

2010

2011

ANNUAL REPORT

HUMAN RIGHTS FOUNDATION

HUMANRIGHTSFUNDATION.ORG

MISSION

THE HUMAN RIGHTS FOUNDATION (HRF) IS A NONPROFIT, NONPARTISAN ORGANIZATION THAT PROMOTES AND PROTECTS HUMAN RIGHTS AND LIBERAL DEMOCRACY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, WITH AN EXPERTISE IN THE AMERICAS.

We seek, in particular, to sustain the struggle for liberty in places where it is now under threat. HRF neither supports nor condones violence. As a non profit 501(c)3 organization, HRF relies on the donations of individuals, foundations, and corporations. We welcome your support.

We focus our work on advancing the founding principles of the human rights movement, those most purely represented in the 1976 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Accordingly, we believe that all human beings are entitled to:

FREEDOM OF SELF-DETERMINATION

FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND EXPRESSION

THE RIGHT TO WORSHIP IN THE MANNER OF THEIR CHOICE

FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION

THE RIGHT TO ACQUIRE AND DISPOSE OF PROPERTY

THE RIGHT TO LEAVE AND ENTER THEIR COUNTRIES

THE RIGHT TO EQUAL TREATMENT AND DUE PROCESS UNDER LAW

THE RIGHT TO BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GOVERNMENT OF THEIR COUNTRIES

FREEDOM FROM ARBITRARY DETENTION OR EXILE

FREEDOM FROM SLAVERY AND TORTURE

FREEDOM FROM INTERFERENCE AND COERCION IN MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE

FREEDOM FROM TYRANNY



Thor Halvorssen

The Human Rights Foundation marks, in 2012, its sixth year of unrelenting effort to provide international leadership in protecting and promoting individual rights and freedom.

Originally focused exclusively on the Americas, over the past year HRF dramatically widened its mission and scope to embrace human rights advocacy worldwide. While our expertise remains concentrated in Latin America, HRF's programs have begun to vigorously address human rights globally, and we are committed to elevating those efforts to full parity with our Americas initiatives within five years. Our recent accomplishments include successful campaigns to free political prisoners; education through underground networks in closed societies; innovative international conferences focusing on freedom; individual rights seminars on Capitol Hill; cabinet-level meetings with policy makers in the U.S. and abroad; production of popular films and viral video clips; scholarly legal analyses of democracy erosion; and monitoring and educating international organizations.

We were immensely fortunate to have benefitted from the visionary leadership of our late chairman, Václav Havel—last president of Czechoslovakia and first president of the Czech Republic—and a man who represented much more than high public office: playwright, artist, poet, leader of the Velvet Revolution, activist, and to us at HRF, chief inspirational officer.

Our work this past year has gained international attention from *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, *The Wall Street Journal*, CNN, Al Jazeera, *The Washington Post*, Fox News, *Foreign Policy*, *The Huffington Post*, *Forbes*, and *The Economist*. Two and a half million people have watched HRF's YouTube videos. We don't gauge our success solely by such metrics as media impressions or page views, but they certainly are valuable indicators as to whether we are perceived as effective, authoritative, or influential. For instance, after the tumultuous Honduran political crisis—which included a president who began to subvert the country's constitution, a military coup that removed him, and a rocky transition back to democracy—HRF carried out a year-long investigation into the facts and the law in Honduras. The Honduran Truth and Reconciliation Commission cited our work and quoted our legal interpretations—signs that our analysis was embraced as accurate and authoritative. It was undeniable evidence of HRF's growing impact on the worldwide conversation about human rights.

There's an abundance of further evidence too: In Panama, we launched a campaign against the government's crackdown on press freedom. In Venezuela, we continue to press for political prisoners and free and democratic elections, and achieved a historic victory at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. In Cuba, we work to empower the country's most innovative civil society leaders, both through regular contact and information-sharing and by disseminating video content that tells the story of what is really happening on that prison island. We are working now on a new campaign to expose the increasingly flagrant violations of civil liberties and freedom of expression in Ecuador under Rafael Correa.

Seeking to make an impact with policy makers and opinion leaders in the U.S., we hosted several high-profile events in 2011. In the spring we teamed with the Lech Wałęsa Institute to present Eye on Sudan, a wide-ranging discussion about how to promote freedom in South Sudan, the world's newest country. We also held our inaugural Congressional Human Rights Academy (CHRA), a symposium where members of the U.S. Congress and their legislative staff interact in an off-the-record setting with witnesses from closed societies. The first CHRA featured speakers on Burma, China, Russia, and Iran, who addressed more than 50 legislators, staff members, and advisors.

Globally we engaged in work from Uganda to Chechnya and from Vietnam to Belarus. What has become our signature initiative, the Oslo Freedom Forum, convened for the third time and was acclaimed by former President Bill Clinton as "a unique gathering of the best minds, bravest hearts, and strongest pillars of the human rights community." The former president observed that the "cross-boundary partnerships fostered here are some of the most valuable in the world"—a conclusion that participant feedback suggests was shared widely among those who attended.

Those accomplishments were the work of a full-time staff of eight, a team of interns, and an annual budget of less than US\$2 million—which makes HRF an extraordinarily productive and cost-effective investment in human rights. Peter Thiel, angel investor in Facebook and a co-founder of PayPal, explains his backing for HRF as part of his commitment

to intensive, innovative investment. "I support the Human Rights Foundation and the Oslo Freedom Forum because their focus on dissidents engages the intellectual debate as well as the moral cause."

Amidst our tremendous successes, this past year has also seen the passing of several instrumental figures in the HRF community. HRF mourned alongside millions at the death of Václav Havel (please see the full memorial on the following page). Charles H. Hoeflich, a founding director of HRF, passed in November of 2011, at 97 years old. James Q. Wilson, one of the first members of HRF's International Council, acclaimed political scientist, and noted public policy scholar, died in March of this year at the age of 80. Their contributions and counsel will be sorely missed.

What follows is an overview of HRF's achievements for the 2010 and 2011 calendar years. My dedicated colleagues and I hope you enjoy reading about our work, and we thank you for your interest in fighting tyranny and advancing human rights.

With gratitude,



Thor Halvorssen
President

“The more we did, the more we were able to do, and the more we were able to do, the more we did.”

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THE HUMAN RIGHTS FOUNDATION | AR 2010 | 2011

VÁCLAV HAVEL 1936-2011: HRF REMEMBERS ITS DEPARTED CHAIRMAN

On December 18, 2011, the Human Rights Foundation joined with millions of people worldwide in mourning the passing of Václav Havel, the Czech leader, playwright, poet, former political prisoner, and human rights activist. Havel, 75, was chairman of HRF’s Board of Directors and International Council.

A prolific writer and revolutionary figure, Havel’s life-long guiding principle was “truth and love must prevail over lies and hate.” In his youth, he studied drama and wrote some of his most celebrated

works, which became famous for satirizing the communist system. After the celebrated Prague Spring uprising in 1968, his plays were banned in Czechoslovakia, but were still circulated illegally in samizdat form. They became widely known outside his country, and brought worldwide attention to the plight of his countrymen under Soviet domination. After the censorship of his work and the suppression of the Prague Spring by Warsaw Pact forces, Havel continued to write, throwing himself into activism. He penned numerous essays and became one of the architects of the Charter 77 human rights movement. Despite years of arrests, multiple prison sentences, and government harassment and surveillance, he persisted in his reform efforts and helped spearhead the Velvet Revolution of 1989, the non-violent overthrow of Czechoslovakia’s communist leadership. Havel insisted he was not interested in politics, but he nevertheless became the first democratically-elected president of Czechoslovakia; after the

country’s dissolution, he was elected first president of the newly-formed Czech Republic. Havel’s second presidency ended in 2003, and he remained a fierce advocate of human rights. He founded Forum 2000, an annual conference that seeks to advance democracy and civil society, and was awarded numerous honors for promoting rights worldwide, including the International Gandhi Peace Prize, the U.S. Presidential Medal of Freedom, and the Order of Canada. He addressed HRF’s inaugural Oslo Freedom Forum in 2009. Havel was an intellectual giant, the moral force behind the movement to liberate his country and one of history’s most powerful opponents of totalitarianism. HRF was privileged and honored that he accepted the position of chairman of our board, both endorsing our vision and contributing generously to the substance of our work. We mourn his absence, but remember that by inspiring so many, Havel left an indelible mark on human progress.

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**OSLO
FREEDOM FORUM**

“THE DAVOS OF HUMAN RIGHTS”

EACH YEAR, HRF'S OSLO FREEDOM FORUM UNITES LEADERS FROM ACADEMIA, ADVOCACY, BUSINESS, MEDIA, POLITICS, SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP, AND TECHNOLOGY TO ADDRESS THE WORLD'S MOST CHALLENGING HUMANITARIAN ISSUES.

Through engaging presentations, we draw attention to important topics, inspire action, and shed light on the extraordinary work of innovators across the globe.

The Forum's objectives are to:

EXPOSE
UNFREE &
CLOSED
SOCIETIES



ESTABLISH
A HUMAN
RIGHTS
AXIS FOR
JOURNALISTS

INSPIRE
ACTION
THROUGH
THE
EXCHANGE
OF IDEAS

BUILD A
VIBRANT
INTER-
NATIONAL
HUMAN
RIGHTS
COMMUNITY



RAISE
HUMAN
RIGHTS TO
THE TOP OF
THE WORLD
AGENDA

SPOTLIGHT
THE WORK
OF
ACTIVISTS &
INNOVATORS



ENABLE
PARTICIP-
ANTS TO
NETWORK
WITH
ALLIES &
SUPPORTERS



The Forums have drawn participants from more than 70 countries and regions, including: Burma, Burundi, Chechnya, Israel, Japan, Kenya, Lebanon, Malawi, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Pakistan, Palestine, Peru, Russia, South Africa, Taiwan, Turkey, and Venezuela.

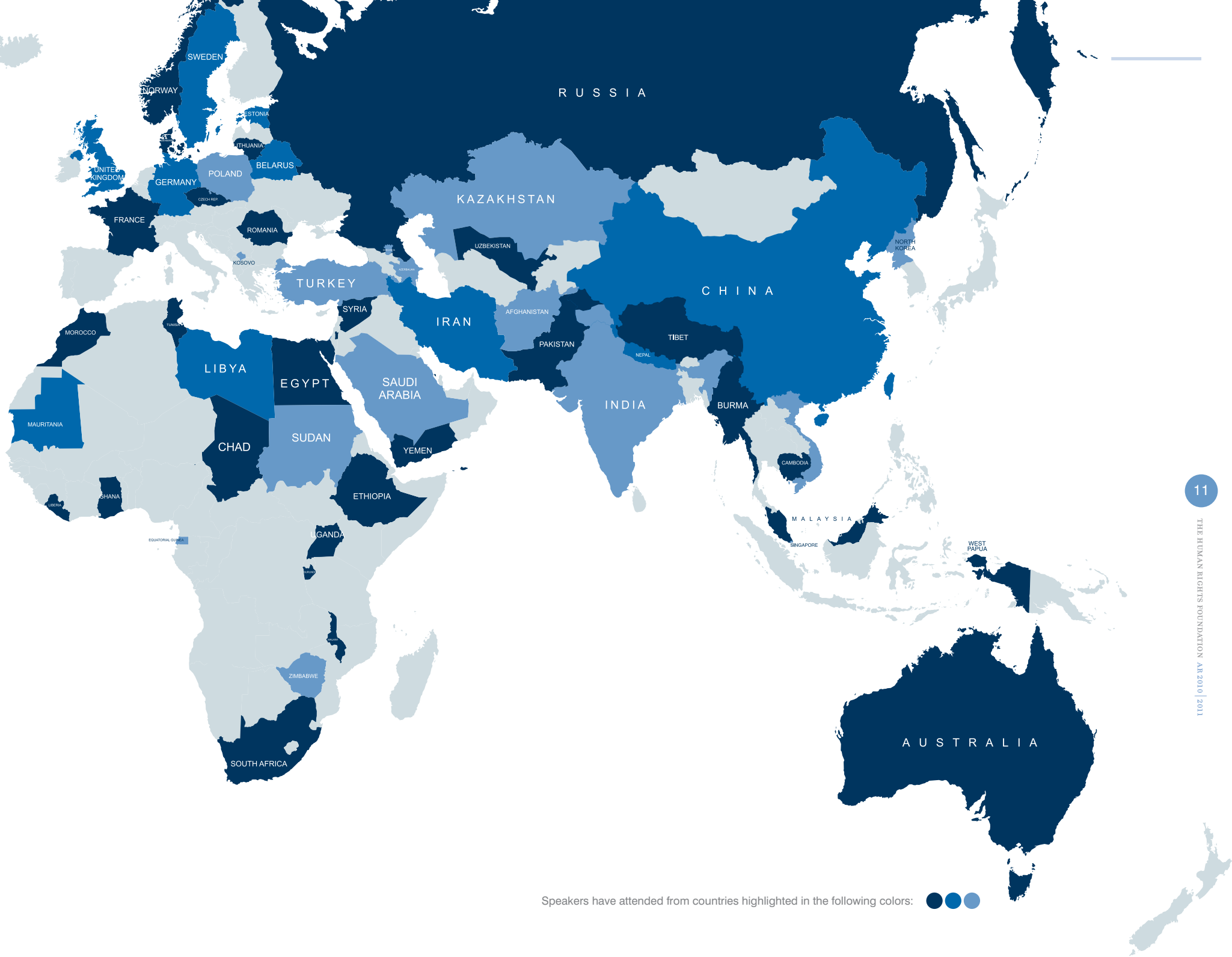
Conference themes have included: the *Evolution of Censorship*, *How to Defeat a Dictator*, and *The Dawn of a New Arab World*.

During our structured program breaks and meals, attendees have time for discussion and the exchange of ideas. Relationships built at the Forum keep growing year-round as attendees leverage our network to learn from and empower each other.

THE OSLO FREEDOM FORUM HAS BEEN HELD ANNUALLY SINCE 2009.

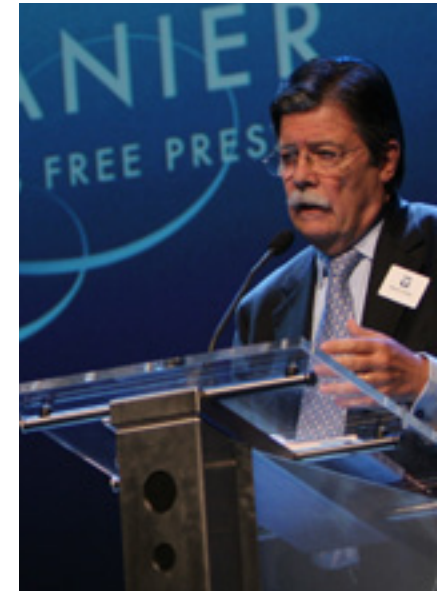
For more information, see OsloFreedomForum.com





This page (clockwise from top left): Mona Eltahawy; Marcel Granier; Lubna al-Hussein.

The Forum is regularly profiled by major news outlets from around the world, including CNN, Al Jazeera, *Forbes*, The Associated Press, *The National Review*, *The Daily Beast*, *Reason Magazine*, *Foreign Policy*, and leading European outlets. After the 2011 Forum, *The Economist* described the event as “glittering” and reported on its three years of rising influence. A year before, the same prestigious magazine wrote that the conference is a “spectacular festival... on its way to becoming the human rights equivalent of the Davos economic forum.” Meanwhile, *The Wall Street Journal* placed the 2011 event on its Calendar of Ideas for May.



THE CONFERENCE IS BROADCAST LIVE, ON NORWEGIAN NATIONAL TELEVISION AND IN ITS ENTIRETY ON THE FORUM’S OWN WEBSITE.

IN 2011, SOME 6,000 UNIQUE VIEWERS, TUNED IN LIVE FROM 111 COUNTRIES, WATCHING A COMBINED 250,000 MINUTES OF CONFERENCE.

An extensive library of information and videos of more than 100 presentations can be found at OsloFreedomForum.com and at YouTube.com/OsloFreedomForum.

As of March 2012, those talks had been viewed more than 500,000 times by individuals from nearly every country on earth.

This page (clockwise from top left): Gilbert Tuhabonye; Maryam al-Khawaja; Lina Ben Mhenni and Philippa Thomas; participants at the 2011 press conference.



In an interview with the major U.S. financial publication *The Street*, investor Peter Thiel explained the Oslo Freedom Forum's value:

"Focus on dissidents engages the intellectual debate as well as the moral cause. As we've seen this year alone, sometimes the biggest secret is how weak autocratic states are. Once the truth has been made public, it becomes very costly to deny. The dissidents at Oslo unveil the low foundations of power."



As of 2011, the Forum's primary financial supporters were the Thiel Foundation, Color Line AS, the City of Oslo, the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Free Expression Foundation (Fritt Ord). Program partners include Amnesty International Norway, Civita, the Norwegian Helsinki Committee, and PLAN Norway. Valuable support for speakers comes from TIMBRO and KIC Sweden, with in-kind donations from Helly Hansen, Voss Water, Rider Books, Newman's Own Organics, the World Policy Institute, Tufts Institute for Global Leadership, and the Nobel Peace Center. Grette, one of Norway's leading law firms, donates vital pro bono legal counsel to the Forum.

EMPOWERING HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

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THE HUMAN RIGHTS FOUNDATION AR 2010 | 2011

Over the past three years, the Oslo Freedom Forum has emerged as a platform with a unique ability to draw significant media coverage and support for on-the-ground activists. Among the contributions the Forum has made to their efforts:



KASHA JACQUELINE

A Ugandan equal-rights activist, Jacqueline has grown into an international symbol of resistance to those who seek to punish homosexuality with death. After presenting at the 2010 Oslo Freedom Forum, Jacqueline was profiled in Britain's *Standpoint* magazine and was awarded a substantial grant from a participant in the Forum. She was profiled in a popular *Huffington Post* article that was later reprinted internationally and tweeted and referenced on Facebook thousands of times. Months later, she was awarded one of the world's most distinguished human rights prizes, the Martin Ennals Award, which comes with a cash reward to support her organization's work.

LEYMAH GBOWEE

Fed up with Liberia's endemic violence, Gbowee galvanized Christian and Muslim women across her country and organized a nationwide sex strike. After drawing the attention of Liberian president Charles Taylor with her protest, she persuaded him to attend peace talks. Gbowee then led a protest of her countrywomen to the site of the talks and refused to leave until an agreement was reached. Her determination ultimately resulted in Charles Taylor's exile, the end of the Second Liberian Civil War, and the election of Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Africa's first female head of state. In Oslo, Gbowee's speech was attended by Nobel Institute representatives. Five months after speaking at the 2011 Oslo Freedom Forum, Gbowee was awarded the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize.



YOANI SÁNCHEZ

An HRF film crew traveled to Cuba to record testimony from Yoani Sánchez, a prominent Cuban blogger, to present at the Oslo Freedom Forum. After representatives from the Danish think-tank CEPOS saw her video interview, they awarded her their inaugural \$50,000 Freedom Prize. Her connection with the Forum also helped Sánchez win the Prince Claus Fund Award from Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands, which came with a €25,000 prize. As Sánchez is not permitted by the Cuban government to leave the island, Oslo Freedom Forum video material was used in her absence and a Forum representative was asked to be present at both award ceremonies.



THÍCH QUANG ĐÒ

HRF staff traveled to Vietnam to conduct an undercover interview with this monk at the pagoda in Saigon where he is held under house arrest. As head of the Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam—an organization banned by the government—the Venerable Thích Quang Đò is a unifying symbol of the pro-democracy movement simmering under Vietnam's dictatorship. He has been a political prisoner for more than 29 years for his peaceful protests. The video premiered at the 2010 Oslo Freedom Forum, and was later shown at a U.S. congressional ceremony on Capitol Hill. In addition, it is used frequently by Vietnamese groups abroad at gatherings to educate and inspire.



VOICES OF FREEDOM

Three videos from the Oslo Freedom Forum are permanently on display at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum in Simi Valley, CA. The Voices of Freedom Gallery celebrates human rights through the examples of individuals who courageously overcame oppression. Showcased are testimonies of the late Elena Bonner, Russian human rights activist and the wife of Nobel Laureate Andrei Sakharov; Armando Valladares, who spent 33 years in Castro's gulags in Cuba; and Lech Wałęsa (pictured above), Nobel Laureate and leader of the Solidarity movement that started Poland's peaceful transition to democracy.

This page (from left to right): Yoani Sánchez, Thích Quang Đò, Lech Wałęsa. Opposite page (from left to right): Kasha Jacqueline, Leymah Gbowee.





INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS ADVOCACY



STANDING UP FOR FREEDOM

PACO GÓMEZ & PILAR CHATO

In February 2011, Panamanian police arrested Spanish journalists Paco Gómez and Pilar Chato as they were monitoring a small anti-government protest. Two days later, the country's National Immigration Service ordered the "voluntary" deportation of both Gómez and Chato. This is an emblematic example of President Ricardo Martinelli's crackdown on freedom of the press. HRF responded with a legal report concluding that the Spaniards were detained, arrested, and arbitrarily expelled from Panama for engaging in journalism critical of the government and for conducting legitimate activities as human rights defenders. The report triggered a high-profile media exchange between HRF and Panamanian president Martinelli. A report on the case went to Spain's foreign minister, Trinidad Jiménez, and to numerous international organizations that advocate for press freedom and human rights, as part of an HRF global educational campaign.

OSWALDO ÁLVAREZ PAZ

On March 8, 2010, Oswaldo Álvarez Paz—former governor of Venezuela's Zulia state—participated in a televised interview in which he criticized the human rights record of the Venezuelan national government and discussed alleged ties between the government, drug-trafficking cartels, the former Basque terrorist organization ETA, and the Colombian terrorist organization FARC. Two weeks later, Álvarez Paz was arrested after a public prosecutor brought charges against him for "conspiracy" and "dissemination of false information." Álvarez Paz's family reached out to HRF, and we determined that his detention violated international human rights standards, which Venezuela is bound to respect. On April 5, we wrote to Venezuelan president Hugo Chávez, calling for Álvarez Paz's immediate liberation and declaring him a prisoner of conscience. After 51 days behind bars, he was conditionally released. His trial concluded in July 2011, when he was convicted of "spreading false information," and was sentenced to two years of house arrest and a ban on leaving the country.

Oswaldo Álvarez Paz (left), Oscar Elías Biscet (right).



GUSTAVO AZÓCAR

Since 2009, Gustavo Azócar, a journalist and professor in Venezuela's Táchira state, has been imprisoned for political reasons. During the country's 2000 gubernatorial elections, he penned several embarrassing corruption exposés on Ronald Blanco La Cruz, a rising star in Hugo Chávez's party. Nine years later, a legal suit was launched against Azócar, which he maintains was in response to his La Cruz exposés. The trial began in May 2009, and Azócar was imprisoned in July for allegedly violating the terms of his parole. His trial was annulled in October 2009, yet he remains in prison. Azócar's imprisonment violates many constitutional guarantees, and 11 years of investigation have turned up no evidence against him. By locking him up, the Venezuelan government is ridding itself of a formidable critic, one who is now unable to run for a seat in the National Assembly.

RUBEN GONZÁLEZ

In January 2010, Venezuelan union leader Rubén González was imprisoned after leading a 15-day strike of more than 2,000 workers, calling for a state-owned mining corporation to honor a labor agreement. One year later, as González languished in prison, HRF issued a legal report concluding that he had been accused, prosecuted, and imprisoned for exercising his right to freedom of association. We issued a joint statement with Thomas R. Donahue, former president of the U.S. labor federation AFL-CIO, concluding that the Venezuelan state "should end this mockery of its own court system and free Ruben González." In the weeks following HRF's report, González was granted a conditional release.

OSCAR ELÍAS BISCET

In March 2003, the Cuban government imprisoned 75 dissidents—including journalists, librarians, and rights activists—in what would become known as the "Black Spring." In March 2011, as part of HRF's efforts to support Cuban civil society groups and campaign for political prisoners, we demanded amnesty for all Black Spring prisoners who bravely rejected exile and were released on parole, among them Oscar Elías Biscet, Héctor Maseda, and Ángel Moya.

LADIES IN WHITE

The Ladies in White are a world-renowned Cuban opposition group formed by family members and supporters of dissidents jailed in the Black Spring crackdown. These women peacefully protest for the release of all political prisoners in Cuba by attending mass each Sunday wearing white clothing and silently walking through the streets. In August and November 2010, HRF filmed and released exclusive interviews with the Ladies in White and their then-spokeswoman Laura Pollán. The footage, smuggled out of the island by HRF filmmakers, is the best-quality videos of the group currently available.



Ladies in White



LAURA POLLÁN

“The government states that there’s a lot of freedom in Cuba, that it’s a paradise... I’d invite those people who believe that Cuba is free to come and live here and express themselves here as much as they do in their own countries against their governments and other individuals, so that they see what the outcome is in Cuba.” On camera, Pollán stressed that gradual release of prisoners does not signify overall improvement of the human rights situation in Cuba as long as repression continues. On September 24, 2011, Pollán’s house was surrounded by 200 people, including state agents and government supporters, who attacked her and kept her from her weekly protest. She died less than a month later at the age of 63. In December 2011, Pollán was posthumously awarded the Democracy Service Award by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED). HRF’s video was played in her honor.



INSULZA.NO

In March 2010, HRF launched www.Insulza.No to denounce José Miguel Insulza’s failure to promote and protect democracy in the Americas. Highlighting Insulza’s efforts to lift the OAS’s half-century suspension of the Cuban dictatorship, [Insulza.No](http://www.Insulza.No) features a video interview in which Insulza asserts that “Fidel Castro is one of the great sources of legitimacy of the Cuban system. I say this with great respect and almost an admiration for the figure.” As part of our international media campaign, HRF general counsel Javier El-Hage appeared on CNN en Español to discuss Insulza’s failure to protect human rights and democracy in Latin America during his tenure as OAS secretary general.

FAILURE FACTOR

Since 2008, HRF has condemned José Miguel Insulza, secretary general of the Organization of American States (OAS), for repeatedly failing to respond appropriately to human rights violations within OAS members. HRF has been most concerned with Bolivia, Ecuador, Nicaragua, and Venezuela, where Insulza has largely ignored the erosion of democracy initiated by the presidents of these countries. Furthermore, Insulza personally campaigned for an organizational pardon for Cuba—the only dictatorship in the Americas. In September 2011, HRF’s general counsel Javier El-Hage published an article in *Americas Quarterly* about the need to keep a close eye on the OAS.

LEOPOLDO LÓPEZ

In 2008, Venezuela's government barred Leopoldo López from running for political office. A popular mayor and viable opposition candidate, López was targeted because he was seen as a challenger with a strong chance of beating Hugo Chávez. López took his case to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACHR), and in February 2010, HRF filed a brief with the court as an international observer, arguing that the Venezuelan state had violated López's political rights. In March, HRF presented its case during public hearings in Costa Rica, and in September, the court determined that disqualifying López's candidacy had indeed violated his political rights.



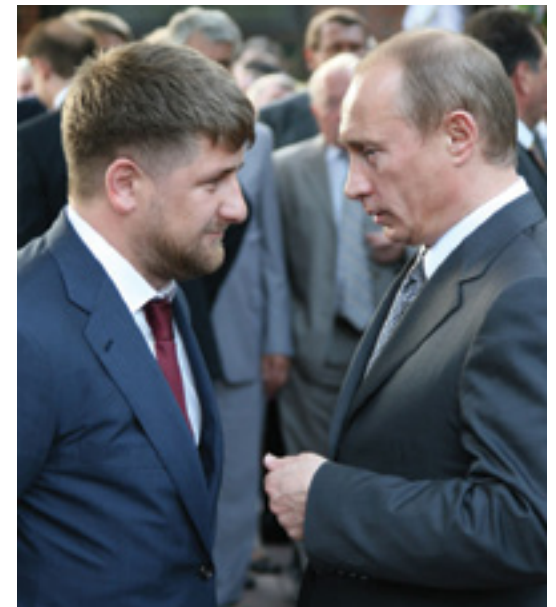
CHECHNYA

Since Ramzan Kadyrov was appointed president of the Chechen Republic's puppet government by Russian leader Vladimir Putin in 2007, his forces have become infamous for torture, kidnappings, rape, and extrajudicial executions. In late 2011, Kadyrov celebrated his birthday with a huge gala in Grozny, which was both a vehicle for his personal vanity and an assertion that he commanded broad international respect.

He offered high-profile celebrities from the entertainment industry—including Hilary Swank, Kevin Costner, Shakira, and Jean-Claude Van Damme—generous cash payments to attend. Before the event, HRF sent letters to the invited, imploring them to skip the event in light of Kadyrov's shocking human rights record.

Some, like Shakira and Costner, chose not to attend. Others, like Swank and Van Damme, ignored the moral implications and were captured on camera flattering Kadyrov with praise and endorsing his regime. Oscar-winning actress Swank reportedly earned \$500,000 for attending. Her decision to participate despite HRF's warning ignited critical coverage from CNN, MSNBC, Reuters, *The Guardian*, *The Washington Post*, and National Public Radio, among other outlets. One *Hollywood Reporter* article about the story

Chechen president Ramzan Kadyrov with Russian president Vladimir Putin



was tweeted a record number of times. After five days of blistering public criticism, Swank apologized in a written statement, claiming ignorance of Kadyrov's brutal regime. HRF launched another campaign, urging Swank to donate the money she received to human rights causes. She later agreed. In response to HRF's campaign, one enterprising consulting firm in Los Angeles launched a free, confidential service to provide the entertainment industry with information on the human rights records of potential paymasters.



HARVARD UNIVERSITY PANEL DISCUSSION

Cambridge, MA.

In April 2010, HRF's president Thor Halvorssen and general counsel Javier El-Hage participated in a panel discussion on human trafficking in the Caribbean and Latin America at a conference hosted by Harvard Law School. They discussed the wide-ranging impact of *The Sugar Babies*, an HRF film that exposes how Dominican sugar corporations (owned by the Palm Beach, FL-based Fanjul family) exploits Haitian workers, violates international labor laws, engages in human trafficking, and uses child labor.



VIETNAM HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

Washington, D.C.

In May 2010, HRF chief operating officer Sarah Wasserman spoke at a congressional ceremony held on Capitol Hill commemorating the anniversary of the U.S. House-Senate Joint Resolution SJ 168, designating May 11th as Vietnam Human Rights Day. The Oslo Freedom Forum video of Vietnamese dissident Thích Quang Đô was screened.



VESAK CELEBRATION

Orange County, CA.

In May 2010, HRF chief operating officer Sarah Wasserman presented the video of the Venerable Thích Quang Đô to more than 2000 Vietnamese Buddhists at a ceremony in Orange County, CA, celebrating the 2554th birthday of Buddha. The video was later featured in a *Foreign Policy* article that described Thích Quang Đô as one of the world's "dissidents who matter."



6TH EAST ASIA NGO FORUM

Taipei, Taiwan

In June 2010, Thor Halvorssen spoke at the 6th East Asia NGO Forum, urging leaders of non-governmental organizations to pressure governments and humanitarian institutions to make development aid contingent on respect for individual rights. Halvorssen's remarks were the subject of some controversy and were later published as columns in the *Huffington Post* and syndicated elsewhere.



STRATEGIZING WITH CIVIL SOCIETY

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

In June 2010, Thor Halvorssen and HRF director of institutional affairs Alex Gladstein addressed the Malaysian Parliament and met with journalists, opposition leaders, and human rights activists to exchange ideas on how to combat elected authoritarianism more effectively.



Vesak celebration, Orange County, CA





THIRD COUNTRY OUTREACH

LIGHTING CANDLES

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THE HUMAN RIGHTS FOUNDATION | AR 2010 | 2011

HRF visits and supplies technology, funds, medication, and other humanitarian aid to many civil society groups in Cuba, a police state that suffocates civil society activity and outlaws expressions of opposition to the government.

In 2011, HRF dubbed Oslo Freedom Forum speeches into Spanish for distribution and discussion across the island. During trips to Cuba in late 2011, presentations of Violet Banda (Malawi), Leymah Gbowee (Liberia), Maryam al-Khawaja (Bahrain), Mukhtar Mai (Pakistan), Yoani Sánchez (Cuba), and Diego Scharifker (Venezuela) were shown to target interest groups of women and youth civil society leaders. The videos were paired with digital discussion guides created by HRF to stimulate dialogue about the content of the videos. Together, the videos and guides

are a powerful tool to inform Cubans on global human rights issues and inspire activists who often feel isolated in their peaceful struggles for rights. While Oslo Freedom Forum speeches are available for the world to see on YouTube, Cubans cannot download videos because of access restrictions, government censorship, and prohibitively slow internet connections. HRF's Cuba program began in 2007 and has become a model for other NGOs seeking to work in hostile territory. In 2009 one civil society activist from the United States, working with money from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)[,] was arrested in Cuba for distributing telephone equipment to religious groups such as a local synagogue. The Cuban government has a policy of restricting information available to the population, and it used the arrest of this U.S. activist to slow down efforts like HRF's Cuba program. HRF has modified its approach and redoubled its efforts, with even more missions into Cuba planned for the future.



“It is better to light a candle
than to curse the darkness.”

—Chinese proverb

Opposite page (bottom): Leymah Gbowee with daughter at the 2011 Oslo Freedom Forum.



HOPE IN HAITI

In immediate response to the earthquake that devastated Haiti in January 2010, HRF teamed up with *Frasier* and *Boss* star Kelsey Grammer, who generously donated \$50,000 in matching funds to assist with emergency relief.

Actors Patricia Heaton, David Hunt, and Gary Sinise also contributed to the program, which provided donations directly to a community kitchen in Port-au-Prince through the What If Foundation. The community kitchen in St. Clare's, with the help of donations raised by HRF, provided more than 3,000 meals a day. This project was primarily focused on feeding children, but nobody was turned away; \$100,000 was raised. This was a special case in which HRF acted beyond its general focus on civil and political rights; our ability to help those in need, and the generous support from Grammer, made it an easy decision.



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**HRF CENTER
FOR LAW & DEMOCRACY**

PRINCIPLE OVER POLITICS

HRF's Center for Law and Democracy (HRF-CLD) promotes legal scholarship in the areas of comparative constitutional law and international democracy law, and is becoming a leading publisher of legal research on the consolidation of civil and political rights and liberal democracy.

HRF-CLD published a book in March 2010, on the crisis in Honduran democracy a year before, which concluded that the country's Supreme Court had the authority and the opportunity to successfully try, suspend, and depose President Manuel Zelaya, but instead chose to validate a coup perpetrated by the armed forces and congress. HRF also found that the actions of the Organization of American States (OAS) worsened the Honduran crisis when OAS's duty was to resolve it. In July 2011, the Honduran Truth Commission released its 800-page analysis of the events surrounding the coup, basing many of its conclusions on HRF-CLD's book.

Riot police stand guard outside the hotel where representatives of deposed Honduran president Manuel Zelaya and of the de facto government met.



SPOTLIGHT

In July 2011, journalist Emilio Palacio and the three owners of Ecuador’s largest newspaper—Carlos, César, and Nicolás Pérez—were sentenced to three years in prison and ordered to pay \$42 million to President Rafael Correa as punishment for publishing an article, written by Palacio, that was critical of the Ecuadorean president.

That editorial in *El Universo*, “No to the Lies,” referred to the president as a “dictator” and reminded president Correa that crimes against humanity do not have a statute of limitations. Revealing the erosion of democracy in Ecuador and his disregard for freedom of expression, president Correa filed a criminal suit against *El Universo* for “injurious calumny.” The case was so full of improprieties that a district judge actually issued a ruling in favor of Correa, written by Correa’s lawyers.

In response, HRF appealed to Ecuador’s supreme court exhorting them to overturn the sentence. HRF also distributed a legal report that established how the ruling violates the constitution of Ecuador and international human rights law. Controlled fully by the president, the supreme court followed his orders. HRF’s initiative garnered significant media and raised the stakes of Correa’s anti-democratic actions providing an international legal basis for the defense. One of the accused later cited HRF’s report for his successful political asylum application to the United States. Eventually, the international pressure and condemnation led Correa to pardon all of the defendants.

HRF’S WORK CONTINUES TO MAKE A TANGIBLE DIFFERENCE IN THE NATIONAL DISCUSSION IN COUNTRIES LIKE ECUADOR. HRF RECEIVES NUMEROUS EXPRESSIONS OF GRATITUDE WHICH, IN ESSENCE, REFLECT THE GENEROSITY AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF HRF’S SUPPORTERS AND DONORS.



Guayaquil, May 30th, 2012

Messrs.
 Thor Halverson, President
 Javier El-Hage, Legal Director
 HUMAN RIGHTS FOUNDATION
 350 Fifth Avenue, # 4515
 New York, NY 10118
 USA

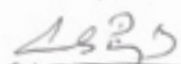
Dear Sirs,

We greatly appreciate the important and decisive support of Human Rights Foundation, an organization of recognized trustworthiness, to our cause, through the institution's direct and categorical presence, in defense of fundamental rights to freedom of speech and expression.

Without your help, it would not have been possible to obviate the personal and pecuniary penalties imposed to us by the Ecuadorian National Court of Justice.

In spite of the remission of the sentences, we shall continue the actions we have presented before the Inter-American human rights protection system, aiming on the annulment of this judgement, which sets a dangerous precedent, not only incompatible with international law, but it also violates a right that is fundamental for life in a democratic society. We are very much aware that our case is not the only one within a process focused on establishing rules to limit freedom of press. In this sense, your support is and will remain of the utmost importance for the exercise of independent, free and professional journalism in Ecuador.

Best regards,


 Carlos Pérez Barriga


 César Pérez Barriga


 Nicolás Pérez Lapentti

THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT

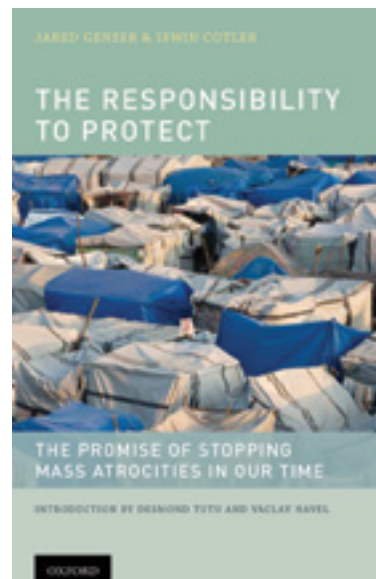
“If I see a madman driving a car into a group of innocent bystanders, then I can’t, as a Christian, simply wait for the catastrophe and then comfort the wounded and bury the dead. I must try and wrestle the steering wheel out of the hands of the driver.”

—German cleric Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who devoted his life to subverting Nazi attempts to exterminate the Jewish people. He was executed weeks before the Nazi surrender.

THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT (OR R2P) IS AN INTERNATIONAL LEGAL DOCTRINE ADOPTED IN 2005, BY THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE WAKE OF GENOCIDES IN RWANDA AND BOSNIA.

The policy obligates the international community to use diplomatic and humanitarian means to help governments to protect their citizens, and to use coercive tactics—diplomatic, legal, economic, and as a last resort, military—in order to stop mass atrocities.

In spring 2011, R2P became the legal basis invoked by NATO forces under the mandate of the UN Security Council for intervening in Libya to prevent crimes against humanity and war crimes.



In November 2011, HRF announced publication of *The Responsibility to Protect: The Promise of Stopping Mass Atrocities in Our Time*, published by the Oxford University Press and co-sponsored by HRF-CLD.



Prefaced by HRF chairman Václav Havel (pictured above) and Nobel Laureate Desmond Tutu, *The Responsibility to Protect* is a collection of articles by scholars, diplomats, and human rights activists. Edited by international legal experts Irwin Cotler and Jared Genser, the book provides a comprehensive overview of how R2P developed and how it should be applied to current and future humanitarian crises.





CONGRESSIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ACADEMY

LEVERAGING LEADERSHIP



Garry Kasparov



In March 2011, HRF hosted its inaugural Congressional Human Rights Academy (CHRA) in Washington, D.C. The CHRA is an intimate, nonpartisan informational session designed to connect legislators and their advisors with experts and advocates for a briefing on human rights situations across the globe. It provides a unique resource for U.S. policy makers as they make decisions regarding national security, foreign relations, and development aid.

The event had bipartisan sponsorship and was hosted by Russian chess grandmaster and democracy advocate Garry Kasparov, who gave the keynote address and discussed increasing government repression in Russia. Jared Genser—legal counsel to Liu Xiaobo and former legal counsel to Aung San Suu Kyi—spoke about violations of civil liberties under Burma’s military dictatorship. Uyghur leader Rebiya Kadeer



explained the precarious human rights situation of ethnic minorities in China, and author Marina Nemat discussed Iran’s methods of crushing dissent. After answering questions in a moderated discussion, the speakers each gave specific policy recommendations for lawmakers to consider. Of note was Kasparov’s plea for U.S. authorities to freeze the visas of Russians known to have participated in the murders of dissidents. Weeks after the event, the U.S. Congress enacted the freeze.

Each Academy hosts approximately 50 people, and is closed-door and by-invitation only; no media or recording is permitted, and it is not advertised publicly. The reason for the restrictions is to enable legislators and human rights experts to establish direct connections unimpeded by publicity. HRF seeks to convince members of Congress to act by creating a candid environment in which they will feel comfortable asking questions and connecting with distinguished members of the human rights community. The next Academy is scheduled for spring 2012, and thereafter HRF plans to hold the events bi-annually.

A large, white, stylized number '6' is positioned in the upper left quadrant of the page. It is partially overlaid by several overlapping, curved blue shapes that sweep across the lower half of the page. A thin white horizontal line runs across the middle of the page, passing behind the blue shapes and the text below.

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

EDUCATING TOMORROW'S LEADERS

HRF's interns come from a variety of backgrounds and work as writers, researchers, translators, and passionate collaborators dedicated to the cause of human rights.

They have studied at universities such as Columbia, Georgetown, Duke, and Cornell, received degrees in subjects ranging from international affairs to mathematics to music, and are frequently recognized for their academic achievements. The unique experiences of our interns make them invaluable. Many previously worked at other human rights organizations, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and Women Without Borders, and bring a unique perspective on pressing human rights issues. A full list of our interns is available on page 64 of this report.

From left to right: Justine Hardy, Norwegian students fill the Christiania Theatre, 2010 Oslo Freedom Forum, Marina Nemat with 2010 Oslo Scholars.



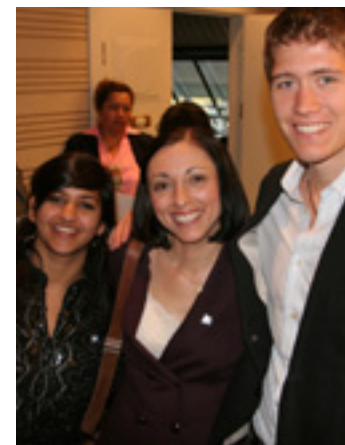
OSLO SCHOLARS PROGRAM

HRF offers promising university students the unique opportunity to work with Oslo Freedom Forum speakers. The program—a joint effort by HRF and Tufts University’s Institute for Global Leadership—offers summer internships to exceptional undergraduates.

Selected through a rigorous application process, Oslo Scholars attend the Forum to learn from the community; each meets a speaker who becomes their mentor for a three-month summer project abroad. In 2011, Vasundhara Jolly studied with author Justine Hardy, who specializes in mental health in conflict zones and runs a clinic in Kashmir. Patricia Letayf and Garrett Friedman spent the summer conducting research with Palestinian physician Izzeldin Abuellaish at the University of Toronto on the impact of hate on the mind. They also assisted Daughters for Life, Abuellaish’s foundation, which supports leadership training for young women in the Middle East. Nithyaa Venkataramani traveled to Chennai, India, to learn how to conduct effective activism with Vincent Manoharan, a Dalit rights advocate. In 2010’s pilot program, Kelly Holz volunteered with Mukhtar Mai, a courageous rape survivor who became a women’s rights advocate, at her Women’s Welfare Organization in Pakistan. Holz provided Mai with organizational assistance, and helped the organization recover from the disastrous 2010 floods.

OSLO PUBLIC DAY

In 2010, HRF produced one additional day of Oslo Freedom Forum presentations aimed at students. The event was open to the public, free of charge, and attracted more than 600 individuals, including 400 students.



ESSAY CONTEST

Each year the Forum hosts an essay contest for high school students in which they must answer a question related to human rights issues. 2011’s winners were **Lotte Rathje** and **Marie Nitzsche**, both 16, from Germany. HRF awarded Lotte and Marie a trip to Oslo to participate in the conference. In 2010, Czech student **Karolina Šedivcová**, 17, won the inaugural contest, and she was flown to Norway to take part. In a report afterward, she said the conference “changed her life.”





CONFERENCES & EVENTS



EYE ON SUDAN

New York, NY

In February 2011, HRF co-sponsored a panel discussion with the Lech Wałęsa Institute and New York University's Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service on the groundbreaking referendum that determined that Southern Sudan would become an independent nation.

With nearly 99 percent of votes favoring independence, the Republic of South Sudan became the world's 194th nation. Eye on Sudan: Challenges After Referendum featured speakers Laura Heaton, writer-editor for the *Enough Project*; Maciej Kuziemski, electoral observer in Sudan for the Lech Wałęsa Institute; and Jimmy Mulla, president of Voices For Sudan. David L. Phillips, director of the Darfur Initiative at Columbia University's Institute for the Study of Human Rights, moderated the discussion. The panel—which was followed by a question-and-answer session—covered the implications of the referendum on human rights and development and humanitarian aid, as well as immediate challenges that Sudan faces in a region where protests in Egypt and Tunisia have changed the political atmosphere.

WE HAVE A DREAM SUMMIT

New York, NY

In September 2011, HRF partnered with the We Have A Dream Global Summit Against Discrimination and Persecution, held in New York.

As world leaders gathered at UN Headquarters to commemorate the 10-year anniversary of the 2001 Durban conference on racism (a misnomer, given the substance of the conference), the Summit—formed by an international coalition of NGOs—was held as a parallel event. The UN's "Durban III" event was billed as "the international community's blueprint to fight racism." However, as in its previous iterations, the event's largest impact was to help repressive anti-Western regimes like Iran and Cuba distract the world from their appalling rights abuses.

The We Have A Dream Summit sought to balance Durban III by giving a voice to human rights activists rather than government apparatchiks. Many presenters were democracy advocates and survivors of the same dictatorships that were on the podium at Durban III. The Summit concluded by urging reform of the UN human rights apparatus to oppose the participation of repressive regimes like China, Iran, and Saudi Arabia that regulate basic human rights. The Summit featured several speakers from the Oslo Freedom Forum community, including Ugandan gay rights activist Kasha Jacqueline, Chinese dissident and scholar Yang Jianli, Uyghur leader Rebiya Kadeer, and Iranian author and former political prisoner Marina Nemat.



NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

Oslo, Norway

HRF was invited to attend the 2012 Nobel Peace Prize ceremony by Laureate and Chinese dissident Liu Xiaobo, and the 2011 ceremony by another Laureate, Liberian activist Leymah Gbowee. HRF president Thor Halvorssen participated both times, and our analysis of the award was published in the *Los Angeles Times*, *Huffington Post*, and *Forbes*, as well as in Norwegian media.

TEDx

Philadelphia, PA

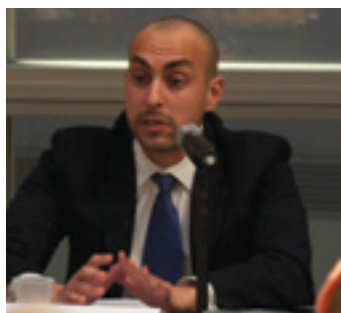
In October 2010, Thor Halvorssen spoke at TEDx at the University of Pennsylvania. His talk was titled “*The Accidental Activist*,” outlining his work in civil liberties and individual rights—and a call for others to become involved regardless of their fields of study, background, or personal experience.

The video is available at <http://bit.ly/ThorTED>

RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT EVENT

London, England

In November 2011, Thor Halvorssen addressed the British Parliament on the responsibility to protect, or “R2P,” to mark the launch of *The Responsibility to Protect: The Promise of Stopping Mass Atrocities in Our Time*, an Oxford University Press book co-sponsored by HRF’s Center for Law and Democracy (HRF-CLD).



LATIN AMERICA SPEAKING TOUR

Argentina & Brazil

In April and May 2011, HRF general counsel Javier El-Hage spoke at Atlas and Instituto Millenium events in Buenos Aires and São Paulo, discussing the ethical foundations of the rule of law, and examining democracy and human rights



ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION ON INTERNET FREEDOM

Stockholm, Sweden

In November 2011, HRF representatives attended and participated in a round table discussion on Internet freedom hosted by the Swedish Foreign Ministry and attended by leading representatives from Google, Microsoft, Cisco, Ericsson, Nokia, and other global brands. Halvorssen condemned telecommunications companies that enable oppressive regimes and commended others that help to build a more efficient, interconnected, and transparent world. The discussion led to a widely discussed article in *Forbes* on the subject and increasing communication with corporate social responsibility (CSR) executives at major multinationals.

SILICON VALLEY HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE

San Francisco, CA

In October 2011, HRF representatives attended and spoke at the Silicon Valley Human Rights Conference in San Francisco on a panel with leaders from YouTube, Witness, and Bambuser. The group explored visual content’s impact on society, governance, and privacy. As a result of its involvement at the conference, HRF became a signatory to a letter sent to the U.S. House of Representatives to protest SOPA, the Stop Online Piracy Act. The letter, signed by a coalition of rights groups, was a vital part of the movement that stopped the bill’s passage and averted a potential boost for censorship worldwide.



OSLO FREEDOM FORUM
may 9th, 10th, 11th 2011

Oslo Freedom Forum var befriende fritt for prisutdelinger og festtaler, skriver Shabana Rehman Gaarder. Fra venstre Jody Williams, Shirin Ebadi, John Peder Egenæs (Amnesty International), menneskerettsaktivist Thor Halvorsen, Helen Bjørnøy og Maryam al-Khawaja.

OSLO FREEDOM FORUM. Mange regimer møter fortsatt kritikk på sterkt menneskefiendtlige måter. Det kan ikke belyses nok, kan ikke varsles nok.

Verdens varslere



Shabana Rehman Gaarder, skribent

for debatter om menneskerettigheter vanligvis byr på. For tredje året på rad ble varslere fra hele verden invitert til hjertet av Oslo for å levere førstehåndsbereitninger fra frontlinjen. Toppaktuelle tenkere og aktivister, flere av dem bemerkelsesverdig unge og modige, og av begge kjønn. Enten det er den arabiske revolusjon, forfølgelse i

Ungt
skjellige land og brudd på menneskerettigheter ble synlig etter hvert som talerne avløste hverandre: Myndighetene trenger ikke alltid å forfølge menneskerettighetsaktivister. I svært mange feller kan de la mobil

8

MEDIA IMPACT

8 EXPOSING EVIL

“Unmask evil. Name it where it is and when it is, and don’t give evil a second chance.”

—Elie Wiesel



HRF is helping guide the global human rights discussion by participating in television, print, e-media, and social networking. Our senior leadership regularly appears on leading news networks, including CNN, Fox News, MegaTV, Globovisión, and Rede Globo. In addition, HRF staff engage social media on a daily basis.

Several HRF staff members have regular columns in *The Huffington Post*. Their work covers subjects including how to defeat dictators, the struggle of the Tibetan people under Chinese rule, state-sanctioned rape in Pakistan, the plight of Yoani Sánchez and Cubans under the Castro regime, and PR mercenaries who aid dictators throughout the world.

The full column list can be found at huffingtonpost.com/thor-halvorsen.

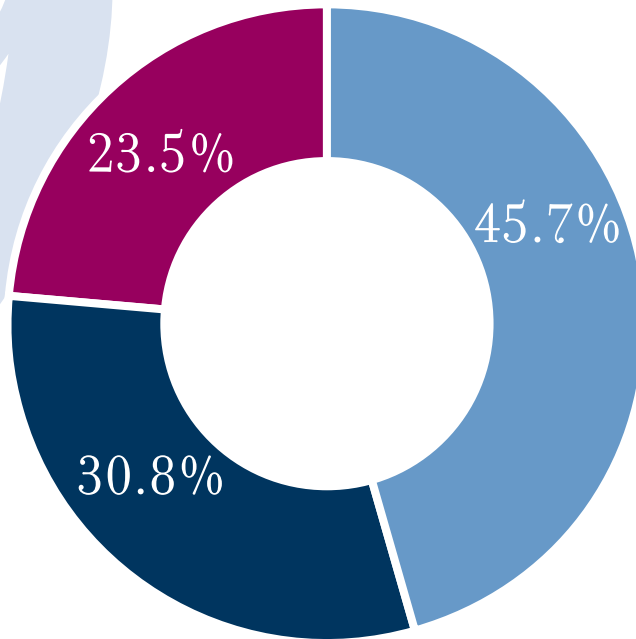
These columns are often republished in leading global outlets. Reprints in Colombia's *Semana* and Brazil's *O Globo* are particularly popular; one *Semana* piece was the most widely read article on its website for a full week. In 2010 and 2011, HRF staff wrote articles for and were quoted by Al Jazeera, *The Atlantic*, the BBC, *The Economist*, *Forbes*, *Foreign Policy*, *Time*, and *The Wall Street Journal*. Our "Eye on Sudan" event was covered by the *Christian Science Monitor*; *The Los Angeles Times* quoted HRF in an article about the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize; an HRF *Washington Post* article about the exhumation of Simon Bolívar under the orders of President Chávez was extensively cited by Christopher Hitchens in one of his final columns at *Slate*; HRF was quoted at length in a *Washington Times* article about a free speech case in Venezuela; and Paypal creator and Facebook, LinkedIn, and Yelp angel investor Peter Thiel explained in an interview with *The Street* why he supports HRF as an innovative human rights force. HRF was also quoted as a source for referrals to books and documentary films about human rights.

9

FINANCIAL REPORT

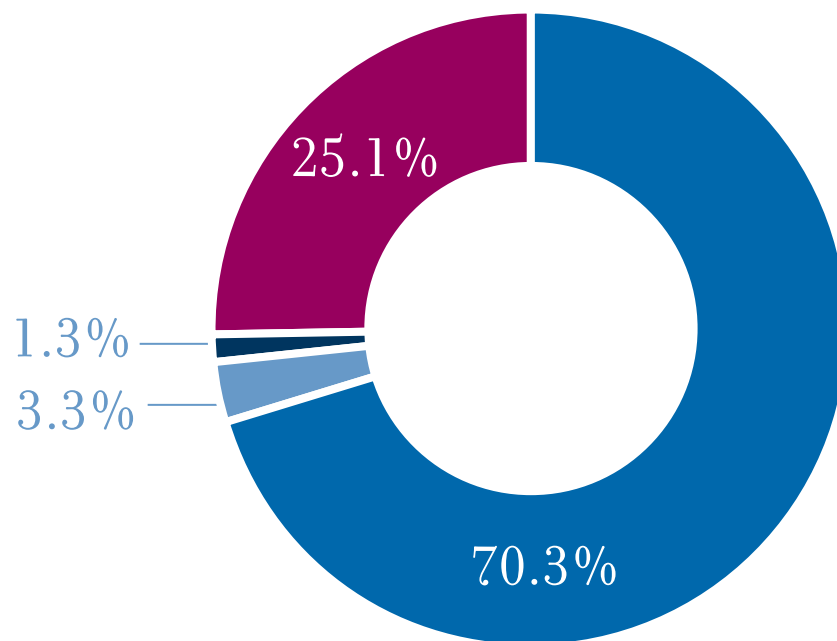


●	INDIVIDUALS	\$ 875,615
●	FOUNDATIONS	\$ 590,618
●	*FUNDS TO NORWEGIAN ACCOUNT	\$ 450,631
TOTAL		\$ 1,916,864



2010 INCOME

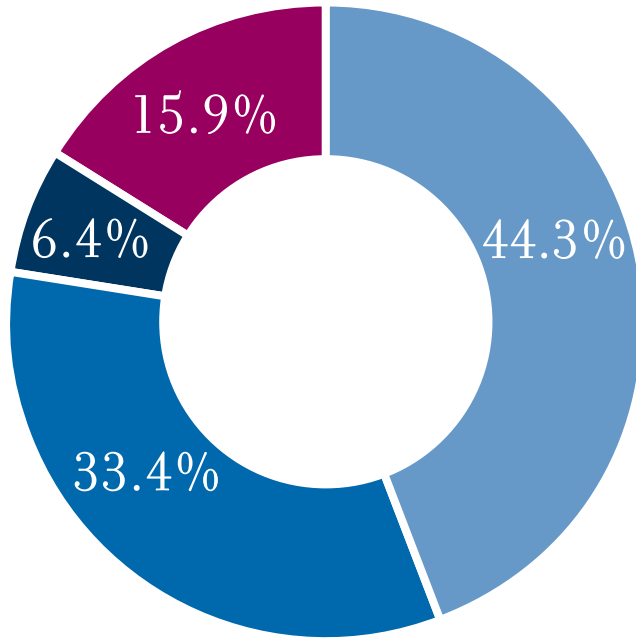
*Funds donated to the Norwegian account are used for programmatic expenses for the Oslo Freedom Forum and do not appear in HRF's audited financial statements.



2010 EXPENSES

●	PROGRAM	\$ 1,251,328
●	ADMINISTRATION	\$ 59,332
●	DEVELOPMENT	\$ 23,434
●	* PROGRAMMATIC EXPENSES FROM NORWEGIAN ACCOUNT	\$ 446,117
	TOTAL	\$ 1,780,211

*Funds donated to the Norwegian account are used for programmatic expenses for the Oslo Freedom Forum and do not appear in HRF's audited financial statements.

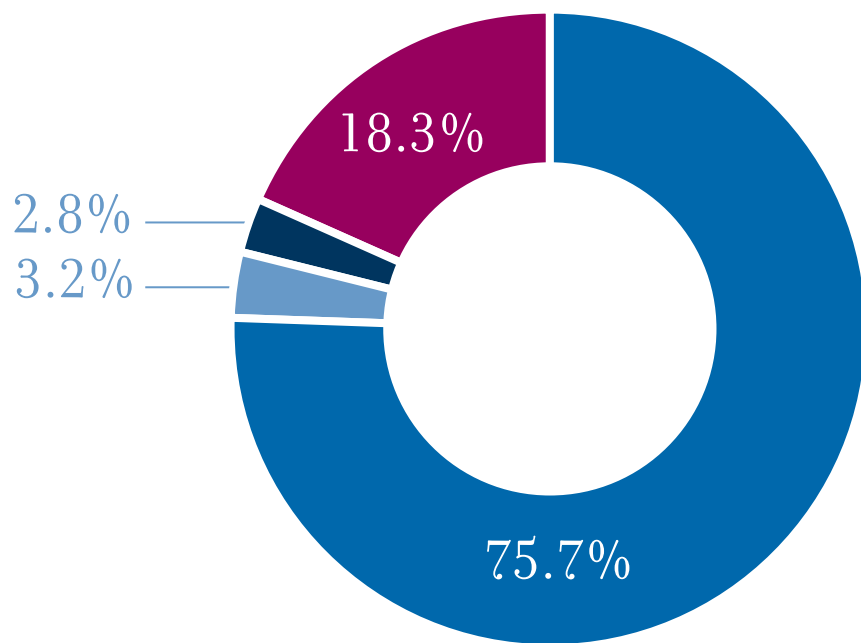


2011 INCOME

●	INDIVIDUALS	\$ 1,057,513
●	FOUNDATIONS	\$ 797,655
●	CORPORATIONS	\$ 153,965
●	* FUNDS TO NORWEGIAN ACCOUNT	\$ 379,208
	TOTAL	\$ 2,388,341

*Funds donated to the Norwegian account are used for programmatic expenses for the Oslo Freedom Forum and do not appear in HRF's audited financial statements.

●	PROGRAM	\$ 1,556,268
●	ADMINISTRATION	\$ 65,623
●	DEVELOPMENT	\$ 56,555
●	* PROGRAMMATIC EXPENSES FROM NORWEGIAN ACCOUNT	\$ 375,582
TOTAL		\$ 2,054,028



2011 EXPENSES

*Funds donated to the Norwegian account are used for programmatic expenses for the Oslo Freedom Forum and do not appear in HRF's audited financial statements.

EMPIRE STATE

10

STAFF & BOARD

10 CONTACT

Human Rights Foundation
350 Fifth Avenue, Suite 4515
New York, NY 10118-4515

phone: +1. 212.246.8486
fax: +1. 212.643.4278
email: info@thehrf.org

HUMANRIGHTSFUNDATION.ORG

twitter: [@humanrightsfdn](https://twitter.com/humanrightsfdn)

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Garry Kasparov

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Ramón J. Velásquez
Elie Wiesel
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IN MEMORIAM:

Vaclav Havel, Chairman
Emeritus (1936-2011)
James Q. Wilson (1931-2011)

STAFF

GLENDALDANA, *Program Director (2008-2010)*

Glenda is a 2007 Phi Beta Kappa and magna cum laude graduate of Harvard University, where she majored in social studies and wrote her senior thesis on judicial modernization in Guatemala. In college, she worked on minority recruitment for the admissions office and for a Chilean environmental protection nonprofit. In 2010, Glenda left HRF to attend Yale Law School.

ALEXANDER GLADSTEIN, *Director of Institutional Affairs*

Alex is a magna cum laude graduate of Tufts University where he majored in international relations and Middle Eastern studies. Before joining HRF, he served in the office of a shadow foreign secretary in the British Parliament, focusing on comparative politics. He came to HRF in 2007. He concurrently serves as vice president of strategy for the Oslo Freedom Forum.

JAVIER EL-HAGE, *General Counsel*

Javier holds a master's in international law from Columbia University School of Law and the Universidad Complutense de Madrid. Formerly professor of public law at the Universidad Privada de Santa Cruz-Bolivia, he also taught at the Universidad Andina Simon Bolivar and Universidad de Aquino. Among his numerous publications, he authored the book *International Law Limitations for the Constitutional Assembly: Democracy, Human Rights, Foreign Investment and Drug Control* in 2007. In recognition of his remarkable performance in

academia, he was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship for Faculty Development in 2007. Javier's recent research focuses on inter-American standards of protection for freedom of association, freedom of expression, and political rights.

THOR HALVORSEN, *President and CEO*

Thor is a Venezuelan-born human rights advocate and film producer. Described by *The New York Times* as "a champion of the underdog and the powerless," he began advocating for human rights as an adolescent in London by organizing opposition to South African apartheid. He became involved full-time in the promotion of due process and individual rights after his father became a political prisoner in Venezuela. He founded HRF after his mother was shot during a political protest in Venezuela in 2004. Thor is founder and CEO of the Oslo Freedom Forum. He is the Patron of the Prague-based Children's Peace Movement, On Own Feet. Thor has lectured at universities across the world on matters of liberty, and his opinions and views have appeared in numerous venues including *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Economist*, *The Washington Post*, *National Review*, National Public Radio, *TIME*, *the Daily Telegraph*, *New York Post*, and *GQ*, as well as television outlets such as Al Jazeera, CNN, Fox News, MSNBC, BBC, HBO, and many others. He is a regular columnist for *The Huffington Post* and *Forbes*.

FARID NASSIF, *Executive Assistant to the President*

Farid graduated from Bennington College in Vermont and is now in his last year of obtaining a graduate degree in English at Brooklyn College. He is

currently writing his thesis on Orientalism. Farid wrote and published a book of short stories and is writing a historical fiction novel about Beirut.

SARAH E. PARKER, *Program Director*

Sarah is a graduate of Duke University, where she earned a B.A. with a concentration on human rights in Latin America. As an undergraduate, she directed several free speech groups on campus, including Duke Students for Academic Freedom.

PEDRO PIZANO, *Development and Strategy Associate*

Pedro studied journalism at Boston University. Originally from Colombia, he is fluent in Spanish, English, and French. Before coming to the United States, he founded and directed a cultural magazine for students of Los Andes University, as well as *Cortesía de la Casa*, a successful online radio and music portal. Most recently, he interned at the Association de la Presse Étrangère in Paris, France, redesigning websites and attending presidential and foreign affairs press conferences.

CAITLIN ROSENGARTEN, *Program and Development Assistant*

Caitlin is a cum laude graduate of New York University, where she earned a B.A. in psychology. She recently returned from several years of travel, living and working on four continents. Prior to joining HRF, Caitlin held positions in health care, education in a developing country, and fundraising for an international children's charity.

MADISON SHIMODA, *Staff Writer*

Madison graduated from Claremont McKenna College with a degree in literature, philosophy, and public affairs, with a concentration in human rights. In college, she spent much of her time involved in humanitarian enterprises such as Amnesty International and Circle K.

SARAH WASSERMAN, *Chief Operating Officer*

Sarah has worked with HRF since it was founded in 2005, and also serves as senior vice president of the Oslo Freedom Forum. Before joining HRF, she worked for Grey Global in public relations and the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education. Sarah is on the Board of Visionaries at Hope for Vision, a nonprofit that supports research into preventing and curing retinal diseases; and the Committee of heart&feet at the Andrea Rizzo Foundation, which sponsors programs that provide dance therapy for children with cancer. She graduated from Brown University with a concentration in international relations, focusing her studies on Latin America.

ROSS WITTENBERG, *Program and Development Officer*

Ross joined HRF in 2008 as an intern while earning a master's in international relations with specializations in human rights and foreign policy analysis from the John C. Whitehead School of Diplomacy and International Relations at Seton Hall University. When he completed his degree, he was hired on a full-time basis. He previously graduated from DePauw University with a major in conflict studies.

INTERNS

PIERRE ALKHADRA

Summer 2010 Legal Intern

Columbia University School of Law, J.D.; University of California, Santa Barbara, B.A., Law & Society

ANDREA BAQUERO

Fall 2011 Intern

Universidad de Los Andes, M.A., Journalism

MIRIAM BENSKY

Fall 2011 Intern

Interdisciplinary Center in Herzliya, Israel, B.A., Government & Diplomacy

ASHLEY BINETTI

Spring 2011 Intern

Cornell University, B.A., International Relations

HANNAH HETZER

2011 Intern

University of Warwick, U.K., B.A. Political Theory & International Relations

TAYLOR JANES

Spring 2011 Intern

Hamilton College, B.A., Philosophy

POLINA KASPAROVA

Summer 2011, Spring 2012 Intern

Barnard College

TOM KITTREDGE

Fall 2011 Intern

Sarah Lawrence College, B.A., International Affairs

JOHN LECHNER

Summer 2010 Intern

Syracuse University

REBECCA RITTENHOUSE

Fall 2011 Legal Intern

New England Law/Boston, J.D.; Allegheny College, B.A., International Relations

CHRISTINA SHIN

Fall 2010 Legal Intern

Columbia Law School Student; Duke University, B.A., Economics & Mathematics

PATRICK WOOLSEY

Spring 2011 Intern

Columbia University

For a digital copy of this report visit: humanrightsfoundation.org/2010-2011AnnualReport

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FSC® certified and CarbonNeutral®

THOR HALVORSEN
President & CEO

In Memoriam:

VÁCLAV HAVEL
Chairman

350 Fifth Avenue, Suite 4515, New York, NY 10118 // +1. 212.246.8486
humanrightsfoundation.org
oslofreedomforum.com