

Books banned around the world

The following is a list of books banned in their authors' native countries but available elsewhere. The list covers a broad political spectrum, but it is a small representation of the many books throughout the world that are challenged, banned, or, in other, often devious ways, denied publication for political reasons. Publishers with books on their list which are officially or effectively banned in other parts of the world are encouraged to provide relevant information to IFTPC member Scott Moyers c/o Random House, 201 E. 50th Street, New York, NY 10022.

Arenas, Reinaldo, translated by Dolores M Koch. *Before night falls*. Viking; Penguin. Arenas wrote this memoir in exile. None of Arenas' books are published or available in his native Cuba.

Aung Sang Suu Ky, *Freedom from fear and Letters from Burma*. Penguin. The author was under house arrest in Rangoon, Myanmar (Burma), during the original publication of the first book, and neither book is published or distributed in Burma, where the author still lives.

Dowd, Siobhan [ed], *This prison where I live: the PEN anthology of imprisoned writers*. Cassell. This collection includes works by many writers who are still banned in their native country. Banned writers in the collection include Jack Mapanje (Malawi), Ahmad Shamloo (Iran), and Reza Baraheni (Iran).

Duong Thu Huong, translated by Phan Huy Duong and Nina McPherson. *Novel without a name and Paradise of the blind*. Morrow; Penguin. Huong was imprisoned for seven months in Vietnam without trial on charges of 'sending state secrets abroad.' The 'state secrets' were her novel, *Novel without a name*. As reported by the *New York Times*, her books are effectively banned; all the publishing houses are government publishing houses, and they will not reprint her old books nor will they publish her new books. The *Times* reported that booksellers are too scared to stock samizdat copies.

Farah, Nuruddin, *Secrets*. Arcade Publishing. Farah has been in exile from Somalia for the past twenty years. *Secrets* is effectively banned in Somalia.

Gyatso, Palden, *Autobiography of a Tibetan Monk*. Grove-Atlantic Monthly. Banned in Tibet.

Larson, Charles R [ed], *Under African skies: modern African stories*. Farrar; Noonday Press. An anthology that includes writers such as Ken Saro-Wiwa, who was recently executed in Nigeria. It includes a piece

by Ngugi Wa Thiongo, whose works are banned in his native Kenya.

Pramoedya Ananta Toe, translated by Max Lane. *This earth of mankind, Child of all nations, Footsteps, and House of glass*. Morrow; Penguin. These four novels, which make up the Buru quartet, were composed by the author during his fourteen years of imprisonment in Indonesia without trial. Students have served prison terms of more than six years on subversion charges which resulted from an arrest for selling copies of these books.

Pramoedya Ananta Toer, translated by Willem Samuels. *The mute's soliloquy*. Hyperion. A memoir of the author's years as a political prisoner. Banned in Indonesia.

Sahebjam, Freidoune, translated by Richard Seaver. *The stoning of Soraya M*. Arcade Publishing. Sahebjam lives in exile in France. Banned in Iran.

Valdes, Zoe, translated by Sabina Cienfuegos. *Yocandra in the paradise of Nada*. Arcade Publishing. Banned in Cuba.

Wang Shuo, translated by Howard Goldblatt. *Playing for thrills*. Morrow; Penguin. This novel, along with all of Wang Shuo's other novels, was officially banned in China in 1996 as part of a 'cultural cleansing campaign'.

Wei Jingsheng, translated by Kris Torgeson. *The courage to stand alone*. Viking; Penguin. Wei was still in prison and incommunicado when the book was assembled and published. A Chinese-language edition was published in Taiwan and circulated around the world, but not on the mainland.

Yahia, Latif, with Karl Wendl, *I was Saddam's son*. Arcade Publishing. After his escape from Iraq, the author sought refuge in Europe, where he was the subject of several assassination attempts. The book remains banned in Iran. ■



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QLD

• **August Queensland OPALs.** *General meeting*. Host: Susan Oag. (3rd week: date/time tbc) Criminal Justice Commission Level 3, Terrica Place, 140 Creek Street, Brisbane. Contact: Susan Oag, ph 07 3360 6060, susan.oag@cjc.qld.gov.au

• **6/8 RAIS Qld.** *General meeting*. Library services meeting room, 14th Floor, BAC (Brisbane Administration Centre) building, 69 Ann Street, 5:15-6:45pm. For further information contact: Kirsty Hamilton (secretary), ph 07 3237 6636, khamilton@sppcpm.com

12/8 CAVAL training activities. *Book indexing*: one-day workshop led by Max McMaster. Venue: tba, 9:30-4:30pm. Cost: \$198 CAVAL/ALIA members, \$220 non-members. Contact: Eve Cornish, evec@caval.edu.au, register online at http://www.caval.edu.au/Services/rego_form.html

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20/8 Trends in Information Management: *join your colleagues to hear about and discuss trends in information management; expectations of information users; corporate objectives and value delivery.* John Trivett's BMW Room, Customs House, 399 Queen Street, Brisbane, 3:30 for 3:45pm start. Information seminar sponsored by Softlink Australia. To register phone Kristina on 07 3801 4111 or online at <http://www.softlink.com.au>

• **29/8 Queensland Health Libraries.** *Health librarianship as a career choice*. featuring Deirdre Gibb, Knowledge People (QLD) and Library Locums (QLD). Medical Book Centre, 27 Douglas Street, Milton, Brisbane, 5:30-7pm. Cost: Free. *RSVP by 26/8 to:* Nicola Foxlee, n.foxlee@library.uq.edu.au

• **11/9 Qld Library Technicians.** *General meeting*. Metway Theatre, State Library of Queensland, 5-5:30pm — preceded by drinks & nibbles (gold coin donation appreciated). Guest speaker: tba. Contact: Marian Moyle, ph 07 3840 7763, m.moyle@slq.qld.gov.au

• **3/9-3/12 RAIS Qld.** *General meeting*. Library services meeting room, 14th Floor, BAC (Brisbane Administration Centre) building, 69 Ann Street, 5:15-6:45pm. 3/9,

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