

# COLORS

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## **COLORS 65: Freedom of Speech**

COLORS 65: Freedom of Speech celebrates the 20th anniversary of Reporters Sans Frontières which is constantly working to protect everyone's right to be informed.

Reading the pages of COLORS 65 may put you at serious risk depending on your location at the present time. This is because the information contained in this magazine is for general public awareness and is undertaken with the purpose of an investigation into free speech.

So, COLORS 65 requests readers to take note of the following terms and conditions.

Please be aware however that the application and impact of local laws on a group or individual vary widely and that legal, religious and ethical codes and/or regulations may impede your right to view this material in certain nations, regions, areas, territories and political zones. Be further advised that most of the stories covered in COLORS 65 have in one way or another been blocked, censored or banned.

Please understand that legal institutions and laws relating to the free or impeded flow of information ensure that two-thirds of the world's population now live in places where the incumbent powers would prefer that everyone simply keep their mouth shut.

Please note that you may as such be beaten, jailed and raped for taking photographs of people on a street in Iran; charged with blasphemy for drawing cartoons about Jesus in Greece; murdered for making a film about a Muslim woman in the Netherlands; forced to break rocks for cracking jokes in Burma and banned from talking about your sex life in China.

Please further note that 907 journalists were arrested in 2004 and 1,146 were attacked and threatened. Twenty-two journalists are currently detained in Cuba under article 91 of the country's Penal Code for "acts against the independence or territorial integrity of the state," while one is currently imprisoned in the United States for refusing to reveal her sources about a story she never wrote.

Always remember that freedom of speech regards all of us, both as individuals and as a society. It is not only about journalists or only certain countries. As a form of free expression and communication among people, it favors understanding and a sense of community. Freedom of speech is a luxury, when it should be a right.

Until that time, if you are at risk, dissatisfied or offended by any portion of COLORS 65, you should at least have the freedom to stop reading.

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## **COLORS 65: Freedom of Speech - extracts**

“If it’s hard to say what exactly the freedom of the press is, it’s far easier—and, it seems to us, more urgent—to draw up a list of when it’s violated, and fight.”

“You’ve understood: instead of theoretical debates—fascinating, but sometimes a little sterile—we prefer concrete action. Yes, we are hopelessly pragmatic, and we’re proud of it. What we want to do is to push back the arbitrary powers that send journalists to prison, accusing them of causing displeasure and disturbing the peace. In this issue, the COLORS team invites us on a tour around these daily ignominies—in its own iconoclastic way, with its weapons made of devastating irony, and above all, with a talent that can convince those on whom our more academic methods are lost. For that, the team—and the direction of Fabrica—should be sincerely thanked.”

**Robert Ménard**  
**Secretary-General, Reporters Without Borders**

**Marjane Satrapi, 36 - Iran**  
**Page 18**



Marjane Satrapi is the author of the bestselling graphic novel *Persepolis*, an account of her life in Iran, which she left when she was 14. “In a sense, I censor myself everyday. I’m responsible for what I transmit about Iran. Consequently, that limits my freedom. Words can kill.”

**Wen Chong, 30 - China**  
**Page 25**



Wen Chong was at home in the Chinese town of Zhong Shang when four men came into his house, beat him up and severed his right middle and index fingers, which they took away with them. Wen is a reporter for *Nanfang Dushi Bao* (Southern Metropolis News), a Guangzhou newspaper that is probably the most independent in mainland China. NDB stories—including reports on the SARS outbreak and on corruption—regularly anger people in power: Its editor Chen Yizhong has been imprisoned in the past, and two reporters are serving eight and six years in jail on trumped-up corruption charges. “I love news reporting and I’m not going to stop. I’ll just type more slowly.”

**Tony Barros, 35 - Brazil**  
**Page 35**



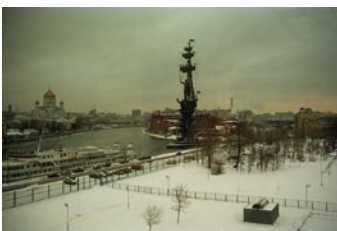
In 2002, Brazilian journalist Tim Lopes was tortured, killed and dismembered with a Samurai sword in a Rio favela (slum) after going undercover and filming drug deals. It was the first time the traffickers—who run the neighborhoods—had killed a journalist. Now, the slums are mostly off-limits to the media and only the 12 correspondents of the website Viva Favelas dare to report from inside the favelas where they live. Correspondent Tony Barros has to self-censor. “If it’s public, I can cover it; if it’s an execution, I can’t.” It’s dangerous, but worth it. “I’m a bridge to the outside world. I can show others how we suffer, but also how we enjoy life.”

**Volunteers, 37 - Thailand**  
**Page 36**



Thailand's constitution contains 67 provisions protecting freedom of expression and human rights. It's the most progressive constitution in the region, but only on paper. Since the election of Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra there have been over 20 cases of journalists and editors harassed or dismissed to appease the government.

**Pavel Felgenhauer, military analyst - Russia**  
**Page 40**



“The rule used to be that they knew they couldn’t criticize [President Vladimir] Putin and had to be cautious in what they said, but they could report a fact as a fact. Now there are problems even with facts.”

**Quezon City - Philippines**  
**Page 42**



A few hours after 200 people in Quezon City formed a candle-lit human chain (above) to mark World Press Freedom Day, broadcaster Klein Cantaneros was shot seven times in Dipolog City.

**Rory Peck Trust, Freelance Journalists Organization - UK**  
**Page 45**



Independence costs. Freelancers pay for their freedom in money (they don't have expense accounts), insecurity (there's no news organization to bail them out) and poorer health (freelancers in war zones are more prone to depression and social dysfunction, according to research).

**Shahla Sherkat, 49 - Iran**  
**Page 58**



Zanan (Women) has been called the Ms. of the Middle East. But the American feminist magazine was probably never confiscated when it featured a woman with her wrists exposed, while for Zanan, shut-downs and court summonses are common. Even so, says editor Shahla Sherkat, “10 years ago we couldn’t even talk about feminism as a movement. It was too threatening.” Zanan’s content ranges from interviews with female beggars and prisoners to sexist statements by politicians (often published alongside their photos). “Our art is knowing how to write articles so that we are not shut down. We say what we have to say, but in creative ways.” Over at Tehran newspaper Shargh, which was temporarily closed recently after publishing a letter from a parliamentary candidate, there are four levels of internal monitoring before anything is published. “Self-censorship is one of the biggest problems in Iran,” says staffer Badrossadat Mofidi. “We have become our own worst enemies.” They have also become resilient. Of the 10 papers Mofidi has worked on in the last ten years, “each time one was shut down, it reopened in a new form.” “I’m optimistic,” says Sherkat. “If the magazine is closed down, I’m not sure what I’d do, except start again.”

**Roselyne Godard, 46 – France**  
**Page 75**



Roselyne Godard was accused of belonging to a pedophilia ring in the northern French town of Outreau. “I remember the moment when my freedom of speech was taken away from me. It was April 11, 2001, when I was arrested. I denied everything, but it was no use; I had become a monster, a pedophile. My words had no weight. They finally said I was innocent, but in the eyes of many people, I’m not. I was given an image that isn’t mine, and I have to bear it: I’m the ‘baker of Outreau,’ even though I’ve never been a baker in my life. My family is astonished I still give interviews, but I have to thank the press, because without them the scandal of Outreau would never have come out. For 20 months and 21 days, I had to keep silent. Today, I have a great feeling of freedom. I go where the wind takes me.”

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## COLORS MAGAZINE

On sale in 40 countries, 3 editions, published in 4 languages, an Internet site that has won a record number of hits and critical acclaim: COLORS is a quarterly magazine that talks to young people all around the world.

Established in 1991, from an idea of Luciano Benetton and Oliviero Toscani, under the direction of Tibor Kalman, with the premise that diversity is positive but that all cultures have equal value, today COLORS is part of the publishing activity in Fabrica, Benetton's communication research centre. COLORS' editorial offices are situated in Fabrica's new architectural complex, restored and enlarged by Japanese architect Tadao Ando, and it has a network of external collaborators in the four corners of the earth.

Pictures are, above all else, COLORS' expressive medium: a method that is universal and reaches the greatest number of people with a strong, immediate impact. Using this visual language, COLORS' themes alternate between the challengingly serious, such as ecology, wars around the world, the fight against aids, and the frankly frivolous such as shopping, fashion, toys, but each is seen from an unconventional, irreverent perspective.

From issues 41 to 60 COLORS had transferred its attention to the theme of different "communities" inhabiting the planet, using photographic images and interviews, to recount with simplicity and immediacy, the intimate beauty of all human beings. After a year in New York, during which the magazine, thanks to its distinctive personality, has enhanced its vitality and visibility among the American media, COLORS now continues its research and documentation at Fabrica.

### **Information**

## COLORS PROJECTS

Today COLORS is not only a magazine, it's a way of communicating and of using diverse media languages to interpret the world. COLORS' experience and cultural background have engendered numerous editorial projects.

**COLORS Music:** a music collection based on the idea that music, like images, is a universal medium, transcending barriers and reaching the greatest number of people with a strong, immediate impact. COLORS Music selects music from various geographic areas and presents it in a novel contemporary context. *Nordic, Cumbia, Ottomanic, Rio Funk* have already been produced in co-operation with Irma Records, a Sony Music international label.

**COLORS Books:** from the best-seller *1000 Extra/ordinary Objects* or to *1000 SIGNS*, published with Taschen, to the recent series with Skira Editore, the first of which is *Hunger* followed by *Pagine Gialle*. A complex publishing agenda made possible by, amongst other things, COLORS' network of correspondents and photographers in over 50 nations across the world.

**COLORS Exhibitions:** COLORS has organised exhibitions in prestigious venues in locations including Florence, Rome, London, Istanbul, Madrid, Barcelona, Maastricht and Budapest.

**COLORS Documentaries:** A new generation of documentaries to bring attention to major, diversity-based themes and to give voice to the stories of ordinary people: from Hong Kong to Patagonia to the Rocinha slum, to the Aral Sea, which was awarded the first prize at the Torino Film Festival 2004, in the documentary section.

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