



HUMAN RIGHTS FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT

2017

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

Letter from the President	1
Letter from the Chairman	2
Mission	3

GLOBAL GUIDES FOR YOUR HUMAN RIGHTS

WORLDWIDE LEGAL ADVOCACY

Center for Law and Democracy	12
Legal Casework	14
Free Speech Unlimited	15
Political Advocacy	17
Political Regime Classification	18

TECHNOLOGY AND LIBERTY

DISRUPT NORTH KOREA

Flash Drives for Freedom	22
Collaborations with Defectors	26

OSLO FREEDOM FORUM

2017 Oslo Freedom Forum	28
Oslo Freedom Forum in New York	32

EDUCATIONAL WORK

College Freedom Forum	44
Oslo Scholars	46
Internships	48

POPULARIZING HUMAN RIGHTS

Vaclav Havel International Prize For Creative Dissent	50
Art In Protest	52
Fashion For Freedom	57
DEAR LEADER's Freedom Collection	58
Wear Your Values	59
The Russia Download	60
2017 Media Impact	62
Exposing Supporters of Tyranny	64

ABOUT HRF

HRF Staff	70
Board and International Council	72
Financial Report	78
How to Get Involved	80

INTRODUCTION

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

On September 26, the King of Saudi Arabia signed a royal decree granting women the “right” to drive. The kingdom was one of the last governments in the world to enforce a ban on female drivers. Courageous activists like Manal al-Sharif, leader of the Women2Drive campaign, played a decisive role in pressuring the government to change its policy.

HRF has supported Manal’s work even before she was well known. We began by giving her a platform at our Oslo Freedom Forum to talk about how women are treated like slaves in her country, and she told us about her dream for Saudi women to one day be able to drive. As she often says, “the rain starts with a single drop,” and in her view, the right to drive is one step toward full political freedom.

The attention Manal received through HRF led to many new opportunities: main-stage talks at the Oslo Freedom Forum and TED that attracted millions of views; fellowships and prizes; an opportunity to write a memoir, “Daring to Drive,” which was chosen by Oprah as her top summer read; and most recently, the Saturday profile in The New York Times.

Manal exemplifies the kind of individual that HRF supports and her victory is the kind of achievement that we view as significant, measurable impact. With the help of our global network, our full-time team of 18 is able to make a similar or even bigger impact than much larger organizations.

HRF provides critical financial support, media attention, international legal assistance, and new tools and partnerships to dissidents and journalists at risk. We bring the struggle for freedom into the conversations of millions of people. And we encourage and force the world’s establishment to act.

In 2017, our advocacy helped liberate activists from prison and trigger action from governments, regional courts, and U.N. bodies. We took the cases of prisoners of conscience in countries such as Cuba, Egypt, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, Vietnam, and Zimbabwe. At the annual Oslo Freedom Forum and the first-ever Oslo Freedom Forum in New York, we forged crucial connections between



dissidents and industry leaders from philanthropy, politics, academia, business, media, and more, to bring their work to new heights. And we’ve brought the civil liberties conversation into new industries, including fashion, impact investing, and emerging technologies like artificial intelligence and blockchain.

By supporting our work, you have enabled us to take a notion that hasn’t been very popular — the struggle against authoritarianism — and make it a truly global movement. As you read about what we accomplished in 2017, please know we are grateful for your role. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Thor Halvorssen
President and CEO
Human Rights Foundation

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

perpetual motion was mostly the result of rising interest in my areas of interest: Russia, human rights, and human-machine collaboration. At HRF, we focused on growing the community of activists and industry leaders committed to defending democracy. We hosted our first New York City edition of the Oslo Freedom Forum, celebrating the work of dissidents against authoritarianism around the world.

In February, my book “Deep Thinking” was published by PublicAffairs. It focuses on the human-machine relationship, grounded in my own experiences. It was timed for the 20th anniversary of my famous rematch with the IBM super-computer Deep Blue in 1997, but it turned out to be ideally timed for the huge wave of interest and real-world impact of artificial intelligence — or, as is more accurate in many cases, augmented intelligence.

In my TED Talk and at DefCon I spoke about the need for more tech disruption, not less, so that we can stay ahead of our machines by coming up with more challenges, more things we don’t know how to do. I also used these opportunities to bring the tech community into the struggle for human rights. HRF’s new Tech and Liberty program recognizes that tech isn’t good or evil, but agnostic, and there will always be threats and arguments about right and wrong. The goal is to keep having this conversation and to thereby create better humans, not just smarter machines.

This year of hard work has taught us many hard lessons. Let 2018 be the year we apply them.

Sincerely,

Garry Kasparov
Chairman
Human Rights Foundation



The conventional wisdom is that 2017 was a tumultuous year, an annus horribilis full of scandals, disasters, and a negative trend that we can only hope to reverse in 2018. It’s not just my contrarian nature that makes me want to push back against this dismal narrative. I am not going to deny there have been many challenges and outright disasters in the past year, of course. After all, the first step in making things better is to make an honest evaluation. There are, however, plenty of silver linings to be found, as well as some inarguably positive developments.

I’m optimistic because there is no benefit to being otherwise! Believing in positive change, and taking action to create it, is how we get others to accompany our efforts and make it real. This is also true in tech, where I believe strongly in the self-fulfilling prophecy of our innovations like artificial intelligence. If we believe things will go well, we are more likely to invest in the future and take more risks — exactly the behavior that makes things go well!

2017 was a very full year for me professionally and personally. I logged a record number of hours in the air, which is quite something considering how much I always travel. This

MISSION

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 FOCUS OUR WORK ON THE FOUNDING IDEALS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT, THOSE MOST PURELY REPRESENTED IN THE 1976 INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS (ICCPR).

HRF BELIEVES THAT ALL HUMAN BEINGS ARE ENTITLED TO:

FREEDOM OF SELF-DETERMINATION

FREEDOM FROM ARBITRARY DETAINMENT OR EXILE

FREEDOM FROM INTERFERENCE AND COERCION
IN MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE

FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION

FREEDOM FROM SLAVERY AND TORTURE

THE RIGHT TO WORSHIP IN THE MANNER OF THEIR CHOOSING

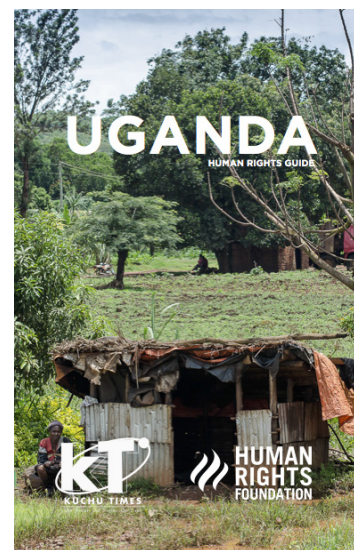
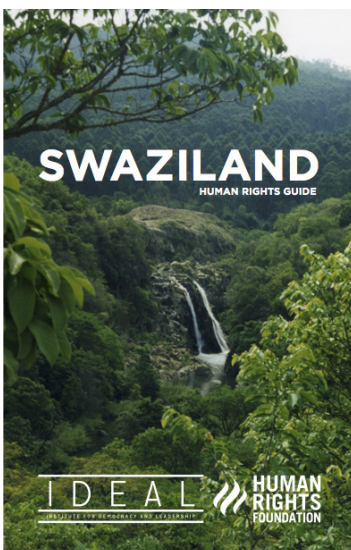
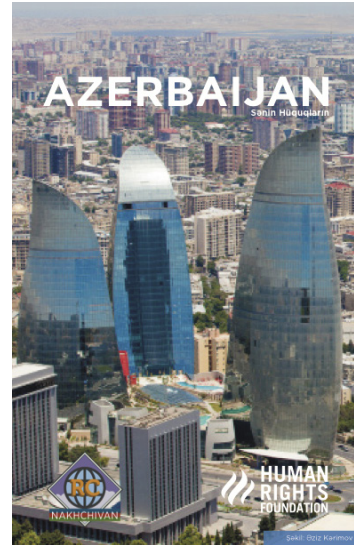
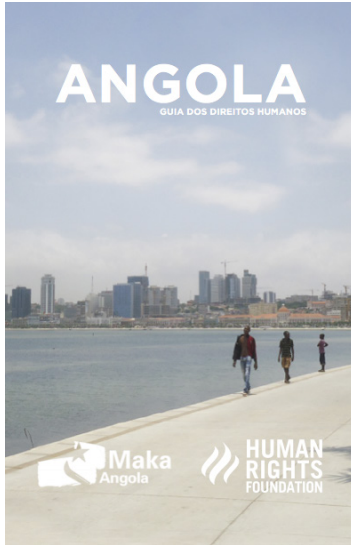
THE RIGHT TO ACQUIRE AND DISPOSE OF PROPERTY

THE RIGHT TO EQUAL TREATMENT AND DUE
PROCESS UNDER LAW

THE RIGHT TO LEAVE AND ENTER THEIR COUNTRY

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

GLOBAL GUIDES FOR HUMAN RIGHTS



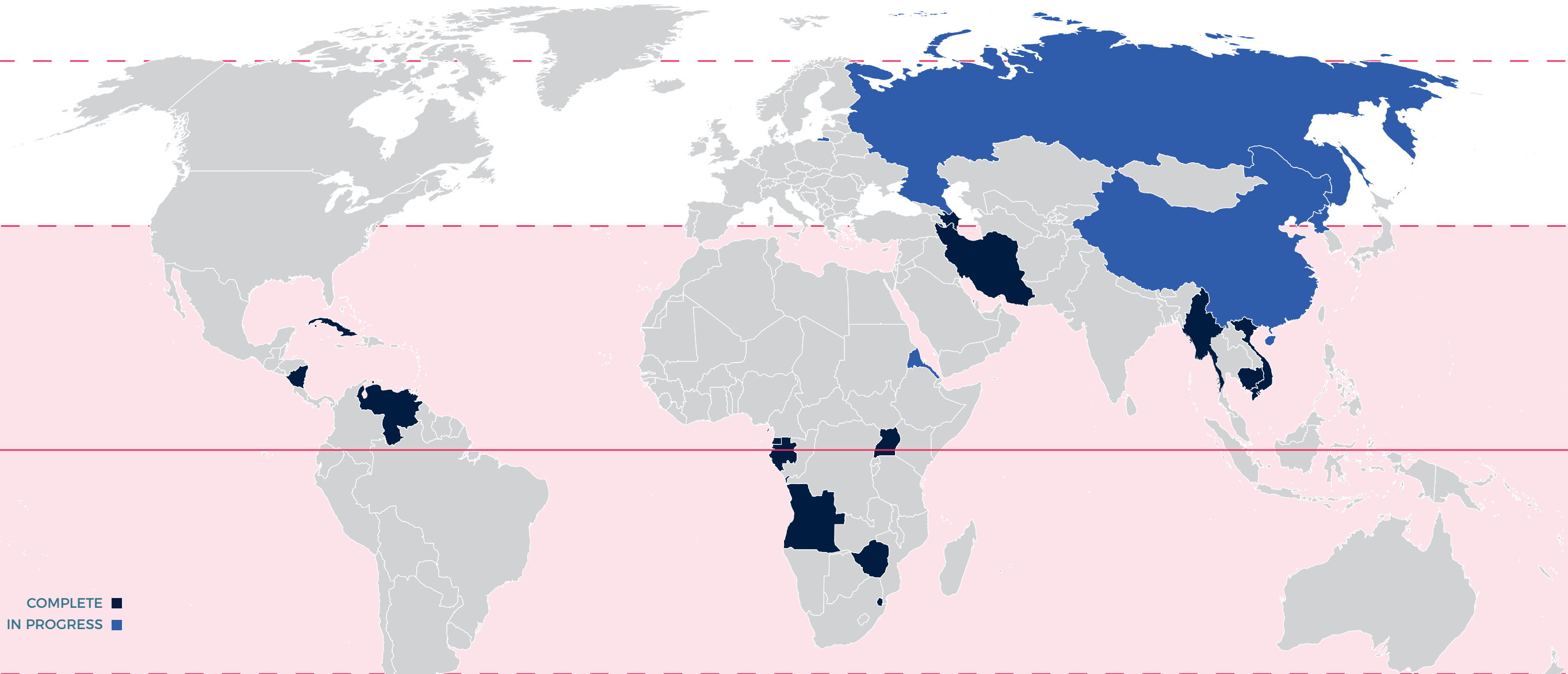
GLOBAL GUIDES FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

YOUR HUMAN RIGHTS GUIDES ARE TAILORED FOR LOCAL AUDIENCES AND WRITTEN IN LOCAL LANGUAGES TO GIVE PERSONS LIVING IN CLOSED SOCIETIES CRUCIAL INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS, INCLUDING FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY, FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, AND PRIVACY

The guides include simple explanations, aided by pictures and examples, to illustrate rights violations. Each guide is written and curated in collaboration with local NGOs and civil society leaders, and contains key information on cultural context and regional laws.

In 2017, HRF expanded this unique program by creating and distributing guides in Zimbabwe, Nicaragua, Equatorial Guinea, and Cambodia, bringing the total number of countries reached by HRF to 14. Our goal is nothing less than one guide for every dictatorship and competitive authoritarian state.

GLOBAL GUIDES AROUND THE WORLD



CUBA
2007 - Spanish

VENEZUELA
2011 - Spanish

GABON
2016 - French

SWAZILAND
2016 - English

UGANDA
2016 - English

AZERBAIJAN
2016 - Azeri

IRAN
2016 - Farsi

VIETNAM
2016 - Vietnamese

ANGOLA
2016 - Portuguese

BURMA
2016 - Burmese
2017 - Rohingya
2018 - Karen (in progress)

ZIMBABWE
2017 - English

NICARAGUA
2017 - Spanish

EQUATORIAL GUINEA
2016 - French

CAMBODIA
2017 - Khmer

ERITREA
2018 - Tigrinya / Tigre

RUSSIA
2018 - Russian

CHINA
2018 - Mandarin

BAHRAIN
2018 - Arabic

NORTH KOREA
2018 - Korean

**WORLDWIDE
LEGAL
ADVOCACY**

CENTER FOR LAW AND DEMOCRACY



The United Nations Security Council chambers. ▲

HRF's Center for Law and Democracy engages in legal advocacy and promotes legal scholarship in comparative constitutional law and international law. Spearheaded by a full-time team of five international lawyers, HRF's analysis and advocacy work in 2017 continued to focus on those who are not able to legally protest or criticize their governments. In 2017, HRF authored four successful appeals to the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary

Detention. HRF's U.N. cases have had a 100% success rate. Every case HRF has presented at the UNWGAD has resulted in the defeat of a dictatorship. Beyond the U.N., HRF has raised awareness on 192 cases of human rights abuse, provided expertise at international conferences, and brought the stories behind dozens and dozens of cases into news outlets including CNN, The Los Angeles Times, Spain's El País, and more.

LEGAL CASEWORK

HRF'S LEGAL TEAM REPRESENTS DISSIDENTS SUFFERING UNDER DICTATORIAL REGIMES BEFORE INTERNATIONAL JUDICIAL AND SEMI-JUDICIAL BODIES ON A PRO BONO BASIS

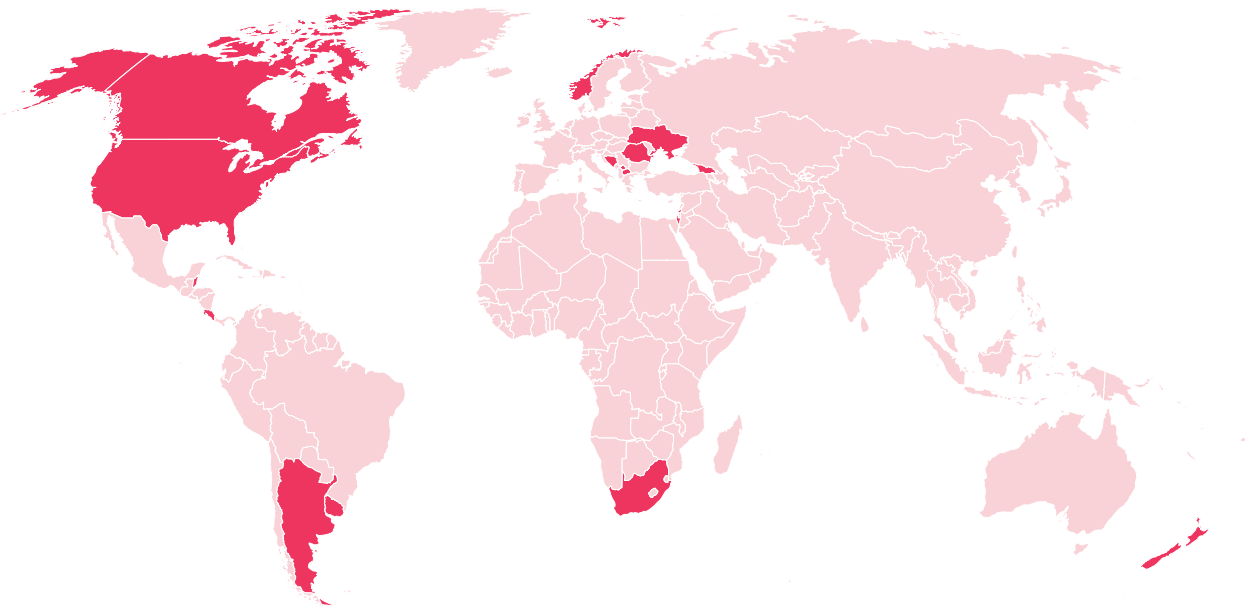
In 2017, HRF filed and won four cases before the U.N. Working Group on Arbitrary Detention on behalf of high profile dissidents in Zimbabwe, Turkmenistan, Egypt, and Cuba. At the end of each litigation, the Working Group found in favor of HRF's claims and issued long legal opinions declaring that the detentions in question had been arbitrary and in violation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The cases won by HRF set important precedents protecting individual rights in closed societies, and can help future democratic governments in these countries determine how best to offer reparations to thousands of victims. The decisions also expose the unlawful actions of tyrants and increase the pressure on dictatorships to release political prisoners.

In April 2017, HRF's legal team submitted an amicus curiae brief before the European Court of Human Rights on behalf of a dissident in Azerbaijan. The dissident was first convicted after allegations were made that she had participated in a video where she danced while mocking the government of Azerbaijan. The European Court's ruling is still pending and we expect it in the first half of 2018.

Aside from these high-profile findings, HRF's Center for Law and Democracy also issued more than sixty position statements criticizing authoritarian regimes for their abuses, and drawing attention to more than 190 cases that often go unreported or underreported. These included condemnations of the persecution of minority groups in Chechnya, deeming the mass killings of Rohingya in Burma a "genocide," and rallying support for jailed democracy leaders in Cuba.

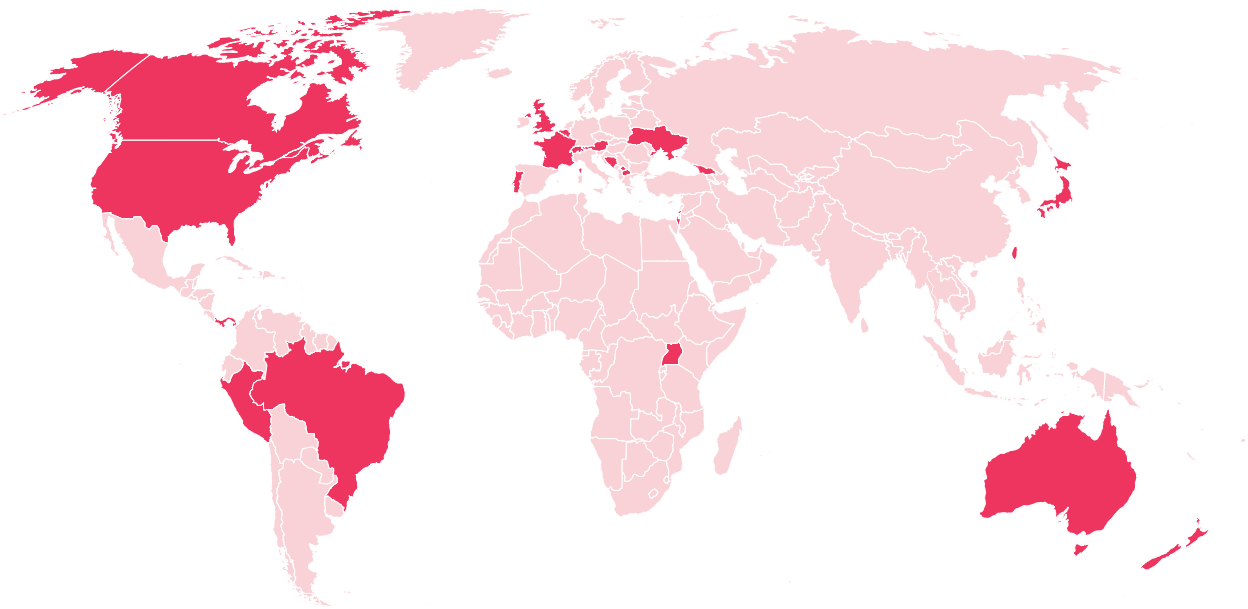
INTERNATIONAL LAW ON INCITEMENT

COMPLIANT ■
NON-COMPLIANT ■



INTERNATIONAL LAW ON OFFICIAL DEFAMATION

COMPLIANT ■
NON-COMPLIANT ■



EVAN MAWARIRE



Evan Mawarire, the leader of the #ThisFlag protest movement, is on Free Speech Unlimited's website as the illustrative case from Zimbabwe. After Mawarire was arbitrarily arrested in February 2017, HRF filed an individual complaint to the U.N. on his behalf, and continued to update the U.N. on his case after he was arrested again in September 2017. In November 2017, the U.N. ruled, in response to an HRF legal petition, that Mawarire had indeed been arrested arbitrarily, violating his rights to free expression and peaceful assembly, and urged the Zimbabwean government to compensate him for his wrongful imprisonment. Evan Mawarire became a member of HRF's community of activists, spoke at the Oslo Freedom Forum in May 2017, and played a leading role in Zimbabwe's peaceful protests against Robert Mugabe in December 2017.

FREE SPEECH UNLIMITED

Free Speech Unlimited is a legal research project that analyzes domestic legal systems from countries around the world and assesses their compliance with international law's most protective standards for the right to freedom of expression.

In 2017, HRF found that its assessment of free speech laws around the world corroborated the hypothesis that differences in the enforcement of official defamation and incitement laws correlate to regime type. In other words, there is a noticeable and informative difference between fully liberal democratic, competitive authoritarian, and fully authoritarian regimes (see page 19 for more information).

Throughout the year, HRF also continued to update and improve an online, interactive map that makes the findings of Free Speech Unlimited available to the general public, to academics, and, most importantly, to activists that can benefit from knowing how their countries adjudicate free speech cases. The website is projected to be a permanent educational resource that allows users to collaborate to update the map's information on international and domestic laws in the world's 193 countries. Free Speech Unlimited has also brought cases to HRF's attention, leading our lawyers to provide crucial legal aid to arbitrarily imprisoned dissidents around the world.

Center for Law and Democracy lawyers also used the research from Free Speech Unlimited to provide expertise on panels at conferences in Brussels, Prague, Washington, D.C., and New York City. In July, at the New York City Bar Association, HRF Chief Legal Officer Javier El-Hage gave a presentation on the global persecution of judges and lawyers in places from Cuba to Saudi Arabia.

POLITICAL ADVOCACY

HRF CHAIRMAN GARRY KASPAROV AND PRESIDENT THOR HALVORSSEN PROVIDED TESTIMONIES TO THE U.S. CONGRESS IN 2017

Both used the opportunity to draw attention to the scourge of authoritarianism, urging members of congress to promote the rights of individuals living under dictatorship.

During his testimony before the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, Kasparov stated:

“People living under dictatorships want the opportunity for freedom, the opportunity to live in peace and to follow their dreams.” From the “Arab Spring to the current battles for liberty from Venezuela to Eastern Ukraine, people are fighting for that opportunity, giving up their lives for freedom.”

A few months later, Halvorssen spoke to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary about the Washington-based firm Fusion GPS. Halvorssen described the firm’s work on behalf of criminals from the Venezuelan regime whereby Fusion GPS organized a wide-ranging smear campaign against several journalists and whistleblowers trying to draw attention to corruption in Venezuela.

Halvorssen’s testimony attracted wide-ranging media coverage everywhere from Business Insider to The New York Post, and numerous appearances on national television, including “Tucker Carlson Tonight,” the highest rated cable news show, with 2.5 million viewers.

Garry Kasparov addresses U.S. Congress on the importance of U.S. leadership in the fight for democracy. ▶



DEFINING REGIME TYPE

DEMOCRATIC REGIMES largely respect the rule of law and the separation of powers. They allow citizens to exercise their civil and political rights vibrantly in a context of electoral competition. As a result, among the pillars of liberal democracy are the respect for freedom of speech and the freedom of the press; free and fair elections; an independent judiciary; and a civil society that is not afraid to criticize the government and participate in politics.

COMPETITIVE AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES have judiciaries that are controlled tightly by the executive branch, so their authoritarian rulers get away with asphyxiating civil society, usually through the curtailment of independent media, opposition political parties and government criticism. This results in an uneven yet periodic political contest between the regime and beleaguered opposition forces where it becomes harder and harder for power to change hands democratically.

FULLY AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES are the stereotypical dictatorships that monopolize political life and impose decisions by force. Under these regimes, there is no degree of true electoral competition. True elections in dictatorships are nonexistent. Single-party façade electoral contests might be held, or the regime might allow parties that do not represent authentic opposition to participate.

POLITICAL REGIME CLASSIFICATION

IN ORDER TO FULFILL OUR MISSION TO PROMOTE FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY “WITH A FOCUS ON CLOSED SOCIETIES,” HRF’S CENTER FOR LAW AND DEMOCRACY HAS DEVELOPED A CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM TO CATEGORIZE ALL COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD INTO DEMOCRATIC, COMPETITIVE AUTHORITARIAN, AND FULLY AUTHORITARIAN STATES

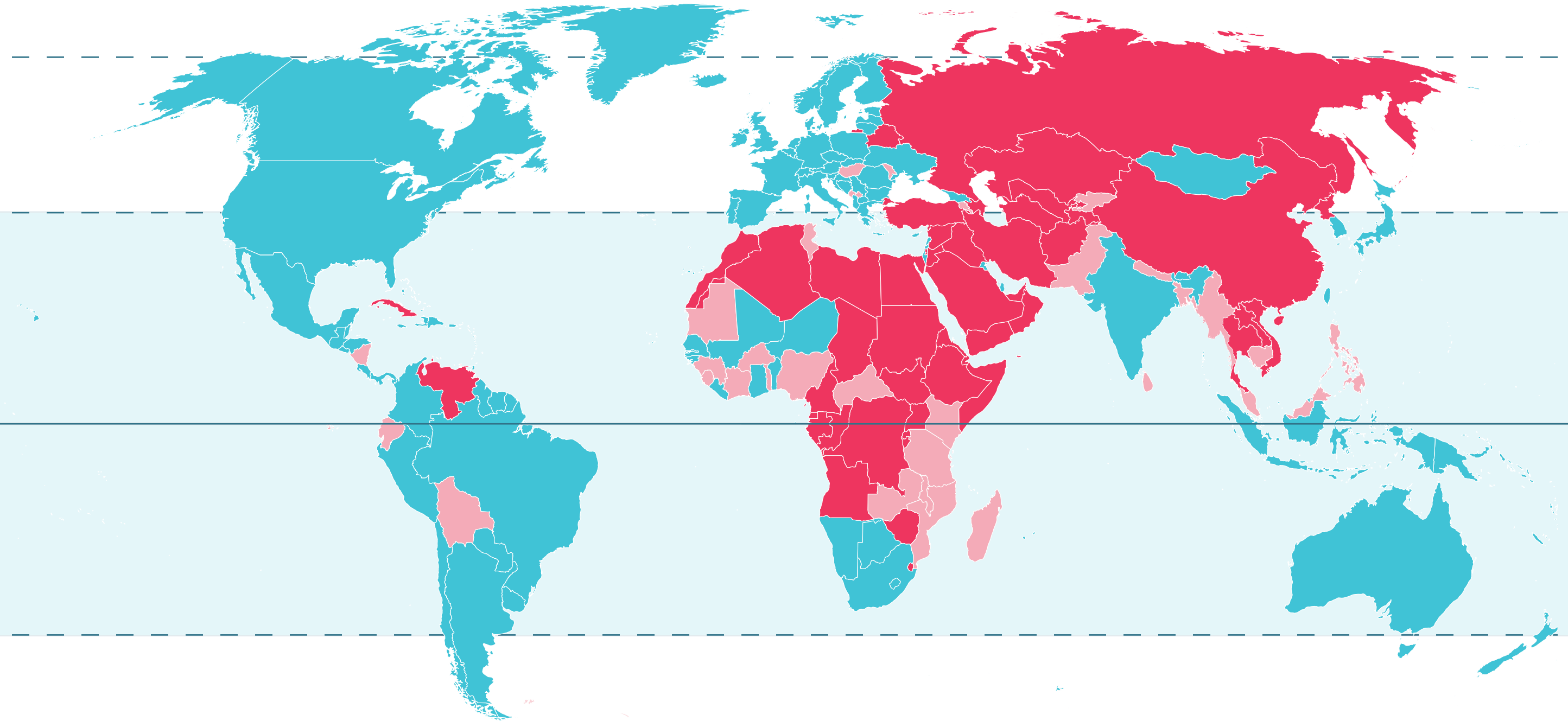
The research project, which takes its lead from definitions provided by Harvard University Professor Steven Levitsky and Toronto University professor Lucan A. Way, is in its early stages and has not yet been published, but its initial findings have allowed HRF to prove that authoritarianism affects more than half of humanity, making it perhaps the greatest challenge facing the world today.

According to HRF’s numbers, the world currently has 109 democratic regimes, which account for just 47% of the world’s population, or over 3.5 billion people; 40 competitive authoritarian regimes, which account for 16% or almost 1.2 billion people; and 53 full-fledged dictatorships, which account for 37% or 2.8 billion people.

HRF’s political regime classification project started as a document for internal use, but more recently has drawn wider attention from academics and news outlets like The Economist and The Los Angeles Times. In the future, HRF hopes to develop the project into a more comprehensive index that can serve as a tool for consultation by academics and activists around the world. (Our ideal would be to subject the index to quarterly review.)

POLITICAL REGIME MAP

FULLY AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES ■ 37% (53 COUNTRIES) - 2.8 BILLION PEOPLE
COMPETITIVE AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES ■ 16% (40 COUNTRIES) - 1.2 BILLION PEOPLE
DEMOCRATIC REGIMES ■ 47% (109 COUNTRIES) - 3.5 BILLION PEOPLE
(SEE PAGE 19 FOR REGIME TYPE DEFINITIONS.)



TECHNOLOGY & LIBERTY

TECHNOLOGY & LIBERTY

HRF's Tech and Liberty program connects technologists to activists, giving them the skills and resources they need to advance their work and protect themselves online. Much as scientists played a key role as thought leaders bringing about the collapse of the Soviet Union, technologists are essential to challenging authoritarian regimes today.

In 2017, HRF collaborated with tech leaders in workshops and on panels at prominent technology conferences around the world. In particular, HRF worked with Silicon Valley's think tank Singularity University (SU), a powerful community of technologists who aim to solve humankind's biggest problems. HRF moderated a panel on citizen-driven innovation at SU's flagship event in San Francisco, and was able to introduce a handful of activists to some of the world's top minds at SU's Global Solutions Program at their NASA campus in Mountain View. HRF Chief Strategy Officer Alex Gladstein spoke at SU's South Africa Summit, giving him the opportunity to tell 1,300 business leaders about the role technology can play in the human rights movement.

Similarly, HRF brought human rights issues to the Mozilla Festival, the WIRED Business Conference, Blockchain for Social Impact, events at Silicon Valley Bank, Sneakercon, and more. HRF organized a hackathon at Still Hacking Anyway and led a panel during Oslo Innovation Week on how emerging technology can advance freedom. HRF leaders Garry Kasparov and Thor Halvorssen addressed technologists in keynote speeches at DEF CON, SXSW, and TEDx events, among others.

Meanwhile, HRF has built upon relationships with tech companies like Google and Twitter by introducing them to activists at Oslo Freedom Forum events. At our Tech Labs, organizations like Twitter, the Bitfury Group, ConsenSys, Yubico, the Electronic Frontier Foundation, Sourcefabric, and more hosted hands-on workshop sessions on best practices for activists, and offered advice to attendees at expo-style booths.

Through these interactions and collaborations, HRF is focusing the tech world's attention on the struggle for freedom and ensuring that its key players are paying attention to civil liberties as they design our future society.

Cuban activist Rosa María Payá gives an interview with Reason TV on the SXSW trade show floor. / HRF's Alex Gladstein speaks on stage at Singularity University's Global Summit in South Africa to bring technologists into human rights advocacy. ▼



HRF hosts an event on technology and activism for members of Singularity University, a Silicon Valley think tank. / Activists from Afghanistan, Cuba, Eritrea, and Syria participate in a public panel at SXSW 2017. ▼



ROYA MAHBOOB



Afghan tech CEO Roya Mahboob first spoke at the Oslo Freedom Forum two years ago. Since then, HRF has connected her to a major technology company, which invited her this summer to an exclusive retreat on Necker Island run by Sir Richard Branson. There, Roya had the opportunity to privately pitch her ideas to Sir Richard and his team, and is now working with them to expand her work to educate girls in closed societies.

DISRUPT NORTH KOREA

FLASH DRIVES FOR FREEDOM

The North Korean dictatorship maintains its hold on power by tightly controlling the flow of information into the country, keeping its population in the dark about current events and world history. Flash Drives for Freedom is an HRF program that aims to counter the Kim regime's censorship by collecting flash drives; filling them with media, educational materials, and information; and sending them into North Korea.

In 2017, HRF obtained more than 100,000 flash drives and will finish sending them into the country in 2018. This presents enormous growth from 2016, when no more than 10,000 flash drives were sent into North Korea by HRF and other organizations.

When North Korean citizens gain access to knowledge from the outside world, it can lead them to question Kim Jong-un's leadership. An estimated 1.1 million North Koreans have viewed media and books sent into the country by flash drive. Flash drives have brought 48 million hours of reading materials and 2 million hours of footage past censors. By increasing the sheer number of flash drives in North Korea, HRF aims to flood the market and make foreign materials more accessible to any North Korean that wants them.

In 2017, Flash Drives for Freedom traveled to conferences around the world, introducing human rights concerns in North Korea to new people in diverse industries. The campaign traveled to SXSW in Austin, Texas; RightsCon in Brussels, Belgium; The Guardian's Changing Media Summit in London, England; Accelerate Good Global in San Francisco, California; DEF CON in Las Vegas, Nevada; and more. HRF has also presented its North Korea work during seminars at Cornell University and St. Louis University, and through a series of presentations to social clubs in San Diego, Los Angeles, Phoenix, and Seattle.

▼ Flash Drives for Freedom's interactive exhibit.



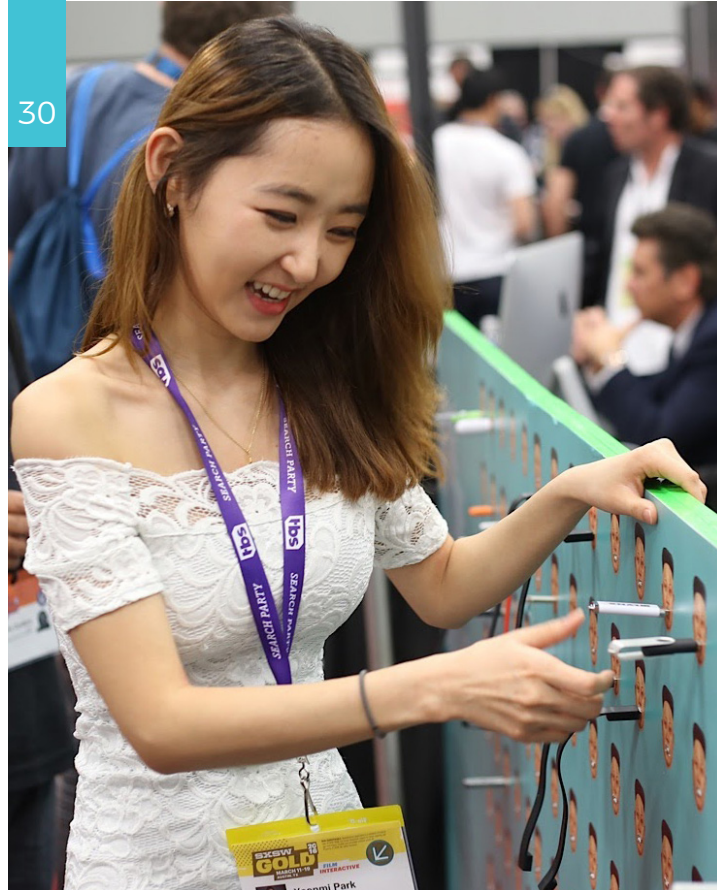
THAE YONG-HO

Ambassador Thae Yong-ho, the highest-ranking diplomat ever to defect from North Korea, spoke at the Oslo Freedom Forum in May 2017. He used the opportunity to tell the story of his dramatic escape from the North Korean embassy in London, and used the OFF platform to explain that information — not military intervention — is the key to liberating North Koreans. Ambassador Thae gave an enthusiastic endorsement to HRF's North Korea program and effusively thanked HRF for being early and significant investors in the efforts to liberate North Korea using information.

In early November, he brought this message to the U.S. Congress in a testimony that asked the U.S. to join efforts to send information into North Korea.

“Until now, the North Korean system has prevailed through an effective and credible reign of terror and by almost perfectly preventing the free-flow of outside information,” he said in his testimony. “We cannot change the policy of terror of the Kim Jong-un regime, but we can educate the North Korean population to stand up by disseminating outside information.” The ambassador called truth “the Achilles’ heel of Kim Jong-un.”





North Korean defector Yeonmi Park tells SXSW attendees about Flash Drives for Freedom. / Flash drives donated by HRF to the defector-led organization No Chain. / The defector-led organization No Chain sends donated drives into North Korea by launching water bottles into ocean currents. / A balloon launch to send technology and information into North Korea.

FLASH DRIVES FOR FREEDOM CONTINUES TO RECEIVE PROMINENT NEWS COVERAGE FROM INTERNATIONAL MEDIA



Flash Drives for Freedom posters are available for purchase on the new online store at flashdrivesforfreedom.org



Economist Films produced an online video about Flash Drives for Freedom that has received more than 2.4 million views. Radio interviews on Radio Free Asia and CBC Canada reached more than 9 million listeners, and NBC aired a segment about the program, featuring interviews from North Korean defector Yeonmi Park and HRF President Thor Halvorssen. The campaign was also recognized by D&AD Impact, which awarded HRF's campaign its prestigious Wood Pencil Award for using creativity for good.

IN 2017, HRF HIRED A NORTH KOREAN DEFECTOR TO GROW THE DISRUPT NORTH KOREA PROGRAM. HE WILL CONDUCT FIELDWORK AND RESEARCH TO BUILD OUR NETWORKS AMONG THE ACTIVIST COMMUNITY, PARTICULARLY IN SOUTH KOREA.

COLLABORATIONS WITH DEFECTORS

AFTER A DECADE OF WORK ON NORTH KOREAN HUMAN RIGHTS, HRF HAS DEVELOPED A DEEP NETWORK IN THE NORTH KOREAN DEFECTOR COMMUNITY, AND CONTINUES TO COLLABORATE WITH ITS MEMBERS

In April, HRF curated an event at the Asia Society in Houston, Texas, with North Korean author Hyeonseo Lee and North Korea information expert Jieun Baek. Hyeonseo defected from North Korea when she was 17 years old, and wrote about her experience in her bestselling memoir, “The Girl with Seven Names.” She has since brought North Korean human rights concerns to the United Nations in several testimonies and conversations with high-level officials. Jieun Baek is a Ph.D. candidate in Public Policy at the University of Oxford and author of the book, “North Korea’s Hidden Revolution: How the Information Underground is Transforming a Closed Society.” She is a definitive source on the impact of outside information on North Korean society.

HRF President Thor Halvorssen and North Korean activist Yeonmi Park co-authored an article published in The Wall Street Journal drawing attention to the cruelty of North Korea’s dictatorship. The article urged the new South Korean government administration—which includes appeasers and even admirers of North Korea in its ranks—to support North Korean human rights.

North Korean defector and best-selling author Hyeonseo Lee speaks at an event curated by HRF for the Asia Society. ▼



DEAR LEADER



In 2017, HRF continued its collaboration with the sunglasses company DEAR LEADER. DEAR LEADER aims to break the association between the phrase “Dear Leader” and North Korea’s cruel tyrant, Kim Jong-un. For every pair of sunglasses sold, the company donates a portion of the proceeds to HRF’s Disrupt North Korea program. DEAR LEADER presented its work at multiple HRF events in 2017, and the collaboration with HRF has won media coverage in news outlets like Fox News and NowThis. See page 59 to learn about a new collaboration between HRF and DEAR LEADER.

**OSLO
FREEDOM
FORUM**



2017 OSLO FREEDOM FORUM



▲ OFF takes place each year in Oslo, Norway. / Luis Almagro, secretary-general of the Organization of American States, speaks at the 2017 OFF. / The 2017 OFF begins with a packed press conference attended by international news outlets like Deutsche Welle, The Economist, and The Young Turks. / The 2017 OFF filled the Oslo Nye Teater with activists, businessmen, philanthropists, journalists, students, and more. / Conference attendees check out FIREWALL, an interactive exhibit on Chinese internet censorship, at OFF's outdoor public space in Spikersuppa square.



Undercover journalist Anas Aremeyaw Anas speaks at the 2017 OFF. / Pakistani squash star Maria Toorpakai Wazir speaks at the 2017 OFF. / Norwegian Prime Minister Erna Solberg speaks with conference founder Thor Halvorsen on stage at the 2017 OFF.

HRF'S OSLO FREEDOM FORUM (OFF) BRINGS ACTIVISTS TOGETHER WITH PHILANTHROPISTS, POLICYMAKERS, JOURNALISTS, TECHNOLOGISTS, ARTISTS, BUSINESS LEADERS, AND MANY OTHERS TO COLLABORATE ON SOLVING PRESSING HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES.

OFF popularizes the struggle for human rights by elevating democracy and dictatorship to the international agenda, and assists activists by presenting them with new opportunities and resources to advance their work.

The 2017 Oslo Freedom Forum, held in Norway, featured talks by 24 speakers, including the highest-ranking member of the North Korean government to defect, Thae Yong-ho; former Maldivian President Mohamed Nasheed; democracy analyst and Pulitzer Prize winner Anne Applebaum; Rohingya activist Wai Wai Nu; and Secretary-General of the Organization of American States Luis Almagro. The Prime Minister of Norway, Erna Solberg, gave the keynote address, in which she enthusiastically told the OFF community that their struggle was shared with the government of Norway.



▲ Ecuadorian cartoonist Xavier "Bonil" Bonilla speaks at the 2017 OFF.

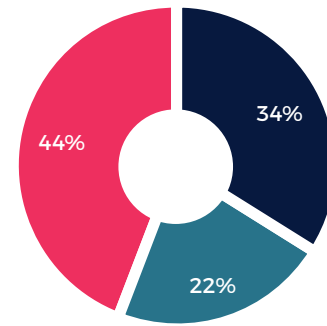
SPEAKER DIVERSITY

266
SPEAKERS

93
COUNTRIES

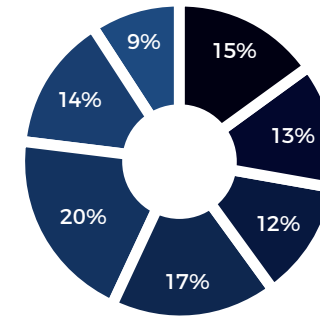
21
LANGUAGES

19-93
AGES



- FROM DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES
- FROM COMPETITIVE AUTHORITARIAN COUNTRIES
- FROM DICTATORIAL COUNTRIES

*33 DICTATORSHIPS EXPOSED AT OFF



- NORTH AMERICA
- LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN
- SUB SAHARAN AFRICA
- MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA
- EUROPE AND RUSSIA
- EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC
- CENTRAL AND SOUTH ASIA

SPEAKER STATS

8 NOBEL LAUREATES 

12 HEADS OF STATE 

10 RAFTO PRIZE RECIPIENTS 

21 TIME MAGAZINE COVERS FEATURING SPEAKERS 

46 DOCUMENTARY FILMS ABOUT SPEAKERS 

401 BOOKS PUBLISHED BY SPEAKERS 

240 YEARS SPEAKERS SPENT IN PRISON

54 SPEAKERS CURRENTLY IN EXILE

10 SPEAKERS BANNED FROM ATTENDING OFF BY THEIR GOVERNMENTS

3 SPEAKERS WHO WERE ONCE SLAVES, NOW ABOLITIONISTS

SOME OF THE MEASURABLE OUTCOMES

FROM THE 2017 EVENT INCLUDE:

MORE THAN 100 JOURNALISTS AND 10 FILM CREWS ATTENDING OFF TO REPORT ON THE EVENT, GENERATING **580+ INDIVIDUAL STORIES** ABOUT THE FORUM'S SPEAKERS.

LIVE COVERAGE OF THE FORUM VIEWED BY MORE THAN **400,000 PEOPLE**, AND TALK VIDEOS VIEWED MORE THAN **1,600,000 TIMES**.

GOOGLE, TWITTER, YOUTUBE, YAHOO, YUBICO, TECHSOUP, AND OTHER LEADING TECH PARTNERS OFFERING ACTIONABLE ADVICE TO ACTIVISTS.

NEW PARTNERSHIPS WITH NORWEGIAN COMPANIES AND INSTITUTIONS – INCLUDING THE NATIONAL MUSEUM, VIBBIO, NORDIC IMPACT, AND THE NOBEL PEACE CENTER – AND EXPANDED PUBLIC PROGRAMMING IN SPIKERSUPPA SQUARE, VASTLY INCREASING OFF'S ENGAGEMENT WITH THE NORWEGIAN COMMUNITY.

SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT GROWTH OF **160%** FROM LAST YEAR, GARNERING MORE THAN **236 MILLION IMPRESSIONS**.

28,493,356 TWITTER FOLLOWERS.

MORE THAN **15 NEW GRANTS** FROM HRF (TOTAL: **\$200,000**) AWARDED TO DISSIDENTS AND ACTIVISTS OPERATING IN CLOSED SOCIETIES.

IN A POST-CONFERENCE SURVEY, **99%** OF PARTICIPANTS REPORTING THAT THEY WERE **"MOST SATISFIED"** WITH THEIR OVERALL EXPERIENCE IN A POST-CONFERENCE SURVEY.

MANAL AL-SHARIF



Manal al-Sharif joined the OFF community in 2012, shortly after a video of her driving in Saudi Arabia went viral. OFF gave Manal countless valuable connections and resources, and an international platform from which she could tell the world about how women are second-class citizens in her country. Five years later, Manal's campaign for women's rights scored a major victory: in September 2017, the king of Saudi Arabia signed a royal decree granting women the right to drive.



Anti-FGM activist Leyla Hussein speaks at OFFinNY. ◀

▶ Opposite, clockwise: Wully Arteaga, a dissident violinist who performed during Venezuela's summer protests, spoke to press at OFFinNY's opening press conference. / Award-winning Turkish novelist Elif Shafak speaks with BBC presenter Philippa Thomas on stage at OFFinNY. / OFFinNY's venue was Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center, in the heart of Manhattan. / An attendee uses VR to explore an Iranian prison at OFFinNY's Interactive Expo.



OSLO FREEDOM FORUM IN NEW YORK

On September 19, HRF hosted the first-ever Oslo Freedom Forum in New York (OFFinNY) at Lincoln Center. The event gathered more than 750 attendees, 80% of whom had never attended an Oslo Freedom Forum event. Speakers like Iranian activist Marina Nemat, Russia civil society organizer Vladimir Kara-Murza, and Pakistani squash star Maria Toorpakai Wazir gave courageous talks about pressing human rights concerns, and a surprise performance by dissident violinist Wully Arteaga drew critical attention to authoritarian abuse, even as the U.N. General Assembly convened most of the world's dictators just two miles away. We were in the West and they were on the East side—a fitting analogy!

At the opening press conference hosted by Norway's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, HRF President Thor Halvorssen reiterated the importance of defending individual rights where they are most at risk, and urged the U.N. to act:

“The United Nations, once established to bring peace and freedom to the world, is a place where dictatorships have an outsized influence. It has not only arguably lost utility for the individuals at this table but it is largely now a tool for

their oppressors. At the Oslo Freedom Forum we are building a different kind of community. Transparent, courageous, informed, effective. There are disruptors of all kinds in our community – entrepreneurs, investigative journalists, protest organizers, investors, revolutionaries, whistleblowers. We are here with a dizzying array of individuals who aren't satisfied with the world around them and want to make a difference. Taken together, there is an enormous amount of practical experience here with regard to changing the world. The Oslo Freedom Forum is an effort to magnify the efforts of these individuals.”

Programming also included the first-ever Impact Breakfast, an intimate gathering that introduced OFF dissidents to leaders in the tech, philanthropy, and business communities who have a special interest in supporting activism. OFFinNY has already produced dozens of new partnerships and media collaborations, winning huge new audiences and new supporters for the dissidents in attendance. OFFinNY side events, like the first Wear Your Values (page 59) exhibition and an Art in Protest (page 57) show highlighted HRF's efforts to involve new industries in the struggle against authoritarianism.

EDUCATIONAL WORK



COLLEGE FREEDOM FORUM

HRF HOSTS COLLEGE FREEDOM FORUM (CFF) EVENTS ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES TO INVOLVE YOUNG LEADERS IN VITAL HUMAN RIGHTS DISCUSSIONS, TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO LEARN ABOUT, AND BECOME INVOLVED WITH, THE GLOBAL STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM

In 2017, HRF hosted two CFFs: one at the world-renowned Universidad Francisco Marroquín (CFF at UFM) in Guatemala, and one at the Universidad del Rosario (CFF at UR) in Colombia. At these events, more than 1,500 students were able to engage with democracy leaders from around the world during talks and workshops. Previous iterations were held at University of Colorado at Boulder, Stanford, Tufts, and Yale.

During CFF at UFM, students heard from nonviolence expert Jamila Raqib, Ukrainian anti-corruption activist Yulia Marushevska, Egyptian actor Omar Sharif Jr., Chinese human rights advocate Anastasia Lin, Syrian citizen journalist Abdalaziz Alhamza, and Cuban democracy leader Rosa María Payá.

CFF at UR focused on encouraging students to develop civil society in Colombia and engage in democratic reform after the country's controversial peace accords. Students learned from Rosa María Payá, Abdalaziz Alhamza, and Yulia Marushevska, as well as human rights lawyer Kimberley Motley and drug policy expert Lisa Sánchez. This event reached the broader Colombian community through event coverage and a series of profiles published in *El Tiempo*.

▲ A student contributes to a graffiti wall at CFF at UFM.

▶ Universidad del Rosario students with Kimberley Motley during an activism workshop. / CFF at UR speaker Yulia Marushevska meets Colombian presidential candidate Carlos Holmes Trujillo and local mayor Manuel Calderón Ramírez. / Egyptian actor and LGBT activist Omar Sharif Jr. speaks on stage at UFM. / Students watch talks in a packed auditorium at UFM.



“WORDS SIMPLY CANNOT ENCOMPASS MY APPRECIATION FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND THE OSLO FREEDOM FORUM. THIS EXPERIENCE GAVE ME AN INCOMPARABLY DEEP UNDERSTANDING OF SOME OF THE STRUGGLES FACED BY PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD, AND THE LENGTHS THEY HAVE GONE TO AND CONTINUE TO GO TO IN SEARCH OF IMPROVING THE LIVES OF THEIR PEERS AND FUTURE GENERATIONS. EVEN MORE POWERFUL WAS THE PRONOUNCED EMPATHY AND HUMAN CONNECTION FELT THROUGHOUT THE FORUM. WITH EACH SPEECH I HEARD, WORKSHOP I ATTENDED, OR CONVERSATION I HELD, I FELT AS THOUGH MY WORLDVIEW AND PERSPECTIVE WAS EXPANDED AND STRETCHED IN NEW DIRECTIONS.”

Jasleen Ashta, 2017 Oslo Scholar



Oslo Scholars network during the 2017 OFF. ▲

OSLO SCHOLARS

Each year, HRF works to engage the next generation of human rights leaders through our Oslo Scholars program. Through this initiative, OFF speakers connect with university students from around the world, meeting them in Oslo and mentoring them during a two-month summer project. This program encourages young leaders to learn about, and become involved with, the global struggle for freedom.

In 2017, HRF paired students from McGill University and Tufts University with speakers like Serbian nonviolence expert Srdja Popovic and Bahraini anti-torture activist Nada Dhaif. The 2017 Scholars spent their summer working with activists everywhere from Libya to South Korea. HRF also partnered with Students for Liberty and the Norwegian investment firm Kistefos to enable more students to participate in the Oslo Freedom Forum.

“THIS WAS MY FIRST YEAR ATTENDING AND I AM EXTREMELY HAPPY WITH ALL I EXPERIENCED. I HAVE ACQUIRED EXTENSIVE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND OF HOW TO USE TECHNOLOGY TO SHAPE A BETTER, MORE EQUAL WORLD. FURTHER, I CAN ONLY SAY HOW MANY INTERESTING TALKS I HAVE HAD DURING THE GATHERING AND MEALS. ATTENDING THE DINNERS AND OVER THE SOCIAL TALKS, I LEARNED THAT SO MANY GREAT PEOPLE FROM DIFFERENT COUNTRIES WORK AND PUSH FOR THE SAME GOALS. ONE OF THE ADVANTAGES OF THIS NETWORK IS THAT AFTER THE CONFERENCE YOU STAY IN TOUCH WITH PEOPLE AND CAN GET ADVICE IF EVER YOU NEED SUPPORT.”

Seyran Khalili, 2017 Kistefos Scholar

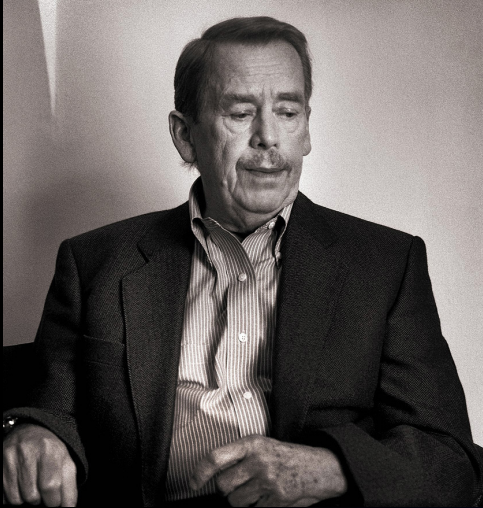
INTERNSHIPS

THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, HRF AND THE OSLO FREEDOM FORUM OFFER PAID INTERNSHIPS WITH FLEXIBLE SCHEDULES TO STUDENTS IN NEW YORK AND AROUND THE WORLD. THESE POSITIONS ALLOW YOUNG PEOPLE TO ENGAGE IN HUMAN RIGHTS WORK AND GAIN HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE IN THE NONPROFIT WORLD

▼ HRF interns and staff convene during the 2017 OFF.



POPULARIZING HUMAN RIGHTS



▲ HRF's prize for creative dissent is named after the Czech writer and statesman Václav Havel.

VACLAV HAVEL INTERNATIONAL PRIZE FOR CREATIVE DISSENT

THE HAVEL PRIZE RECOGNIZES INDIVIDUALS WHO, WITH BRAVERY AND INGENUITY, UNMASK THE LIE OF DICTATORSHIP BY LIVING IN TRUTH. PAST LAUREATES INCLUDE SAUDI WOMEN'S RIGHTS ACTIVIST MANAL AL-SHARIF, CHINESE ARTIST AI WEIWEI, RUSSIAN PUNK PROTEST GROUP PUSSY RIOT, NORTH KOREAN DEMOCRACY ACTIVIST PARK SANG HAK, AND IRANIAN CARTOONIST ATENA FARGHADANI.

AAYAT ALQORMOZI

2017 HAVEL PRIZE LAUREATE



Bahraini poet Aayat Alqormozi accepts the 2017 Havel Prize.



▲ Havel Prize laureates receive an artist representation of the “Goddess of Democracy,” the iconic statue erected during the Tiananmen Square protests of June 1989.

IN MAY, HRF AWARDED THE 2017 PRIZE TO BAHRAINI POET AAYAT ALQORMOZI, ZIMBABWEAN PLAYWRIGHT SILVANOS MUDZVOVA, AND VENEZUELAN SATIRICAL NEWS OUTLET EL CHIGÜIRE BIPOLAR. THE PRIZE INCLUDES A GRANT OF 350,000 NORWEGIAN KRONER SPLIT AMONG THE RECIPIENTS TO FURTHER THEIR WORK, AND IS AWARDED AT A CEREMONY DURING THE OSLO FREEDOM FORUM.

EL CHIGÜIRE BIPOLAR GIVES THE CHASER LECTURE



After reading about the Havel Prize, the organizer of Australia’s Chaser Lecture, Julian Morrow, reached out to HRF staff to inquire about a partnership. As a result, this year’s Chaser Lecture, an event that celebrates excellence in satire and donates its proceeds to charity, recognized El Chigüire Bipolar and supported HRF. Past laureates have included OFF speaker Bassem Youssef and Havel Prize Laureate Sakdiyah Ma’ruf.



▲ Zimbabwean playwright Silvanos Mudzvova accepts the 2017 Havel Prize.

Silvanos Mudzvova is a Zimbabwean actor, playwright, and activist known for challenging the country’s dictatorship in daring theatrical productions. Silvanos has directed several controversial performances including “The Final Push,” a political satire; “Missing Diamonds, I Need My Share,” a play on corruption in the diamond industry; and “Protest Revolutionaries,” a play that encourages Zimbabweans to plan their own Arab Spring. Silvanos has been detained and arrested several times. To avoid government persecution, Silvanos now performs what he calls “hit-and-run” performances in public spaces.

El Chigüire Bipolar is a Venezuelan satirical media project created in 2008 by Elio Casale, Oswaldo Graziani, and Juan Andrés Ravell. The website, most famous for mocking former Venezuelan president Hugo Chávez, is often described as a mix of the Onion and John Oliver’s Last Week Tonight. El Chigüire Bipolar’s popularity in Venezuela grows as the government increases pressure on independent news outlets.

Aayat Alqormozi is a Bahraini poet who uses her craft to advocate for the equal rights of Shi’ite and Sunni Muslims, and to express her opposition to Bahrain’s monarchy. In 2011, Aayat recited poetry during a protest at Pearl Square as a part of the Bahraini uprising. In response, she was expelled from university and imprisoned for “insulting the King and encouraging hatred of the ruling regime.” Nevertheless, Aayat’s poetry and peaceful defiance have made her a symbol of resistance against the al-Khalifa regime.



ART IN PROTEST

HRF'S ART IN PROTEST PROGRAM SUPPORTS ARTISTS WHO USE THEIR CREATIVITY TO CHALLENGE AUTHORITARIANISM

- ◀ Afghani artist Shamsia Hassani at the outdoor Art in Protest exhibition during the 2017 Oslo Freedom Forum.
- ▼ North Korean artist Song Byeok in his studio. / HRF Curator Holly Baxter with Brittany Allen and Leyla Hussein in front of the anti-FGM photography series "Faces of Defiance" at the September 2017 Art in Protest exhibit in New York.



Authoritarian regimes, such as those in China, Cuba, Russia, and Saudi Arabia, regularly harass, jail, and even kill artists for work that threatens their hold on power. Meanwhile, the artists who are the targets of these attacks often do not have the resources or recognition to push back. This new program builds on HRF's work fostering a global community of artists and providing them with financial backing, international partnerships, writing and cataloguing services, and other support to continue their important work.

In 2017, Art in Protest curated three exhibits featuring Afghan graffiti artist Shamsia Hassani, North Korean painter Song Byeok, Italian-Venezuelan artist Rodrigo Figueredo, and Faces of Defiance, a photography exhibit shot by Jason Ashwood that features portraits of FGM survivors, among others.



The first show, in April, featured work by the Cuban graffiti artist Danilo "El Sexto" Maldonado Machado, who was released from prison earlier in the year thanks to legal assistance from HRF. The exhibit, "Angels and Demons," showcased El Sexto's portraits of well-known historical figures who have suffered for their principles. On opening night, El Sexto entered a replica of the maximum security cell where he was once jailed and staged a hunger strike in solidarity with artists who remain in prison around the world.

Art in Protest also curated exhibits during Oslo Freedom Forum events in May and September. In the next year, the program will launch new initiatives, including an artist residency program.

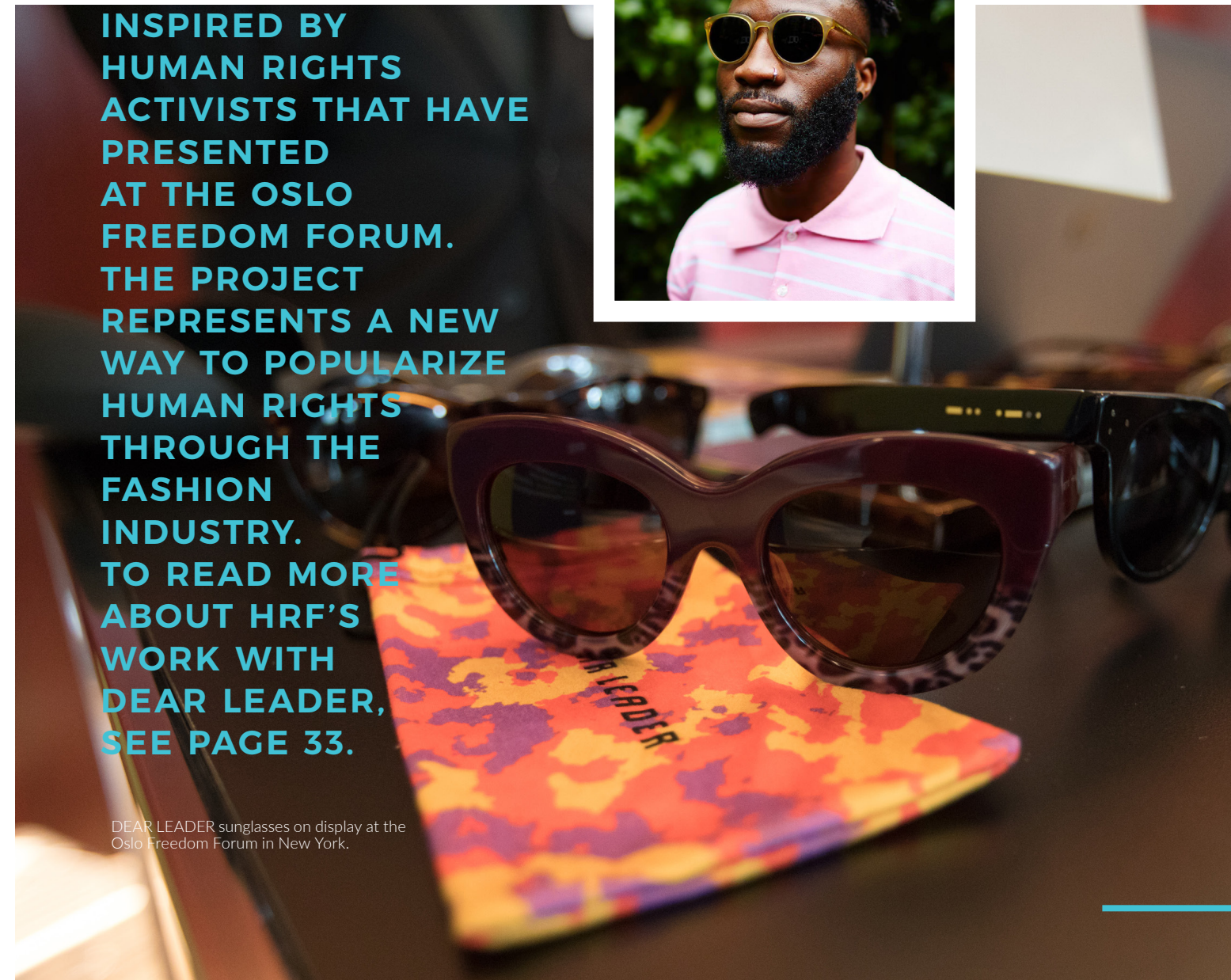
FASHION FOR FREEDOM

IN 2017, HRF MADE A CONCERTED EFFORT TO BRING HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES TO AN EXPANDED SET OF INDUSTRIES. THE FASHION INDUSTRY IS THE THIRD LARGEST ECONOMY IN THE WORLD, AND ITS LEADERS HAVE GREAT SWAY OVER POPULAR CULTURE.

NEW COLLABORATIONS HAD TWO GOALS: FIRST, TO USE FASHION AS A VEHICLE TO DRAW ATTENTION TO HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS IN CLOSED SOCIETIES, AND SECOND, TO ENCOURAGE BRANDS TO ADDRESS HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS IN THEIR OWN SUPPLY CHAINS.

DEAR LEADER'S FREEDOM COLLECTION

IN 2018, DEAR LEADER WILL LAUNCH ITS NEW FREEDOM COLLECTION, A LINE OF SUNGLASSES INSPIRED BY HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS THAT HAVE PRESENTED AT THE OSLO FREEDOM FORUM. THE PROJECT REPRESENTS A NEW WAY TO POPULARIZE HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGH THE FASHION INDUSTRY. TO READ MORE ABOUT HRF'S WORK WITH DEAR LEADER, SEE PAGE 33.



DEAR LEADER sunglasses on display at the Oslo Freedom Forum in New York.

WEAR YOUR VALUES

IN SEPTEMBER, HRF PRODUCED A FASHION SHOW DURING NEW YORK FASHION WEEK TO DRAW ATTENTION TO BRANDS THAT ARE COMMITTED TO IMPROVING HUMAN RIGHTS



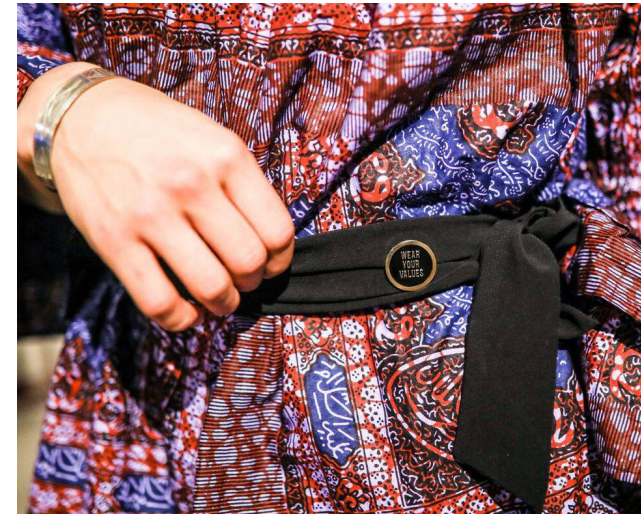
A model participates in the Wear Your Values fashion show wearing ethical garments.



A model from the Wear Your Values fashion show poses during a documentary screening.

Wear Your Values attracted more than 400 guests, who explored an interactive exhibit that highlighted ways to improve rights at every link in the fashion supply chain, from harvesting materials to branding. Guests participated in live-crafting sessions, walked through fields via VR headset, stamped their own textiles, tried on ethically-sourced garments, and more.

The event was produced in collaboration with Remake and with support from Cordes Foundation, Arzu, Chaddock, Slow Factory, Design and Flow, There Is No Limit Foundation, Nest, Raw Spirit, and other leaders in ethical fashion. The event gave guests insight into the lives of workers who create our clothes, many of whom live in authoritarian countries with no ability to assemble or speak freely.



A guest shows off a Wear Your Values pin during the fashion week exhibition in New York City. / Wear Your Values guests participate in a live-crafting session hosted by JAHNKOY.



Art of Hope founder Tara Kangarlou poses in front of an exhibit conveying the wastefulness of fast fashion by the numbers. / Wear Your Values guests learn about human rights abuses using VR provided by the Endless Co.

THE RUSSIA DOWNLOAD

IN 2017, HRF REIMAGINED ITS RUSSIA NEWSLETTER, NOW CALLED **THE RUSSIA DOWNLOAD**. THIS NEWSLETTER, WHICH HIGHLIGHTS IMPORTANT NEWS ON RUSSIA'S RIGHTS ABUSES AND INFLUENCE AROUND THE WORLD, REACHES SOME OF THE WORLD'S TOP POLICYMAKERS AND JOURNALISTS.

Riot police officers block protesters during a rally in Moscow, Russia, Saturday, Oct. 7, 2017, President Vladimir Putin's birthday. Opposition leader Alexei Navalny organized these protests in support of his presidential bid.

IN A WORLD WHERE PUTIN CONTROLS THE NARRATIVE ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENING INSIDE RUSSIA, THIS PROGRAM IS INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT TO KEEP INFLUENCERS INFORMED ON THE TRUTH.

TO DATE, HRF HAS SENT MORE THAN 150 DIGESTS, INCLUDING MORE THAN 1,000 ARTICLES, AND IN OCTOBER 2017, THE NEWSLETTER RE-LAUNCHED WITH A NEW DESIGN AND FORMAT GIVING READERS MORE CONTEXT ON THE LINKED ARTICLES.

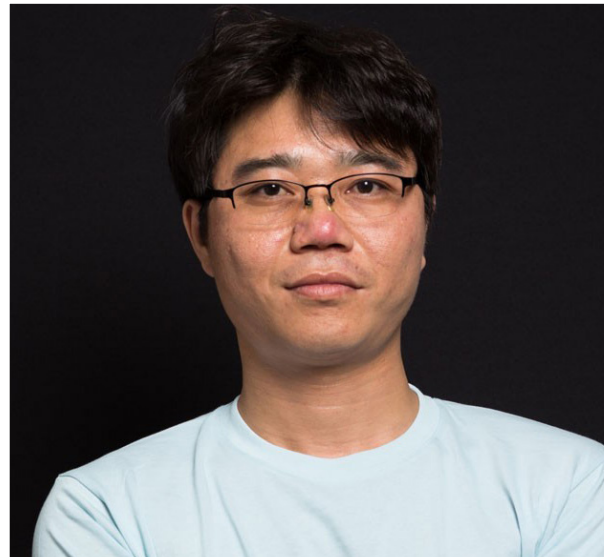
2017 MEDIA IMPACT

PART OF HRF'S MISSION IS TO BRING THE STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM TO LARGER AUDIENCES BY ENCOURAGING COVERAGE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN MAINSTREAM NEWS OUTLETS

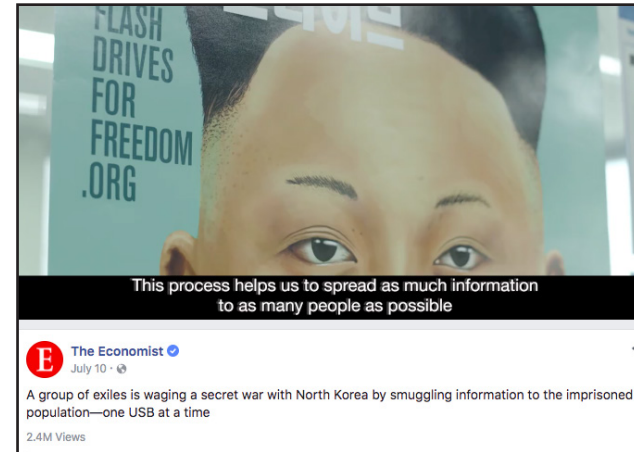
In 2017, HRF garnered more than 4,800 significant media appearances, not including the 840 profiles, in-depth articles, and event reviews that resulted from the 2017 Oslo Freedom Forum and the Oslo Freedom Forum in New York. This represents a 22% growth from the previous year, and includes articles in The New York Times, The Economist, Business Insider, WIRED, Reuters, AFP, Verdens Gang, El País, and more.

HRF also increased its efforts to publish original op-eds in highly-read print media. HRF President Thor Halvorssen and Chairman Garry Kasparov kicked off 2017 with a hard-hitting op-ed in The Washington Post arguing that authoritarianism is the greatest challenge facing humanity. Halvorssen also co-published a Wall Street Journal piece with OFF Speaker Yeonmi Park urging the new South Korean president to push for human rights in North Korea. HRF staff published as well in other outlets with large readership, including The New York Post and The Memo.

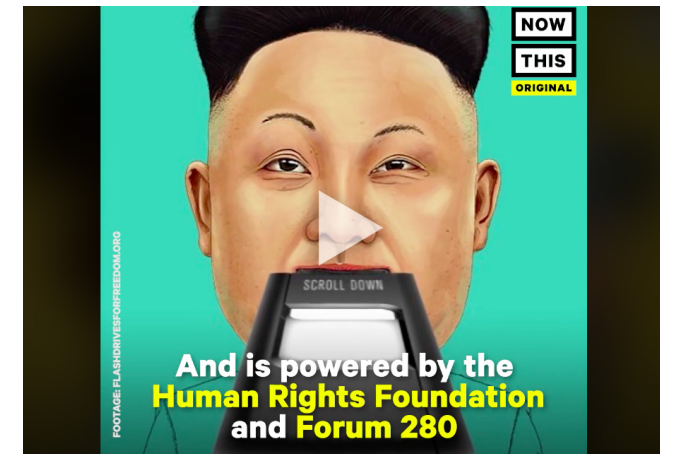
JI SEONG-HO



At the Oslo Freedom Forum in New York, North Korean defector Ji Seong-ho stepped off stage and went straight into a flurry of interviews with journalists moved by his story. One interview clip with Business Insider quickly went viral, bringing Ji Seong-ho's appeal for support of North Korean human rights to more than 600,000 viewers.



Online video grew exponentially in 2017, and HRF met this trend by partnering with social media news organizations, garnering millions of views for human rights stories that might otherwise have been lost to the 24-hour news cycle. After attending the 2017 Oslo Freedom Forum, Economist Films released six videos on topics like censorship and women's equality in Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, accumulating more than 5 million views. A video feature on NowThis, one of the largest social media-only news outlets, featured HRF's collaboration with the sunglasses company DEAR LEADER (page 34 and 38) and racked up more than 2 million views in the first 24 hours. The Young Turks produced a



live show at the 2017 Oslo Freedom Forum and filmed live backstage during the Oslo Freedom Forum in New York, broadcasting human rights stories to their millions of followers on Facebook and YouTube.

Meanwhile, HRF grew its online influence significantly in 2017. HRF's Twitter follower count grew by 42% to 167,000 followers, while Facebook likes grew by 46% to 23,000 likes. Oslo Freedom Forum accounts saw even more growth, with Facebook growing 73%. This reflects not just an increase in brand awareness, but also how much the HRF and OFF communities grew in 2017.

TV COVERAGE



The New York Times

A SAUDI WOMAN WHO GOT BEHIND THE WHEEL AND NEVER LOOKED BACK

“IT IS TOO SOON TO SAY HOW MANY OF MY GENERATION MAY HAVE LEARNED TO DESPISE INJUSTICE AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE BEATINGS, VERBAL ABUSE AND GENERAL CRUELTY THAT WE SUFFERED AS CHILDREN,” SHE WRITES IN THE BOOK. “BUT I KNOW THAT I HAVE, AND I KNOW THAT I WILL CARRY THAT LESSON WITH ME ALWAYS.”

Somini Sengupta. June 16, 2017

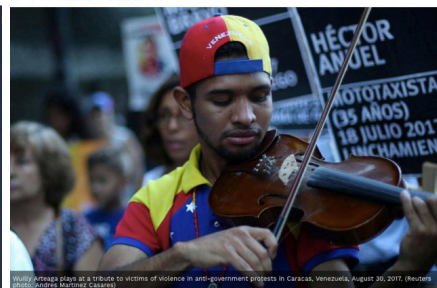


NATIONAL REVIEW

Oslo Journal, Part I



Playing for Freedom



Oslo Journal, Part V



THE GUERRILLA JOURNALISTS DEFYING ISIS ONE VIDEO AT A TIME

“ALHAMZA IS, IN FACT, A WANTED MAN, TARGETED BY BOTH THE ASSAD REGIME AND ISIS’S INTERNATIONAL ARMY OF ZEALOTS. HIS CRIME: TELLING THE WORLD ABOUT WHAT’S REALLY HAPPENING IN HIS RAVAGED HOMETOWN OF RAQQA, SYRIA.”

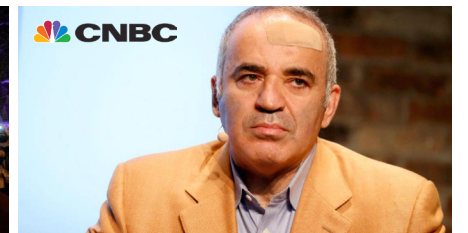
Will Warasila. June 29, 2017

FAST COMPANY

HOW SILICON VALLEY COULD BE PART OF THE SOLUTION IN NORTH KOREA

“THE GREATEST WEAPON AGAINST KIM JONG UN MAY BE INFORMATION. COULD THE TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY BRING ABOUT AN ARAB SPRING ON THE PENINSULA?”

Tim Bajarin. August 29, 2017



WIRED

EXPOSING THE SUPPORTERS OF TYRANNY

HRF STRIVES TO EXPOSE WESTERN SUPPORTS OF TYRANNY, AND DOES SO BY BRINGING HUMAN RIGHTS TOPICS INTO GLOBAL CONVERSATIONS ABOUT POLITICS, SPORTS, AND EVEN POP CULTURE

When we get such a tremendous range of people learning and arguing about corruption and dictatorship, we move the needle.

In 2017, HRF ran several campaigns to expose supporters of dictators. We exposed the Red Bull Athletic Team when it traveled to Venezuela to skydive with the stepchildren and nephews of strongman Nicolás Maduro—all of this arranged by a government contractor, Derwick Associates—even as Venezuelans starved due to shortages and died in protests. CNN followed up on HRF's exposé with a feature story, and Red Bull was forced to leave Venezuela as a result of HRF's campaign.

In July, HRF called out actor Nicolas Cage for supporting Kazakhstan's dictatorship after participating in a regime-sponsored film festival. The story won widespread news coverage, including features in Fox News and The Hollywood

Reporter, and brought the struggles of the Kazakh people to the international stage.

HRF also shined a spotlight on Turkish autocrat Recep Tayyip Erdogan during his visits to Washington, D.C., and New York City by taking out full-page ads in The Washington Post's Express, The Washington Times, and Metro NY. The ads, which took over the newspapers' front pages with the bold title, "You Are Not Welcome," were highly visible and drew attention to Erdogan's persecution of journalists, teachers, judges, civil servants, and more in the aftermath of the 2016 coup attempt.

HRF's full-page anti-Erdogan ad ran on the front page of The Washington Post's Express. / HRF used this viral photo of Nic Cage in traditional Kazakh dress to highlight Kazakhstan's human rights abuses. / The children of corrupt Venezuelan politicians pose during skydiving lessons with Red Bull athletes.

TURKEY, a once-promising democracy, has entered a downward spiral into dictatorship. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is to blame for this. In the aftermath of a failed coup attempt, Mr. Erdogan has:

- ...shut down 149 media outlets, including newspapers, magazines, radio and TV stations, and publishing houses
- ...closed 2,099 schools and universities
- ...fired 138,147 civil servants, including over four thousand judges and prosecutors
- ...jailed 59,601 government critics, including lawyers and academics
- ...arrested over 230 journalists
- ...increased executive power under an unfair and unfair referendum
- ...and dozens of the failed-coup suspects in prison have been victims of torture and sexual abuse, including rape and food deprivation, according to credible reports.

PRESIDENT ERDOGAN IS IN WASHINGTON DC TODAY TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT TRUMP

If you reject Mr. Erdogan's appalling human rights record and his bid to turn Turkey into a dictatorship, your mandate is clear:

Oppose tyranny.

TELL MR. ERDOGAN HE IS NOT WANTED HERE.
Call, write and tweet to Sertan Kilic, Ambassador of Turkey to the United States
Email: ambassy.washington@ceremta.gov.tr
Telephone: +1(202) 612-6700 Twitter: @sertankilic

Urge President Trump to demand that Erdogan stop his crackdown on dissent
Telephone: +1(202) 456-1414 Twitter: @realDonaldTrump

"DICTATORS SHOULD NOT BE WELCOMED IN ANY DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY. THEY CERTAINLY SHOULDN'T BE WELCOMED IN AMERICA."

HUMAN RIGHTS FOUNDATION



ABOUT HRF

HRF STAFF

CELINE ASSAF BOUSTANI

INTERNATIONAL LEGAL ASSOCIATE

Celine joined HRF's Center for Law and Democracy in 2014 to focus on the protection of freedom of expression in Arabic and French speaking countries around the world. She has since co-authored a legal report on the case of Waleed Abulkhair in Saudi Arabia. She is a graduate of Columbia Law School, where she earned a master's in international law, and also holds a master's in French law from Pantheon-Assas Paris II, France. Celine was born and raised in Beirut, Lebanon, where she earned her LL.B. from Saint-Joseph University.

ANDREA AUSTIN

DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS

Andrea has a broad background in strategic planning and program development, and currently coordinates programs for HRF. Previously, she oversaw communications and public affairs for United Nations Foundation's Girl Up campaign. Andrea has also managed advocacy and communications work for various anti-trafficking organizations including Polaris and Shared Hope International. She has an M.A. in international human rights law from the United Nations-mandated University for Peace, and a B.A. in English from the University of Virginia.

HOLLY BAXTER

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ART IN PROTEST

Holly has over 15 years of experience in the fine art industry and 10 years business development experience in the technology industry. Her firm, Holly Baxter & Associates, provides independent curatorial and comprehensive art advisory services for individual, corporate, and institutional collectors. Her expertise ranges from emerging contemporary art to modern masters, specializing in art that is intellectually and conceptually bold as well as technically accomplished. Previously, Holly created, launched, and directed RH Contemporary Art (RHCA), the contemporary art division of Restoration Hardware, which is dedicated to bringing international artists to a global audience, showcasing their work on both an innovative web-based platform and in a 28,000 square foot gallery in New York City, and fostering their talent through an elite artist residency program.

ELLEN EOFF

DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

Ellen comes to HRF with more than six years' experience as a development professional with an expertise in donor relations. Ellen received her bachelor of social work degree from Baylor University and her master of social work with a concentration in administrative leadership and a portfolio in nonprofit studies from the University of Texas at Austin. Before joining HRF, Ellen managed development and communications activities for One Heart World-Wide and worked in leadership gifts at the California Academy of Sciences. Ellen is actively involved in the Association of Fundraising Professionals and enjoys co-chairing her chapter's Mentor Program.

SANDRA GERMAINE

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

Sandra joined HRF with 10 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.

ALISHA GIRI

STRATEGY ASSOCIATE

Alisha joined HRF with a background in development and communications in the nonprofit sector. She has a degree in anthropology from Wake Forest University and is passionate about working to promote civil liberties across the globe. Prior to joining HRF, she worked as a program coordinator for a global development nonprofit while completing a fellowship through Stanford University.

HRF staff with Venezuelan journalist and activist Melanio Escobar.



PER ELVESTUEN**SENIOR STRATEGIC ADVISOR**

Per Elvestuen has extensive work experience from media, communications, counseling, politics, and international work. Starting his professional career as editorial cartoonist in the Norwegian business daily, DN, at the age of 25, he received a number of awards for his work in Norway and abroad, before moving into other fields of work. Elvestuen has been instrumental in the establishment and development of the Oslo Freedom Forum since its inception in 2009. He has a strong environmental commitment in combating marine waste and the world's waste problems, especially in Asia and in Africa. Elvestuen is a veteran of several international operations, serving both as an officer in the Norwegian defense forces and as a civilian. He has a long time engagement in veteran issues and is chairman of an organization for wounded veterans in Norway.

ALEX GLADSTEIN**CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER**

Alex has worked with HRF in various capacities since 2007, and currently serves as HRF's chief strategy officer and the Oslo Freedom Forum's vice president of strategy. Alex's writing and views on dissidents and dictators have appeared in ABC, BBC World, CNN, The Daily Beast, Foreign Policy, The Guardian, NPR, TIME, and The Wall Street Journal. He has spoken about HRF's work at UC Berkeley, Cornell University, the European Parliament, MIT, the School of Visual Arts, Singularity University, and Stanford University. Before joining HRF, he served as a foreign policy advisor in the British Parliament. Alex is a magna cum laude graduate of Tufts University where he majored in international relations and Middle Eastern studies.

ROBERTO GONZÁLEZ**INTERNATIONAL LEGAL ASSOCIATE**

Roberto is a Guatemalan attorney and cum laude graduate from Rafael Landívar University, where he earned a bachelor of laws degree. He also holds a master's in international law and justice from the Fordham University School of Law. As a part of HRF's Center for Law and Democracy, Roberto's research focuses on comparative constitutional law and international law. Roberto is an alumnus of the Washington College of Law's Program of Advanced Studies on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law. Roberto's opinions and views on democracy and international law have been featured in CNN en Español, El País, National Review, Voice of America, and MundoFox.

THOR HALVORSSEN**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. 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, NPR, TIME, The Daily Telegraph, The New York Post, and GQ, as well as televised 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**SENIOR DIRECTOR, OSLO FREEDOM FORUM**

Jamie joined HRF after completing her master's in international politics and business at New York University, where her thesis focused on the erosion of press freedom in Latin America. She served as media relations coordinator at HRF for three years before directing the Oslo Freedom Forum, HRF's annual flagship conference. Jamie 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.

MALAAK JAMAL**POLICY OFFICER**

Malaak received her M.A. in diplomacy and international relations from Seton Hall University, where she specialized in human rights, international law, and post-conflict state reconstruction and sustainability. She received her B.A. from Fairleigh Dickinson University, where she double majored in sociology and in political science with a concentration in international relations, and was awarded FDU's Outstanding Achievement in Political Science award. She completed her minor in Middle East studies at the American University in Dubai. As HRF's Policy Officer, Malaak analyzes political regime developments in authoritarian regimes using her background in democratization literature. Previously, she conducted research on U.N. peacekeeping operations in the Arab World as an intern for the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs at the American University of Beirut in Lebanon.

POLINA KASPAROVA**STRATEGY ASSOCIATE**

Polina is a strategy associate at HRF, working to amplify its message in the global media and to build partnerships in fields from tech to academia. Previously, she conducted research for the Freedom in the World and Freedom of the Press publications at Freedom House. She has held internships in the publishing, media, and nonprofit sectors. Polina is a graduate of Barnard College, where she majored in political science with a concentration in Russian regional studies. Her thesis examined the international human rights obligations of de facto sovereign territories.

KATIA KRASAVINA**PROGRAM OFFICER AND SPEAKER COORDINATOR**

Katia Krasavina is a Russian democracy activist. In 2005, she moved from St. Petersburg to New York and pursued a dual degree in political science and psychology. She joined HRF in 2013 after graduating Phi Beta Kappa from Brooklyn College.

JOHN LECHNER**INTERNATIONAL LEGAL ASSOCIATE**

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.

JOY PARK**PROGRAM OFFICER**

Joy Park received her B.A. in psychology from the University of Texas at Austin, and her J.D. from Rutgers School of Law. She is trilingual in Mandarin, Cantonese, and English. During law school, Joy interned for the New York Supreme Court Appellate Division - First Department and Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe, LLP, in Beijing. She is on HRF's legal team, and oversees legal research and advocacy in the Asia region. She is an attorney admitted to practice in New York and New Jersey.

ALEXANDRA PROW**OPERATIONS COORDINATOR, OSLO FREEDOM FORUM**

Alexandra joined HRF in 2015 to focus on the annual Oslo Freedom Forum and its satellite programs. In addition to her role as program officer, she is the operations coordinator for the Oslo Freedom Forum. She is a graduate of Vassar College, where she received a Bachelor of Arts with honors in music and a minor in Arabic. A recipient of the Ann Cornelisen Fellowship, Alexandra studied at Al-Akhawayn University in Morocco in 2014. Her research background centers on the role of art and artists in protest movements, particularly in Latin America and North Africa.

OLIVER RANFT**STRATEGIC ADVISOR**

Oliver joined the team in 2016 with a background in social development and politics. Having previously worked at the United Nations Development Programme in the Andean region, and the aboriginal reconciliation process in Australia he ran for office in his home country of Ecuador. His lifelong activism led him to start a non profit dedicated to reconstruction and distribution of aid in areas affected by natural disasters in Latin America. Oliver is the program officer for the Oslo Freedom Forum Speakers Bureau and contributes to the outreach and development team at HRF. He holds a bachelors degree in Foreign Affairs and Latin American Studies from the University of Virginia and a Masters in Public Management from Universtät Potsdam.

CENTA REK**INTERNATIONAL LEGAL ASSOCIATE**

Centa is a Bolivian attorney and cum laude graduate from Santa Cruz Private University, where she earned LL.B. and LL.M. degrees. She worked for seven years as legal counsel in the oil and gas industry before moving to New York in late 2011. Centa joined HRF's legal department in 2012 and has since co-authored several international human rights law reports, petitions, and amici curiae, including "Media Crackdown in Kazakhstan," "The Case of Miguel Ángel Hernández Souquett," "The Case of María Lourdes Afiuni Mora," and "The State of Independence of the Judiciary in Venezuela."

PRACHI VIDWANS**COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST**

Prachi graduated in 2016 with her M.A. in international relations from the University of Chicago, where she studied democratization and conflict. Previously, Prachi served as assistant editor of Democracy Lab, a journalistic partnership between Foreign Policy magazine and the Legatum Institute, which provided coverage of countries undergoing democratic transition. She also contributed editing, research, and photography to Global Concerns Leadership's women's empowerment project in Bangalore, India. She comes to HRF with five years of editing experience and a passion for democracy promotion, conflict resolution, and human rights.

JIM WARNOCK**DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH**

Jim Warnock grew up in Birmingham, Alabama, and after graduating from the Woodrow Wilson School of Politics at UVA, has spent years working in various capacities. Working for companies like The Financial Times, Zegna, and The History Channel, he has worked in leadership positions in sales, TV and film production, and marketing. As director of outreach for HRF, he has had the privilege to aid activists fighting for freedom from Syria to Venezuela to North Korea, working in fundraising and programming to find creative solutions to some of the world's most pressing issues.

▼ HRF staff with Pakistani squash star Maria Toorpakai Wazir and Afghan tech entrepreneur Roya Mahboob.



BOARD AND INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL

HRF Chairman Garry Kasparov addresses OFFinNY attendees at a reception on New York's High Line.

GARRY KASPAROV, CHAIRMAN
KENNETH ANDERSON
DIEGO ARRIA
GEORGE AYITTEY
VLADIMIR BUKOVSKY
THOR HALVORSSEN
RON JACOBS
MART LAAR
ALEXANDER LLOYD
JACQUELINE MOUDEINA
AMIR AHMAD NASR
MARINA NEMAT
ABDEL NASSER OULD ETHMANE
YEONMI PARK
PALDEN GYATSO
PARK SANG HAK
ROBERT A. SIRICO
MUTABAR TADJIBAEVA
CAMERON COLBY THOMSON
ÁLVARO VARGAS LLOSA

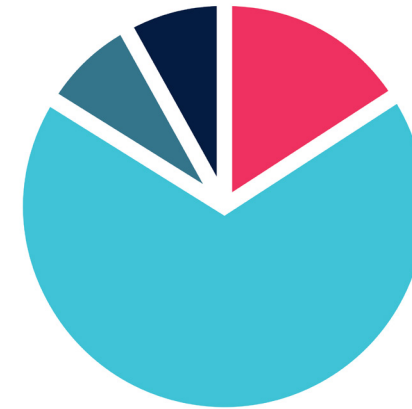
VÁCLAV HAVEL - CHAIRMAN EMERITUS [1936 - 2011]
RAMÓN JOSÉ VELÁSQUEZ [1916 - 2014]
ELIE WIESEL [1928 - 2016]
HARRY WU [1937 - 2016]

FINANCIAL REPORT

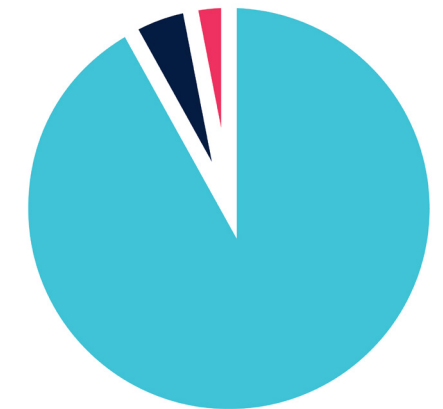
HRF IS FULLY FUNDED BY THE GENEROSITY OF OUR DONOR COMMUNITY, AND WE ARE COMMITTED TO USING THEIR INVESTMENTS IN HUMAN RIGHTS RESPONSIBLY. 93 CENTS OUT OF EVERY DOLLAR DONATED TO HRF GOES DIRECTLY TO OUR PROGRAMS.

EXPENSES 2017

INCOME 2017



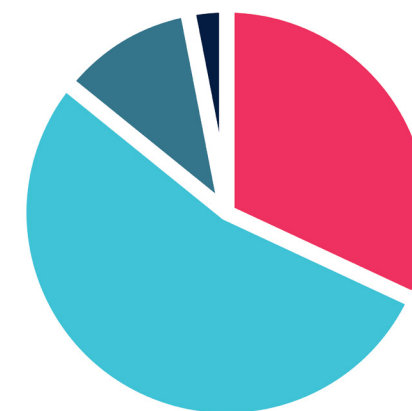
\$909,922.06 ■ FOUNDATION DONORS
 \$3,796,990.19 ■ INDIVIDUAL DONORS
 \$473,986.98 ■ NORWEGIAN DONORS
 \$441,321.89 ■ CORPORATE SUPPORT
\$5,622,221.12



\$5,359,746.35 ■ PROGRAM
 \$269,287.33 ■ DEVELOPMENT
 \$159,464.50 ■ ADMINISTRATION
\$5,788,498.18

INCOME 2016

EXPENSES 2016



\$1,390,032 ■ FOUNDATION DONORS
 \$2,333,383 ■ INDIVIDUAL DONORS
 \$486,223 ■ NORWEGIAN DONORS
 \$115,815 ■ CORPORATE SUPPORT
\$4,325,453



\$3,826,343 ■ PROGRAM
 \$158,953 ■ DEVELOPMENT
 \$129,989 ■ ADMINISTRATION
\$4,115,285

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

DONATE HRF IS A 501(C)(3) CHARITY ORGANIZATION. WE RELY ON DONATIONS TO MAKE OUR WORK POSSIBLE. YOU CAN MAKE A GIFT TODAY AT [HRF.ORG/DONATE](https://hrf.org/donate).

WE ACCEPT CHECKS, ONLINE GIFTS, CRYPTOCURRENCY, GIFTS OF STOCK, CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES, MEMORIAL GIFTS, AND LEGACY GIFTS. DONATIONS ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE ACCORDING TO U.S. TAX LAW. TO LEARN MORE ABOUT SUPPORTING HRF, CONTACT [ALEX@HRF.ORG](mailto:alex@hrf.org).

LEARN MORE



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



[@HUMANRIGHTSFOUNDATION](https://www.facebook.com/HUMANRIGHTSFOUNDATION)



[THEHRFORG](https://plus.google.com/51686342226661907090)



[@HRF](https://www.instagram.com/HRF)



[HRF.ORG](https://hrf.org)

VOLUNTEER IF YOU HAVE SKILLS OR TIME TO LEND TO OUR STAFF IN NEW YORK, OSLO, SAN FRANCISCO, SOUTH KOREA, OR ELSEWHERE, WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU. PLEASE EMAIL US AT [INFO@HRF.ORG](mailto:info@hrf.org).

SPREAD THE WORD SHARE OUR SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS OR EMAILS, OR TELL OTHERS ABOUT OUR WORK.

Human Rights Foundation
Empire State Building
350 Fifth Ave #4202,
New York, NY 10118

Tel: +1 (212) 246-8486 / Fax: +1 (646) 844-2793
Email: info@hrf.org



[HRF.org](http://hrf.org)