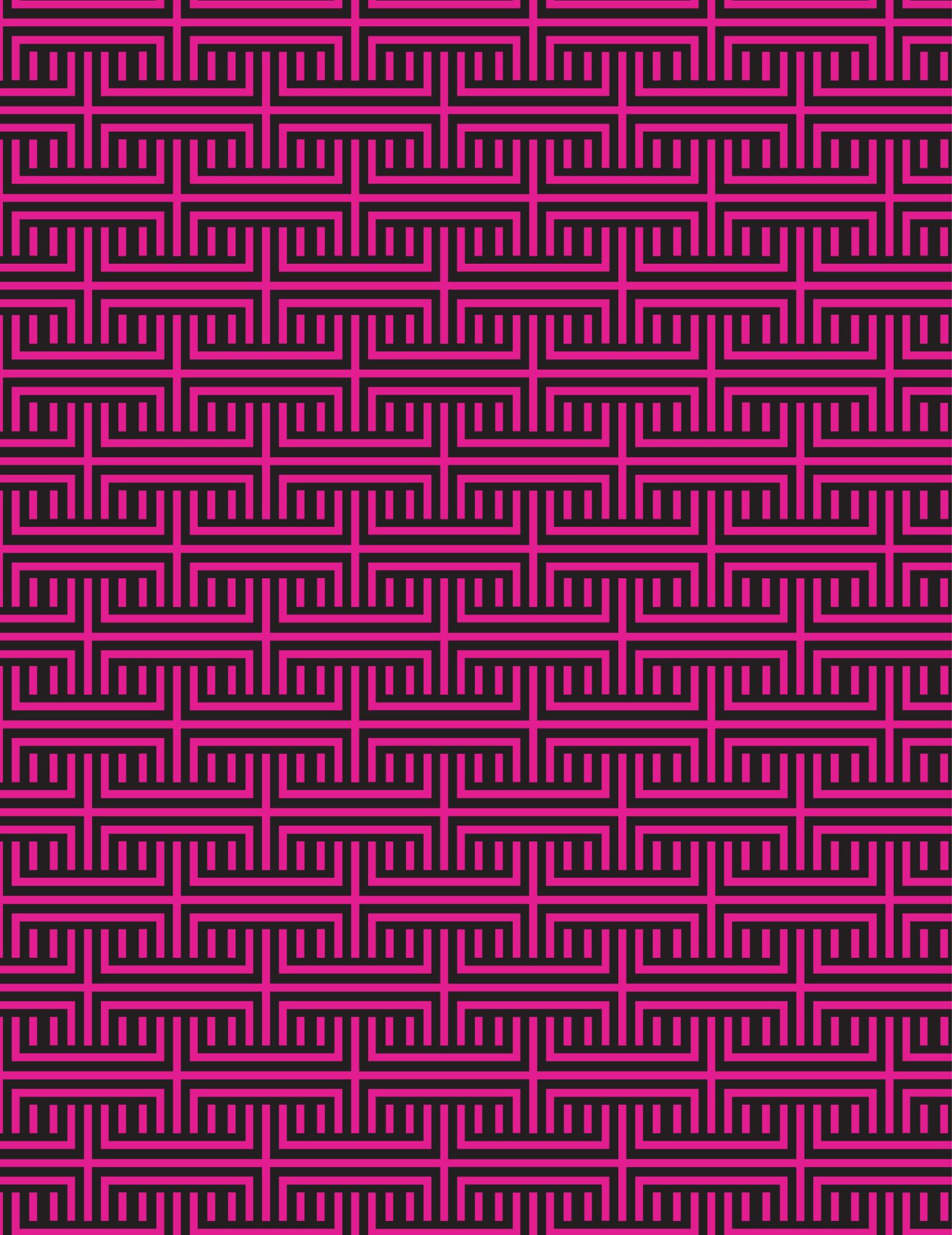


2018
ANNUAL
REPORT



Welcome Letter

Despite the multitude of dangers in today's world, I believe there are many positive developments on the horizon for humanity. The troubles we face are a wake-up call that the struggle to defend democracy continues, and that it requires our participation, not just our attention.

The Human Rights Foundation (HRF) understands this, and so do our many supporters. Thank you. As a result of your generosity, 2018 was a year of major expansion and achievement as we worked to challenge tyranny across the globe.

I've always thought that working with young people is the surest way to spark change, so I've been delighted to see HRF advance its work on college campuses and with students through a variety of programs, including Oslo Scholars and the College Freedom Forum. I'm excited for you to read about our work in this area, as educating tomorrow's human rights advocates and leaders about the importance of civil liberties is one of the most important things we can do for coming generations.

Looking to another aspect of the future, I remain vigilant about the dangerous role that advanced technology can play in the hands of dictators. But our technology is agnostic, and that same technology can be a force for good, leveling the playing field against state power to be a tool of liberation for millions trapped under repression. HRF is exploring both sides of the matter through both research and advocacy, and will remain on the cutting edge of this crucial field.

Our flagship event, the Oslo Freedom Forum, has grown and multiplied. Today HRF events are taking place across the world, from New York to Mexico to Taiwan. These conferences

feature human rights activists and journalists from closed societies who risk everything and need our help and support. Their personal bravery and creativity are amplified by our events to inform and stir the compassion of many people into action.

The modern human rights movement began as an effort to help political prisoners living in dictatorships like Venezuela, and HRF carries this torch forward. As you'll read in this report, our legal team continues to expand its work, acting as the first line of defense for dissidents in countries ranging from Bolivia to Vietnam. The global headlines continue to document the erosion of democracy and the rise of illiberal populism. Authoritarians consolidate power at home while exporting their corrupt practices abroad. And yet, HRF's work inspires me and reminds me that the hundreds of millions around the world trapped in darkness have every right to dream of freedom.

Your support for HRF is a vital guiding light for activists, dissidents, journalists, and so many others who persist in their noble mission without much help or attention from the wider world.

More than anything, they want to be heard and to know that they are not alone. Together, in 2019 and beyond, we can spread their messages of hope and freedom.

Sincerely,



Thor Halvorssen
President and Founder
Human Rights Foundation



We are uniting the world to stand against tyranny.

1

We partner

with world-changing activists.

We defend, equip, and give a platform to human rights activists who are boldly changing their communities and countries.

2

We create

innovative solutions.

We connect activists to industry leaders and develop modern solutions to combat the worst human rights violations.

3

We activate

millions of supporters.

We amplify the impact of our activists by inspiring people around the world to participate in our initiatives.

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JANUARY

8th

United Nations Working Group affirms HRF petition for the release of 18 political prisoners in Turkmenistan, adding significant pressure against the regime

30th

HRF partner Ji Seong-ho honored at State of the Union address

30th

HRF facilitates conversation on technology and civil liberties in San Francisco

FEBRUARY

7th

HRF's latest Wear Your Values event is a New York Fashion Week collaboration with the MIT Media Lab

20th

HRF networks with dozens of global rights activists at the Geneva Summit for Human Rights & Democracy

21st

Manal al-Sharif's Oslo Freedom Forum speech chosen as one of 80 notable speeches throughout history in Penguin Random House anthology

MARCH

12th

HRF hosts a panel at SXSW, "Everyday Ways to Fight Oppression," featuring Saudi women's rights activist Manal al-Sharif, Pakistani squash star Maria Toorpakai Wazir, and anti-female genital mutilation advocate Leyla Hussein

16th

HRF hosts its first-ever PutinCon, featuring a day of talks and presentations by leading Russia experts the week before Russia's presidential election

26th

HRF hosts the Oslo Freedom Forum in Johannesburg, in partnership with the Nelson Mandela Foundation

APRIL

6th

HRF speaks at the University of Pennsylvania about technology and human rights, alongside leaders from finance, policy, and philanthropy

7th

HRF holds month-long Art in Protest exhibit, featuring the work of North Korean Defector Song Byeok, in downtown Los Angeles

20th

HRF announces the laureates for the 2018 International Havel Prize for Creative Dissent

MAY

2nd

HRF partners with Forum 2000 in Chile, working on the ground with hundreds of activists, heads of state, and intellectuals on the front lines fighting for Latin American democracy

10th

HRF receives Silver Pencil Award, one of the most prestigious award competitions in advertising design

28th

HRF holds the 10th annual Oslo Freedom Forum in Norway –our flagship program– showcasing dissidents and inspiring activists from around the world

JUNE

1st

HRF produces panel at Teen Vogue Summit, bringing OFF activists together with young women's rights activists from the United States

23rd

HRF condemns Saudi Arabian government for the ongoing crackdown on women's rights activists, and continues its support for Saudi civil society

25th

HRF releases a Your Human Rights guide in Burmese, for distribution to dozens of civil society networks

JULY

8th

HRF promotes Wear Your Values program at Global Fashion Exchange in Costa Rica, bringing together fashion and apparel leaders with individual rights issues

16th

HRF submits contributions to the UN Human Rights Council on Eritrea and Vietnam, increasing pressure on these regimes to release political prisoners

16th

HRF flags voting flaws in Cambodia and Zimbabwe, helping the international community determine that these elections were illegitimate

AUGUST

2nd

HRF authors "Two Years in Prison for Doffing a Scarf" in the *Wall Street Journal*, on the arrest of Iranian women's rights activist Shaparak Shajarizadeh

9th

HRF attends the world's top hacker conference, DEF CON, in Las Vegas to recruit technologists and encryption experts to join the human rights movement

21st

HRF gives keynote at the Singularity University Global Summit in San Francisco

SEPTEMBER

4th

HRF's expanding Flash Drives for Freedom campaign condemned by North Korean dictatorship after a huge global rise in visibility after being featured as the #1 topic on Reddit

17th

HRF hosts the Oslo Freedom Forum in New York, where more than 1,000 human rights activists and community members gathered our sold-out event at Lincoln Center, NYC

28th

HRF launches publicity campaign exposing corruption and human rights violations in Turkey during President Erdoğan's visit to New York

OCTOBER

2nd

OFF participant and *Washington Post* columnist Jamal Khashoggi is murdered in the Saudi Embassy in Istanbul. Days later, OFF speaker Denis Mukwege is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize

4th

HRF asks the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention to review the wrongful arrests of two Cambodian journalists and an Iranian web programmer

15th

HRF's fall College Freedom Forum tour starts, stopping at Arizona State University, University of Arizona, and Universidad Francisco Marroquin in Guatemala

NOVEMBER

1st

HRF briefs the U.S. State Department on technology and human rights

10th

HRF holds Oslo Freedom Forum in Taiwan, bringing together 300 regional rights activists at our first major event in Asia

23rd

Civil society leader, journalist, and Oslo Freedom Forum Speaker Raed Fares assassinated in Kafranbel, Syria

DECEMBER

8th

HRF hosts event at Art Basel, the premier art show with over 4,000 participating galleries from around the world, to mix the creative community with human rights issues

20th

HRF CSO Alex Gladstein finishes 2018 speaking tour, having spoken to more than 10,000 people on four continents about HRF's work and the importance of human rights activism

31st

HRF completes the allocation two dozens of microgrants supporting NGOs, media outlets, and dissident groups in closed societies across the world

2018 HIGHLIGHTS



Worldwide Legal Advocacy

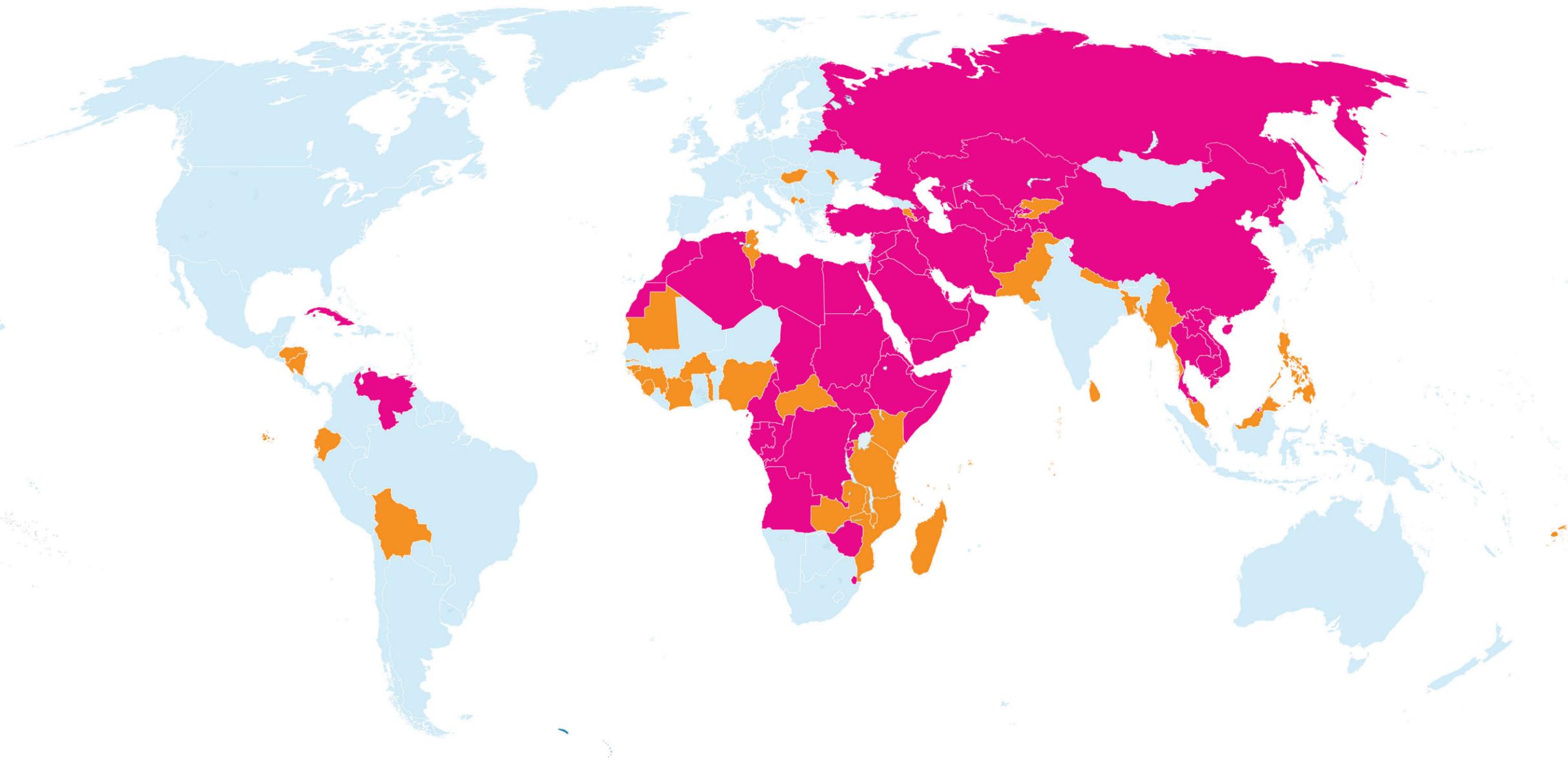
Defense of human rights activists threatened by authoritarian regimes

HRF's Impact Litigation program provides international legal representation to prisoners of conscience whose cases are emblematic examples of the brutality of dictatorship. HRF's attorneys litigate and advocate before international courts and bodies, on behalf of those who are unable to legally protest or criticize their governments. Meanwhile, HRF's Center for Law & Democracy promotes legal scholarship in the areas of comparative constitutional law and international law, with a focus on advancing freedom and democracy.

Global Freedom Research

Political Regime Classification

HRF's mission is to promote freedom and democracy "with a focus on closed societies." In order to fulfill our mission, HRF has taken on classifying all countries in the world, with the purpose of distinguishing democratic governments from authoritarian regimes. According to HRF's research, the world currently has a little over 100 democracies that govern over 47% of the world's population; 40 competitive authoritarian regimes that rule 1.2 billion people; and 53 full-fledged dictatorships that oppress 2.8 billion people. Through our regime classification research, we are able to help focus our limited resources on the most vulnerable populations.



- Democratic
- Fully Authoritarian
- Competitive Authoritarian

Anti-Corruption Initiative

Documenting the links between corruption and authoritarianism.

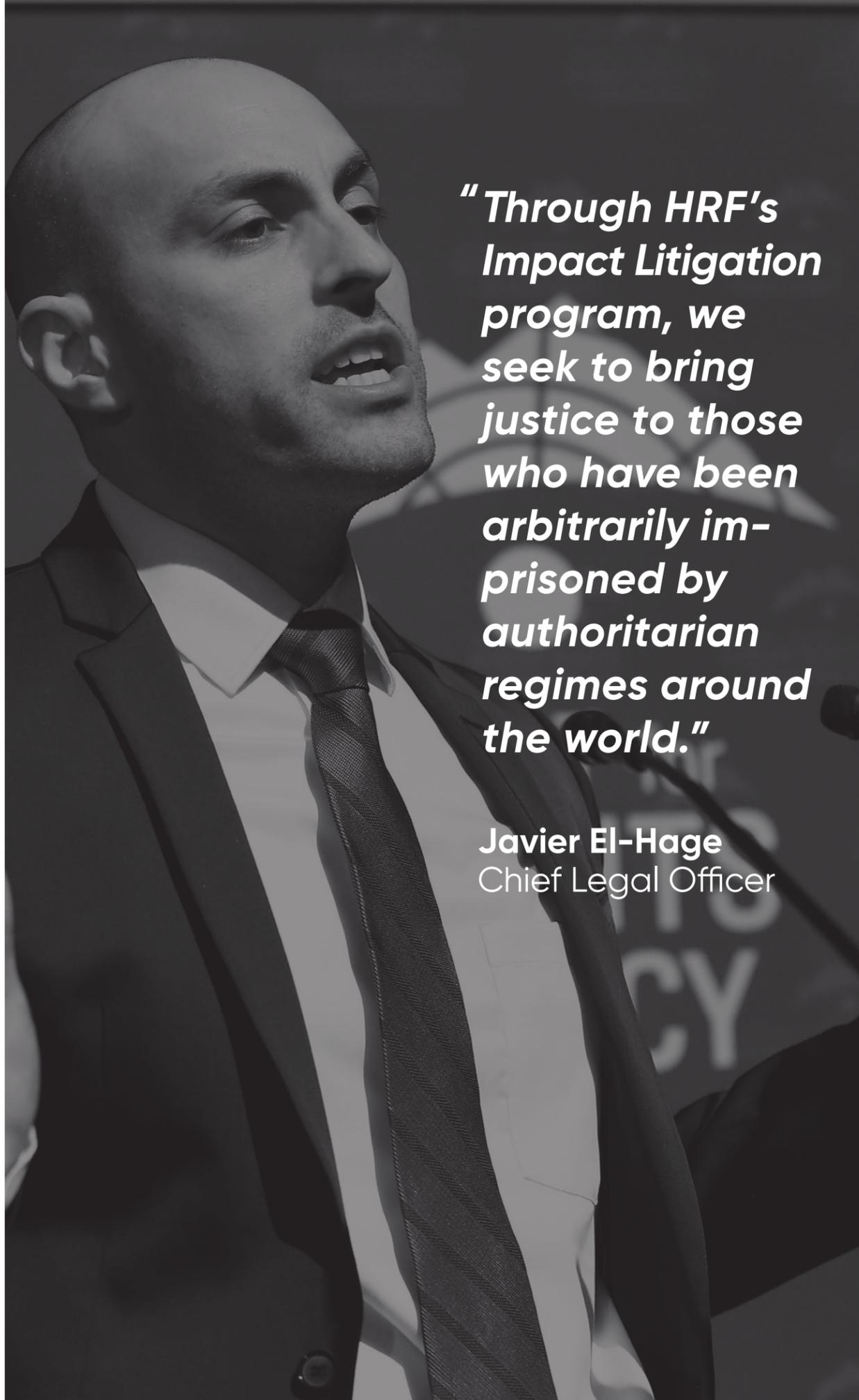
The Anti-Corruption Initiative documents the links between corruption and authoritarianism, and publicizes instances where kleptocratic regimes — like those currently ruling Venezuela, Russia, or Equatorial Guinea — are aided and abetted by their cronies and lobbyists, even inside democratic nations.

The Human Rights Cost of the War on Drugs

Examining the negative consequences of international drug policies.

The Human Rights Cost of the War on Drugs program examines the negative unintended consequences of international drug policies on basic human rights since their adoption in the 1960s. The aim of the program is to support the current global trend towards policies that focus less on prohibition and criminalization and more on individual rights and health.

As part of this program, HRF hosted a panel during the 2018 Oslo Freedom Forum to help foster a global debate about the usefulness of the prohibition paradigm. This panel featured a discussion between Francisco Thoumi (International Narcotics Control Board), Ana Paula Pellegrino (Instituto Igarapé), and Ed Ou (Filmmaker, “The Kill List”), moderated by journalist Ian Birrell. HRF also featured the War on Drugs on the mainstage with talks by Filipino activist Jose Luis Martin “Chito” Gascon and MDMA researcher Rick Doblin.



“Through HRF’s Impact Litigation program, we seek to bring justice to those who have been arbitrarily imprisoned by authoritarian regimes around the world.”

Javier El-Hage
Chief Legal Officer

Human Trafficking and Dictatorship

Documenting the links between authoritarianism and human trafficking.

HRF has observed that authoritarianism is one of the structural problems at the root of human trafficking. Authoritarian regimes lack rule of law, and encourage corruption — factors that allow traffickers and corporations to commit crimes with impunity. Without rule of law, trafficking victims and factory workers lack an avenue through which to challenge their abusers, and cannot count on the state to intervene to protect their rights. Arrests, detentions, and sentencing occur arbitrarily and often are politically motivated. Authoritarian regimes generally prosecute fewer trafficking cases. In corrupt states, police and politicians can be bought off to intentionally ignore and profit from trafficking.

Free Speech Unlimited

A comprehensive map of the strength of democracy across the world.

HRF’s Free Speech Unlimited project analyzes domestic legal systems from all world countries, and then contrasts them with international law’s most strict and protective standards for the right to freedom of expression. It was designed with the objective of helping activists and civil society groups understand their country’s free speech regulations, and includes information on at least one important free speech case per country.



Global Partnerships

HRF is connecting with SXSW, DEF CON, and other like-minded organizations across the world.

- As HRF’s international profile has grown, it has led to partnerships with other events and organizations around the world, including DEF CON in Las Vegas; Oslo Innovation Week in Norway; Forum 2000 in Chile; the Conscious Capitalism Summit in Dallas; the GenNext community in cities across the United States; the Singularity University Global Summit in San Francisco; and, most notably, SXSW, the world’s largest interactive festival.
- HRF returned to SXSW this March, where highlights included a panel, “Everyday Ways to Fight Oppression,” featuring HRF President Thor Halvorssen in conversation with OFF speakers Manal al-Sharif, Maria Toorpakai Wazir, and Leyla Hussein. Another HRF highlight was a workshop to come up with technical solutions to assist Iraq’s persecuted Yazidi population and a panel on blockchain and civil liberties with speakers from Crypto Lotus and Singularity University. HRF organized a breakfast with the City of Oslo on investing in democracy technology, and ran a booth on the trade show floor, presenting our latest Oslo Freedom Forum collaboration with DEAR LEADER, where we were visited by HRH The Crown Prince of Norway. HRF’s Chief Strategy Officer Alex Gladstein also spoke during the Ignite program, giving a talk about how to fight the surveillance state.
- SXSW takes place each March in Austin, Texas. This year, a curator for the conference attended the Oslo Freedom Forum and since then has been working closely with us to integrate individual rights into that event’s 2019 programming.



Human Rights are Making Headlines

For the past ten years, HRF has given activists from around the world a platform to tell their stories about the many atrocities they face living under dictatorial rule. Over time, we have developed a demonstrated ability to get these stories out into the world's top media outlets.

This year, HRF's work was the subject of hundreds of articles published in outlets like *The New York Times*, *The Economist*, *TIME*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Atlantic*, *CNN*, *Reuters*, *Quartz*, *Deutsche Welle*, *El País*, *The New Yorker*, *LA Times*, *Salon*, *MSNBC*, *ESPN*, *the Hollywood Reporter*, *GQ*, and many more—in more than a dozen languages. Consider that these articles reached tens of millions of people around the world, informing them and educating them about human rights and the struggle against authoritarianism.

What's more, HRF staff published a variety of op-eds, including an op-ed in *The Wall Street Journal* by Roberto González and Prachi Vidwans about Shaparak Shajarizadeh, a 43-year-old woman from Tehran, sentenced to prison for removing her hijab in public; a piece by

Thor Halvorssen and Garry Kasparov in *The Washington Post* about North Korean propaganda during the winter Olympics; and op-eds in *TIME* by Prachi Vidwans and Alex Gladstein, memorializing an assassinated Syrian member of the HRF network, and exploring the human rights aspects of the bitcoin network.

Other highlights included an *Economist* video series promoting free speech advocates in HRF's network; a *CNN* feature on OFF speaker Fatemah Quaderyan for its coverage of International Day of the Girl; a popular essay in *The New Republic* on why dictators like development statistics; more than 100 Chinese-language mentions of our Oslo Freedom Forum in Taiwan event; and a large variety of global TV and radio coverage, ranging from *BBC News* to *ABC*, *Al Jazeera*, and *FOX News*.



The Washington Post

BUSINESS INSIDER

FAST COMPANY

theguardian

Newsweek

Aftenposten



The New York Times

VICE

THE HUFFINGTON POST



CNN



WALL STREET JOURNAL

WIRED

THE VERGE

ESPN

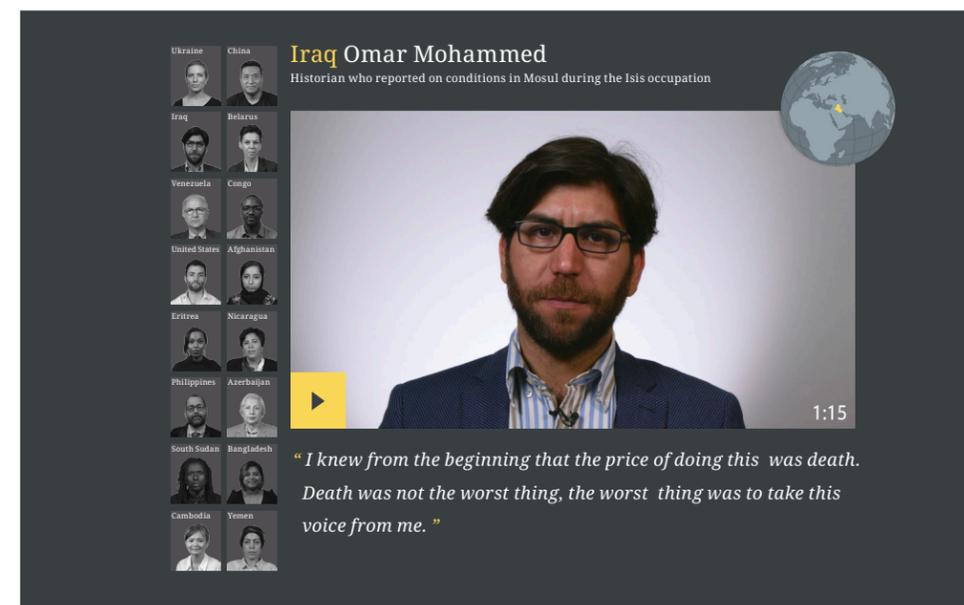
Open Future

The free-speech heroes whose souls have not been crushed

A series of short videos from the Oslo Freedom Forum

Open Future > Sep 5th 2018 | by I.K.

From the 15-year-old captain of Afghanistan's female high-school robotics team to a former South Sudanese child soldier turned hip-hop artist, the desire for free speech is found in every country but exists in precious few.



"I knew from the beginning that the price of doing this was death. Death was not the worst thing, the worst thing was to take this voice from me."

Omar Mohammed

The New York Times

Taiwan, 'Still Fighting' for Democracy, Gets Nod to Host Human Rights Event



Taipei, Taiwan's capital, will host the Oslo Freedom Forum, an international human rights conference, in November. (Daniel Shih/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images)



How I became captain of the winning all-girls Afghan robotics team

By Fatemah Qaderyan



Teen robotics champ fights to empower Afghan girls.

In the past 12 months, highlights have included:

A *New York Times* profile of the Oslo Freedom Forum expansion to Taiwan.

An *Economist* video feature on free expression advocates in HRF's network.

Op-Eds

Numerous op-eds in *TIME*, *The Wall Street Journal*, the *New York Times*, *New Republic*, the *Washington Post*, *ESPN*, and *CNN* by HRF staff and activists.

Television

Television spots on *CNN*'s *Amanpour & Co*, *ABC-TV*'s *This Week with George Stephanopoulos*, *FOX News*' *Tucker Carlson Tonight*, *CNBC-TV*, *Al Jazeera*, *BBC News*, and more.

Radio

National radio interviews on *NPR*'s *The Takeaway*, *NPR*'s *The World*, *BBC World News*, *CBC Radio*, and more.

Our Activists

Hundreds of unique articles featuring activists working with HRF and highlighting HRF's work in *The Washington Post*, *The Atlantic*, *Foreign*

Policy, *Business Insider*, *The Guardian*, *National Review*, *Slate*, *The Financial Times*, *Wired*, *Daily Mail*, *The New York Times*, *Vox*, and others.

Significant international media coverage in *El País*, *EFE*, *La Vanguardia*, *Aftenposten*, *VG*, *CNN Español*, *El Tiempo*, *El Nacional*, and more.

Major podcasts on the topic of technology and liberty with tens of thousands of downloads.

Video

Video clips on *NowThis* on the human rights situation inside North Korea and HRF's *PutinCon* conference.

"At the Oslo Freedom Forum we spend a lot of time discussing how we can actively make places safer, get people's stories out, fight the good fight."

Melissa Mahtani
CNN Producer

TIME

Why Bitcoin Matters for Freedom



By Alex Galdstein

The Washington Post

Ukraine has struck a blow at Putin's assassins. Why aren't we celebrating?

By Garry Kasparov



Diplomats from Germany, Canada, the United States, France, Britain, Italy and Japan, leave a meeting at Ukraine's General Prosecutor office on Friday to brief them on Kiev's decision to stage a contract-style killing of Russian journalist Arkady Babchenko. (Genya Savilov/AFP/Getty Images)

Oslo Freedom Forum

The Oslo Freedom Forum (OFF) is a transformative annual conference where the world's most engaging human rights advocates, artists, tech entrepreneurs, and world leaders meet to share their stories and brainstorm ways to expand freedom and unleash human potential across the globe. 2018 marked the 10th anniversary of the Oslo Freedom Forum in Norway.

Approximately 1,000 participants and more than 75 members of the international media joined some of the world's top entrepreneurs, technologists, philanthropists, and investors, as well as high-level policymakers from Norway, the European Union, the United States, and other democratic nations to hear two days of inspiring talks and participate in panels and roundtable discussions. Highlights included a new partnership between Wikipedia and Netblocks to keep the internet free and open, and new support for educational materials for Afghanistan's all-female robotics team, and much more.

The 2018 Oslo Freedom Forum featured talks by two dozen speakers, including Venezuelan opposition leader and former prisoner of conscience Antonio Ledezma, Vietnamese pop star-turned-dissident Mai Khoi, Tiananmen Square survivor Fang Zheng, parent-turned-activist Fred Warmbier, whose son, Otto, was imprisoned and tortured by the North Korean regime and died soon after his release, and former child soldier and South Sudanese hip-hop

artist Emmanuel Jal. Speakers covered a variety of topics, from corruption to technology in the fight for freedom, to the fragility of democracy and individual liberties.

HRF's Oslo Freedom Forum seeks to:

- 1 Raise human rights to the top of the world agenda.
- 2 Highlight the work of activists and innovators.
- 3 Expose authoritarian regimes.
- 4 Inspire action through the exchange of ideas
- 5 Build, grow, and equip a vibrant international community
- 6 Establish a human rights network of journalists
- 7 Connect participants with allies and supporters

The Global Expansion

Johannesburg, Taiwan, and Mexico City

With generous support from the John Templeton Foundation, HRF is expanding the OFF conference series with one-day regional events in Asia, North America, Africa, and Latin America to complement the European summit that we hold each year in May. In 2019, HRF hosted the inaugural Oslo Freedom Forum in Latin America, which took place in Mexico City on February 26. Our second annual Oslo Freedom Forum in Taiwan will be held on November 9.

Each regional event features ten talks by OFF speakers, a Tech Lab, Interactive Expo, and local music and art. OFF will host these events annually through 2021, with the goal of raising the local interest and funding needed to continue an OFF presence in these countries for years to come.



Oslo Freedom Forum in

New York

September 17

On September 17, HRF held the second annual Oslo Freedom Forum in New York, bringing together some of the world's bravest activists and dissidents to meet with leaders from technology, business, fashion, philanthropy, music, and art. Held at New York City's historic Lincoln Center, attendees heard powerful stories, participated in workshops with world-class thinkers, watched performances by dissident artists, explored an interactive expo of creative brands on the forefront of sustainable change, and met a community of people dedicated to making the world more peaceful, prosperous, and free.

Speakers for OFF in NY included Russian democracy advocate and HRF Chairman Garry Kasparov, New York Knicks basketball player and Turkish activist Enes Kanter, North Korean defector and author Yeonmi Park, Afghanistan's all-female robotics team captain Fatemah Qaderyan, and Saudi Arabian women's rights activist Manal al-Sharif. Programming also included an interactive expo, themed working lunches, networking breaks, and musical performances.



Oslo Freedom Forum in

Johannesburg

March 26

On March 26, HRF held the first-ever Oslo Freedom Forum in Johannesburg. HRF established a partnership with the Nelson Mandela Foundation to bring the Oslo Freedom Forum to South Africa for the 100th anniversary of Mandela's birth. The event linked OFF's existing network with new partners to strengthen human rights and civil liberties in Africa and beyond. OFF in Johannesburg featured riveting talks, world-class networking, interactive exhibits, music, comedy, and conversations between courageous dissidents and leaders from business, philanthropy, technology, policy, and media.

Flag movement leader Evan Mawarire, former Maldivian president and environmental activist Mohamed Nasheed, Moroccan-born French free expression advocate and journalist Zineb El Rhazoui, Arab Spring writer and journalist Iyad el-Baghadadi, Chinese-Canadian actress and human rights activist Anastasia Lin, Angolan investigative journalist Rafael Marques de Morais, Eritrean information activist and refugee rescuer Meron Estefanos, Malawian girls' rights activist Memory Banda, Somali psychotherapist and anti-FGM activist Leyla Hussein, and Egyptian actor and LGBT rights activist Omar Sharif, Jr., among others.

Speakers at OFF in Johannesburg included Zimbabwean civil rights activist and #This-





Oslo Freedom Forum in
Taiwan
November 10

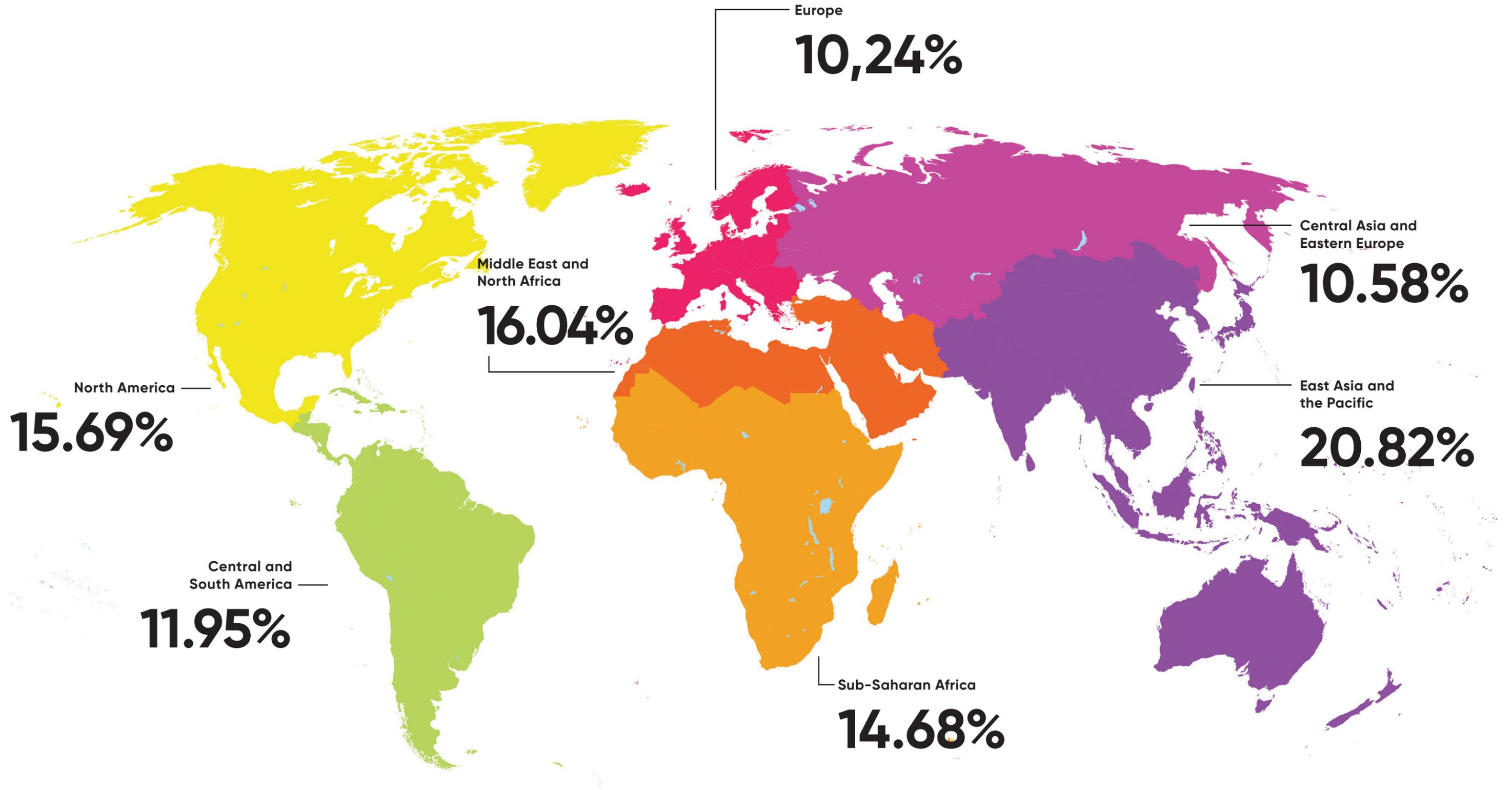
In November, our first-ever Oslo Freedom Forum in Taiwan showed us just how receptive local and regional audiences are for an event that promotes freedom and challenges authoritarian governments. Tickets to OFF in Taiwan sold out, with standing room only, and the event was covered by international media in more than 100 articles about the Forum and our speakers. Taiwan, known for its transition to democracy as well as its world-leading contributions to technology, was a fitting location for our first Asia Forum.

Speakers at OFF in Taiwan included North Korean defector Ji Seong-ho, Bahraini poet Aayat Alqormozi, Egyptian actor and LGBT rights activist Omar Sharif, Jr., Russian civil society leader Vladimir Kara-Murza, Vietnamese pop star-turned-dissident Mai Khoi, investigative journalist and founder of the *Sarawak Report* Clare Rewcastle Brown, Cambodian opposition leader Mu Sochua, Eritrean free speech activist Vanessa Tsehaye, and technology and human rights correspondent for *BuzzFeed News* Megha Rajagopalan.

Our Speakers

In 10 years of the Oslo Freedom Forum

293 Speakers 97 Countries 21 Languages





PutinCon

A one-day masterclass in understanding the Russian dictator Putin

Vladimir Putin's power over Russia is based on fear, mystery, and propaganda. He uses violence as a key tool in shaping a system that gives him unrivaled power and wealth. On March 16 in New York, HRF hosted the first major conference on the Putin regime and its grave threat to democracy and Western values. Led by our Chairman Garry Kasparov, PutinCon brought together 25 experts on Russia to discuss the rise and rule of Vladimir Putin. Experts included Bill Browder, Magnitsky Act creator and best-selling author of *Red Notice*; Preet Bharara, former U.S. attorney and anti-corruption crusader who was banned from entering Russia in 2013; Vladimir Kara-Murza, Russian democracy activist and vice chairman of Open Russia; Arkady Babchenko, renowned Russian opposition journalist; Valentyn Nalyvaichenko, leader of the Ukrainian political party Justice; Andrei Soldatov, a Russian investigative journalist and security services expert, and many other Kremlin experts, Putin biographers, law enforcement professionals, historians, foreign policy leaders, and intelligence analysts.

More than 300 attended the event which was live-streamed and covered extensively by national and international media. Garry Kasparov discussed the conference and Putin's upcoming election with Christiane Amanpour

"The modern history of Russia teaches us that big political changes in a country can start quickly, suddenly, and unexpectedly."

Vladimir Kara-Murza
Russian democracy
activist

on *CNN* and with *ABC-TV's* George Stephanopoulos. NowThis created a special video about Putin's rise to power and the conference that has received more than 50 million views. PutinCon was also covered by *The Economist*, *Fast Company*, *Newsday*, *The Weekly Standard*, *American Interest*, *The Daily Mail*, *National Review*, *Mother Jones*, *Reason*, *Slate*, *Business Insider*, *GQ*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and other outlets.

Tech & Liberty

HRF's Tech & Liberty program connects international technologists with activists who live under dictatorships to provide them with the resources they need to advance their work.

As dictatorships develop systems of oppression that increasingly rely on technology, HRF is partnering with tech experts to combat these new methods of authoritarianism. The goal of the program is to keep activists safe online, fight illegal surveillance, and support technologies that advance democracy. In the past year, HRF has actively participated in and sponsored numerous conferences that explore harnessing new technologies to promote individual rights and challenge tyranny.

In 2018, HRF expanded its collaboration with tech leaders by hosting workshops and participating in panels at prominent technology conferences around the world. HRF Chief Strategy Officer Alex Gladstein spoke at more than two dozen events around the world.

In the past year, Alex has become a Guest Lecturer at Singularity University, a powerful community of technologists who aim to solve humankind's biggest problems.

Alex gave the keynote speech at Singularity University's Global Summit in San Francisco as well as other Singularity University events in Germany, Italy, Portugal, Greece, Switzerland, and South Africa.

Meanwhile, HRF has built upon relationships with tech companies like Google and Twit-

ter, 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.

HRF hosted two San Francisco events with the founders of the cryptocurrency hedge fund CryptoLotus Coinlist CEO and co-founder Andy Bromberg, ConsenSys Ventures founding managing partner Kavita Gupta, and Orchid Labs CEO and co-founder Steve Waterhouse in January. And in August HRF held another event to discuss how bitcoin can stave off hyperinflation in places like Zimbabwe and Venezuela. The discussion featured Zimbabwean opposition leader Evan Mawarire, Venezuelan activist Mariana Bernardez, Pale Blue Foundation CEO Jonathan Wheeler, and the Zcash Company's Jill Carlson.

Much as scientists played a key role in the collapse of the Soviet Union, technologists can

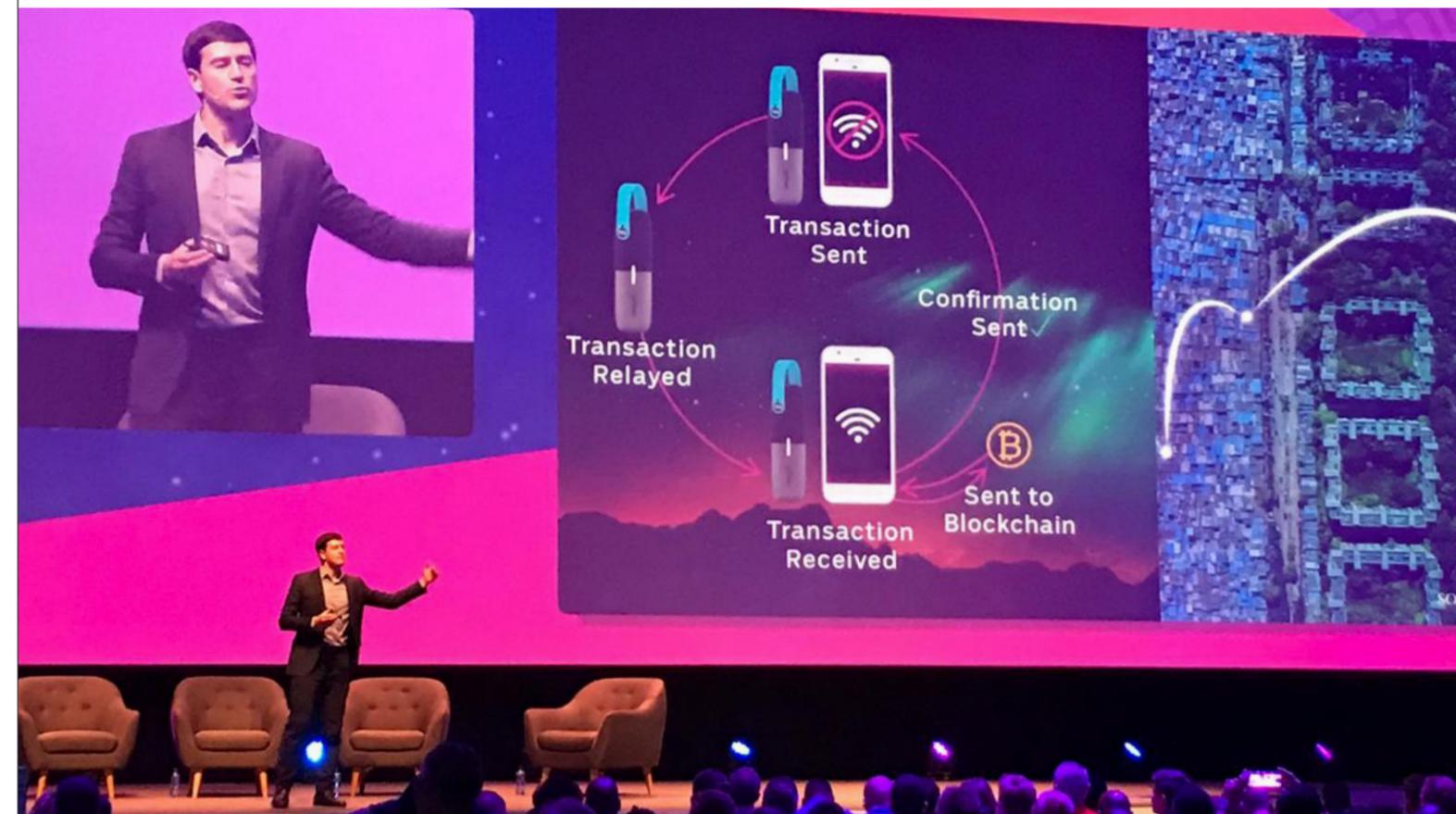
play a key role in bringing down authoritarian regimes today. We know that once tyrants lose their control over information, they begin to lose their grip on power.

HRF Working Side by Side with Silicon Valley

In 2014, HRF organized the world's first ever hackathon for North Korea with the goal of sending information into closed societies. Since then, partnerships have multiplied and bridges have been built between Silicon Valley companies and human rights groups in HRF's network. HRF also organized the world's first tech lab for dissidents at the Oslo Freedom Forum, and it continues to be a key feature of the annual event.

One area where HRF has made the greatest impact is through technical training. HRF attends conferences such as DEF CON, Mozilla Festival, SXSW, and WIRED to grow its network of cybersecurity and information technology experts who provide pro bono services for dissidents around the world.

HRF has worked with AnchorFree, Google Ideas, Silent Circle, Twitter, Wickr, Wikimedia, Yahoo!, and YouTube, in order to identify ways in which to support dissidents at risk. HRF also presented this work at Europe's largest technology conference, DLD, and at the European Parliament, the U.S. Congress, MIT, Stanford, and the United Nations.





Flash Drives For Freedom

Smuggling information from the outside world into North Korea on donated USB drives.

It is HRF's belief that information and education (rather than diplomacy or military action) are the keys to change inside North Korea. When enough of the North Korean people learn the truth about life outside their country, the Kim regime will no longer be able to survive. That's why HRF created the Flash Drives for Freedom campaign. HRF is collecting flash drives to donate to local partners in South Korea that are helping guide the flow of information into, and out of, the Hermit Kingdom.

On September 4, HRF's Flash Drives for Freedom campaign was attacked in North Korea's state-run newspaper, *Minju Choson*. This is the main print outlet of the Cabinet of North Korea and is read daily by regime officials. In the article, the regime criticized HRF's efforts to send information into North Korea as a "wild dream of those who are utterly ignorant of the DPRK." This reinforces our belief that our efforts to send outside information into North Korea are having a tremendous impact.

Also this year, HRF received the Silver Pencil Award at One Show for the Flash Drives for Freedom campaign. This is one of the most prestigious competitions in advertising, design, interactive, and branded entertainment.

125K

DRIVES
DONATED
AND PLEDGED

1.3M

NORTH
KOREANS
REACHED

50M

HOURS OF
READING
DISSEMINATED

2.1M

HOURS OF
FOOTAGE
SMUGGLED

\$6.4M

VALUE OF
FREE MEDIA
COVERAGE

571M

MEDIA
IMPRESSIONS

Aegeas

Digital taskforce for defending and training human rights activists from across the globe.

As governments develop new systems of oppression that increasingly rely on technology, HRF is partnering with experts in cybersecurity and encryption to strengthen civil society organizations around the world. Aegeas, HRF's new tech initiative, connects tech consultants with activists in authoritarian countries so that they can collaborate, educate, and share resources with each other in order to stay safe online and advance their human rights work.

Supporting NGOs at Risk

HRF is empowering dissidents and activists across the globe through microgrants.

HRF works with foundations and individuals from around the world to support effective civil society organizations laboring under authoritarian governments. These groups—sometimes media outlets, sometimes anti-corruption units, sometimes environmental or labor rights or democracy or women’s rights organizations—have extremely little support from the international community. HRF partners with them, supporting them in areas of need while collaborating with them on new projects to advance freedom locally.

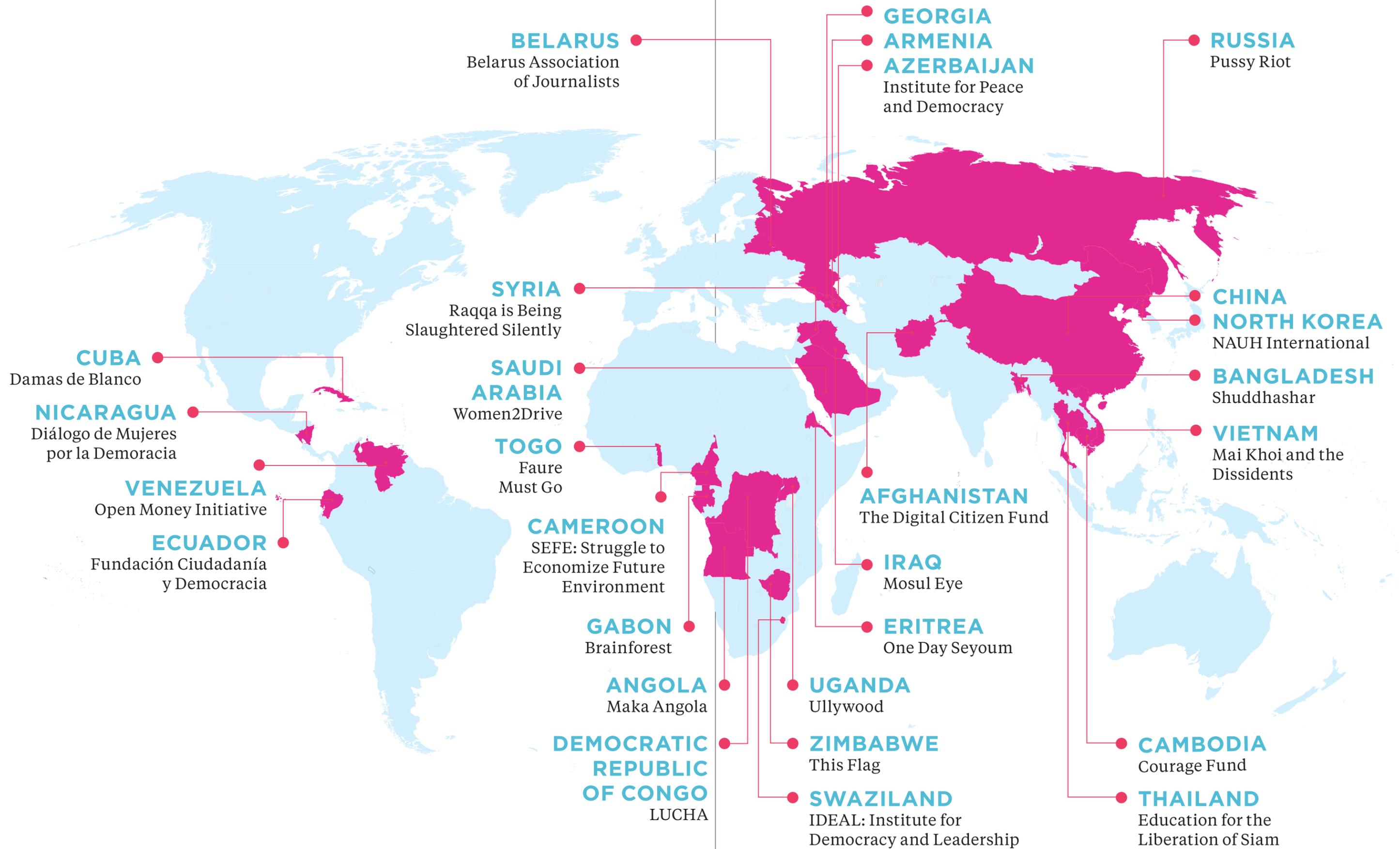
NGOs HRF supports

Belarus Association of Journalists	Faure Must Go	Mai Khoi and the Dissidents	Shuddhashar
Brainforest	Fundación Ciudadanía y Democracia	Maka Angola	Struggle to Economize Future Environment (SEFE)
Courage Fund	Institute for Peace and Democracy	Mosul Eye	The Digital Citizen Fund
Diálogo de Mujeres por la Democracia	Institute for Democracy and Leadership (IDEAL)	NAUH International	This Flag
Damas de Blanco	LUCHA	One Day Seyoum	Ullywood
Education for the Liberation of Siam		Open Money Initiative	Women2Drive
		Pussy Riot	
		Raqqa is Being Slaughtered Silently	

“Thanks to your grant, 600 young people are getting a kick-start of their careers on the African cinema stage through my film “The Runaway Bride,” which encourages the pursuit of young people’s freedom away from early marriages and gives value to education. We shall show the film across 2000 schools in East Africa in 2019. Through this one dream, a lot will never remain the same. This film is our revolution, our voice, and our struggle.”

Jerry Sesanga

Ugandan author, journalist, filmmaker, and human rights activist



CUBA
Damas de Blanco

NICARAGUA
Diálogo de Mujeres
por la Democracia

VENEZUELA
Open Money Initiative

ECUADOR
Fundación Ciudadanía
y Democracia

BELARUS
Belarus Association
of Journalists

SYRIA
Raqa is Being
Slaughtered Silently

**SAUDI
ARABIA**
Women2Drive

TOGO
Faure
Must Go

CAMEROON
SEFE: Struggle to
Economize Future
Environment

GABON
Brainforest

ANGOLA
Maka Angola

**DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC
OF CONGO**
LUCHA

GEORGIA
ARMENIA
AZERBAIJAN
Institute for Peace
and Democracy

RUSSIA
Pussy Riot

CHINA
NORTH KOREA
NAUH International

BANGLADESH
Shuddhashar

VIETNAM
Mai Khoi and the
Dissidents

AFGHANISTAN
The Digital Citizen Fund

IRAQ
Mosul Eye

ERITREA
One Day Seyoum

UGANDA
Ullywood

ZIMBABWE
This Flag

SWAZILAND
IDEAL: Institute for
Democracy and Leadership

CAMBODIA
Courage Fund

THAILAND
Education for the
Liberation of Siam

Educational Programming

Increasing student engagement to inspire the human rights leaders of the future.

HRF is educating the next generation of global human rights leaders. HRF's Educational Programs encourage students to learn about, and become involved with the global struggle for freedom. The College Freedom Forum (CFF) series brings speakers from our Oslo Freedom Forum community to university campuses, engaging with students on human rights issues, while the Oslo Scholars program allows students to work directly with human rights activists.

The College Freedom Forum

HRF hosts College Freedom Forum (CFF) events on college campuses to connect students directly with activists promoting democracy and fundamental rights around the world.

The CFF is a series of one-day events on university campuses, designed to educate and enlighten students about the state of freedom around the world and the global impact of limiting individual liberties. The CFF program brings dissidents and human rights advocates from inside dictatorships and authoritarian societies to inspire civic engagement among students and encourage them to advance freedom abroad.

In 2018, HRF hosted three CFF events at Arizona State University (ASU), University of Arizona (UA), and Universidad Francisco Marroquín (UFM) in Guatemala. More than 800 students were engaged in the conversation with global democracy leaders through talks, colloquia, and individual workshops.

Featured speakers at the CFF at ASU and AU included Eritrean journalist Meron Estefanos, Nicaraguan women's rights activist Edipcia

Dubón, Syrian citizen journalist Abdalaziz Alhamza, and Chinese-Canadian human rights activist Anastasia Lin.

In October, HRF partnered with UFM to host the third annual College Freedom Forum in Guatemala. This event brought six activists to speak with students, staff, faculty, and community members from Guatemala and El Salvador about the global state of human rights. These speakers included: Nicaraguan women's rights advocate Edipcia Dubón, Egyptian internet activist Wael Ghonim, Ugandan author and filmmaker Jerry Sesanga, Somalian gender rights advocate Leyla Hussein, Venezuelan managing editor of the satirical website El Chigüire Bipolar, and Chinese human rights ferent media sources were present to cover the event, including *Libertopolis*, *Guatevisión*, *Radio Punto*, *El Periódico*, and *EFE*.



“My hope for future generations is that they would never be silent when they should speak up; that they would never sit down when they should dance; that they would never look at a mountain and think it's too high.”

Evan Mawarire

Zimbabwean civil rights activist, pastor, and leader of the “This Flag” movement

Oslo Scholars

HRF works to engage the next generation of human rights leaders through our Oslo Scholars Program (OSP) by connecting university students with a global activist mentor.

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.

rea Strategy Center (NKSC) to work with North Korean activists in South Korea, and with Dr. Nada Dhaif’s Bahrain Rehabilitation & Anti-Violence Organization (BRAVO) to conduct research on the effects of torture. Students from Tufts University and Wellesley College worked with speakers like Serbian nonviolence expert Srđja Popović, Venezuelan satirical website El Chigüire Bipolar, and Jamila Raquib at the Albert Einstein Institute & MIT Lab.

In 2018, HRF paired students from McGill University with Kang Chol-hwan’s North Ko-



Your Human Rights

Educational guides on country-specific human rights issues in 19 countries and in local languages.

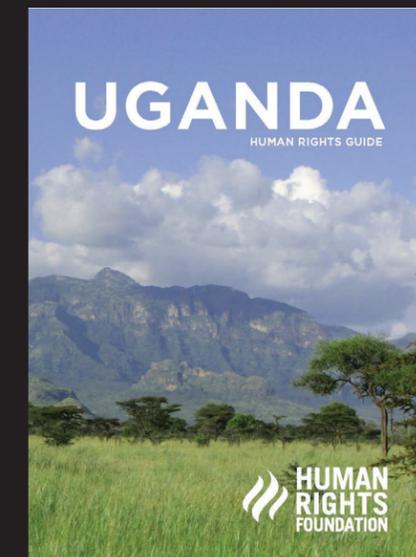
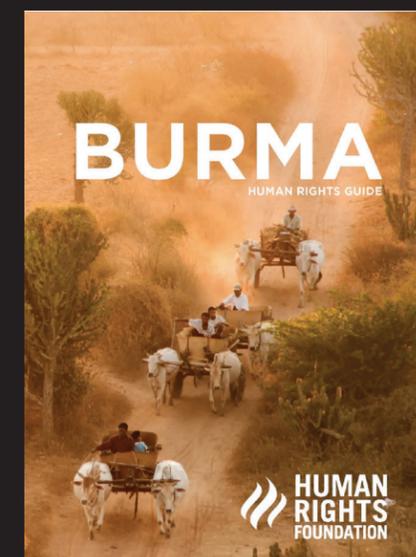
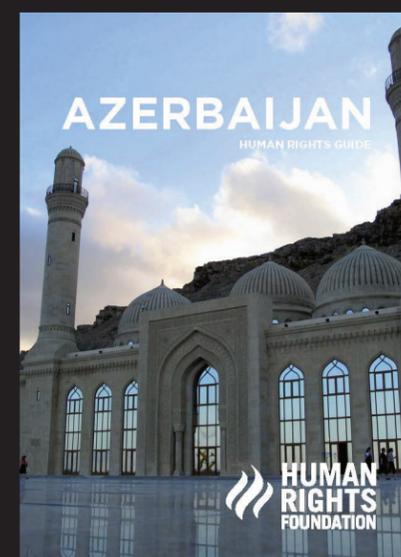
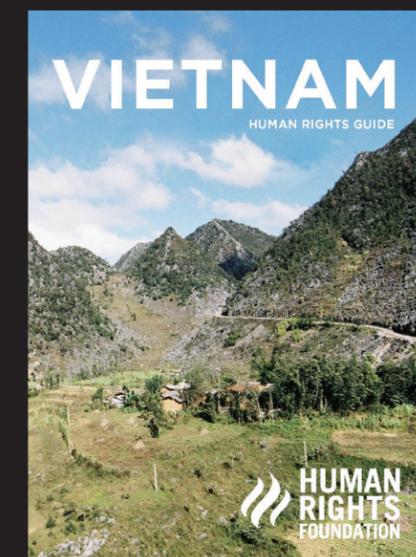
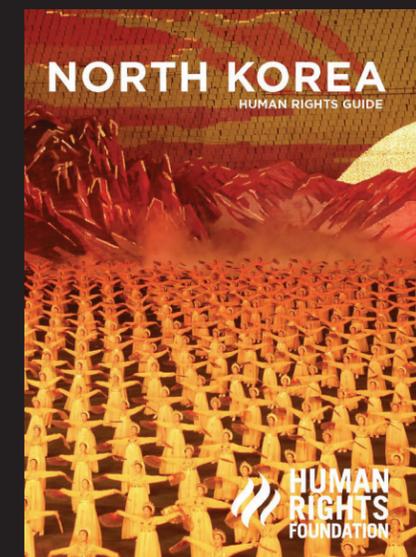
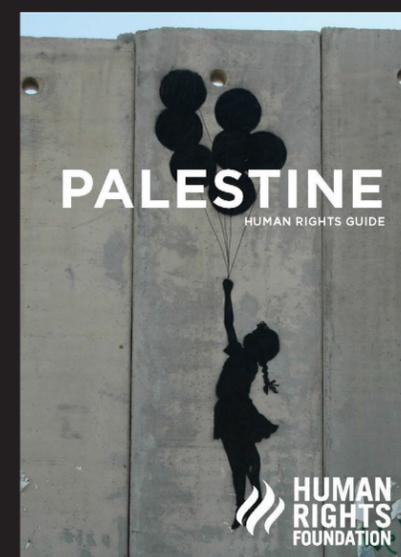
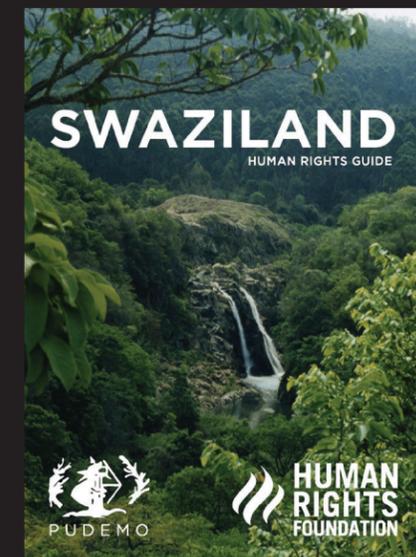
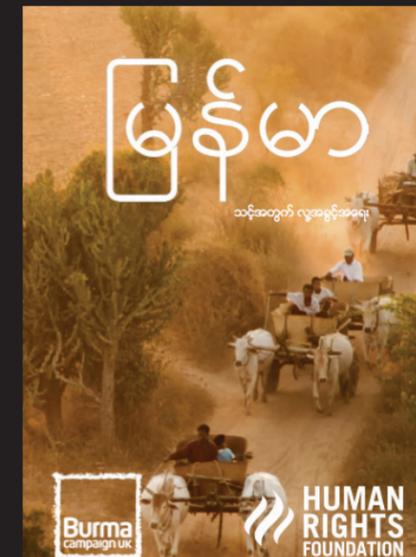
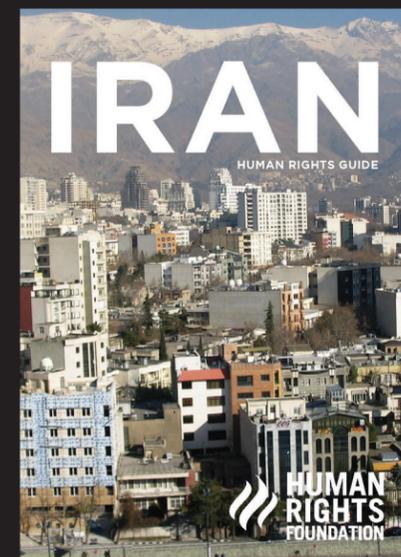
Through this program, HRF partners with civil society groups operating under dictatorships to create country-specific guides that explain in very simple terms why the lack of civil and political rights is contrary to the basic norms agreed upon by all nations of the world.

Your Human Rights guides have been created for more than 20 countries and are offered in the local language; provide context-specific examples of human rights violations, and offer suggestions for what people can do to protect and safeguard their rights.

When completed, the guides are distributed through local networks and uploaded for public access at hrf.org. Our goal is to have a guide in every dictatorship and competitive authoritarian state. We recently produced Your Human Rights guides for Burma, Russia, Bahrain, and Eritrea.

“The principle of universal human rights must underpin our fight for freedom, democracy, and peace. Through this human rights guide, people in and from Burma will not just learn about their own human rights, but also the rights of others. They learn that human rights are universal, they belong to everyone, regardless of their race, religion, language, gender or wealth. They cannot be selectively applied.”

Zoya Phan
BCUK (Burma)





Fashion & Art

Art in Protest

Partnerships with human rights artists who inspire action.

Authoritarian regimes regularly harass, jail, and even execute artists because they know how powerful the creative arts can be in challenging tyranny. HRF's Art in Protest is an ongoing series of international art exhibitions and events featuring artists living under, or exiled by, authoritarian regimes, and whose art is connected to their countries' struggle for democracy and basic human rights. These

artists need support to continue their work and HRF provides the resources and creates opportunities for their work, and to be seen by a larger audience. Art in Protest provides them with financial backing, international partnerships, writing and cataloging services, and other support to enable them to continue their important work.

Václav Havel International Prize for Creative Dissent

HRF honors activists with the world's top prize for creative dissent.

The Václav Havel International Prize for Creative Dissent is an annual prize given at the Oslo Freedom Forum in Norway that honors the legacy of former HRF chairman Václav Havel and celebrates those who, with bravery and ingenuity, unmask the lie of dictatorship by living in truth.

2018 Václav Havel International Prize for Creative Dissent

Laureates

Emmanuel Jal

South Sudanese hip-hop artist and former child soldier

Belarus Free Theatre

Underground theater group

Mai Khoi

Vietnamese pop singer and activist



Wear Your Values

The convergence of fashion and human rights.

The fashion industry is one of the world's largest consumer industries and employs nearly 60 million people in its supply chains. The most labor-intensive parts of the system are in countries where civil and political rights are not respected, and where independent media, watchdogs, and unions are restricted from carrying out their work — or are banned altogether. This program aims to engage the fashion industry in the human rights movement, promoting transparency in the supply chain, and educating consumers on the consequences of certain fashion choices.

HRF encourages dialogue on human rights within the fashion industry through panel discussions, events, and exhibitions and facilitates collaborations between human rights activists and designers in an effort to promote a message of activism for women's rights, transparency, and free expression. This year, Wear Your Values events were held at Study Hall in collaboration with MIT Media Labs and The Library in New York, at REACT, Fashion Business Forum, presented by Mercedes Benz Fashion Week in San Jose, Costa Rica, an exhibition and fashion show at Oslo Freedom Forum, Interactive Expo in Oslo Norway, and a full day of panel discussions during New York Fashion Week, which was attended by 300 people and included designers, activists, technologists, and brand founders working to promote human rights in closed societies.

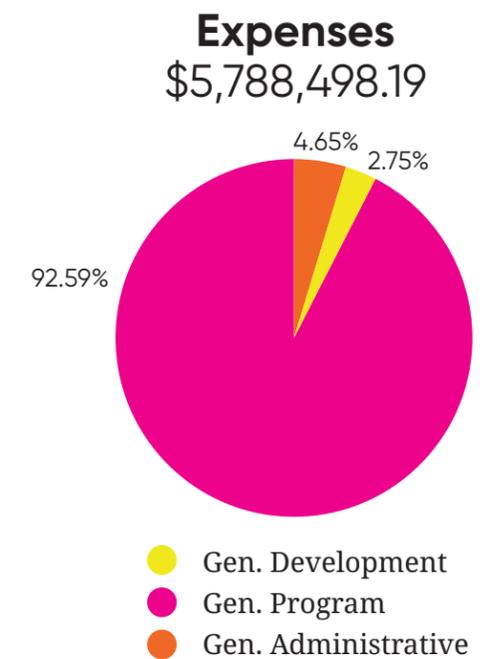
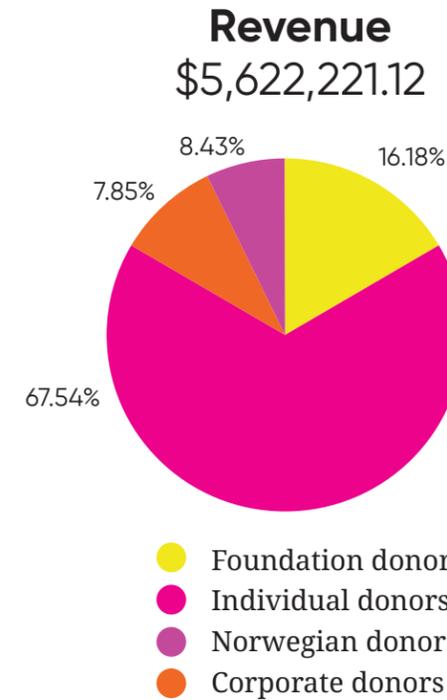


Financials

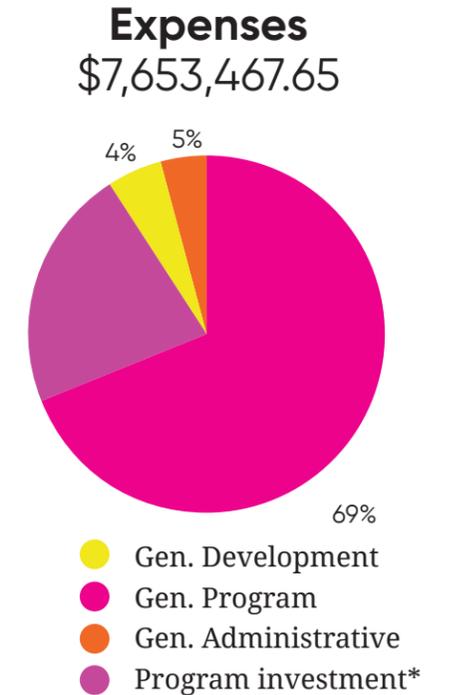
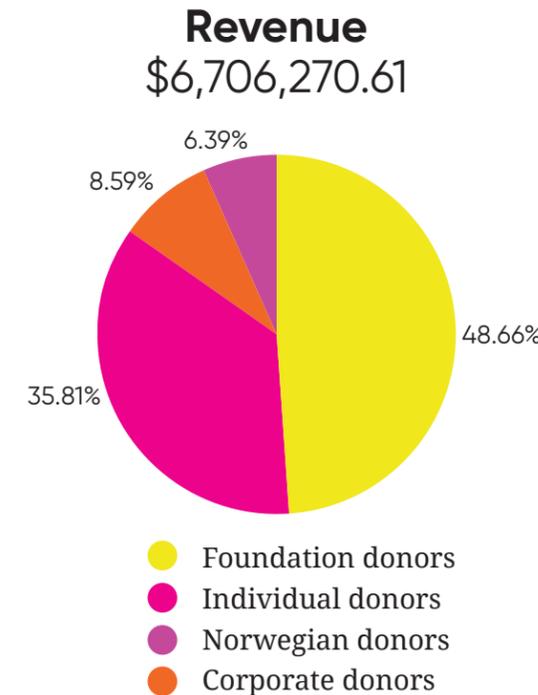
HRF is fully dedicated to utilizing donor dollars effectively; 91 cents of every dollar go directly toward programs. HRF is fully funded by individual donors, grant-making organizations, international governmental departments, and corporate sponsors.

HRF has grown significantly in 2018 –in staff, resources, programs, and most importantly, impact. HRF has been able to add new staff members in all departments, while keeping overhead costs low; build out a new college based program, the College Freedom Forum, and streamline many internal systems and processes to become more efficient and effective at defending human rights globally.

2017



2018



* One time investment in expanding OFF and CFF programs. This is also inclusive of 2017 deferred debt and costs associated with the expansion of the Oslo Freedom Forum.

Our Staff

HRF Staff

Céline Assaf-Boustani
Chief Program Officer

Holly Baxter
Director,
Art in Protest

Mariana Bernardez
Creative Director

Gustav Deutsch
Director of Events

Javier El-Hage
Chief Legal Officer

Per Elvestuen
Director, Oslo Freedom
Forum in Norway

Chris Fink
Senior Advisor

Sandra Germaine
Chief Talent
Officer

Alex Gladstein
Chief Strategy Officer

Michelle Gulino
Legal and Policy
Fellow

Roberto González
Senior
Legal Associate

Thor Halvorsen
President and CEO

Malaak Jamal
Policy Officer

Scot Olsen
IT Specialist

Joy Park
Legal Counsel,
Asia

Jiye Seong
Strategy Associate

Sherman Teichman
Senior Strategic
Advisor

Jhanisse Vaca-Daza
Activism Outreach
Specialist and Freedom
Fellowship Manager

Prachi Vidwans
Research
Associate

Jim Warnock
Director of
Outreach

Nasser Weddady
Strategic Advisor

Chloé Whitewater
Strategy and
Development Associate

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Jacqueline Moudeina

Amir Ahmad Nasr

Marina Nemat

Abdel Nasser Ould Ethmane

Yeonmi Park

Park Sang-Hak

Robert A. Sirico

Mutabar Tadjibaeva

Cameron Colby Thomson

Álvaro Vargas Llosa

In Memoriam

Václav Havel
Chairman Emeritus
[1936 - 2011]

Palden Gyatso
[1933 - 2018]

Eduardo Mendoza
[1917 - 2009]

Ramón José Velásquez
[1916 - 2014]

Elie Wiesel
[1928 - 2016]

James Q. Wilson
[1931 - 2012]

Harry Wu
[1937 - 2016]

Join the Movement!

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 donate.hrf.org.

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, visit hrf.org/donate.

Careers

HRF is a great place for you to start your career in human rights. Apply today at hrf.org.

Intern

Each semester, HRF offers paid, in-office internships with flexible schedules, to students in New York. These positions afford students the opportunity to engage in human rights work and gain hands-on experience in the non-profit world. HRF has hired interns to work on conferences and events, university programs, legal and policy, communications, operations, and design projects, among others.

Volunteer

Each individual has a unique set of skills and abilities that HRF could use in the global fight for freedom. Please let us know how you would like to be involved at info@hrf.org.

Social Media

Share your story on social media, via e-mail, or in person.

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 @HumanRightsFoundation and @OsloFreedomForum

