

## **The RAN FAQs**

### **What is the Rapid Action Network?**

The Rapid Action Network (RAN) is an e-mail network activated from the PEN Canada office in Toronto. Each week, an appeal is sent out to subscribers on an urgent freedom of expression case. Subscribers are asked to fax and/or email letters to appropriate authorities. The appeal letters for the past two years can be viewed in the RAN archive; note that these appeals are not active.

To subscribe to the e-mail network, contact [wipc@pencanada.ca](mailto:wipc@pencanada.ca).

### **How you can add your name to an appeal**

Please fax the letter or send by mail to the person addressed. The appeal letter is followed by a list of names of people who might be copied on the letter. You can send it to one or all. If email addresses are available, they are included. If you are emailing, please "copy and paste" the letter into a new email in order to retain the format of the letter, rather than just forwarding it. Please feel free to personalize the appeal letter.

### **Which method of sending your appeal is most effective?**

Fax is the best, airmail is second and email is last, because your signature is an important part of the letter and because many people do not perceive an email to be official. It is also rare for us to have an email address for a foreign official. In terms of cost, mailing is usually cheaper than faxing. It now costs \$1.55 to mail a 30g letter internationally. Please also note that, in some cases, you may have problems faxing to foreign countries.

### **Time-frame**

It should be fine to send letters for the full week following the date on the RAN notice. If we receive news that makes the appeal redundant, that information will be posted as an update on the website.

### **Questions?**

If you have any questions or concerns about the appeal letters or the Rapid Action Network, please do not hesitate to contact PEN Canada at [wipc@pencanada.ca](mailto:wipc@pencanada.ca).

### **Send us a copy of your appeal**

One last thing: if possible, please let us know (by email) each time you send out an appeal so that we can keep track of the actions of the Rapid Action Network. Thank you.

For a full list of PEN Canada Honorary Members, click on the following link:  
<http://www.pencanada.ca/prison/HonoraryMembers.php>.