



IPI REPORT

News from
Headquarters
in Vienna

From Dilke House to Anker Haus: 10 Years IPI Headquarters Vienna

AFTER 18 YEARS AT THE HELM of the International Press Institute (IPI), Peter Galliner handed over the directorship to Johann P. Fritz at the 42nd Annual Assembly in Venice, Italy, in May 1993. One of the first tasks of the new director was to move the IPI Secretariat from London to Vienna, a step decided upon by the IPI Executive Board in the fall of 1992 for both financial and political reasons.

By 1992, IPI had become a highly respected and truly international organization, with membership in nearly 70 nations. As the world situation changed, IPI directors felt it must play a greater role in central and eastern Europe, as well as the former Soviet Union, in addition to its worldwide activities. Vienna was considered an excellent choice for the Institute's new base.

The London office closed down at the end of June 1993, and the IPI Secretariat transferred from Dilke House, in the Bloomsbury district of London, to the Anker Haus in central Vienna, near St. Stephens Cathedral. Though the activities of the Vienna Secretariat began officially after the Venice assembly, the director designate had been busy months before finding suitable office space, hiring new staff members and securing computers and other equipment from donors.

In June 1992, as part of its efforts to attract international organizations to Vienna, the Austrian parliament passed a special "IPI Law" (Law Nr. 308/1992) securing for IPI special status as an international non-governmental organization exempt from Austrian federal taxes.

Ten years have passed since then – 10 years in which IPI has upheld and enhanced its reputation worldwide as one of the most influential forces in defense of press freedom, with members in 115 countries. To mark this occasion, IPI Headquarters Vienna has put together an interesting series of events from Nov. 20-24, 2002.

In addition to meetings of the IPI Board, the IPI Forum and the Coordinating Committee of Press Freedom Organizations, a seminar on "Visions for the Future of Communications," an examination of the technical, marketing, legal and human rights aspects of the communications industry, will also be on the program.

Finally, a special "Press Freedom Gala" at the Vienna City Hall will round off this five-day event, which will be attended by leading representatives of IPI and other international media organizations.

– Michael Kudlak,
IPI Secretariat



Designed by fin de siècle architect Otto Wagner, the Anker Haus in Vienna is the home of IPI Headquarters.

IPI Protests

May 1 to July 31, 2002

Zimbabwe

May 2: The decision by police authorities to arrest Andrew Meldrum, a journalist working for the British newspaper *The Guardian*. (See page 9.)

Syria

May 2: The ongoing campaign of harassment and violence against the family of Syrian journalist Nizar Nayyoutf.

Liberia

May 17: The arrest of Emmanuel Mondaye, a reporter for the *Independent Inquirer*, in the provincial city of Gbarnga.

Israel

May 24: The detention without charges of Reuters photographer Suhaib Jadallah Salem and five other journalists.

Somalia

May 24: The decision to withdraw the license of the Somali Broadcasting Corporation (SBC) in Puntland, a self-declared, semi-autonomous region of Somalia.

Kazakhstan

May 27: A gasoline bomb attack on the opposition newspaper *Respublika*. The incident was the latest in a series of attacks on *Respublika*, which is known for its critical coverage of the government. (See page 22.)

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