



ANNUAL REPORT 2012-2013

THEHRF.ORG

HRF MISSION & OVERVIEW

The Human Rights Foundation (HRF) is a nonpartisan nonprofit organization that promotes and protects human rights globally, with a focus on closed societies. HRF unites people in the common cause of defending human rights and promoting liberal democracy. Our mission is to ensure that freedom is both preserved and promoted around the world.

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 nonprofit 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 FROM ARBITRARY DETAINMENT OR EXILE

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

THE RIGHT TO LEAVE AND ENTER THEIR COUNTRIES

FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION

FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND EXPRESSION

THE RIGHT TO WORSHIP IN THE MANNER OF THEIR CHOICE

THE RIGHT TO EQUAL TREATMENT AND DUE PROCESS UNDER LAW

THE RIGHT TO ACQUIRE AND DISPOSE OF PROPERTY

FREEDOM FROM SLAVERY AND TORTURE

FREEDOM FROM INTERFERENCE AND COERCION IN MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE



Thor Halvorssen

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Over the past two years, the Human Rights Foundation (HRF) has seamlessly transitioned from a group focusing solely on the Americas to an organization addressing human rights worldwide. While maintaining a steadfast and consistent commitment to defending civil and political rights and exposing closed societies, HRF has established itself as an unwaveringly principled and significant voice in the global human rights conversation. HRF continues to find ways to bring fresh perspectives and new strategies to human rights advocacy while supporting dissidents, giving rights defenders venues to brainstorm and speak, focusing the global discussion on dictatorship, and taking direct action for the liberation of political prisoners and persecuted persons.

Several of HRF's recent media campaigns have used the power of celebrity to focus the world's attention on human rights crises that receive little or no attention. In 2013, Jennifer Lopez, Kanye West, and Mariah Carey performed for the dictators of Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, and Angola, respectively. While the mainstream media hardly ever reports on the crimes of these authoritarian regimes, after HRF publicly condemned the performances of Lopez, West, and

Carey, the repression in these countries was catapulted into newspaper and television headlines ranging from the BBC to "Good Morning America." With creativity and dynamism, HRF is generating the kind of impact usually garnered by much larger groups.

As much as we are privileged to have this kind of influence, we are equally interested in supporting civil society groups and dissidents in more direct ways. For the past seven years, HRF has assisted Cuban civil society leaders by arming them with technology and information. Applying our vast experience gained in Cuba, this past June, an HRF delegation traveled to Seoul, South Korea, to begin determining how best to help North Korea's nascent civil society.

After five years, our international human rights conference, the Oslo Freedom Forum (OFF), has become the world's largest and most influential festival for combating dictatorship and supporting individual rights. Each year OFF's profile grows as a summit and a resource for dissidents and democrats from around the world.

HRF also publicizes the noble work of dissidents through the Václav Havel Prize for Creative Dissent. The 2012 and 2013 Laureates—

including Syrian cartoonist Ali Ferzat, Cuban civil society group Ladies in White, Saudi women's rights advocate Manal al-Sharif, and Chinese artist Ai Weiwei—were thrust into the global media spotlight and given cash prizes and recognition.

HRF's efforts are punctuated by Garry Kasparov, our chairman. Whether it is by visiting policymakers on Capitol Hill, speaking on MSNBC or BBC's "HardTalk", appearing as one of the last interview subjects of the late Sir David Frost, or writing for CNN and TIME, Kasparov continues to be an energetic, driving force for freedom. Although he is public enemy number one in Russia and cannot return without being jailed, he is as active as ever in the struggle for human rights.

HRF has plenty in store for 2014, as we continue the College Freedom Forum series on U.S. campuses; expand our on-the-ground work in repressive regimes like Cuba and North Korea; plan the next Oslo Freedom Forum; and launch a three-year project analyzing the history of free speech's benefit to society.

We have come a long way since we expanded to a global focus two years ago and we accomplish what we do with a fulltime staff of just 11 and a gaggle of interns. Thank you for your continued support and interest in promoting and protecting freedom wherever it is under threat. I hope you enjoy reading this report on HRF's activities in 2012 and 2013. If you would like to learn more about HRF's work, please visit our website at www.TheHRF.org. Given that repression is on the rise across much of the world, your support and interest are more vital than ever.

With gratitude,

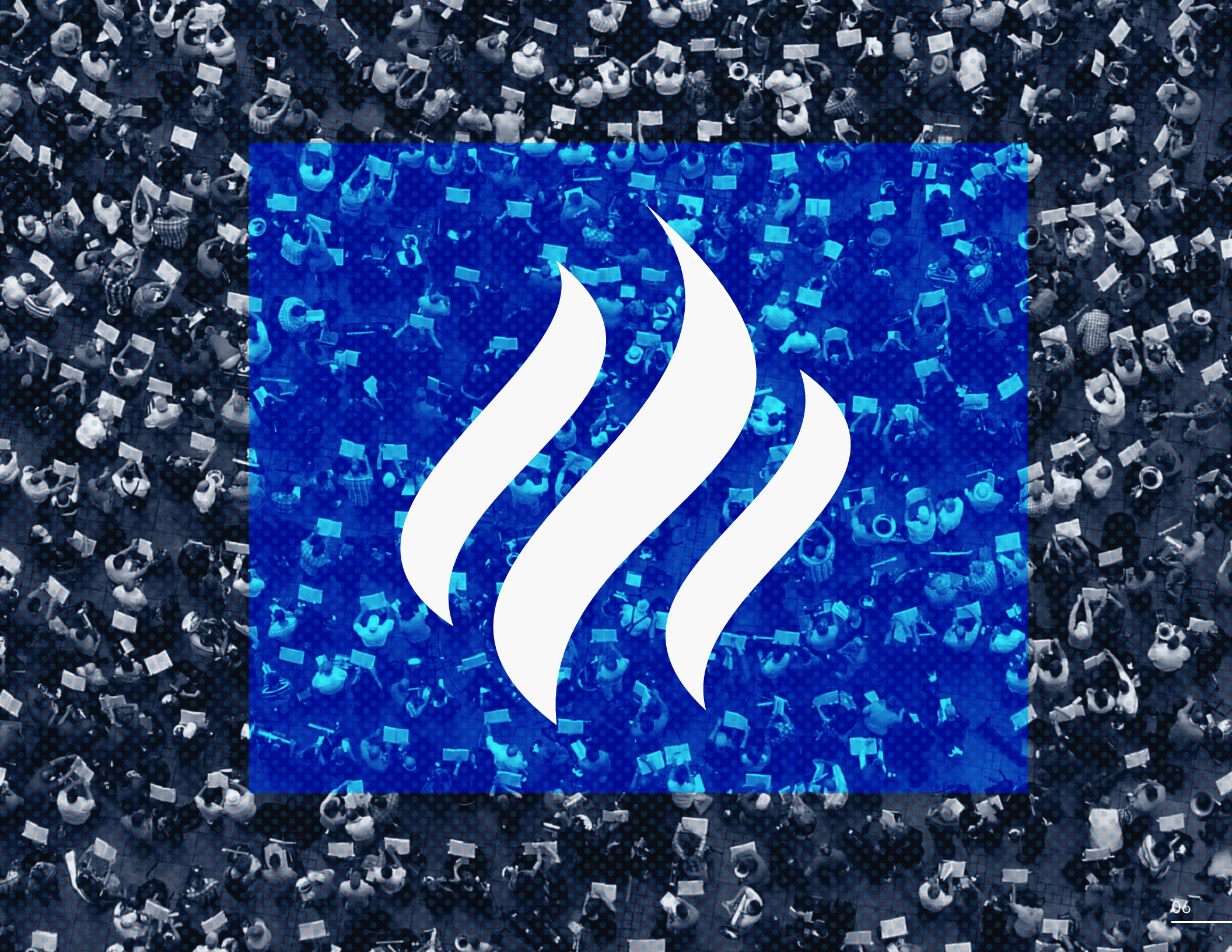


Thor Halvorssen
President



TABLE OF CONTENTS

	OSLO FREEDOM FORUM 07 Spotlight on Human Rights Defenders		EXPOSING DICTATORSHIP 32
	SAN FRANCISCO FREEDOM FORUM 14		EDUCATING TOMORROW'S LEADERS 35 College Freedom Forum
	VÁCLAV HAVEL PRIZE FOR CREATIVE DISSENT 17		PARTNERING FOR GREATER IMPACT 38 Defeating SOPA and PIPA Teaming Up with Silent Circle Engaging Silicon Valley with Human Rights Unmasking Hypocrisy at the United Nations Human Rights Council
	COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY ADVOCACY AND ANALYSIS 20 China: Mobilizing for Liu Xiaobo's Freedom Ecuador: Criminalizing Dissent Equatorial Guinea: Dismantling D.C.-Based Helpers Kazakhstan: Crackdown on Independent Media Pakistan: Advocating for Women's Rights Paraguay: Lugo's Impeachment Not a Coup Russia: Opposing Putin's Corrupt Authoritarianism Venezuela: During and After Chávez Democracy Erosion in the Americas		FINANCIAL REPORT 41
	THIRD COUNTRY OUTREACH 29 Cuba: Supporting and Celebrating Civil Society North Korea: Hacking the Information Monopoly		STAFF & BOARD 45 International Council, Directors, and Advisors Staff and Interns Contact



1



OSLO FREEDOM FORUM



"IF THE GLOBAL HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT WERE TO CREATE ITS OWN UNIFIED REPRESENTATIVE BODY, IT WOULD LOOK SOMETHING LIKE THIS"

– Wired UK

Since its launch in 2009, the Oslo Freedom Forum (OFF) has become the world's biggest festival for individual rights and the only event on the global calendar that squarely addresses tyranny. In its first five years, OFF has united game changers like Aung San Suu Kyi, Chen Guangcheng, Manal al-Sharif, Václav Havel, Mario Vargas Llosa, Wael Ghonim, Shirin Ebadi, Jimmy Wales, Lech Walesa, Leymah Gbowee, and Elie Wiesel.

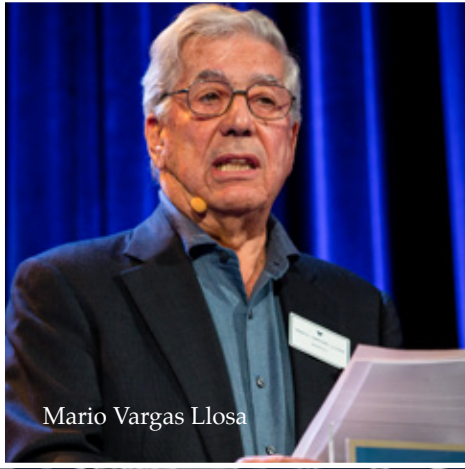


Aung San Suu Kyi

RAISE
HUMAN RIGHTS
TO THE TOP
OF THE WORLD
AGENDA

NETWORK
PARTICIPANTS
WITH ALLIES AND
SUPPORTERS

CREATE
A VIBRANT,
INTERNATIONAL
COMMUNITY
FOCUSED ON
HUMAN RIGHTS



Mario Vargas Llosa

EXPOSE
UNFREE AND CLOSED
SOCIETIES

INSPIRE ACTION
THROUGH
THE EXCHANGE
OF IDEAS

SPOTLIGHT
THE WORK OF
ACTIVISTS AND
INNOVATORS



Chen Guangcheng



Manal al-Sharif

ESTABLISH A
HUMAN RIGHTS AXIS
FOR JOURNALISTS

ASSEMBLE A
PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE
ARCHIVE OF
POWERFUL HUMAN
RIGHTS TESTIMONY





#OsloFF life changing experience

The BBC and CNN hold live broadcasts from the conference and more than 3,000 people drawn from 98 countries annually tune into our livestream. Everyone on Twitter is able to join the conversation at @OsloFF. Panel discussions—moderated by media representatives from the BBC and The Daily Beast—include topics like the world’s worst women’s rights crises and the dark side of governments that sacrifice individual rights for stability and growth.

“A CRUCIALLY IMPORTANT EVENT, AND AN ARENA FOR DISCUSSING THE MOST IMPORTANT HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES OF OUR TIME” – Norwegian foreign minister Espen Barth Eide

In 2013, the Twitter hashtag #OsloFF was a trending topic in the United States during the opening session. Participants tweet that OFF is “truly inspiring,” “eye-opening,” “humbling,” and a “life changing experience” with the “bravest speakers of any event you’ve ever attended.”

“THE RANGE OF SPEAKERS IS STUNNING, BUT THE REAL ACTION HAPPENS IN TIMES BETWEEN THE FORMAL TALKS AND PANELS” – The Daily Beast

All OFF talks are available on our website in a library containing videos from over 150 speakers, from 75 different countries. OFF talks have been viewed more than 1.2 million times from YouTube users across every country on earth, with the exceptions of North Korea and Turkmenistan.



(L-R) Amir Ahmad Nasr, Lina Ben Mhenni, Manal al-Sharif, Maryam al-Khawaja, and Ahmed Benchemsi

Each year, OFF functions as a hub for human rights stories, with hundreds of articles filed from Norway and published in dozens of countries and languages. For example, National Review’s senior editor keeps a seven-part journal of his OFF experience, and CNN, The Atlantic, and NPR are among the dozens of outlets that profile the incredible stories of OFF speakers.



#OsloFF Eye-opening



#OsloFF bravest speakers of any event you've ever attended



#OsloFF Truly Inspiring



#OsloFF humbling

"OVER INTENSELY MOVING SESSIONS... AND AFTERWARDS OVER DINNER, DRINKS AND LATE-NIGHT CONVERSATION, STORIES ARE SHARED, CAMPAIGNS SHARPENED AND NEW ALLIANCES FORGED. THE POWER OF THE EVENT... LIES IN THE SEAMLESS MIX OF GRASS-ROOTS ACTIVISTS...AND THE TOP-LEVEL POLICYMAKERS AND INFLUENCERS WHO CAN ACT ON WHAT THEY LEARN." –Wired UK

A diverse range of institutions support OFF with programmatic advice, financial support, and in-kind donations. OFF's primary financial supporters are the Brin Wojcicki Foundation, the Thiel Foundation, the City of Oslo, Color Line, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Fritt Ord. OFF program partners are Amnesty International Norway, Civita, the Norwegian Helsinki Committee, LIM Norway, and PLAN Norway. In-kind donations come from Manhattan Portage, Guardian Books, Penguin Books, Joh. Johannson Coffee, pūr~lisse skincare, the Matriarch Foundation, and the Nobel Peace Center.



SPOTLIGHT ON HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

MANAL AL-SHARIF

The story of Manal al-Sharif is emblematic of OFF's ability to bring attention to individual activists. Her historic 2012 talk—in which she explained how she had “committed a crime” by breaking Saudi Arabia’s ban on women driving—has amassed more than 380,000 YouTube views and was featured on CNN.com. Subsequently named one of Newsweek’s top 10 world revolutionaries, al Sharif’s presentation created a national debate in Saudi Arabia on women’s rights.



ALI ABDULEMAM

Persecuted Bahraini blogger Ali Abdulemam re-appeared in 2013, after nearly two years in hiding following massive government protests. He was tried in absentia by a military court and sentenced to 15 years in prison for plotting an anti-government “coup.”

In early 2013, HRF drafted plans—later described by CNN’s Christiane Amanpour as a “modern-day Argo”—for his escape from Bahrain. Abdulemam was able to escape to the U.K. just days before the plan went forward. There, he was granted political asylum and, with HRF’s assistance, an exit visa to speak at OFF.

CHEE SOON JUAN

In 2012, the Singaporean regime banned outspoken opposition leader Chee Soon Juan from participating at OFF. The country's leaders imposed a travel ban on Chee and sued him for defamation. HRF asked the Singaporean prime minister in a public letter to lift Chee's travel ban, to no avail. HRF arranged for Chee to participate at OFF12 via video; his speech generated more than 30,000 views online in just a few days.

HRF's letter launched a Yahoo! Investigative report and sparked a national debate on political freedom in Singapore. In Norway, the scandal forced the foreign ministry to pressure the Singaporean government on his case. Singapore finally lifted Chee's travel ban and he was able to speak at OFF13.



RAFAEL MARQUES DE MORAIS

After calling the Angolan president a dictator in 1999, activist Rafael Marques de Morais was arrested, charged with defamation, and sentenced to six months in prison. De Morais spoke out against repression in Angola at OFF13, where he attended a workshop on internet security led by computer security researcher and hacker Jacob Appelbaum. Appelbaum discovered previously unheard-of spyware on de Morais' laptop that allowed a multinational corporation to monitor his computer remotely.

Tech magazines around the world covered the story, and the May 2013 Newsweek cover story on cyber security featured a segment about de Morais and the spyware. De Morais recently worked with HRF again to expose the corrupt Angolan dictator's daughter, Isabel dos Santos.



2

SAN FRANCISCO FREEDOM FORUM



SAN FRANCISCO FREEDOM FORUM

MANY PATHS,
ONE GOAL

the brin wojcicki foundation

ESTHER FOUNDATION the brin wojcicki foundation



SAN FRANCISCO FREEDOM FORUM

“WHEN AUNG SAN SUU KYI MET THE CRAIGSLIST GUY”

– The Atlantic

“AN EXTRAORDINARY AND IMPORTANT GATHERING”

– GlobalPost

In September 2012, HRF held the first satellite Freedom Forum conference, the San Francisco Freedom Forum (SFFF), at the Bently Reserve in downtown San Francisco. SFFF brought together a global community of innovators and activists to exchange ideas on how best to protect and promote individual rights. Speakers explored various paths to freedom, with Burmese Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi keynoting the event. In her address, Suu shared her experiences in the long struggle for freedom in Burma, outlined a philosophy of non-violence, and paid tribute to the late Czech

leader and playwright Václav Havel. After her talk, forum founder Thor Halvorssen presented Suu with the Václav Havel Prize for Creative Dissent, in recognition of her “creativity and decades of determination that kept pressure on Burma’s leaders.” Other speakers featured at SFFF included: Saudi women’s rights pioneer Manal al-Sharif; conflict psychologist Justine Hardy; Slate editor and author William J. Dobson; drug policy reformer Ethan Nadelmann; Chinese scholar and former political prisoner Yang Jianli; and Kazakhstani theater director Bolat Atabayev.



Aung San Suu Kyi

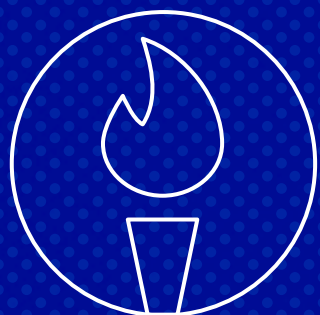


WAVES

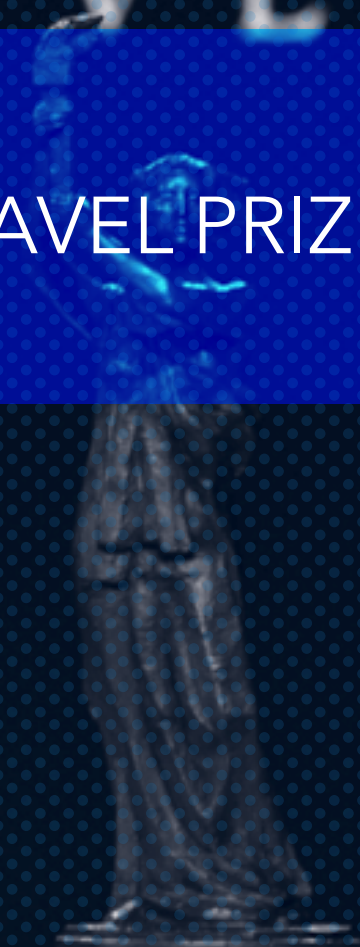
VÁCLAV HAVEL

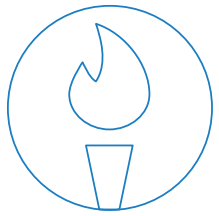
CREATIVE DISSENT

3



VÁCLAV HAVEL PRIZE ^{FOR} CREATIVE DISSENT





VÁCLAV HAVEL PRIZE

Recognizing those who, with bravery and ingenuity, unmask the lie of dictatorship by living in truth, HRF awarded the first Václav Havel Prize for Creative Dissent in May 2012 to Burmese opposition leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Chinese artist Ai Weiwei, and Saudi women's rights advocate Manal al-Sharif. The award honors the memory and achievements of Havel, HRF's late chairman.

"A GLIMMER OF INSPIRATION"

—The Wall Street Journal

The 2013 laureates were Syrian political cartoonist Ali Ferzat, North Korean democracy activist Park Sang Hak, and Cuban civil society group Ladies in White—represented by their current leader Berta Soler.

The Havel Prize was created by HRF with the enthusiastic endorsement of Dagmar Havlová, Havel's widow, and was funded jointly by grants from the Brin Wojcicki Foundation, the Thiel Foundation, and the John Templeton Foundation.



Manal al-Sharif





COUNTRY BY COUNTRY





COUNTRY BY COUNTRY:

ADVOCACY AND ANALYSIS



Liu Xiaobo

China: Mobilizing for Liu Xiaobo's Freedom

As a founding member of the Support Committee for Liu Xiaobo, HRF led an international push for the release of the imprisoned Chinese poet and 2010 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate. Consisting of intellectuals, artists, China experts, and human rights activists—including six Nobel Laureates—the international Committee's goal is to inform, defend, and advocate for the release of Liu.

In December 2012, the Committee sent a letter signed by 134 Nobel Laureates and more than 430,000 other individuals to the Chinese authorities, demanding Liu's release from Jinzhou Prison.



Emilio Palacio

Ecuador: Criminalizing Dissent

While Ecuadorean president Rafael Correa grows bolder in his consolidation of power and crackdown on dissent, HRF continues to campaign on behalf of those persecuted by his regime. After calling Correa a tyrant in an op-ed, journalist Emilio Palacio and executives of Ecuador's largest newspaper, El Universo, were sentenced to three years in prison and ordered to pay \$40 million in damages for "defaming the president." HRF generated major media attention through its legal report, letters, and multiple press releases on the case.

Within a month of HRF's condemnation of the decision of the Ecuadorean National Court to uphold the prison sentence and fine in this case, President Correa announced that he would pardon Palacio and the executives. HRF's legal report and other publications on the case were also instrumental in Palacio's successful bid in 2012 for political asylum in the U.S.

Equatorial Guinea: Dismantling D.C.-Based Helpers

Teodoro Obiang has ruled Equatorial Guinea with an iron fist since 1979. Working with Equatoguinean human rights lawyer (and OFF12 speaker) Tutu Alicante, HRF led a campaign to expose the PR work of the D.C.-based nonprofit organization Sullivan Foundation for the Obiang regime. Upon learning that the Sullivan Foundation was doing paid PR work for the Obiang regime, HRF sent a public letter, asking the foundation to cancel the “human rights” summit it planned on holding in the Equatoguinean capital in August 2012.

As a result of the campaign launched by HRF, honorary chairman Bill Clinton’s name was scrubbed from the Sullivan Foundation’s website, high-profile conference attendees declined to participate, and the keynote speaker cancelled his appearance. The letter and the subsequent fallout sparked media coverage of the scandal in Reuters,



the Associated Press, BBC, Foreign Policy, The National Review, The Washington Times, Aftenposten, Global Voices, and The Guardian. Several months after the disastrous conference, U.S. News and World Report broke the news that the Leon H. Sullivan Foundation had closed its doors for good. The Washington Post ran a stunning expose—“The Implosion of a Legacy”—on the Sullivan Foundation’s rise and fall. One of Obiang’s most useful Western puppets was shamed out of helping him by HRF’s advocacy work.



Kazakhstan: Crackdown on Independent Media

Nursultan Nazarbayev is a Soviet-era dictator who has ruled and looted Kazakhstan as his family fiefdom since 1991. With a well-oiled public relations machine that includes former British prime minister Tony Blair, much is written about rapid development under Nazarbayev's reign and little is published about the suffering of the Kazakhstani people, with widespread government corruption, a stacked judiciary, state-controlled media and labor, and an asphyxiated civil society.

In December 2012, one year after 15 striking workers were murdered in the Zhanaozen killings, HRF submitted a letter to Nazarbayev, requesting that he release opposition leader Vladimir Kozlov and stop the government crackdown on independent media. HRF also commissioned a requiem for the victims of Zhanaozen, composed by David Fulmer and titled "Star of the North," which helped raise awareness about Kazakhstan's dictatorship in art and music circles.

After investigating and analyzing cases against four media outlets in Kazakhstan, all of which were charged in a Kazakhstani district court with "propagating extremism" and were banned from broadcasting and publishing, HRF released a full legal report on the matter, finding the Nazarbayev government in clear violation of international free expression laws. In December, HRF urged the UN to inquire into Nazarbayev's media crackdown.



Kazakhstani president Nursultan Nazarbayev



Protests in Kazakhstan after the Zhanaozen killings in December 2012



Protests for women's rights in Pakistan

Pakistan: Advocating for Women's Rights

Women in Pakistan continue to be victimized with honor killings, forced marriages, and rape as a form of retribution, crimes that go largely unpunished. Current legislation in defense of women is a hollow gesture, a written commitment without enforcement.

HRF submitted a report to the United Nations on the Pakistani government's failure to exercise due diligence in the case of rights advocate Mukhtar Mai, a victim of gang rape in her rural village of Meerwala. The Supreme Court of Pakistan acquitted all but one of her accused rapists. HRF's report states that in order to fully comply with its due diligence obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, Pakistan must effectively investigate all cases, prosecute and punish those responsible, and adequately compensate the victims.



Paraguayan president Fernando Lugo

Paraguay: Lugo's Impeachment Not a Coup

When Paraguay's parliament impeached President Fernando Lugo, the international media, the global human rights establishment, and several governments of Latin America rushed to paint the events as a coup d'état. HRF, however, concluded in a public statement that the impeachment process was constitutional and that any outside interference would harm Paraguay's nascent democratic development.

Rather than rushing to follow others in immediately condemning the impeachment, HRF's legal team thoroughly examined all the aspects of the case and presented a balanced and well-researched statement. In support of its opinion, HRF published a column in *Americas Quarterly*, which was the most read article on the site for a week. HRF's international legal director appeared on CNN en Español to discuss the case, and HRF's opinion was later cited by new services such as EFE, the Associated Press, and Foreign Policy.



Russia: Opposing Putin's Corrupt Authoritarianism

When Vladimir Putin resumed the Russian presidency in May 2012, his government cracked down on pro-democracy and nonprofit advocacy groups and jailed members of the punk rock band Pussy Riot for protesting his regime. In response, HRF's Center for Law and Democracy (HRF-CLD) released a legal report on the Pussy Riot case, concluding that the arrest, bail denial, and criminal conviction of the three female punk rockers violated the European Convention on Human Rights. HRF also published a popular article in Forbes about the case.

In August 2012, HRF chairman Garry Kasparov was arrested and beaten outside the courthouse in Moscow where the verdict was reached. Kasparov was declared innocent of any crimes in a Russian court a few days later. While Kasparov has announced that he will not return to Russia for fear of not being allowed to leave amidst the current political crackdown, under his leadership, HRF will continue to fight against Putin.



Bill Browder

At OFF13, HRF focused international attention on Russia with Bill Browder, the originator of the Magnitsky Act, and The Guardian's Luke Harding, the first journalist to be banned from Russia since the Cold War.



Venezuela: During and After Chávez

After ordering the release of a political prisoner, Venezuelan judge Maria Lourdes Afiumi endured President Chávez's personal ire and was herself arrested and spent three years under pre-trial house arrest. In May 2012, HRF declared Afiumi a prisoner of conscience. HRF-CLD's analysis of the case was published across the Spanish-speaking world. In June 2013, Afiumi was freed from house arrest.

In September 2012, HRF-CLD submitted a petition and legal report to the United Nations, requesting that it condemn the subordination of the Venezuelan judiciary to the executive power. HRF's legal report documents the gradual erosion of judicial independence in Venezuela through the passing of a law that enabled the stacking of the judiciary with judges loyal to the ruling party.



HRF was invited to author Reason Magazine's obituary for Chávez, focusing on the strongman's legacy of conflict and propaganda.



HRF called upon Venezuelan authorities to dismiss their case against Miguel Henández, an auto mechanic who has been prosecuted for three years for wearing a t-shirt featuring Bart Simpson with the phrase "Hugo: I shit on your revolution" to a baseball game. HRF highlighted this clear example of the criminalization of free speech in an article for Foreign Policy.



In the run-up to the 2013 Venezuelan elections, HRF called on the secretary-general of the Organization of American States (OAS) to promote an election observation mission and published an article in *El País*. HRF also co-authored an article in *The Atlantic* about how the Venezuelan elections were unfree and unfair. After the government-controlled National Electoral Council (CNE) declared Maduro president by a margin of 1.83% of the votes, HRF supported opposition leader Henrique Capriles' requests for a recount.



DEMOCRACY EROSION IN THE AMERICAS

Nicaraguan president Daniel Ortega

In May 2013, HRF published an article in *America's Quarterly* calling for the OAS to apply its democracy clause against presidents who disregard the rules under which they were elected to abuse their power and extend their terms indefinitely. In December 2013, HRF called on the OAS to apply the democracy clause in order to prevent further erosion of democracy in Nicaragua, where President Daniel Ortega has passed constitutional reform that seeks to allow his indefinite re-election.

In December 2013, HRF argued in *El País* and *America's Quarterly* that the dismissal of Bogotá's mayor Gustavo Petro was an example of a democratic country fighting corruption and administrative incompetence in a manner that was not in compliance with international law. In this case, HRF has urged Colombia to adhere to the rule of law and give the mayor of Bogotá his job back. The article in *El País* has been shared on Facebook more than 10,000 times, including by Petro himself on his personal page.



PELO PRO
ALCALDE 2012 - 2015

BOGOTÁ
HUMANA
Y
SUSTENTABLE

Bogotá mayor Gustavo Petro



4



THIRD COUNTRY OUTREACH



THIRD COUNTRY OUTREACH

Cuba: Supporting and Celebrating Civil Society

HRF visits and supplies technology, funds, medication, and other humanitarian aid to civil society groups in Cuba, where dissent is criminalized. Over the past year, HRF has taken individual rights work in Cuba to a new and creative dimension by producing and distributing a story and activity book for Cuban youth. The project adapted the content of HRF's highly popular human rights guide for Cubans, "Tus Derechos Humanos," into an engaging story with language, themes, illustrations, and accompanying activities suitable for children age 10 and under.

HRF is also building on its Oslo Freedom Forum Video Project in Cuba by producing and distributing more Spanish-dubbed versions of OFF speeches. Cubans gain solidarity, inspiration, context, and useful human rights knowledge from watching OFF talks, and accompanying discussion guides reinforce the themes of the videos and facilitate in-depth conversations about individual rights among Cuban citizens.



Cuban youth reading HRF's children book "La fiesta del conejito"



North Korea: Hacking the Information Monopoly

In 2013, HRF started its Disrupt North Korea project with its first trip to South Korea to learn how best to help North Korea's nascent civil society. On the trip, HRF planned to work with the 2013 Havel Prize Laureate, Park Sang Hak and his group—Fighters for a Free North Korea—to launch thousands of pro-freedom leaflets across the border using helium balloons. HRF's efforts made headlines when the North Korean regime issued warnings and publicly threatened to “slit the throats” of staff members.

Though HRF was undeterred by the regime's threats, 300 South Korean police officers physically and forcibly prevented the balloon launch. Park attempted to launch the balloons in a different location and was detained and released six hours later. He and his team covertly launched the balloons a few days after the thwarted attempt.

While in Seoul, HRF testified at the Korean National Assembly and met a half-dozen defector-led groups that work with radio and smuggling operations.



5



EXPOSING DICTATORSHIP



EXPOSING DICTATORSHIP

Authoritarian rulers commonly hire PR companies to bury evidence of human rights violations under rosy language about stability, economic growth, and commitments to help the poor. HRF is gaining traction as an authority on the subject, publishing popular articles exposing how PR companies, public figures, think tanks, and news wires support dictatorships from Bahrain to Uganda. HRF has also leveraged popular culture and celebrity power to expose dictatorship.

HRF DENOUNCED POP DIVA JENNIFER LOPEZ AFTER SHE ACCEPTED \$1.5 MILLION TO PERFORM AT A BIRTHDAY CONCERT FOR THE DICTATOR OF TURKMENISTAN.

Because of HRF's efforts, Turkmenistan's dreadful human rights situation made headlines across the world.

"JENNIFER LOPEZ SINGS FOR BRUTAL DICTATOR, SAYS SHE WOULDN'T HAVE PERFORMED IF SHE KNEW HE WAS A BRUTAL DICTATOR" – BuzzFeed



The New York Post features the Jennifer Lopez scandal on its front page

HRF condemned Kanye West's decision to travel to Central Asia to perform for the ruling family of Kazakhstan, another repressive regime whose crimes rarely make the news.

A DISCUSSION OF KAZAKHSTAN'S "HUMAN RIGHTS WASTELAND" APPEARED IN SUCH POPULAR MEDIA AS ROLLING STONE, ACCESS HOLLYWOOD, MTV NEWS, AND COMEDY CENTRAL'S "THE COLBERT REPORT."



Kanye West

After HRF reported that Mariah Carey was paid \$1 million to perform in Angola for the country's dictator, dozens of popular media outlets around the world—including "Good Morning America"—reported on human rights abuses in Angola.



Mariah Carey (center) poses with Angolan dictator Jose Eduardo dos Santos and his family



In late 2012, Halvorsen penned an open letter to the CEO of Urban Outfitters in protest of their Che Guevara merchandise. The resulting onrush of media resulted in Urban Outfitters pulling the items from their shelves.



COLLEGE
FREEDOM FORUM



COLLEGE
FREEDOM FORUM



6



EDUCATING TOMORROW'S LEADERS



EDUCATING TOMORROW'S LEADERS

HRF engages with students and involves them in human rights issues through its Oslo Scholars Program as well as its newly established Kistefos Scholars Program and the College Freedom Forum. Through the Oslo Scholars Program, OFF speakers connect with college and university students. Oslo Scholars attend the forum to meet a speaker who will serve as their mentor during a three-month summer project.

In 2012 and 2013, students from Tufts University (U.S.), the London School of Economics (U.K.), and McGill University (Canada) spent their summers gaining first-hand experience in the human rights field by working alongside speakers from Angola, Equatorial Guinea, India, Iran, Pakistan, Peru, South Korea, Singapore, Tibet, and West Papua. In its inaugural year in 2013, the Kistefos Scholars Program—funded by the investment firm Kistefos—gave five young Norwegian leaders the opportunity to attend all OFF events.

College Freedom Forum

In partnership with various colleges and universities, HRF is bringing the experience of the Oslo Freedom Forum to college campuses across the country. The College Freedom Forum (CFF) is a series of one-day events designed to educate and enlighten students about individual rights and democracy around the world. Each CFF features engaging presentations and an opportunity for students and audience members to interact with the speakers one-on-one and during a question and answer session.

In November 2013, HRF worked with the Institute for Global Leadership to hold the first College Freedom Forum at Tufts University in Boston. The event enabled nearly 200 students to hear human rights stories first-hand from activists and journalists working in Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Iran, Morocco, and North Korea. In line with our objective of bringing human rights education to younger audiences, this was the first of several CFFs that we will hold across the U.S. in the coming year, with CFF at the University of Colorado Boulder slated for March 11, 2014.



(L-R) Tutu Alicante, Marina Nemat, Hannah Song, Ahmed Benchemsi, Abeer Allam, and Thor Halvorssen



7



PARTNERING FOR GREATER IMPACT



PARTNERING FOR GREATER IMPACT



Defeating SOPA and PIPA

In January 2012, HRF joined a coalition of civil liberty groups to successfully prevent the passing of the SOPA and PIPA bills in the U.S.—overbearing copyright legislation that would have set a worrying censorship precedent for autocratic regimes.



(L-R) Thor Halvorssen, Lobsang Sangay,
and Sarah Wasserman

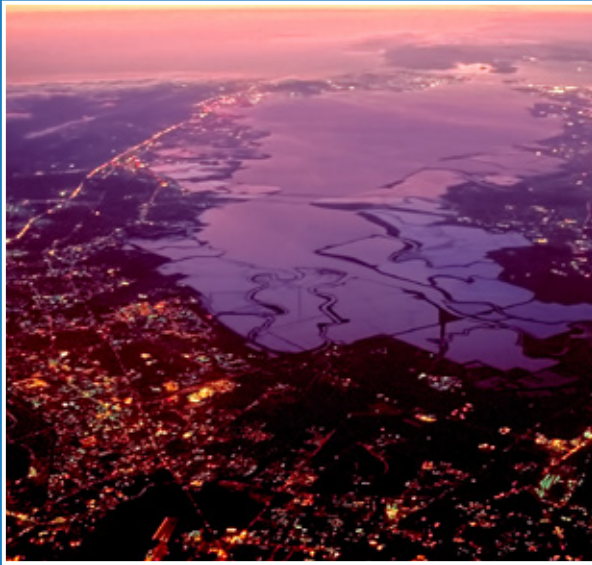
Teaming up with Silent Circle

In August 2013, HRF partnered with secure communications firm Silent Circle to provide Tibetan groups with software that allows them to evade Chinese censorship and surveillance to communicate securely with each other across the globe. This partnership is the first to provide secure communications for whistleblowers, activists, and dissidents.



“THESE GROUPS NOW HAVE ACCESS TO CONSUMER TECHNOLOGY THAT PUTS THEM ON AN EQUAL FOOTING WITH GOVERNMENTS. BITS AND BYTES MIGHT NOT STAND UP TO BOMBS AND BULLETS, BUT THIS HELPS TO LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD.”

– GCN

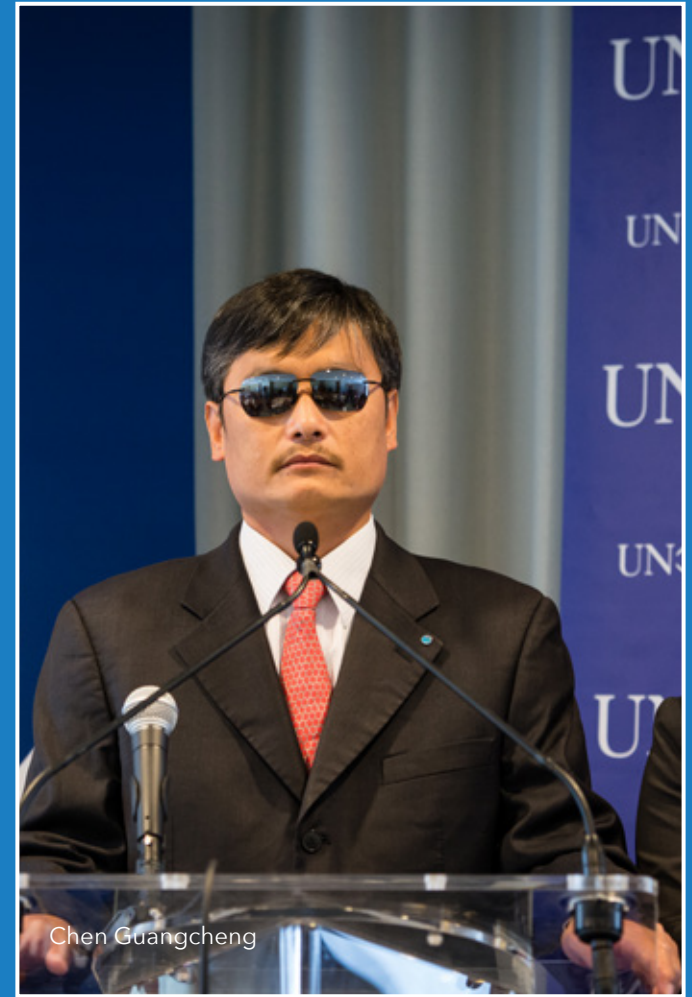


Engaging Silicon Valley with Human Rights

In September 2013, HRF organized a meeting of San Francisco Bay Area tech leaders and dissidents for a discussion on technology and liberty. HRF plans to continue this engagement with Silicon Valley in the coming year.

Unmasking Hypocrisy at the United Nations Human Rights Council

Each fall, during the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) elections, HRF hosts a counter-event with human rights advocates to denounce the admission of states with documented rights abuses. In 2012 and 2013, HRF collaborated with Geneva-based UN Watch in New York to spotlight the irony of the Kazakhstani, Pakistani, Venezuelan, Chinese, Cuba, Russian, and Saudi governments joining the United Nations Human Rights Council. Testimonies of activists from each of the countries were featured in outlets such as Bloomberg News, The New York Times, and the Spanish newswire service EFE.



“ONCE THEY GAIN MEMBERSHIP, REPRESSIVE STATES USE THE COUNCIL TO CRAFT ORWELLIAN RESOLUTIONS THAT SEEK TO PROTECT THEIR POLITICAL CONTROL UNDER THE BANNERS OF NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND INTERNATIONAL RESPECT.” – New York Times



8



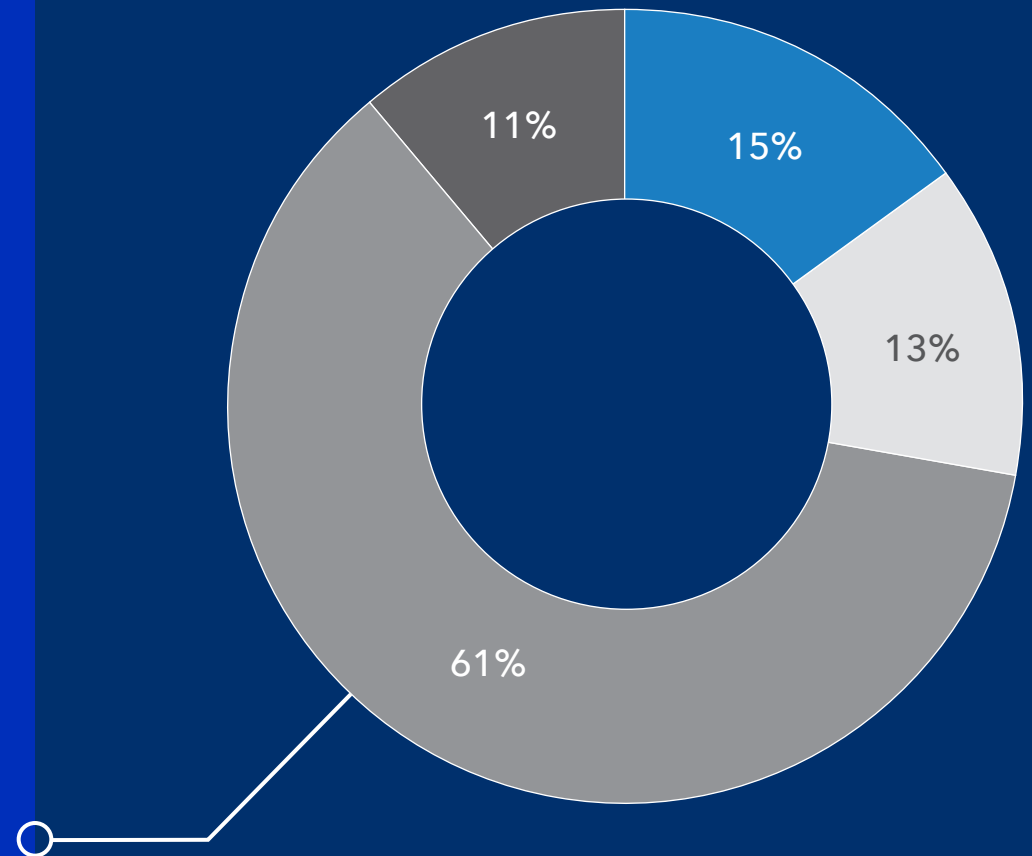
FINANCIAL REPORT



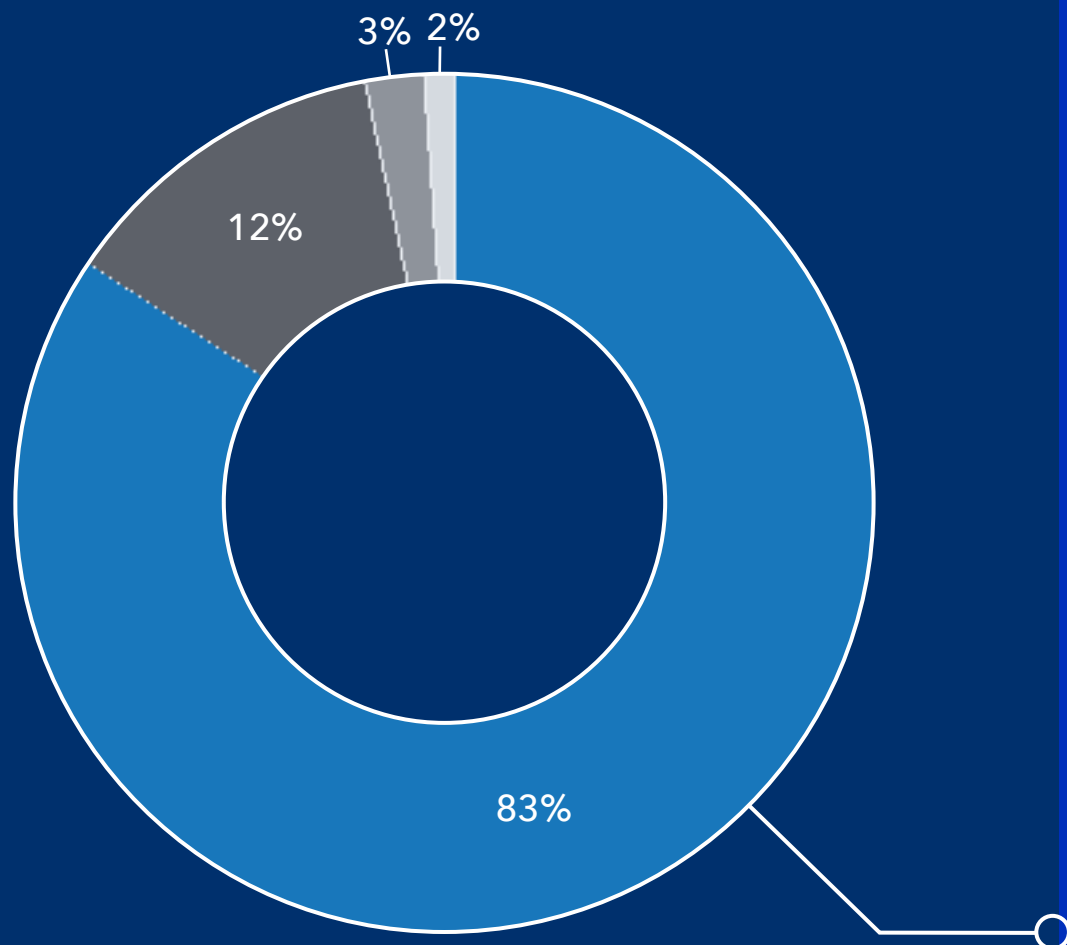
FINANCIAL REPORT

2012 INCOME

INDIVIDUALS	\$485,677
FOUNDATIONS	\$422,692
PROJECT DONATIONS	\$2,047,463
*FUNDS TO NORWEGIAN ACCOUNT	\$379,494
<hr/>	
TOTAL	\$3,335,326



2012 EXPENSES



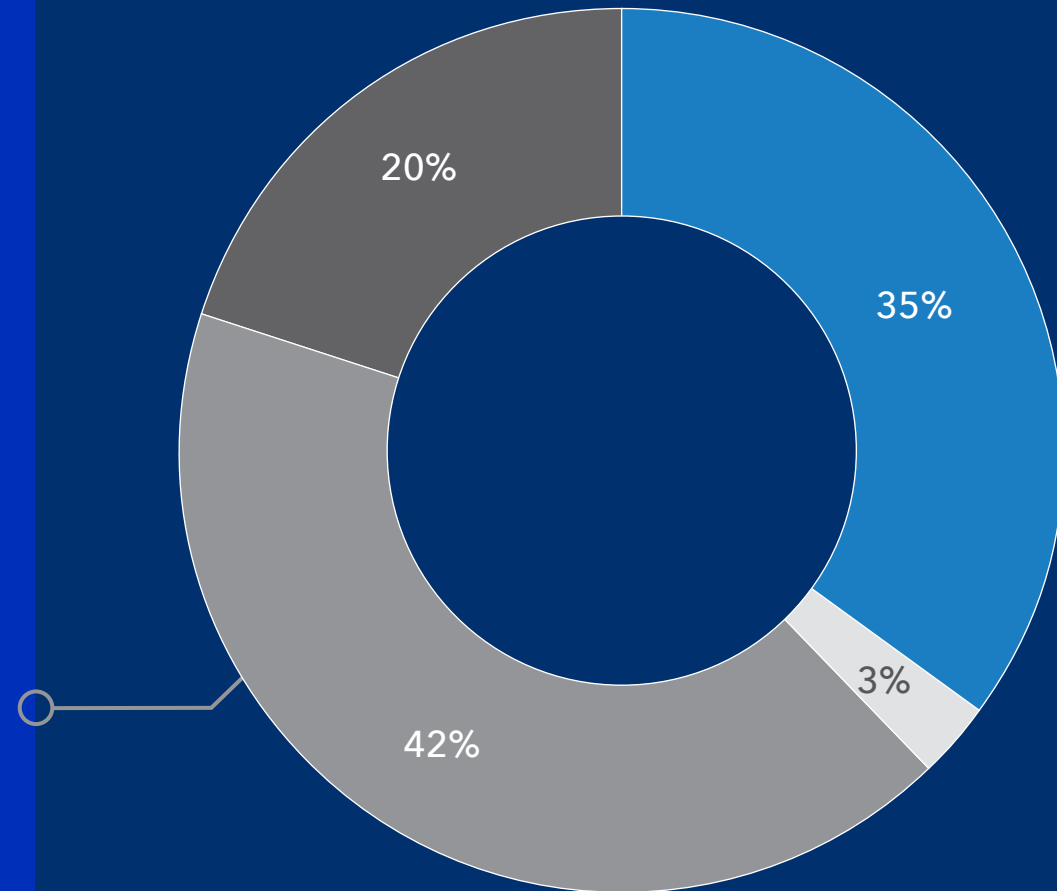
PROGRAM	\$2,179,612
*PROGRAMMATIC EXPENSES FROM NORWEGIAN ACCOUNT	\$319,494
ADMINISTRATION	\$73,843
DEVELOPMENT	\$47,474
<hr/>	
TOTAL	\$2,620,423

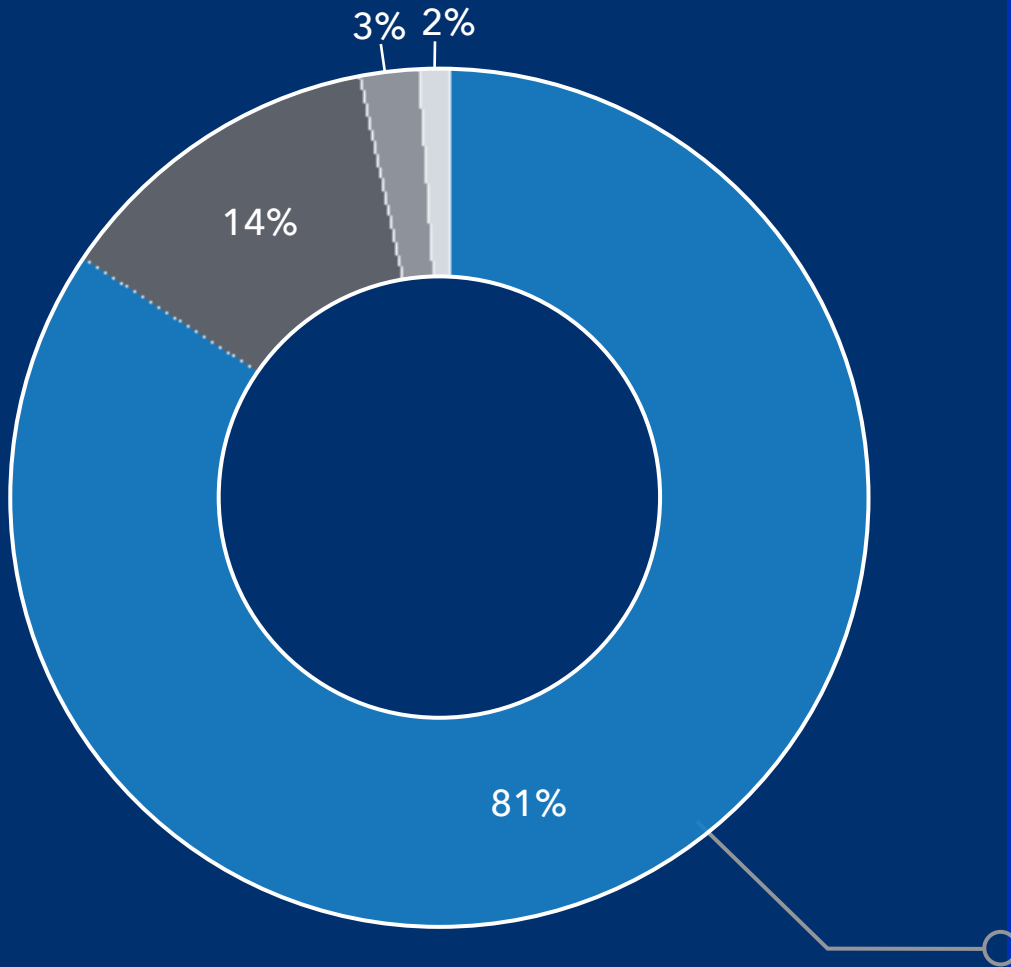
*Funds donated to the Norwegian account are used for programmatic expenses for the Oslo Freedom Forum and do not appear in HRF's audited financial statements



2013 INCOME

INDIVIDUALS	\$827,595
FOUNDATIONS	\$75,054
PROJECT DONATIONS	\$990,127
*FUNDS TO NORWEGIAN ACCOUNT	\$490,000
<hr/>	
TOTAL	\$2,382,776





2013 EXPENSES

PROGRAM	\$2,043,336
*PROGRAMMATIC EXPENSES FROM NORWEGIAN ACCOUNT	\$343,659
ADMINISTRATION	\$78,102
DEVELOPMENT	\$51,528
<hr/>	
TOTAL	\$2,516,625

*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



9



STAFF & BOARD



STAFF & BOARD

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL, DIRECTORS, & ADVISORS

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Garry Kasparov

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Sarah Wasserman

President & CEO:

Thor Halvorssen

In Memoriam:

Václav Havel, Chairman (1936-2011)

James Q. Wilson (1931-2011)

STAFF

Javier El-Hage

INTERNATIONAL LEGAL DIRECTOR

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. His writing and views have appeared in America's Quarterly, CNN, El Pais, Forbes, Foreign Policy, Fox News, and Wired. 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.

Sandra Germaine

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

Sandra joins HRF with ten years of experience in business administration across various industries. She received her B.A. in political science and philosophy as well as an MBA from Loyola Marymount University.

Alex Gladstein

DIRECTOR OF INSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Alex is the director of institutional affairs at HRF, focusing on media and development. He has concurrently served as vice president of strategy for the Oslo Freedom Forum since its inception in 2009. Alex's writing and views on dissidents and dictators have appeared in TIME, The Atlantic, BBC World, Vice, Forbes, ABC, Pitchfork, Foreign Policy, Ars Technica, NBC, and Rolling Stone. Before joining HRF, he served in the office of a shadow foreign secretary in the British Parliament. Alex is a magna cum laude graduate of Tufts University, where he majored in international relations and Middle Eastern studies.





STAFF & BOARD

STAFF

Roberto Gonzalez

LEGAL ASSOCIATE

Roberto is a Guatemalan attorney and cum laude graduate from Rafael Landívar University, where he earned an LL.B. His interest for human rights began as an undergraduate in 2010, when he was awarded first place in a human rights moot court competition. As part of the legal department, Roberto's research focuses on the universal, European, and inter-American human rights systems. Last year, he was part of the Program of Advanced Studies on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law at the Washington College of Law.

Thor Halvorsen

PRESIDENT & 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. 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.

Jamie Hancock

PROGRAM & DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Jamie joined HRF after completing her M.A. in international politics and business at New York University, where her thesis focused on the erosion of press freedom in Latin America. She also holds a bachelor's degree with a double major in international political economy and Spanish language and literature from the University of California at Berkeley.

Jacob Høi Jensen

PROGRAM OFFICER

Jacob graduated with honors from Eugene Lang Liberal Arts College in New York City, where he studied history. His studies focused mainly on modern European history, especially the development of the Danish welfare state. Originally from Copenhagen, Denmark, Jacob has spent the last six years in the United States.

John Lechner

PROGRAM AND DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT

John is a graduate of Syracuse University, where he studied international affairs and economics. He held two summer internships with HRF before beginning a full time position in the summer of 2013. Born in Stavanger, Norway, he spent his formative years overseas and hails from Houston, Texas.

Sarah E. Parker

SENIOR PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Sarah began working with HRF in 2008, after receiving a B.A. from Duke University, where she studied Latin American history, culture, and politics, with a concentration in human rights.





STAFF & BOARD

STAFF

Centa Rek

RESEARCHER

Centa is a Bolivian attorney and cum laude graduate from Santa Cruz Private University, where she earned an LL.B. and an LL.M. She began collaborating with HRF in 2010, while working as a legal counsel in the oil and gas industry. Centa has co-authored several international human rights law reports.

Jessica Tirado-McKinney

PROGRAM AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Jessica holds a master's degree in international affairs with a focus on human rights from New York University, and a bachelor's in political science and sociology from the State University of New York at New Paltz. She has previously worked for the International Rescue Committee, coordinating capacity-strengthening projects in five countries. Jessica has also worked in field settings with several local NGOs, including documenting human rights violations against children along the Burma-Thailand border, monitoring caste-based

human rights abuses in Nepal, and supporting micro-enterprise business development in Rwanda.

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 HRF; 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 special needs children with dance therapy. She graduated from Brown University with a concentration in international relations, focusing her studies on Latin America.

INTERNS

Felipe Campoamor

Summer 2013

Seacrest Country Day High School

Tripp Odom

Spring 2012

Columbia University, B.A. East Asian Language and Culture

Caroline Shang

Spring 2013

Columbia University, B.S. Biomedical Engineering

Melissa Sirola

Fall 2013

Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University, B.A. Psychology

Ekaterina Teteryatnikova

Spring 2012

City University of New York, M.A. Liberal Studies

Columbia University, B.A. Psychology

Yazhen Wang

Summer 2013

New York University, M.A. International Relations

Beijing Foreign Studies University, B.A. Diplomacy





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oslofreedomforum.com

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Google+: <http://plus.google.com/+oslofreedomforum>