

journalist Ed Fitzgerald, of ABN, for reporting that was not "balanced" (a dispute resolved in Fitzgerald's favour early in January). On January 8, the government announced that it was suspending six (albeit inflammatory) opposition newspapers and charging them under the Press Law.

Half-a-dozen journalists have been killed since the 1993 elections, most recently Michael Senior, a Canadian, shot while taking pictures of the looting in July 1997. The March 30, 1997 grenade attack killed one journalist and injured 24 other media workers. Not one of these cases has been prosecuted by the government.

There are approximately 1000 Cambodian journalists, most of whom are young and poorly trained. There is also a sizeable international press corps, made up of the major news agencies (AFP, AP, Reuters), and representatives/stringers of television chains (CBC, ABN etc), and of Asian and other magazines.

## 2. Support for Free Media

### a) Cambodian Ngos

The Khmer Journalists Association (KJA), headed by Tath Ly Hok, began in 1994 and has focussed on practical training of journalists and students, including in English, and in computer use. The League of Cambodian Journalists (LCJ) is seen as close to CPP.

The **Cambodia Daily**, an English-language Phnom Penh newspaper, is an ngo, which trains journalists in English-language reporting. The **Cambodian Communication Institute** was formed in 1995, with funding from UNESCO, France and Denmark, also to help train young journalists.

The Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace (CICP), headed by Kao Kim Hourn, is a policy think tank which, although primarily focussed on foreign and economic policy, has also been active in stimulating discussion of domestic issues such as the media. This has produced useful policy suggestions: for example, in a recent lecture it sponsored on the role of the media in peacebuilding in Cambodia, James Kanter, editor of the Cambodia Daily, suggested that the NEC should have professional assistance to help monitor media coverage of the elections in order to fulfil its role in ensuring that parties have equal access to public media.

The **Women's Media Centre** was formed out of an 1993 UNIFEM initiative that brought together a number of women who had worked in Radio UNTAC. The Centre now employs 30 staff and enjoys an excellent reputation for scripting and production of a wide range of public interest videos (many for television broadcast) and radio programs. Many bilateral donors, multilateral agencies and other ngos rely on the Centre to help get their messages across. The Centre also does public opinion polling on its own effectiveness: in one, 91% said they were familiar with the Centre, and 86% said that its programs had inspired discussion or changed their