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PRESS RELEASE FROM THE NORWEGIAN PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

NORWEGIAN PUBLISHERS OFFER NOK 500,000 REWARD FOLLOWING THE REOPENING OF THE INVESTIGATION OF THE NYGAARD CASE

On 11 October 1993, Norwegian publisher William Nygaard was shot and seriously wounded outside his home in Oslo. The reason behind the attempted assassination was allegedly the publication of the Norwegian edition of Salman Rushdie's *The Satanic Verses*, in which the religious authorities in Iran had issued a fatwa against those who published this book. The police discontinued the investigation and the case was dismissed.

Through author Odd Isungset's persevering work on the case, most recently with the book *Hvem skjøt William Nygaard? (Who shot William Nygaard?)*, it has been announced that the Public Prosecutor has ordered the case to be reopened. The investigation has been moved from the Oslo Police District to Kripos.

The Norwegian Publishers Association is satisfied with this new step in the investigation process. The Association also asks the Public Prosecutor to assess what the consequences will be for the Oslo Police Force, regarding the sharp criticism they received, especially concerning the 1998 release of a suspect without interrogation.

In an attempt to bring the person(s) responsible for the misdeed to trial, a NOK 500.000 reward is offered. This is consisting of NOK 250.000 each from the Norwegian Publishers Association and H. Aschehoug & Co. to anyone who can offer crucial information to Kripos in the ongoing investigation.

"This unsolved case is a painful case in our society, and a threat to independent publishing and freedom of speech, which are basic premises for a democratic society", says Geir Berdahl, Chairman of the Board of the Norwegian Publishers Association.

For further information, please contact:

Chairman of the Board Geir Berdahl, + 47 9208 2302
Or Managing Director Per Christian Opsahl, +47 9119 8330
Or Member of the Board and Chair of the Freedom to Publish Committee
of the International Publishers Association (IPA), Bjørn Smith-Simonsen,
+47 4157 4138

Yours sincerely,
The Norwegian Publishers Association

Per Christian Opsahl
Managing Director