

2024

OSLO FREEDOM FORUM

JUNE 3-5

Oslo Konserthus & Rebel
Oslo, Norway



Human
Rights
Foundation

RE 2024 THEME



RE-CLAIM DEMOCRACY

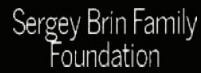
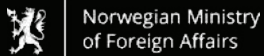
Over the last 18 years, we have witnessed a global democratic decline and a rise in authoritarianism. Amid this trend, the Oslo Freedom Forum (OFF) offers an important platform to **Reclaim Democracy**, bringing together the world's top human rights defenders and industry leaders to exchange valuable tools, knowledge, and resources in the struggle for basic rights and individual liberties.

The 2024 OFF theme, **Reclaim Democracy**, emphasized the pivotal role every individual – speaker and participant alike – plays within the global movement for freedom and democracy. Through inspiring theater talks, thought-provoking panel discussions, hands-on workshops, networking opportunities, and a creative expo space, attendees were encouraged to take part in these critical discussions and learn about the struggle for democracy directly from those on the frontlines.

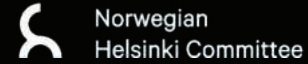
RE-CLAIM DEMOCRACY

SPONSORS, PARTNERS, & IN-KIND SUPPORTERS

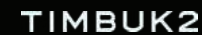
SPONSORS



PARTNERS

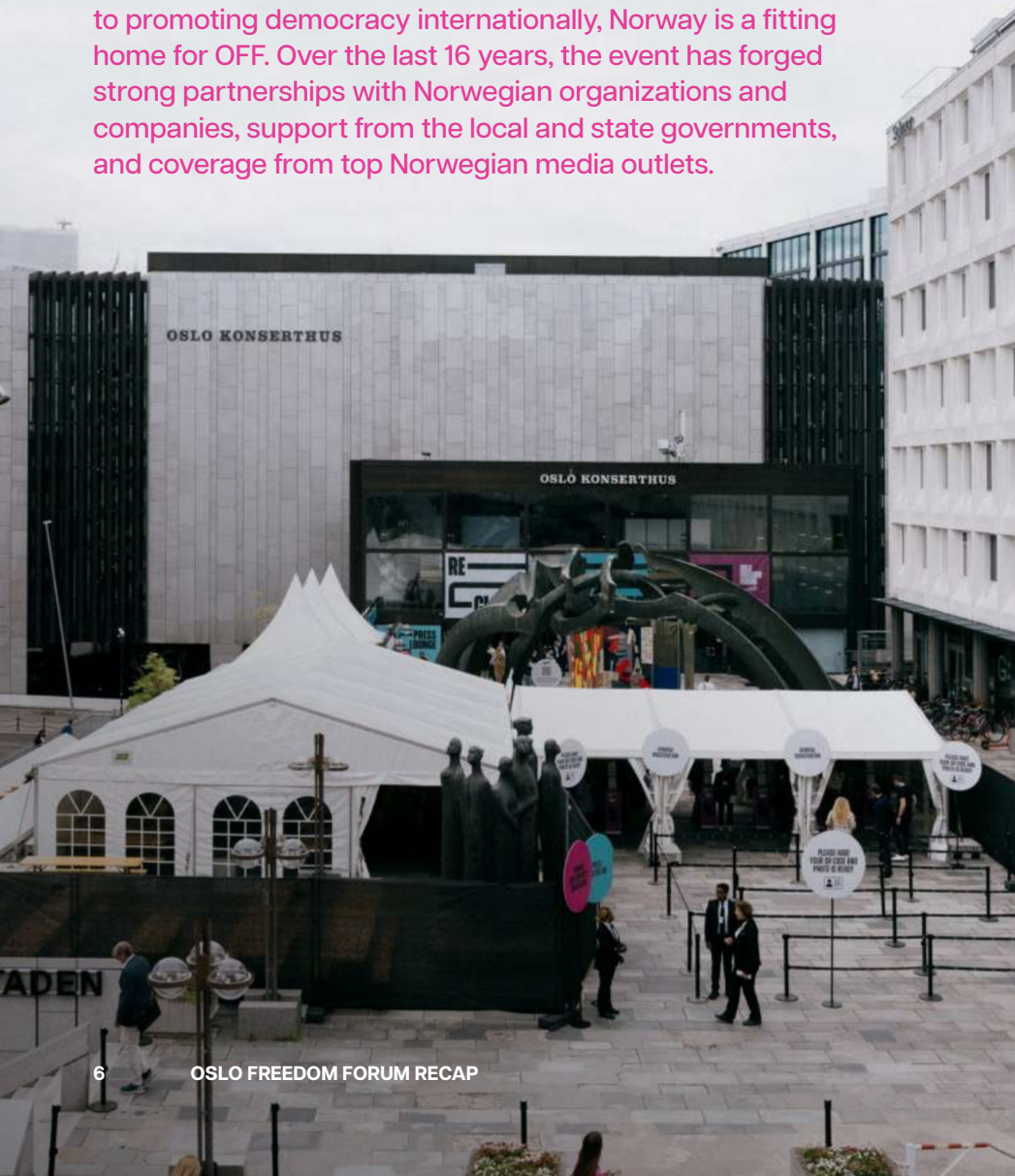


SUPPORTERS



OSLO NORWAY

As a country consistently ranked as one of the freest in international indexes and with a long-standing commitment to promoting democracy internationally, Norway is a fitting home for OFF. Over the last 16 years, the event has forged strong partnerships with Norwegian organizations and companies, support from the local and state governments, and coverage from top Norwegian media outlets.

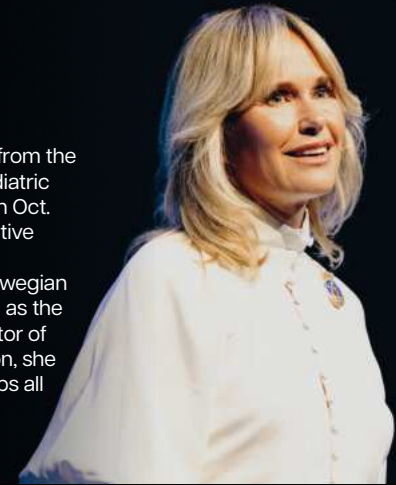


2024 NORWEGIAN SPEAKERS

ANNE LINDBOE

MAYOR OF OSLO

Anne Lindboe is a trained physician from the University of Oslo, specializing in pediatric medicine. Lindboe became mayor on Oct. 25, 2023, representing the Conservative Party. Previously holding roles at the Children's House in Oslo and the Norwegian Institute of Public Health and serving as the Children's Ombudsperson and director of the Private Kindergartens Association, she envisions Oslo to be the city that helps all children achieve their dreams.



ESPEN BARTH EIDE

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF NORWAY

Espen Barth Eide is the current minister of foreign affairs in Norway, representing the Labour Party. He previously held ministerial roles in the Ministries of Defence, Foreign Affairs, and Climate and Environment. Furthermore, he acted as the UN special adviser on Cyprus and was managing director of the World Economic Forum in Geneva. Barth Eide also chairs the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue board and is a board member of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute and the Norwegian Atlantic Committee.





Yulia Navalnaya, wife of Alexei Navalny, speaks at the 2024 Thulani Maseko Justice Prize Ceremony.

2024 MEDIA COVERAGE IN NORWAY

The 2024 OFF and its keynote speakers received incredible coverage in Norway in the months leading up to the conference and until early July. With dozens of stories in the country's top media outlets, Norwegian coverage alone has garnered over 113 million impressions. Explore some highlights.

NRK TV



Håper på forandring

BY JAN ESPEN KRUSE AND K-JERSTI STRØMMEN

NRK TV



Intern kritikk av Hamas

BY ESPEN AAS

NRK Radio



Iranske demonstranter besøkte Norge

BY ODA OTTESEN

NRK Radio



Navalnaja lover å fortsette kampen

BY JAN ESPEN KRUSE

2



Julia Navalnaja: - Vi må aldri gi opp

BY MARTHE STOKSTAD & FINN ERIK ROBSTAD

2



Jeg må advare den norske regjeringen

BY ROY KVATNINGEN

2



Frykter de blir "Asias Belarus": - Kina vil erobre verden

BY HÅKON KVAM LYNGSTAD

Aftenposten



Finnes det et Russland uten Putin? Ja, mener organisasjonen til Aleksej Navalnyj

HELENE SKJEGGESTAD

Subjekt



LHBT-bevegelsen må oftere ta seg en titt i speilet

BY MIKKEL IHLE TANDE

VG



Navalnyjs enke er i Oslo

BY OLE JØRGEN STRØM, SIGNE ROSENLUND-HAUGLID, & INGRID BJØRNDAL FARESTVEDT

VG



India: Valgseier med bismak

BY SHAZIA MAJID

vårtland



Adværer mot mer vold mot religiøse minoriteter

BY KJELL KVAMME

DNHelg



Dere kan ikke bøye kneet og kysse ringen

BY OLA MAGNUSSEN RYDJE

E24 | Norges største næringslivsavis



Navalnyjs finansdirektør: - Vi betalte for begravelsen i bitcoin

BY JØRGEN STRØMSNES

Nettavisen.



Anastasia Sjevtsjenko trosset Putin. Hennes handicappede datter måtte dø alene

BY THOMAS PAUST

STORIES OF IMPACT

OFF has a ripple effect, inspiring policy changes, greater awareness of human rights issues, alliances, and global solidarity for pro-democracy causes. Check out a few examples of the Forum's impact so far.



OSLO FREEDOM FORUM

#FREETOOMAJ

Toomaj Salehi, an Iranian dissident rapper and 2024 Havel Prize laureate, received tremendous support and media coverage during OFF. The Havel Prize ceremony was reposted and liked on social media more than 10,000 times. Salehi's case was featured in multiple Iran International stories during the event, among others. Additionally, former Twitter co-founder, Block CEO, and OFF speaker Jack Dorsey tweeted the hashtag #FreeToomaj, receiving 10,000 likes and 2,800 reposts. On June 22, Iran's Supreme Court overturned Salehi's death sentence, ruling the punishment excessive and in contradiction to Iranian law. This was in large part due to the media attention and advocacy efforts at OFF and beyond. While HRF welcomes the decision, it demands Salehi's unconditional release and freedom from judicial harassment.



SUPPORTING CONGOLESE SURVIVORS

The OFF Exhibition featured the Congo Clothing Company (CCC), a fashion brand led by former OFF speaker and Congolese gynecologist Denis Mukwege, which donates proceeds to the Panzi Foundation, supporting women survivors of sexual violence to obtain vocational training. At the OFF Expo, CCC earned \$3,700 in sales and received three corporate swag proposals from attendees. The sales amounted to 730 days of training, which means four women will go through the 180 days of training.



OPEN SOURCE, DECENTRALIZED COMMUNICATIONS

During OFF, Jack Dorsey and other mainstage speakers met privately to discuss the ongoing problems with social media. Dorsey shared his challenges at Twitter and his appreciation for Nostr, a new decentralized platform in which users own their own data and there is no central authority. The speakers were excited to hear about this, and plans are underway to help them join Nostr should a censorship-resistant, unstoppable platform be useful for their work. In many cases, it will be.



GRANTS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS WORK

As a result of meetings held at OFF and connections made, millions of dollars of new grants for human rights work are being deployed. It's not possible for HRF to monitor all new collaborations, of course, but from what we are aware of, more than \$4 million in new grants for all kinds of projects relating to pro-democracy work, Internet privacy, and beyond are being deployed. This funding will make a significant dent in the struggle for freedom worldwide.



FP PODCAST PARTNERSHIP

HRF launched a new podcast mini-series, "Reclaim Democracy: Stories from the Oslo Freedom Forum," created in partnership with Foreign Policy during OFF. Hosted by Casey Michel, director of HRF's Combating Kleptocracy program, the four-part series features the important stories of five OFF participants and speakers. Episodes will be available on all major podcast platforms.



VIRAL MESSAGE IN UGANDA

On the OFF mainstage, Ugandan journalist, lawyer, and digital activist Agather Atuhaire stressed the importance of Uganda's digital public square in campaigns against poor public services, corruption, and malfeasance. She has since received incredible online support, with her talk on YouTube garnering more than 32,000 views. Days after her appearance, on Uganda's National Heroes Day, many Ugandans shared messages about her talk, calling her "their hero."



FELLOWS PRESENT IGNITE TALKS

Over the last year, through HRF's Freedom Fellowship program, the 2023-2024 Class of Freedom Fellows received hands-on, expert mentorship in several critical areas to increase the impact of their work. To mark the completion of their program, fellows delivered five-minute Ignite Talks, sharing their activism and visions for the future with OFF attendees. As a result, Raphael Adebayo, Nigerian pro-democracy activist and founder of the #EndSARS movement, and his Ignite Talk were featured in the Daily Maverick.



HONORING PRESS FREEDOM

June 4, activists and journalists gathered to honor and celebrate those who risk everything for press freedom. Moderated by columnist and foreign correspondent Ian Birrell, the evening included remarks from Norwegian photojournalist Nora Savosnick; Sebastien Lai, OFF mainstage speaker and the son of Jimmy Lai, founder of Hong Kong's Apple Daily newspaper; Norwegian photojournalist Espen Rasmussen; and Venezuelan journalist Carla Angola Rodriguez.



OFF CAMP FOR KIDS

OFF and the Sjøholmen Center co-hosted the second annual OFF Camp for Kids, an interdisciplinary human rights camp encouraging children to engage with themes explored during OFF, such as human rights, freedom, and democracy. Kids explored the city of Oslo, from the Nobel Peace Center to the Henie Onstad Art Center, and took part in fun and educational activities like workshops with renowned Norwegian artists, including cartoonist Øistein Kristiansen and painter Helene Knoop.



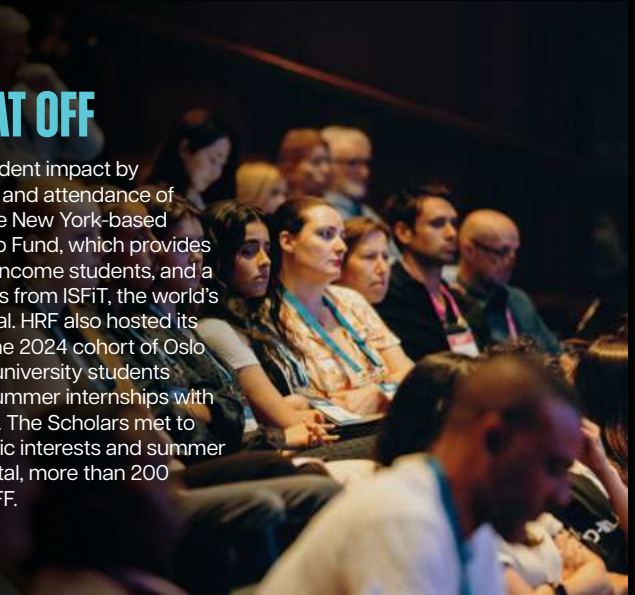
ADVOCATING IN THE NORWEGIAN PARLIAMENT

On June 5, Iranian human rights defender and OFF community member Masih Alinejad met with the president of the Norwegian Parliament, Masud Gharahkhani, and leader of Parliament's foreign affairs committee, Ingjerd Schou. Joined also by HRF President Céline Assaf-Boustani, three Iranian activists, and several OFF speakers from the region, they discussed human rights violations in Iran and the region. This was one of many meetings between activists and decision-makers in Norway during OFF.



STUDENTS AT OFF

HRF expanded its student impact by sponsoring the travel and attendance of two students from the New York-based Children's Scholarship Fund, which provides opportunities to low-income students, and a delegation of students from ISFiT, the world's largest student festival. HRF also hosted its first-ever dinner for the 2024 cohort of Oslo Scholars, a group of university students who will undertake summer internships with former OFF speakers. The Scholars met to discuss their academic interests and summer internship plans. In total, more than 200 students attended OFF.



GLOBAL MEDIA IMPACT



Gazan writer and analyst Ahmed Alkhatib speaks with "Oh My World!" host Hagar Chemali.

OSLO FREEDOM FORUM IN THE NEWS

2.4 BILLION
IMPRESSIONS

450
MENTIONS

19
LANGUAGES

52
COUNTRIES

The New York Times



For Victims of Human Rights Violations, Family Matters

BY DANIEL J. WAKIN

SUNDAY EXTRA



The Long Trial of Jimmy Lai

BY JULIAN MORROW

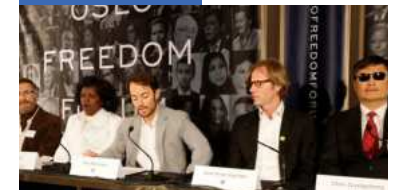
NATIONAL REVIEW



Cries for Freedom, against Tyranny

BY JAY NORDLINGER

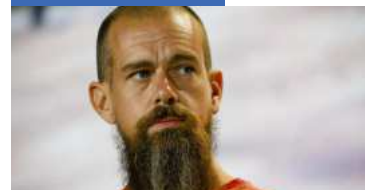
Forbes



Reclaiming Democracy With Bitcoin At The Oslo Freedom Forum

BY SUSIE VIOLET WARD

FORTUNE



Twitter founder Jack Dorsey warns social media algorithms are draining people of their free will—and Elon Musk agrees with him

BY CHRISTIAAN HETZNER

The Observer Post



Raqib Naik Delivers Keynote On 'India's Authoritarian Descent' At Oslo Freedom Forum

BY SIDRA FATIMA



Havel Prize Awarded to Dissident Iranian Rapper Toomaj Salehi

BY AZADEH AKBARI



Oslo Freedom Forum Witnesses Global Momentum for Bitcoin and Activism

BY FRANK CORVA



Drawing Oslo Freedom Forum

BY LIZA DONNELLY



María Corina Machado en el Foro de la Libertad de Oslo

BY LUIS DE JESÚS



Depicting North Korea

BY JAY NORDLINGER



Oslo Freedom Forum: The best Bitcoin conference that isn't about Bitcoin

BY JOE HALL

Former Tibetan president Lobsang Sangay presents the 2024 Havel Prize to Iranian rapper Toomaj Salehi. His friend, social media manager, and spokesperson, Negin Niknaam, accepts the award on his behalf.



SOCIAL MEDIA HITS

500
UNIQUE POSTS

590,234
VIDEO VIEWS

5,554,430
SOCIAL MEDIA IMPRESSIONS

توماج صالحی @OfficialToomaj

توماج صالحی ملقظتر به دریافت جایزه بین‌المللی سالانه «هافل» از انجمن آزادی اسلو شد. در متن این پیام نوشته شده: «توماج صالحی یک هوپ آرتمست ایرانی است که بدلیل اشعار اعتراضی به رژیم و فعالیت‌های حقوق بشری‌اش بسیار شناخته شده است. او شجاعت و نافرمانی استثنایی را از طریق موزیک خود نشان داده که سرود اعتراضات زن رنگی آزادی شده است. او پس از اشدای علی شکنجه‌هایی که در دوران بازداشتش تجربه کرده بود در ۲۴ اپریل به انجام محکوم شد. از برندگان جایزه اسلمه طی مراسمی در ۴ ژوئن در اسلو، تروژ، تغییر خواهد شد. مراسم جایزه TheHavel نیز به صورت زنده از oslofreedomforum.com پخش خواهد شد.» انجمن آزادی اسلو تروژ جایزه سالانه خود به نام هاول را به دلیل شجاعت، جسارت و خلافت در اعتراض به فعالان حقوق بشر امانا می‌کند. هدف اصلی این انجمن آزادی اسلو همبستگی در بین فعالان حقوق بشر برای باکن راهکاری بهتر برای مبارزه با رژیم‌های سلفید است.

#توماج صالحی
#FreeToomaj

Translate post



You

5:50 AM · May 23, 2024 · 78.5K Views

Dominique Lazanski @dml

I'm at #OsloFF and I can't keep my eyes dry. There is so much strength and freedom here.

5:09 AM · Jun 3, 2024 · 1,257 Views

aidaoulva - Follow

Original audio


aidaoulva Edited · 2w

Central Asian artists and human rights activists use art to expose injustice and resist adversity.

The video installation "Gulka" at Oslo Freedom Forum @OsloFF will be showcasing the resilience of those fighting for freedom despite significant challenges.

The works include animations, illustrations and performance documentation about the tragic events in Kazakhstan in January 2022, domestic violence in Kyrgyzstan, and internal fears and self-censorship.

Artworks in order of appearance:



Liked by amn.apn and others

June 1

Index on Censorship @IndexCensorship

With every passing day the world unites behind the call for the unconditional release of @OfficialToomaj.

OsloFF awarding the 2024 Havel Prize for Creative Dissent to Toomaj shows the difference he makes in advocating for #freedomOfExpression.



#FreeToomaj
#FreeToomajSalehi

5:42 AM · May 23, 2024 · 50.5K Views

jack @jack

#FreeToomaj

8:23 AM · Jun 4, 2024 · 549K Views

Carlos Vives @carlosvives

Será un honor para mí cantar ante los defensores de los derechos humanos y las personas amantes de la libertad, que se reúnen cada año en el @OsloFF.

Mi música habla de mi país, Colombia, y de mi ciudad natal, Santa Marta. Estos son los lugares que amo, por eso trabajo cada día para que sean lugares mejores y más justos para todos. Estoy feliz de compartir mi música con todos ustedes en Oslo!

Translate post

Oslo Freedom Forum @OsloFF · May 10

Oyeme, Carlos, llévame en tu biciclota

Grammy Award-winning Colombian singer-songwriter @carlosvives & his band, "La Provincia," will perform at the 2024 Oslo Freedom Forum



Livestreamed 2:15 PM · May 10, 2024 · 56.5K Views

Bitcoin Magazine Public Affairs and Advocacy Manager at The Committee for ...


73,143 followers

NEW: Jack Dorsey to speak on #Bitcoin at one of the world's largest human rights and freedom forums in Norway in two weeks 🇳🇴

Bitcoin is freedom money 🚀

Spencer Nichols covers the news: <https://lnkd.in/g/TbYEGXa>

#BTC #BitcoinNews Human Rights Foundation Oslo Freedom Forum #SoundMoney #HumanRights #Freedom #NonProfitNews



with Jack Dorsey and 2 others

4 comments · 8 reposts


Gabriela Montero @monterogabriela

Thank you, @OsloFF. My few days at the Forum left a lasting impression on me. Meeting so many inspiring and courageous activists who risk everything to speak truth to power gave me renewed energy to continue fighting for a free Venezuela. My visit there will remain in my memory as one of the highlights of my life.

Oslo Freedom Forum @OsloFF · Jun 18

The 2024 #OsloFreedomForum awarded the Havel Prize for Creative Dissent to Grammy Award-winning Venezuelan pianist and recording artist, @monterogabriela.

Using her gifts of composition and improvisation as tools of creative dissent...



3:38 PM · Jun 19, 2024 · 3,622 Views

Jay Nordlinger @jaynordlinger

The Oslo Freedom Forum (@OsloFF) is a human-rights gathering. Its participants come from all over the world, to discuss something of supreme importance: freedom, and its denial, by tyrants of varying stripes. I have jotted some notes.

nationalreview.com

Cries for Freedom, against Tyranny | National Review

Notes on the Oslo Freedom Forum, Part 1.



8:04 AM · Jun 12, 2024 · 41.9K Views

Alyssa Feng · 2w

Public Affairs and Advocacy Manager at The Committee for ...

This week, me and my colleagues at The Committee for Freedom in Hong Kong Foundation attended the Oslo Freedom Forum.


It was a privilege to hear the stories of so many activists and defenders of democracy. I feel particularly fortunate to have seen Sebastian Lai, son of Jimmy Lai, give such an incredible speech on June 4 as his father sits in prison for lighting a candle at our annual Tiananmen Massacre vigil in #HongKong.

Thank you to the Hong Kong Norwegian Committee and Tibet Committee in Norway for giving us the opportunity to commemorate the lives lost to #8964 Tiananmen Square Massacre.

I was honoured to be part of a discussion and workshop on Transnational Repression. There, I was able to connect with so many incredible individuals who are pushing back against CCP tyranny abroad.

I am coming away from the Oslo Freedom Forum inspired and energised. Thank you to Human Rights Foundation for giving activists this platform to not only raise awareness for human rights around the world, but for giving us community.

#FreeJimmyLai



1 comment · 2 reposts

Boris Dedevid · 2w

Calling edge web and e-commerce solutions | 200+ digital ...

What an outstanding opportunity to listen to Twitter's co-founder and former CEO Jack Dorsey today at Oslo Freedom Forum about the importance of open source systems for the protection of the freedom of speech (and will) in this crazy world we live in.

Jack is really an outstanding example of a true technology leader with a meaningful goal and mission to make a real and tangible positive impact on global society.

#reclaimdemocracy #otf24



1 comment · 2 reposts

SOCIAL MEDIA HITS

Bayram @experienceszerbaijan #Cof29

I am a speaker @OsloFF, but my father won't be among audience. I wish my father was here with me. It makes feel very alone and sad, but I hope with my speech, the history of repression in Azerbaijan, my father, Dr. Gulad Nasrighli's story and 300+ political prisoners' condition will be more well known. See you here, in Oslo next week! #FreeGulad #Experienceszerbaijan #Cof29 #Cof29Baku #Cof29Bazerbajan

8:01 AM · Jun 2, 2024 · 34.7K Views

Grace Forrest · 2nd Human Rights Activist | Modern Slavery | Climate Justice

Am thrilled to be in Norway this week for the Oslo Freedom Forum, surrounded by activists, journalists, and renowned freedom fighters. Working at the intersection of human rights, the green transition, democracy, technology, gender equality, and free speech.

Grateful to have had the opportunity to present **Walk Free's** latest Global Slavery Index on the main stage with the formidable **Laura Murphy**, **Nick Grono** and **E. Benjamin Skinner**. We had a robust discussion about shifting power, the legislation that makes that possible and how the climate crisis and human rights must not be treated in isolation.

There should be no human rights "trade-offs" in the green transition, especially when these trade-offs impact the lives and livelihoods of communities already affected by the climate crisis and with the least power to shift systems.

It is time for global supply chains to move from opaque and exploitative, to transparent and fair, for the basic human rights of hundreds of millions of people. **Walk Free Oslo Freedom Forum**

with Nick Grono and 5 others

Natalia Saucedo and 247 others

5 comments · 3 reposts

WORLD LIBERTY CONGRESS @wlc.org

"Together, we can turn the tide against extremism and authoritarianism, empowering the new generation to move their countries from darkness into the light of freedom and prosperity" said @faisalalmatar, elected Leadership Council member, on stage at @OsloFF.

4:52 AM · Jun 3, 2024 · 29.6K Views

Hadiya Masieh · 2nd Founder and CEO at Groundswell Project UK, RSA Fellow

It's been a week since the Oslo Freedom Forum and I'm still feeling like it was a dream! Thanks Alex Gladstein for all your support for our work Groundswell Project UK! I met incredible Human Rights Activists, it was a humbling experience 🙏 including Tibetan Prime Minister Lobsang Sangay (Tibetan: ལོ་བཟང་སངས།, lit. "kind-hearted lion") Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe Faisal Seed Al Mutar Gridless Carine Kanimba (my soul sister!) and her father Paul Rusesabagina who was the star of Hotel Rwanda and recently released from Mageragera prison in Rwanda thanks to the relentless campaigning of his daughters and family. Was great to meet friends I made from last year too especially Anjan Sundaram and Seyran Khalili also got to see my good friend Leetha Fideaman, FRSA and many other amazing humans.

Inanol Varela · 3rd J.D. Candidate at University of Puerto Rico Law School | Tul...

During the past week I have had the opportunity of attending the 2024 Oslo Freedom Forum (OFF) in Oslo, Norway, after being designated an Oslo Scholar through the Human Rights Foundation. OFF is an international human rights conference that unites leaders to brainstorm ways to expand freedom and unleash human potential.

My time at OFF has been incredibly enriching. I have had the unique opportunity to learn from activists, human rights lawyers, and economic powerhouses. Highlights include engaging discussions on uniting global grassroots movements with Leopoldo López, a Q&A session with Twitter founder Jack Dorsey, insights from Venezuela's democratic opposition leader Maria Corina Machado on the upcoming election, conversations on economic alternatives for supporting democratic movements, and panels addressing the ordeals of hostage-taking.

This experience has been invaluable, and I am honored to have been part of such a transformative event where I met amazing colleagues and developed lifelong friendships.

#OsloFreedomForum #OsloScholar #CubaDecide

4 comments

AlbertoRodNews @AlbertoRodNews

ÚLTIMA HORA | María Corina Machado en el Foro de la Libertad de Oslo: "Venezuela está a las puertas de la transición y necesitamos apoyo"

acortar link/lightbulb

Translate post

9:05 AM · Jun 3, 2024 · 774K Views

Masih Alinejad @AlinejadMasih

I had the honor of introducing my heroes—Iranian protesters who lost eyes and arms after Mahsa Amini's murder. Their sacrifices challenge the #GenderApartheid regime. Hear their powerful testimonies and dream of freedom and democracy. @OsloFF

From Masih Alinejad |

12:10 AM · Jun 4, 2024 · 123K Views

Chemi Lhamo · 1st Human Rights Advocate | Strategic Non-Violence, Direct Action | Neuras...

In Oslo @ the Oslo Freedom Forum with Jack Dorsey

Excited for a new journey on exploring freedom tech. @OsloFF

48

Oslo Freedom Forum @oslofreedomforum

Oslo Freedom Forum

48

Nazanin Nour @NazaninNour

Iranian rapper Toomaj Salehi, who was sentenced to death for his song lyrics, & protesting in 2022, will be honored with the Václav Havel prize for Creative Dissent tomorrow @OsloFF.

His close friend and social media admin @NaginNiknaam0 will accept the prize on his behalf.

Oslo Freedom Forum

HAVEL PRIZE

Iranian hip-hop artist

TOOMAJ SALEHI

8:37 PM · Jun 3, 2024 · 727K Views

THEATER TALKS: A SNAPSHOT



Raqib Hameed Naik, founder of India Hate Lab and Hindutva Watch, speaks on the OFF stage.

AHMED ALKHATIB GAZA

GAZAN WRITER AND ANALYST

Ahmed Alkhatib is a Palestinian-American peace advocate, who was raised in Gaza City, before leaving in 2005 as a teenage exchange student to the United States. Through his mainstage talk and his extensive writing, he calls for the peaceful coexistence of Israelis and Palestinians and takes the balanced approach of being an outspoken critic of Hamas and of Israel's war on Gaza. He emphasizes the necessity of ending the cycle of dehumanization resulting from the war in Gaza. He also bravely shares his own story of losing 31 family members killed by Israeli airstrikes in the aftermath of Oct. 7. Instead of seeking retribution for his loss, he uses his platform to promote peace, pragmatism, and coexistence, believing these are critical to ceasing the violence in Gaza and the West Bank and establishing a two-nation solution that recognizes Palestinian statehood.



ZHALA BAYRAMOVA AZERBAIJAN

AZERBAIJANI HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST

Zhala Bayramova is a lawyer and human rights activist focusing on abuses in Azerbaijan committed by Ilham Aliyev, who came to power in 2003, and his family. Bayramova is the child of Gubad Ibadoghlu, a renowned Azerbaijani scholar and economist who criticized the government and uncovered vast corruption and human rights abuses in the country, including embezzlement in Nagorno-Karabakh. In July 2023, Ibadoghlu and his wife were arrested during their visit to Azerbaijan. Ibadoghlu was subsequently placed in jail, where he was subjected to torture and inhumane treatment. Since April, he has remained under house arrest. In their speech, Bayramova talks about being the child of a prominent scholar who used his stature to oppose an authoritarian regime. They talk about their struggle in the face of the regime's provocation and targeting and about their move, first to the US, then to Sweden, witnessing for the first time a free and prosperous society. Returning to Azerbaijan to continue the family's work of highlighting abuses and crimes committed by the regime, they continue to campaign for their father's freedom.



OLGA GONZÁLEZ VENEZUELA

VENEZUELAN HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST

Olga González is a Venezuelan human rights activist who has worked tirelessly for justice in her husband's 2017 murder at the hands of the Maduro regime. Leonardo, González's husband, was gunned down after participating in a peaceful protest against the regime. In her OFF speech, González spoke of her husband's noble nature and how it contrasted with a regime that's unafraid to kill and torture its own citizens – crimes for which it is now being investigated for crimes against humanity. Her resilience and her brave work, as well as that of many others in Venezuela, are paving the way for justice and a return to democracy in the country.



SEBASTIEN LAI HONG KONG

SON OF JIMMY LAI, FOUNDER OF HONG KONG'S APPLE DAILY NEWSPAPER

Sebastien Lai is leading the international campaign to free his father, Jimmy Lai, freedom of speech champion, media entrepreneur, and owner of the now-shuttered newspaper Apple Daily. He is currently imprisoned in Hong Kong on trumped-up charges of "conspiring to print seditious publications to incite hatred against the Chinese and Hong Kong governments" and "colluding with foreign forces" under Beijing's draconian National Security Law. At the age of 76, Jimmy is Hong Kong's oldest political prisoner. Sebastien has given countless testimonies to raise awareness of his father's case and the erosion of fundamental freedoms in Hong Kong, including at the UN Human Rights Council and the US Congressional-Executive Commission on China. On the mainstage, Lai drew a much more intimate portrait of his father, Jimmy, recalling how he fled mainland China as a stowaway at the age of 12, going from "street urchin" to a self-made entrepreneur and newspaperman to a political prisoner.



RAQIB HAMEED NAIK INDIA

FOUNDER OF INDIA HATE LAB AND HINDUTVA WATCH

Raqib Hameed Naik is a journalist and founder of Hindutva Watch, India's only operational digital database and hate tracker that documents hate crimes and hate speeches against the country's religious minorities and other marginalized groups. Naik also founded India Hate Lab, a research project that studies hate speech, disinformation, and conspiracy theories targeting religious minorities.

On June 4, the day of India's elections, Naik spoke at OFF about the persecution of Kashmiris, Muslims, and other minorities in India by the Modi regime. He shared the struggle of combatting authoritarianism in India and how it will impact the world, as India hosts one-sixth of the world's population.



ANASTASIA SHEVCHENKO RUSSIA

RUSSIAN POLITICIAN AND OPPOSITION FIGURE

Anastasia Shevchenko is a Russian activist and opposition figure who was detained in 2019 and sentenced to 4.5 years in prison. She became the first person in the country to be sentenced under the “undesirable organizations” law, which stifles pro-democracy activity in Russia, for her work with Open Russia. While under arrest, Shevchenko’s eldest daughter died. Shevchenko was eventually released and left the country, now using her platform to raise awareness of the abuses taking place in Russia. In her OFF speech, Shevchenko talked about her loss of a child while in detention and the inability to visit her dying daughter or to speak during her funeral. She talked about the detrimental impact Putin’s actions have on children, the most vulnerable victims, in Ukraine and Russia. Shevchenko calls on people to pay utmost attention to their suffering and plight. She also called on members of the audience to sign a petition recognizing Putin as an illegitimate president of Russia.



THE THULANI MASEKO JUSTICE PRIZE



Tanele Maseko, widow of Thulani Maseko, presents the award to Yulia Navalny, who accepts it on behalf of her husband, Alexei Navalny.

On June 3, the Human Rights Foundation hosted the first Thulani Maseko Justice Prize Ceremony at Oslo City Hall. The Maseko Prize recognizes courageous human rights lawyers who risk, or have risked, their lives to defend the rule of law and democracy. The Maseko Prize honors the late Swazi human rights lawyer, renowned democracy advocate, and former OFF speaker, Thulani Maseko, who was assassinated in his home on Jan. 21, 2023.



This year's Maseko Prize recipient was the late Russian dissident and opposition leader Alexei Navalny. In 2011, Navalny founded the Anti-Corruption Foundation, through which he conducted anti-corruption investigations on state companies and senior government officials. In 2013, he came in second place in Moscow's mayoral election, and in 2018, he campaigned – but was illegally disqualified from appearing on the ballot – for the presidential election.

In 2019, Navalny was imprisoned under politically motivated charges of “violating protest laws” after he called for peaceful demonstrations in response to fraudulent city council elections. In August 2020, Navalny survived an assassination attempt after Russian agents poisoned him with a nerve agent. After his recovery in Germany, Navalny returned to Russia, where he was arrested and subsequently sentenced to 19 years in prison on charges of “extremism.” On Feb. 16, 2024, Navalny, like Maseko, was murdered for his boundless courage. He was 47 years old.



Maseko's widow and CEO of the Thulani Maseko Foundation, Tanele Maseko, presented the award to Navalny's wife, Yulia Navalny, who accepted it on her husband's behalf. After the ceremony, Lavrans Svendsen, accompanied by Julien Carton on the piano, sang "Another Love" to honor the courageous individuals.

THE VÁCLAV HAVEL INTERNATIONAL PRIZE FOR CREATIVE DISSENT



The Václav Havel International Prize for Creative Dissent, named in honor of the late Czech president, playwright, dissident, and former HRF chairman, celebrates the power of art and creativity in the struggle for human rights. This year's laureates were recognized during a ceremony on the Oslo Konserthus stage, followed by a performance of "Canaima: A Quintet for Piano and Strings" by laureate Gabriela Montero.

TOOMAJ SALEHI IRAN

IRANIAN HIP-HOP ARTIST

Toomaj Salehi is an Iranian hip-hop artist known for lyrics protesting the Iranian regime and calling for human rights. In September 2022, at the height of the nationwide "Women, Life, Freedom" protests, Salehi released several songs supporting women's rights. One song, "Divination," with the lyrics, "Someone's crime was that her hair was flowing in the wind. Someone's crime is that he or she was brave and...outspoken," grew in popularity and was sung throughout the protests.

Salehi was first arrested in October 2022 and was released on bail in November 2023 after the Iranian Supreme Court overturned his charges of "corruption on Earth," "propaganda against the system," "collaboration with a hostile government," "inciting people to murder and riot," and "insulting the leadership." On Nov.27, 2023, he posted a YouTube video describing the torture and forced confession he experienced during his detention. Three days later, armed, plainclothes agents abducted Salehi. He was subsequently charged in two trials. On April 24, the Isfahan Revolutionary Court sentenced him to death. On June 22, the Iranian Supreme Court overturned his death sentence.

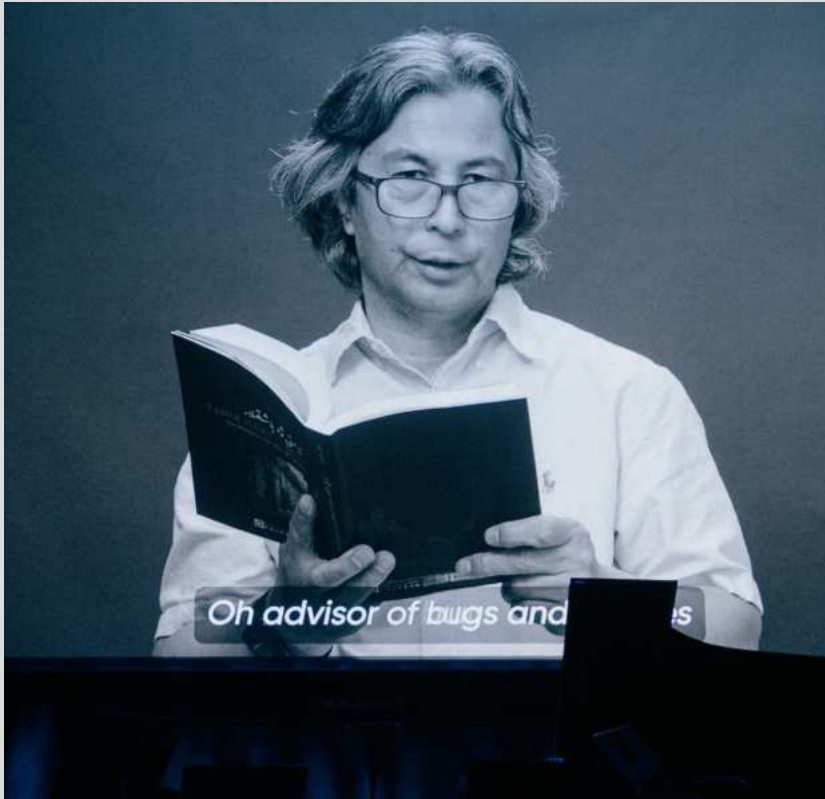


TAHIR HAMUT IZGIL UYGHUR REGION

UYGHUR POET AND FILMMAKER

Tahir Hamut Izgil is a prominent Uyghur poet, filmmaker, and activist. He is known for his avant-garde poetry, written in Uyghur and influenced by Uyghur life. Originally from Kashgar, Izgil led the 1989 student movement at the Central Nationalities Institute in Beijing. In the late 1990s, he was arrested on charges related to the possession of sensitive literature, leading to a three-year sentence in forced labor camps. He is among the few Uyghur intellectuals who successfully escaped the region in 2017.

Izgil's new memoir, "Waiting to Be Arrested at Night: A Uyghur Poet's Memoir of China's Genocide," documents his journey living in and escaping the Uyghur Region, sharing a rare testimony of the Uyghur genocide with the broader world. His book has been listed as one of the "50 notable works of nonfiction" by The Washington Post and as one of the "100 Must-Read Books of 2023" by Time Magazine.



GABRIELA MONTERO VENEZUELA

VENEZUELAN PIANIST AND RECORDING ARTIST

Montero is an internationally acclaimed Venezuelan pianist and composer. Montero's journey of creative dissent began in 2011 with her first orchestral composition, "Ex Patria," a tone poem designed to illustrate and protest Venezuela's descent into lawlessness, corruption, and violence. Her recording of the work won a Latin Grammy® for Best Classical Album in 2015. Further compositions followed, including the "Latin Concerto" (2016), "Babel" (2018), and "Canaima: A Quintet for Piano and Strings" (2024).

Winner of the 4th International Beethoven Award, Montero is a committed human rights advocate whose voice regularly reaches beyond the concert hall. She was named an Honorary Consul by Amnesty International in 2015. In January 2020, she was invited to give the Dean's Lecture on creative dissent at the Harvard Radcliffe Institute and has spoken and performed twice at the World Economic Forum in Davos. She was awarded the 2012 Rockefeller Award for her contribution to the arts and was a featured performer at Barack Obama's 2009 Presidential Inauguration.



ART, MUSIC, & FILM: A SNAPSHOT



Colombian singer-songwriter Carlos Vives performs on the OFF stage.

CARLOS VIVES

GRAMMY-WINNING SINGER, COMPOSER, AND AUTHOR

Carlos Vives, a Grammy Award-winning Colombian singer-songwriter and one of the most acclaimed artists in Latin America, performed a heartfelt concert for OFF participants and attendees. Alongside his band “La Provincia,” Vives delivered a captivating performance, lending his unique, impassioned voice to the cause of freedom and human rights.

Vives is known for masterfully fusing the traditional sound of Colombian vallenato with pop and rock influences. He leads the nonprofit organization Tras La Perla, which seeks to improve sustainable development and quality of life in his native Santa Marta, Colombia. He was a goodwill ambassador for UNICEF and a supporting ambassador for the Plastic Oceans Foundation.



SONG BYEOK

NORTH KOREAN ARTIST AND DEFECTOR

For seven years, Song Byeok painted propaganda posters for the North Korean regime, depicting utopian scenes while simultaneously experiencing famine, torture, and abuse. Since escaping North Korea in 2002, he has used art to draw attention to the dark realities of the country.

During OFF, Byeok showcased his work at the “Heaven on Earth: Singing About North Korea” exhibition. The event, curated by Hong Kong activist, artist, and independent curator Clara Cheung, sought to raise awareness of North Korean human rights issues.



NADIA HERNÁNDEZ

VENEZUELAN ARTIST AND HRF ART IN PROTEST RESIDENT ARTIST

Nadia Hernández is a Venezuelan-Australian visual artist whose multi-disciplinary practice reflects a process of bearing witness to the loss of home and the symbolic power of memory. Informed by her experience as a Venezuelan woman living in Australia and positioning herself both within and outside the Venezuelan diaspora, Hernández makes art as a means to connect with a sense of place beyond geographic boundaries.

As part of her HRF Art in Protest Residency, Hernández’s “En Todo Tiempo,” a sound-based public art installation, was presented at the Oslo Konserthus. The artwork unites voices from the Venezuelan community in Miami, Fla., reciting and singing from an archive of Venezuelan protest songs. This collage of sound and assembled textile panels is an expression of cultural and political resistance.



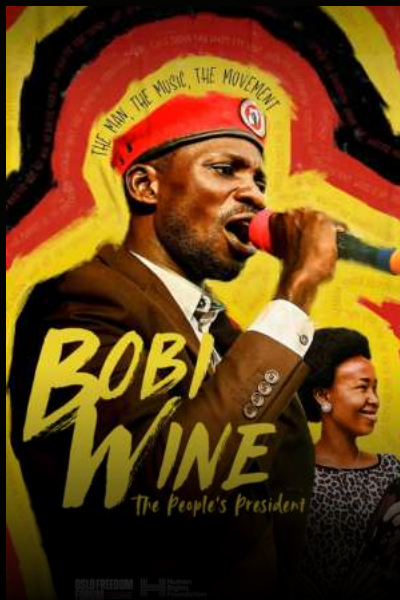
“BOBI WINE: THE PEOPLE’S PRESIDENT” & “INVISIBLE NATION”

FILM SCREENINGS

OFF attendees were invited to attend the screenings of two powerful films before the start of the conference: “Bobi Wine: The People’s President” and “Invisible Nation.” Through its soft power, film can expose abuses and injustices perpetrated by dictators and rally civil society around a cause. For this reason, HRF was pleased to bring these films to the OFF community.

With unprecedented access to Taiwan’s sitting head of state, “Invisible Nation” takes audiences through the election and tenure of Tsai Ing-wen, the first female president of Taiwan. Following the screening, HRF Senior Project Manager Adam Kahan moderated a discussion and Q&A with Director Vanessa Hope. The film was the second-highest-attended screening of all 160+ screenings in Oslo’s cinemas that day.

“Bobi Wine: The People’s President” follows Ugandan opposition leader, parliamentarian, and pop star Bobi Wine. He has used his music to fight the regime led by Yoweri Museveni, who has been in power in the country for over 35 years. The screening was attended by local Ugandans, activists, HRF community members, and OFF speaker Paul Rusesabagina and his family. After the screening, Rusesabagina reflected on how many of the tactics used by the Museveni regime are identical to those used by Rwanda’s Paul Kagame and other dictators worldwide.

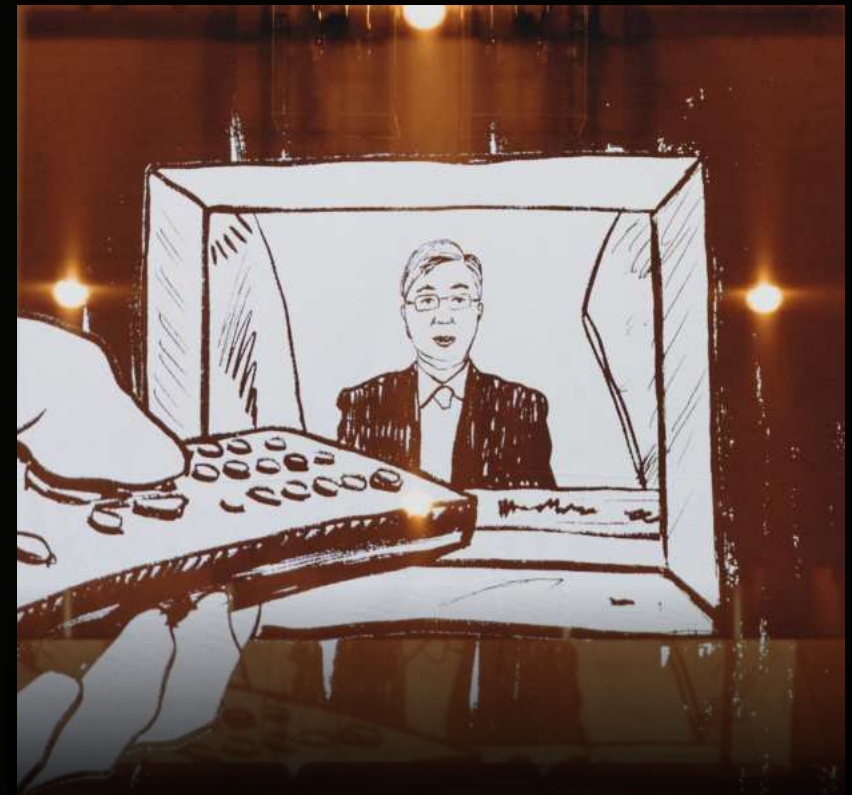


GULKA

ART EXHIBITION

The term “gulka” refers to a small isolation chamber within temporary detention centers in Central Asia. Within the gulkas, prisoners’ movements are restricted, and there is very little fresh air.

This exhibit, curated by Aida Sulova, a multidisciplinary art director and independent curator from Kyrgyzstan, is a multisensory rendering of a gulka. It speaks to the many harsh realities faced by human rights defenders arbitrarily detained across Central Asia and sheds light on the region’s broader struggle for democracy. It features artwork by Central Asian artists-activists Altyn Kapalova, Rita Karasartova, Timur Nusimbekov, Zhanel Skakhan, Ermina Takenova, and Tatyana Zelenskaya.





JOSHUA ROMAN

CELLIST, CURATOR, AND COMPOSER

Joshua Roman is a cellist and composer praised for his “effortlessly expressive tone... and playful zest for exploration,” according to the New York Times. Roman has performed with leading orchestras around the world and recently sold out his “Well-Being Concert” at New York’s Carnegie Hall. His recent project, “Immunity,” is an intimate musical exploration confronting the impact of long-term COVID on his career. At the Forum, Roman performed a prelude by Bach and a stirring rendition of Leonard Cohen’s “Hallelujah.”



ARIANA VAFADARI

OPERA SINGER AND COMPOSER

Ariana Vafadari, a prominent French-Iranian opera singer and composer, graced the Oslo Konserthus stage, accompanied by French classically-trained pianist Julien Carton. Much of her music is rooted in Zoroastrianism, which she describes as a religion based on freedom and equality between women and men. Vafadari supports Iran’s women-led protests through music and dance, and her performances bring together her heritage and passion for classical music.

THE JERUSALEM YOUTH CHORUS

CHORAL AND DIALOGUE PROGRAM

The Jerusalem Youth Chorus is a choral and dialogue program for Palestinian and Israeli youth in Jerusalem. Its mission is to provide a space for young people from East and West Jerusalem to grow together in song and dialogue. Through the co-creation of music and the sharing of stories, the choir empowers youth in Jerusalem with the responsibility to speak and sing their truths as they become leaders in their communities and inspire singers and listeners around the world.

"[We are] Palestinians and Israelis raising our voices to push back against the violence surrounding us, to reject war, occupation, and terror and instead sing out for peace, justice, inclusion, and equality," Micah Hendler, founder and artistic director of the Jerusalem Youth Chorus, said. Following Hendler's remarks, the Chorus presented a powerful and emotional virtual performance of an original song written about their pain, grief, insight, and resilience after the Oct. 7 attacks.



LIZA DONNELLY

AMERICAN CARTOONIST AND WRITER

OFF welcomed back Liza Donnelly, a writer and cartoonist with The New Yorker magazine, to live-draw the event. Donnelly has created political cartoons and live-drawn cultural and political events for numerous outlets and is the first cartoonist credentialed for the Academy Awards. She pioneered a form of digital visual journalism, or live drawing, wherein she digitally draws events in real time and streams them online.



INTERACTIVE PROGRAMMING: A SNAPSHOT

Through panel discussions, fireside chats, and workshops, this year's interactive programming challenged participants to think more critically about the issues presented during theater talks, forge partnerships, and create practical, innovative solutions to advance freedom worldwide.



Dr. Bessel van der Kolk shares his expertise on trauma and pathways to healing during a workshop.



ACHIEVING JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF ARBITRARY DETENTION

Courts in authoritarian regimes lack judicial independence and repeatedly violate due process. As a result, those who are arbitrarily detained must seek justice and freedom beyond their domestic legal systems, through international legal mechanisms and diplomacy.

- ROBERTO GONZÁLEZ** – CHIEF ADVOCACY OFFICER, HUMAN RIGHTS FOUNDATION
- JULIE SUNDAY** – ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER AND SENIOR OFFICIAL FOR HOSTAGE AFFAIRS AT GLOBAL AFFAIRS CANADA
- TATYANA EATWELL** – INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYER, DOUGHTY STREET CHAMBERS



DEFEATING THE ENABLERS

This panel explored all the ways so-called “enablers” in democracies – lawyers, accountants, public relations specialists, consultants, and more – help authoritarian regimes launder their money, access policymakers in democracies, and avoid sanctions.

CASEY MICHEL (MODERATOR) – DIRECTOR OF COMBATING KLEPTOCRACY PROGRAM, HUMAN RIGHTS FOUNDATION

AAGE BORCHGREVINK – SENIOR ADVISER, NORWEGIAN HELSINKI COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

BILL BROWDER – FOUNDER AND CEO OF HERMITAGE CAPITAL MANAGEMENT, HEAD OF GLOBAL MAGNITSKY JUSTICE CAMPAIGN, AND AUTHOR

YAQIU WANG – RESEARCH DIRECTOR FOR CHINA, FREEDOM HOUSE



GAZA: WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

This panel offered perspectives on the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict, including from the Norwegian foreign minister and renowned Israeli and Palestinian intellectuals, who provided an international humanitarian law-based analysis.

HILDE SANDVIK (MODERATOR) – JOURNALIST, AUTHOR, AND CREATOR OF THE AWARD-WINNING PODCAST “NORSKEN, SVENSKEN OG DANSKEN”

ESPEN BARTH EIDE – MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF NORWAY

GERSHON BASKIN – POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ACTIVIST

MARIE ANTOINETTE SEDIN – AMBASSADOR OF PALESTINE TO NORWAY AND ICELAND

MUSTAFA BARGHOUTI – LEADER OF THE PALESTINIAN NATIONAL INITIATIVE



SILENCING CRITICS: AUTHORITARIAN HOSTAGE- TAKING

Hostage-taking, a favored foreign policy tool of authoritarian regimes to silence dissidents, can involve enforced disappearances, arbitrary detention, and numerous other human rights violations. It's an issue at the nexus of security and human rights, and democracies must develop viable deterrents.

JASON REZAIAN (MODERATOR) – WASHINGTON POST JOURNALIST AND FORMER IRANIAN HOSTAGE

JORGE TOLEDO – ARTIST AND FORMER VENEZUELAN HOSTAGE

NAZANIN ZAGHARI-RATCLIFFE – FORMER IRANIAN HOSTAGE

PAUL RUSESABAGINA – HUMANITARIAN AND REAL-LIFE HERO OF "HOTEL RWANDA"

AMBASSADOR ROGER CARSTENS – SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL ENVOY FOR HOSTAGE AFFAIRS



THREADS OF REPRESSION: THE GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAIN

More and more people are learning of the fashion industry's complicity in the ongoing Uyghur genocide. But they may not learn that numerous other industries, from automobiles and fishing to technology and aluminum, may be implicated in forced labor. Attendees learned from experts in the field how to eliminate forced labor and modern slavery from their homes.

BEN SKINNER (MODERATOR) – FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT, TRANSPARENTEM

GRACE FORREST – FOUNDING DIRECTOR, WALK FREE

LAURA MURPHY – POLICY ADVISER, US DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

NICK GRONO – CEO, FREEDOM FUND



HOW TO SET UP AND RUN A DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT IN EXILE

LOBSANG SANGAY – FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE TIBETAN GOVERNMENT

In response to the rise of authoritarianism, we must reimagine democracy as a dynamic and formidable challenge to autocracy. Lobsang Sangay, who served as president of the Central Tibetan Administration from 2011–2021, explained how to run a democratic government in exile. Sangay presented the Central Tibetan Administration, located in Dharamshala, India, as a successful model for other opposition leaders to set up governing bodies abroad.



DEFYING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES

YEGANEH REZAIAN (MODERATOR) – INTERIM PROGRAM COORDINATOR FOR THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA, COMMITTEE TO PROTECT JOURNALISTS

BOTA JADEMALIE – LAWYER, HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER, AND POLITICAL REFUGEE

CLARE BYARUGABA – LGBTIQ RIGHTS ADVOCATE, CHAPTER FOUR UGANDA

MARIANA KATZAROVA – UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON THE SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

ROSA MARIA PAYÁ – CUBAN PRO-DEMOCRACY ACTIVIST AND FOUNDER, CUBA DECIDE

This panel explored the intersection of gender-based violence and women’s rights activism in countries ruled by authoritarian regimes. Panelists reflected on the violence perpetrated by regimes against women and LGBTQ+ individuals and how civil society has resisted, from Cuba to Uganda and Iran. The panel shed light on women’s critical role in global movements, paving the way for a brighter, more just future.



AI, DEEPFAKES, & SURVEILLANCE

This panel explored the various ways AI threatens democracies globally and the tools available to tackle these threats. It discussed tactics such as AI-powered surveillance methods, silencing of political opponents and human rights activists, and the use of AI-generated images, or deepfakes, particularly during election time.

JACQUELINE ROWE (MODERATOR) – CONTENT POLICY RESEARCHER AT GLOBAL PARTNERS ALLIANCE

BILL MARCZAK – SENIOR RESEARCHER, THE CITIZEN LAB

LINDSAY GORMAN – MANAGING DIRECTOR AND SENIOR FELLOW, GERMAN MARSHALL FUND

NIGHAT DAD – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DIGITAL RIGHTS FOUNDATION

SAM GREGORY – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WITNESS



SPORTS & DICTATORS: WEAPONIZING SPORTS FOR SOFT POWER

This panel explored the evolution of sports as a tool for statecraft within authoritarian regimes. Panelists reflected on the various ways autocrats weaponize sports, drawing from examples in Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Rwanda, among others.

ALVARO PIAGGIO (MODERATOR) – SENIOR POLICY OFFICER, HUMAN RIGHTS FOUNDATION

FRIBA REZAYEE – FOUNDER, WOMEN LEADERS OF TOMORROW

DR. MICHAELA WRONG – JOURNALIST

PETE PATTISON – INVESTIGATIVE HUMAN RIGHTS JOURNALIST

STANIS ELSBOURG – SENIOR ANALYST, PLAY THE GAME



INSIDE HOTEL RWANDA: LIVE PODCAST

Paul Rusesabagina and his daughters, Carine and Anaïse Kanimba, joined HRF’s Casey Michel and Elisha Maldonado for a live Dissidents & Dictators podcast recording to tell the story of Rusesabagina’s heroism during the 1994 Rwandan genocide. They discussed his recent release from prison after being abducted by Paul Kagame’s regime and sentenced to 25 years on false terrorism charges, as well as Kagame’s constant tactics of reputation laundering and whitewashing to remain in power. They also discussed family, adoptions, and Rusesabagina’s recipe for banana beer.

CASEY MICHEL (CO-HOST) – DIRECTOR OF COMBATING KLEPTOCRACY PROGRAM, HUMAN RIGHTS FOUNDATION

ELISHA MALDONADO (CO-HOST) – DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS, HUMAN RIGHTS FOUNDATION

PAUL RUSESABAGINA – HUMANITARIAN AND REAL-LIFE HERO OF “HOTEL RWANDA”

ANAÏSE KANIMBA – DAUGHTER OF PAUL RUSESABAGINA AND HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATE

CARINE KANIMBA – DAUGHTER OF PAUL RUSESABAGINA AND SPOKESPERSON FOR THE WORLD LIBERTY CONGRESS



UNDERSTANDING AND HEALING FROM TRAUMA WITH DR. BESSEL VAN DER KOLK

The violence and oppression that dissidents, activists, and opposition leaders experience creates trauma that can leave a lasting impact on the body and brain. Join Dr. Bessel van der Kolk, pioneering trauma researcher, clinician, and author of New York Times bestseller “The Body Keeps the Score,” to uncover methods for understanding and recovering from trauma. Dr. van der Kolk will share his expertise on trauma and pathways to healing in this workshop.

DR. BESSEL VAN DER KOLK – FOUNDER OF THE TRAUMA RESEARCH FOUNDATION AND NEW YORK TIMES BEST-SELLING AUTHOR OF “THE BODY KEEPS THE SCORE”



SUSTAINING WELL-BEING: CARING FOR THE WORLD AND OURSELVES

This workshop focused on mental health and well-being for activists, dissidents, and those engaged in the struggle for freedom. Meditation and mental health experts offered guidance on methods for self-care amid the trauma and stress that accompanies activism.

DAN SIEGEL –
CLINICAL PROFESSOR OF PSYCHIATRY,
UCLA SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

JACK KORNFIELD – CO-FOUNDER OF THE
INSIGHT MEDITATION SOCIETY AND SPIRIT
ROCK CENTER



FINANCIAL FREEDOM TRACK

HRF hosted the seventh annual OFF Financial Freedom Track at Rebel. The track shed light on how authoritarian regimes worldwide deploy financial repression tools to target dissidents and how citizens worldwide resist these tools with open-source software.

This year's track featured compelling presentations on how Bitcoin can fund counter-terrorism initiatives, empower democratic movements worldwide, and provide banking services to marginalized communities. Panel discussions examined the significant risks that central bank digital currencies (CBDCs) pose to the civil liberties and human rights of citizens living in oppressive regimes like China and Nigeria. Additionally, attendees witnessed the launch of Volt, a new Bitcoin wallet, by Nigerian entrepreneur Abubakar Nur Khalil, and received details on pioneering research into Cross Input Signature Aggregation from HRF CISA Fellow Fabian Jahr.

EXPO INSTALLATIONS

DAYS ONE & TWO HRF EXHIBITION

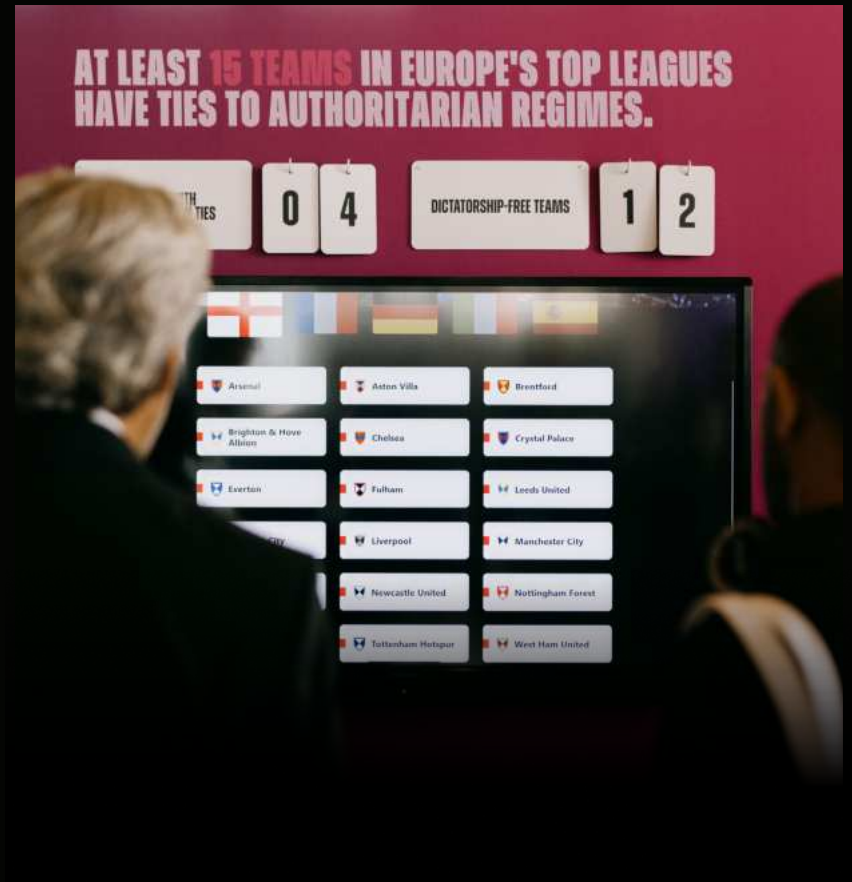
Located in the Oslo Konserthus on the first and second day, the HRF Exhibition featured interactive booths inspired by seven of HRF's programs, as well as a library of books written by former OFF speakers. For information about all of HRF's programs, please visit hrf.org/programs.





KLEPTOCRACY LAUNDROMAT

The “Kleptocracy Laundromat,” representing HRF’s Combating Kleptocracy program, advertised tools wealthy autocrats use to launder money, such as buying Italian luxury goods and investing in the Norwegian fishing industry.



DESPOTS ON THE PITCH

At “Despots on the Pitch,” showcasing HRF’s Celebrities and Dictators program, attendees searched their favorite football leagues to learn whether they are owned by authoritarian regimes.



CBDC TRACKER DEMO

Financial Freedom's "CBDC Tracker Demo" shed light on the dangers of central bank digital currencies (CBDCs), allowing attendees to try out HRF's new CBDC Tracker tool.



NORTH KOREAN PORTRAITS AND PARADOXES

"North Korean Portraits and Paradoxes," created by HRF's Flash Drives for Freedom program, gave attendees a glimpse into what life is like in North Korea, inviting them to step inside a replicated North Korean living room.



DAY THREE PARTNER EXPO

On the third day of the conference, at Rebel, HRF showcased a diverse range of projects, art installations, and initiatives, including by artists and partners challenging tyranny.



LISTEN

"Listen," an exhibit curated by the War Childhood Museum, showcased items and stories from Ukrainian youth about how it feels to live in a country at war.





CONGO CLOTHING COMPANY

The Congo Clothing Company demonstrated how fashion can inspire consumers to support human rights by donating a portion of its sales to provide skills training to women in the DRC.



WE ARE PRODUCTS OF THE SAME FACTORY

While Iranian dissident artist Atena Farghadani couldn't attend OFF due to house arrest, HRF arranged an installation, "We Are Products of the Same Factory," to bring her art and the enduring power of creative expression to Oslo.





ATTENTION

This experience is designed to educate and provoke thought. We ask you to look beyond the surface. Thank you.



PICTURE IT: DESTINATION UNFILTERED

The interactive "Picture It: Destination Unfiltered" installation, which premiered at HRF's South by Southwest (SXSW) booth, encouraged participants to support human rights when traveling abroad.



THANK YOU

RE — CLAIM

DEMO

OSLO FREEDOM FORUM
CRACY

Downstairs
Downstairs
Downstairs
PRESS LOUNGE



@OsloFF



/Oslo Freedom Forum



Oslo Freedom Forum



@osloff

Thanks to this year's participants and attendees, human rights activists and civil society leaders took their rightful place in the spotlight to share their stories and speak out against the injustices committed by authoritarian regimes around the globe.

You can re-watch all theater talks at oslofreedomforum.com and on the OFF YouTube page.

Join us next year in Oslo, Norway, on May 26-28 for the 17th Oslo Freedom Forum!

