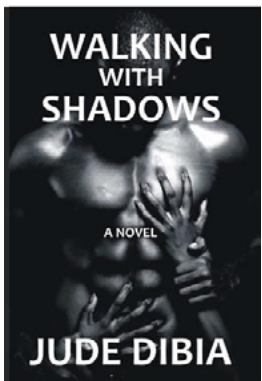
NIGERIA (LGBT) – *Blackbird* by Jude Dibia; Jalaa Writers' Collective (2012)

Blackbird is a captivating story of a world in transition. Through a quartet of characters the novel depicts how their connected world progresses towards crisis and tragedy. It lays bare all the fatal flaws of humanity – love and jealousy, need and possessiveness, care and self-preservation and does so through a style that is finely judged, literary and accessible. Building on its author's previous ground-breaking novels, this latest follows his interest in how traditional beliefs and personal experiences clash to force explosive changes. *Blackbird* is an important modern novel by a contemporary writer. It pushes beyond *Walking with Shadows* and the prize winning *Unbridled* into new territory.



NIGERIA (LGBT) – *Unbridled* by Jude Dibia; Jacana Media (2009); 978-1770095267 – Winner of Ken Saro-Wiwa Prose Prize, shortlisted for Nigeria Literature Prize

A somewhat regular village girl of exquisite beauty, Ngozi Akachi is haunted by the strange storm that ravages her village on the night of her birth, a story her mother would tell her repeatedly. After suffering various abuses by members of her family, she is sent to Lagos to live with an uncle. Once there she suffers cruelty from her aunt and forges a strange friendship with another girl, Tiffany Okoro, who comes from a different world all together. Embarking on a strange journey that eventually leads to England, she faces many trials until she finds her true voice.



NIGERIA (LGBT) – *Walking With Shadows* by Jude Dibia; lulu.com (2016); 978-1411619340

Ebele Njoko had survived a forlorn and poignant childhood, concealing a secret he could not explain and craving the love and approval of his parents. Years later he reinvents himself and is now known and respected as Adrian Njoko, father, husband, brother and mentor. One phone call and his life as he knows it is changed forever. In coming to terms with his dark secret Adrian is forced to choose between keeping his family or accepting a life of possible loneliness and rejection.

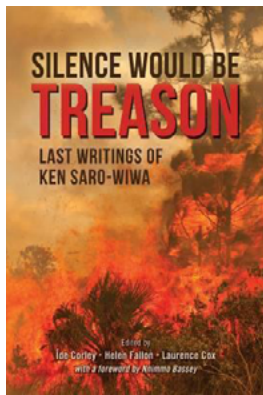
Named as the first novel to “explore the queer experience and its concomitants of social opprobrium and homophobia in Nigeria itself ... Dibia is able to address the variety of queer experience in contemporary Nigeria, where homosexuality is illegal and stigmatized” (*Global Encyclopedia of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) History*.)



KEN SARO-WIWA (Nigeria) – Novelist, Screenwriter, Activist – EXECUTED

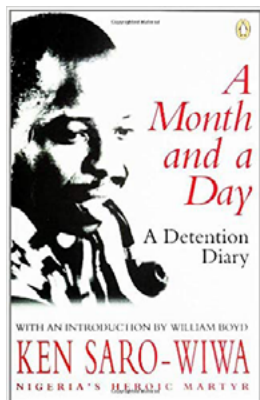
The Nigerian activist and writer Ken Saro-Wiwa (1941–1995) attempted to expose the environmental damage being done by the Shell Oil Company in his native Ogoni region in the Niger River delta. He was executed after a trial widely thought to have been staged in order to silence him permanently. Saro-Wiwa was not a career activist. He spent much of his life as a government administrator and as a popular novelist and television screenwriter.

(Encyclopedia of World Biography)



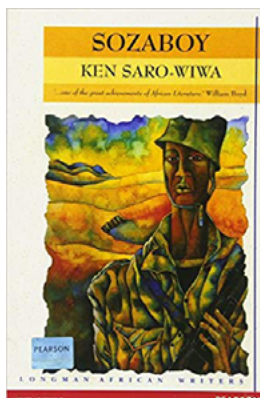
NIGERIA – *Silence Would Be Treason: Last writings of Ken Saro-Wiwa*; CODESRIA (2013); 978-2869785571

A unique collection of the last writings of Ken Saro-Wiwa that reveals the indomitable mind and spirit of the legendary campaigner for justice in the last months before his execution. Clear and direct, these letters and poems are the last expression of a voice the regime was determined to silence: a voice for indigenous rights, environmental survival and democracy, many of whose battles were won despite his death and whose voice comes alive today again in these extraordinary letters.



NIGERIA – *A Month and a Day: A Detention Diary* by Ken Saro-Wiwa; Penguin Books; (1996); 978-0140259148

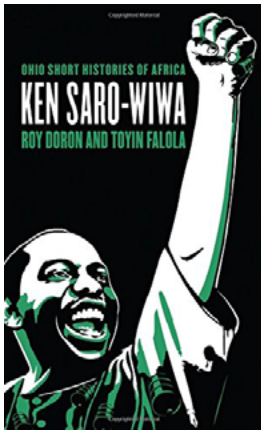
This is the extraordinary and moving account of Ken Saro-Wiwa's period of detention in 1993, and is also a personal history of the man who gave voice to the campaign for basic human and political rights for the Ogoni people. It was fear of his success that made Saro-Wiwa the target of the despotic Nigerian military regime. Arrested on 21 June 1993, ostensibly for his part in election-day disturbances, he describes in harrowing detail the conditions under which he was held. He writes of his involvement with the Ogoni cause and his instrumental role in the setting up of the movement for the survival of the Ogoni people.



NIGERIA – *Sozaboy: A Novel in Rotten English* by Ken Saro-Wiwa; Pearson; (1995); 978-0582236998

Written in what the author describes as “rotten English,” a mixture of Nigerian Standard English and pidgin English, the book re-creates the language of Nigeria's poor and dispossessed. When the book was published in 1985, the country was struggling with the political fallout of the revolution and the environmental ravages brought on by extensive oil exploration and extraction. These crises resonate behind Saro-Wiwa's portrait of the war. Ten years after the book's publication, Saro-Wiwa's crusade against governmental and corporate corruption led to his execution. The international outrage that accompanied his death has fueled interest in the novel and its depiction of a simple man's attempt to survive in a society dominated by corruption, greed, and war.

(Literature of War; St. James Press)



NIGERIA — *Ken Saro-Wiwa (Ohio Short Histories of Africa)* by **Roy Doron** (Author), **Toyin Falola** (Author) Ohio University Press (May 19, 2016); 978-0821422014

Named a *Choice Reviews Outstanding Academic Title* for 2017

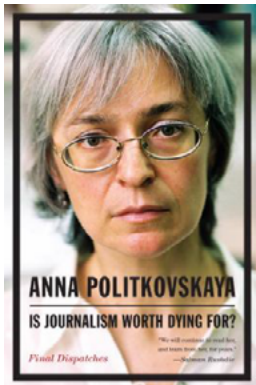
Hanged by the Nigerian government on November 10, 1995, Ken Saro-Wiwa became a martyr for the Ogoni people and human rights activists, and a symbol of modern Africans' struggle against military dictatorship, corporate power, and environmental exploitation. Though he is rightly known for his human rights and environmental activism, he wore many hats: writer, television producer, businessman, and civil servant, among others. While the book sheds light on his many legacies, it is above all about Saro-Wiwa the man, not just Saro-Wiwa the symbol. Like others in the Ohio Short Histories of Africa series, *Ken Saro-Wiwa* is written to be accessible to the casual reader and student, yet indispensable to scholars.



ANNA POLITKOVSKAYA (Russia) — Journalist MURDERED with impunity

In 2006, Anna Politkovskaya was found murdered in her apartment building in Moscow. There was widespread international concern that the killing was a contract killing because of her reporting on human rights abuses and corruption in Russia. Politkovskaya was an accomplished journalist, writer, and human rights activist. Before her death, she was working for *Novaya Gazeta*, a biweekly newspaper with a history of strong investigative reporting critical of the Putin regime. For her work, she faced numerous death threats and was subjected to a mock execution. She was detained in Chechnya in 2001 and was poisoned then and again in 2004 while investigating abuses against Chechen civilians.

(PEN America)



RUSSIA — *Is Journalism Worth Dying For?: Final Dispatches* by **Anna Politkovskaya**; Melville House (2011); 978-1935554400

Anna Politkovskaya won international fame for her courageous reporting. *Is Journalism Worth Dying For?* is a long-awaited collection of her final writing. From deeply personal statements about the nature of journalism, to horrendous reports from Chechnya, to sensitive pieces of memoir, to, finally, the first translation of the series of investigative reports that Politkovskaya was working on at the time of her murder—pieces many believe led to her assassination.



RUSSIA – *Putin's Russia* by Anna Politkovskaya; Holt Paperbacks (2007); 978-0805082500

A searing portrait of a country in disarray, and of the man at its helm, from “the bravest of journalists.” (The New York Times)

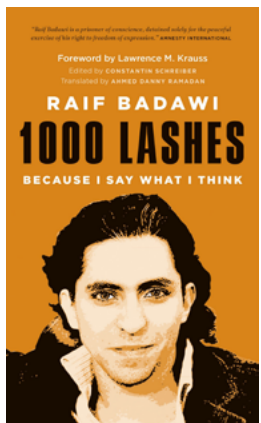
Hailed as “a lone voice crying out in a moral wilderness” (New Statesman), Anna Politkovskaya made her name with her fearless reporting on the war in Chechnya. Now she turns her steely gaze on the multiple threats to Russian stability, among them President Putin himself. *Putin's Russia* depicts a far-reaching state of decay. She exposes rampant corruption in business, government, and the judiciary, where everything from store permits to bus routes to court appointments is for sale.



RAIF BADAWI (Saudi Arabia) – Blogger serving 10 year sentence

In May 2014, Raif Badawi was sentenced to 10 years in prison and 1,000 lashes for “insulting Islam” and “founding a liberal website.” Raif Badawi is a Saudi blogger and activist who co-founded and edited the web forum Liberal Saudi Network, an outlet meant to foster political and social debate in Saudi Arabia. He was arrested on June 17, 2012, after organizing a “Day of Liberalism” Conference which was ultimately banned by the authorities. Badawi’s wife, Ensaf Haidar, and three children sought asylum in Canada after his arrest, and Haidar continues to campaign for her husband’s release.

(PEN America)



SAUDI ARABIA – *1000 Lashes: Because I Say What I Think* by Raif Badawi; Greystone Books (2015); 978-1771642095

Raif Badawi, a Saudi Arabian blogger, shared his thoughts on politics, religion, and liberalism online. He was sentenced to 1,000 lashes, ten years in prison, and a fine of 1 million Saudi Riyal, over a quarter of a million U.S. dollars. This politically topical polemic gathers together Badawi’s pivotal texts. He expresses his opinions on life in an autocratic-Islamic state under the Sharia and his perception of freedom of expression, human and civil rights, tolerance and the necessary separation of state and religion.



SAUDI ARABIA – *Raif Badawi, The Voice of Freedom: My Husband, Our Story* by Ensaf Haidar (Author), Andrea Claudia Hoffmann (Author); Other Press (2016); 978-1590518014

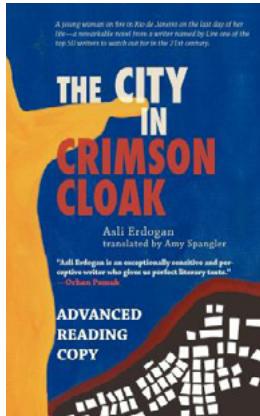
Ensaf Haidar’s unforgettable account of her marriage to imprisoned Saudi blogger Raif Badawi tells the story of the survival of their love against all odds, and of her courageous fight for her husband’s freedom. . . . This profoundly moving memoir is both a love story and an inspiring account of the making of not one but two heroic human rights activists.



ASLI ERDOĞAN (Turkey) — Journalist — RELEASED after 5 months in prison

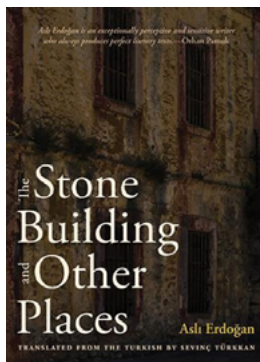
Aslı Erdoğan (Istanbul, 1967) was arrested and imprisoned by the Turkish government in a sweeping roundup of dissident voices after the failed coup attempt of July 2016. The subject of both PEN International and PEN America advocacy campaigns, she has published novels, collections of short stories and poetic prose, and selections from her political essays. As a journalist, she has covered controversial topics such as state violence, discrimination, and human rights, for which she has been persecuted in a variety of ways.

(Amazon)



TURKEY — *The City in Crimson Cloak* by Aslı Erdoğan; Soft Skull Press (2007)

Özgür is poor, hungry, and on the verge of a mental breakdown, with only one weapon against Rio: to write the city that has robbed her of everything. Reading the bits and pieces of Özgür's unfinished eponymous novel, with its autobiographical protagonist named Ö, Özgür's story begins to emerge. As Özgür follows Ö through the shanty towns, Condomble rituals, and the violence and sexuality of the streets to her own death, the narrator searches for a way to make peace with life. The two concentric novels, the borderline between the two Rio's — Özgür's Rio as a metaphor for death and Rio as life — begin to blur. Aslı Erdoğan's brilliantly evocative, experimental second novel was a major hit in Turkey and Europe.



TURKEY — *The Stone Building and Other Places* by Aslı Erdoğan; City Lights Publishers (February 27, 2018); 978-0872867505

Finalist for the 2019 PEN Translation Prize

Three interconnected stories feature women whose lives have been interrupted by forces beyond their control. Exile, serious illness, or the imprisonment of one's beloved are each met with versions of strength and daring, while there is no undoing what fate has wrought. These atmospheric, introspective tales culminate in an experimental, multi-voiced novella, whose "stone building" is a metaphor for the various oppressive institutions—prisons, police headquarters, hospitals, and psychiatric asylums—that dominate the lives of these characters.



CAN DÜNDAR (Turkey) — Journalist — Forced Exile — Facing Charges & Threats

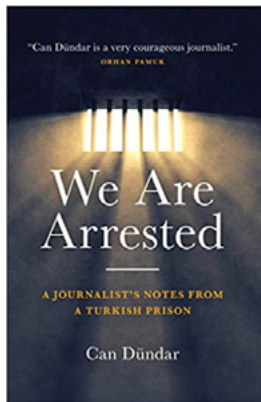
Turkish columnist and editor has been fired, jailed and even shot at by a would-be assassin for his coverage of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's government. He's been forced into exile, blocked from seeing his wife and faced calls from Turkey's pro-government media that he be abducted from his new home in Berlin.

(From *Index on Censorship* partner *Global Journalist's Project Exile* series, which has published interviews with exiled journalists from around the world, 2019)



TURKEY – *Making Mischief: WE ARE ARRESTED & DAY OF THE LIVING* (Oberon Modern Playwrights) by **Can Dündar**; Oberon Books (2018); 978-1786825575

We Are Arrested: When a journalist receives a flash-drive containing critical evidence of illegal government activity, he is duty-bound to publish the story. But with the nation destabilised and divided, a sinister power is eroding the rule of law, and he soon finds himself risking everything for his profession. This play is the true story of a journalist's commitment and personal risks and a tribute to the bravery of journalists under threat. *Day of the Living*: Ayotzinapa, Mexico, 2014. Forty-three students are disappeared. No one is brought to justice. An anarchic, musical tribute to life and the Mexican spirit with urgent, global issues at its heart.



TURKEY – *We Are Arrested: A Journalist's Notes from a Turkish Prison* by **Can Dündar** and Juliet Gilkes Romero; Biteback Publishing (2016); 978-1785901386

The title of *We Are Arrested* is taken from Can Dündar's tweet on the day he was detained. Book is his account of the discovery, the decision to publish it, and the events that unfolded after that decision. Dündar and the newspaper faced police barricades, would-be suicide bombers and assassination attempts, and fierce attacks from pro-government media.

While incarcerated Dündar decided to write down his experiences. In isolation, he learned to appreciate the small things in life.