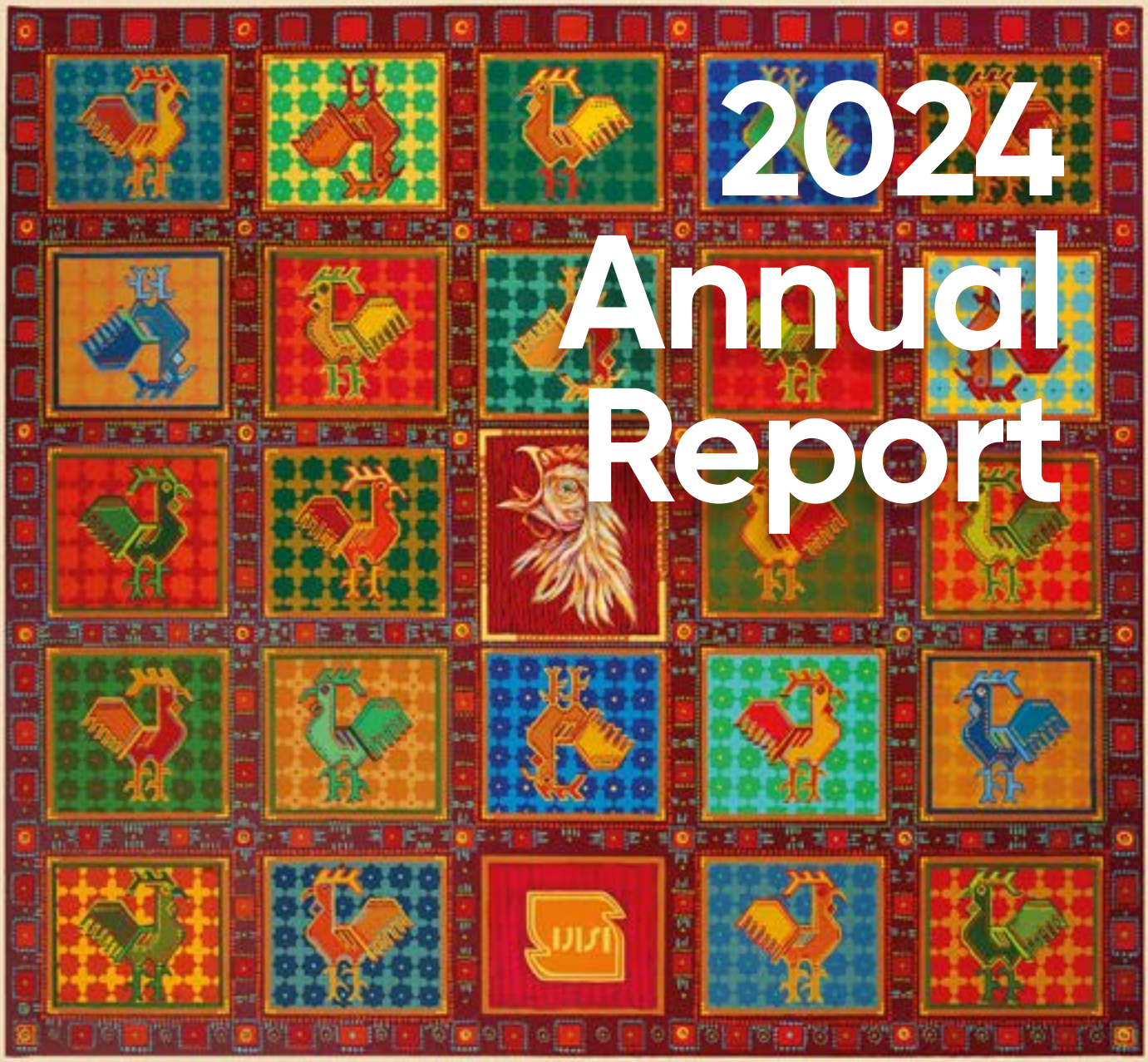


2024 Annual Report



Human Rights Foundation



COVER ART

One Thousand Male Prophets, 2017



Atena Farghadani
Iranian artist

Atena Farghadani is an Iranian artist and cartoonist whose work is forbidden by the Iranian government. Most recently, on June 9, the Tehran Revolutionary Court arbitrarily sentenced her to five years in prison for daring to display her artwork on a public street. HRF produced Farghadani's solo exhibition, "We Are Products of the Same Factory," at the Oslo Freedom Forum in June. She was released from Evin Prison in December. (p. 36)

Authoritarian regimes continued stealing elections and attempting to silence pro-democracy activists and human rights defenders in the countries they control with an iron fist. In Venezuela, despite the democratic opposition winning more than two-thirds of votes, dictator Nicolás Maduro proclaimed a fraudulent victory, igniting protests at home and abroad. In response, thousands of unsung heroes have taken to the streets and frontlines, some making the ultimate sacrifice for freedom and justice.

The work of the Human Rights Foundation (HRF) proved more critical than ever.

As you will read in this report, we used international legal avenues, artistic and cultural platforms, and new technologies and research methods to expose the world's authoritarians, raise awareness, ignite action, and directly support those in their struggle for freedom and democracy. Our efforts were strengthened by the fearlessness and passion of Yulia Navalnaya, HRF's newly elected chair, whose husband, opposition leader and longtime community member Alexei Navalny, was murdered by Vladimir Putin's regime in February.

Through rigorous policy research, extensive media coverage, and innovative campaigns, we shed light on the whitewashing and repression tactics of dictators. We advocated on behalf of brave, arbitrarily detained prisoners of conscience at the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention and other international judicial and semi-judicial bodies. We provided essential funding, skills-based training, and resilience support to human rights activists, creatives, educators, and developers in closed societies. We also continued to unite and inspire a global audience at international conferences and events, including HRF's 16th annual Oslo Freedom Forum in Oslo, Norway.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors and the support of our global community, we made tremendous progress, battling tyranny, advancing democracy, and protecting human rights in the most vulnerable corners of the world. As we look to 2025, we are eager to build on our achievements and, ultimately, realize our vision of a more peaceful, free, and democratic world.



Thor Halvorssen
Chief Executive Officer



Céline Assaf-Boustani
President

Wins & Highlights



June 3
HRF returns to Norway to host the 16th annual Oslo Freedom Forum (p. 54)

Feb. 27
HRF and Fountainhead announce the 2024 Art in Protest Resident Artists (p. 34)



March 9
HRF returns to SXSW to bring human rights to the forefront of discussions (p. 40)



Jan. Feb. March April May June



Jan. 30
HRF's Wear Your Values program video wins two Anthem Awards (p. 38)



March 28
HRF launches a new webinar to help nonprofits integrate Bitcoin (p. 44)



June 3
Thulani Maseko Justice Prize awarded to Alexei Navalny at Oslo City Hall (p. 58)



Jan. 15
HRF launches NK Insider, the first English-language news outlet about North Korea (p. 49)

2024



July 1
Yulia Navalnaya is elected HRF's new chair (p. 4)

July 20
HRF-produced film "Beyond Utopia" nominated for a 2024 Emmy Award (p. 49)



Sept. 5
Leader of the Venezuelan opposition María Corina Machado is interviewed by HRF on financial repression and freedom



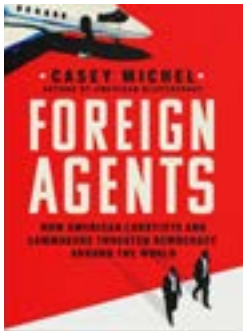
Oct. 2–4
HRF hosts the second annual Global Bitcoin Summit in Nashville, Tenn. (p. 43)



July Aug. Sept. Oct. Nov. Dec.



Aug. 1
HRF celebrated the release of Russian opposition leader Vladimir Kara-Murza (p. 6)



Aug. 27
HRF Director of Combating Kleptocracy Casey Michel launches new book: "Foreign Agents: How American Lobbyists and Lawmakers Threaten Democracy Around the World" (p. 31)



Nov. 19
HRF's Financial Freedom program wins two Anthem Awards for its CBDC Tracker (p. 43)

Dec. 1
HRF celebrates the release of Iranian dissident rap artist Toomaj Salehi after filing a UNWGAD petition on his behalf (p. 26)





Yulia Navalnaya
HRF chair, elected 2024

On July 1, HRF enthusiastically elected Yulia Navalnaya as its new chair (ad honorem). Navalnaya is a leading pro-democracy and anti-corruption activist and the widow of Alexei Navalny, who was murdered on Feb. 16 by the Putin regime while serving an unlawful 19-year prison sentence at the "Polar Wolf" penal colony in Russia's Arctic Circle. In 2022, Navalny had been added to Russia's "registry of terrorists and extremists" for his work exposing Putin's kleptocracy with his Anti-Corruption Foundation.

Navalnaya brings a wealth of experience and a passionate vision to HRF. She studied international economics before joining her husband in activism, becoming one of the most vocal critics of Putin's regime. At political rallies, Navalnaya fearlessly advocated for democratic reforms and respect for civil liberties in Russia. After her husband returned to Russia and was arrested in 2021, Navalnaya led a vigorous campaign for his release and for a democratic transition in Russia. Her work has drawn international attention, making her a symbol of resilience and courage against the brutality of Putin and his cronies. On July 11, only 10 days after Navalnaya was elected chair of HRF, the Putin regime added her to the registry of "terrorists and extremists."

> "As someone who has personally witnessed the threat dictatorships pose to our loved ones and the world at large, I am deeply honored to take on the role of chair of the Human Rights Foundation. In these challenging times, defending fundamental rights and freedoms is more crucial than ever. The mission of HRF is close to my heart, and I look forward to helping advance it."



Yulia Navalnaya

"I would not be standing here without the help, support, and solidarity of my friends. You're the reason I'm standing here today. But let's not forget those who were left behind. Long-term peace and stability in Europe require a free and democratic Russia. And that day will come — let's work together so that day comes sooner."



VLADIMIR KARA-MURZA
WASHINGTON, DC
SEPT. 17

Table of Contents

01 Our Mission 08

02 Media Impact 10

- Top Media Coverage 12
- HRF Op-Eds 14
- Media Partnerships 16
- Video Initiatives 17

03 Legal Advocacy & Policy Research 18

- Notes on Policy 20
- Political Regime Project 22
- Impact Litigation 24
- The Case of Toomaj Salehi 26
- Universal Periodic Reviews 28
- Human Trafficking & Authoritarianism 29
- Combating Kleptocracy 30

04 Global Advocacy & Campaigns 32

- Art in Protest 34
- Wear Your Values 38
- Celebrities & Dictators 40
- Financial Freedom 42
- CCP Disruption Initiative 46
- Korea Desk 48

05 Public Education & Events 52

- Oslo Freedom Forum 54
- College Freedom Forum 62
- HRF at Global Events 64
- George Ayittey Democracy Retreat 65
- Dissidents & Dictators 66
- Online Activist Academy 67

06 Direct Support 68

- Microgrants 70
- Freedom Fellowship 72
- Building Resilience & Promoting Well-Being 74
- Oslo Scholars 76
- Venezuela Solidarity Fund 78
- Belarus Solidarity Fund 80
- Ukraine Solidarity Fund 80

07 Financials 82

08 HRF Staff 84

09 HRF Board & International Council 86

- In Memoriam 87

10 Join the Global Movement 88

01

Human Rights Foundation (HRF) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that promotes and protects human rights globally, with a focus on closed societies.

We believe that all human beings are entitled to freedom of self-determination, freedom from tyranny, the rights to speak freely, to associate with those of like mind, and to leave and enter their countries. Individuals in a free society must be accorded equal treatment and due process under the law and must have the opportunity to participate in the governments of their countries; HRF's ideals likewise find expression in the conviction that all human beings have the right to be free from arbitrary detention or exile and from interference and coercion in matters of conscience. HRF does not support nor condone violence.



HRF's Mission



Legal Advocacy & Policy Research

HRF produces legal and policy reports, public letters, and impact litigation briefs to defend prisoners of conscience, bring attention to serious human rights violations, and ultimately influence institutions and policymakers.

Global Advocacy & Campaigns

HRF develops and executes innovative campaigns, using new technologies and creative mediums to advocate for democracy and human rights around the world.

Public Education & Events

HRF popularizes the struggle for freedom and democracy through the Oslo Freedom Forum conference series, global events, podcasts, and other educational efforts, bringing human rights into the mainstream of public discussion.

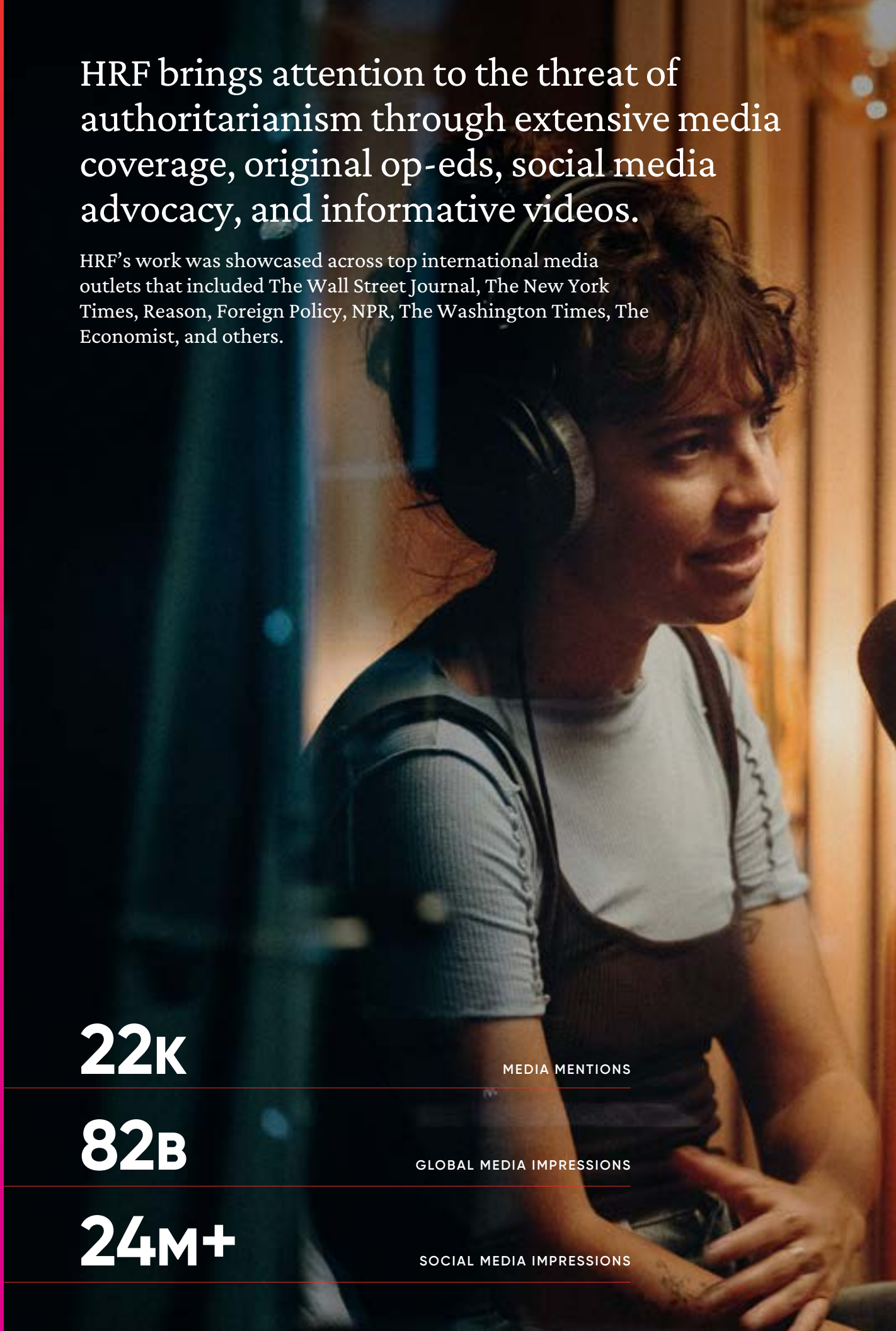
Direct Support

HRF provides human rights advocates with the resources, skills, contacts, and attention they need to make a difference in their countries.

02

HRF brings attention to the threat of authoritarianism through extensive media coverage, original op-eds, social media advocacy, and informative videos.

HRF's work was showcased across top international media outlets that included The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, Reason, Foreign Policy, NPR, The Washington Times, The Economist, and others.



22K MEDIA MENTIONS

82B GLOBAL MEDIA IMPRESSIONS

24M+ SOCIAL MEDIA IMPRESSIONS

Media Impact



Top Media Coverage



UnHerd

The African village mining Bitcoin

IAN BIRRELL · JAN. 5



CNN

On GPS: The power of North Korean brainwashing

FAREED ZAKARIA · JAN. 14



CATO INSTITUTE CATO AT LIBERTY

No Need to Race to the Bottom with CBDCs

NICHOLAS ANTHONY · FEB. 13



THE HILL

There is still a lawful way to seize Russia's assets to rebuild Ukraine

SERGEI KOROTKOV · MAY 15



POLITICO

The 'absolute explosion' of foreign interference in U.S. politics

CATHERINE KIM · JUNE 17



THE TIMES

Toomaj Salehi: rapper's death sentence quashed by Iran supreme court

HUGO DANIEL · JUNE 22



The New York Times

Russian Court Orders Arrest of Yulia Navalnaya, Navalny's Widow

NEIL MacFARQUHAR · JULY 9



Miami Herald

Miami-based clothing company has a mission that goes beyond fashion

C. ISAIAH SMALLS II · JULY 15



WHAT BITCOIN DID

A Mental Framework for Bitcoin with Christian Keroles

PETER McCORMACK · JULY 23



SEMAFOR

Rwanda is bidding to host a Formula 1 race in Kigali

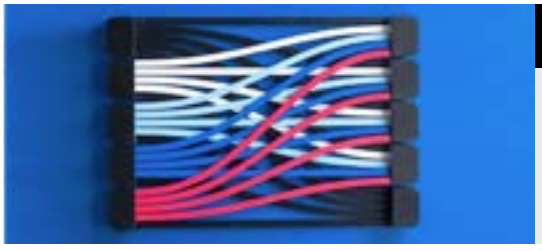
MARTIN K.N SIELE · AUG. 9



reason

Can Nostr Make Twitter's Dreams Come True?

ALEX GLADSTEIN · AUG. 9



Forbes

How Bitcoin CoinJoins Help Facilitate Pro-Democracy Protests

BRADLEY RETTLE · OCT. 9

MEDIA IMPACT

HRF Op-Eds

HRF's original op-eds shed light on human rights issues and the struggle for liberal democracy around the world.



THE HILL

Taiwan's ruling party needs to double down on democracy

JOYCE HO · JAN. 16



THE HILL

Alexander Lukashenko's reign of terror continues in Belarus

PAVEL KUTSEVOL · JAN. 31



The Washington Times

UAE once again tries to launder its image

MICHELLE GULINO · MARCH 5



POLITICO

5 Scenarios for Russia after Putin's next term

CASEY MICHEL · MARCH 16



NEW YORK POST

Iran's death sentence for rapper shows how far it'll go to squelch dissent

CLAUDIA BENNETT · APRIL 29



NATIONAL REVIEW

Foreign money is corrupting American universities

CASEY MICHEL · JUNE 2



THE HILL

The rise of central bank digital currencies is not a path the US should follow

NICHOLAS ANTHONY · JUNE 16



The Washington Times

Influencers and tourists serve as dictators' communications teams

CLAUDIA BENNETT · SEPT. 9

MEDIA IMPACT

Media Partnerships



NEWSPAPER

The Long Game

HRF partnered with The Signal to release The Long Game, a limited-run underground-style newspaper on the global struggle between authoritarian states and democratic life. The Signal is a nonpartisan, US-based current affairs brand committed to liberal democracy. The Long Game features interviews with Bosnian investigative journalist Miranda Patrucić, American social scientist Francis Fukuyama, and others.



PODCAST

After Hotel Rwanda

HRF sponsored the release of a new podcast, After Hotel Rwanda, produced by Foreign Policy magazine. The four-part series tells of Rwandan human rights activist Paul Rusesabagina's heroic feats during the Rwandan genocide, the backlash he faced 26 years later, and the incredible effort it took to bring him home.



PODCAST

Reclaim Democracy

HRF launched a new podcast mini-series, Reclaim Democracy: Stories from the Oslo Freedom Forum, created in partnership with Foreign Policy magazine. The series features five important stories from the 2024 Oslo Freedom Forum and is hosted by Casey Michel, HRF's head of Combating Kleptocracy.

Listen to HRF podcasts on:

Spotify · Listen on Podcasts · SOUNDCLOUD · YouTube

MEDIA IMPACT

Video Initiatives

HRF expanded its video initiatives, developing content to share stories on human rights, highlight HRF programs, advocate for dissidents, and engage its global community.

Follow @**humanrightsfdn**

YouTube


THE UYGHUR REGION

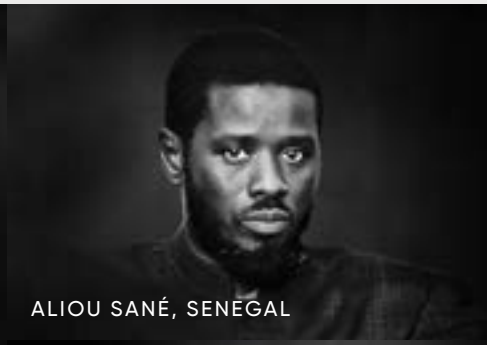

SPORTS & POLITICS


SUDAN

Struggle for Freedom, Explained

Launched in November 2023, Struggle for Freedom, Explained is HRF's first explainer video series. Each episode explores complex human rights issues, features industry and regional experts, and highlights HRF's programs.


BASSIROU DIOMAYE FAYE, SENEGAL


ALIOU SANÉ, SENEGAL


TOOMAJ SALEHI, IRAN


LUIS FERNANDO CAMACHO, BOLIVIA

Dare to Dissent

The video series Dare to Dissent tells the stories of the brave individuals HRF has represented before the United Nations and other international legal mechanisms, shedding light on the human rights abuses they have endured.

03

Legal and policy work are the foundation for HRF's advocacy efforts.

The organization's policy experts observe and analyze developments in countries ruled by hybrid and fully authoritarian regimes. Through reports, policy notes, and blog posts, they aim to inform the public of the systematic human rights abuses perpetrated by dictators.

HRF's team of international attorneys identifies and represents activists, journalists, and other civil society leaders targeted by authoritarian regimes. The team works pro bono, submitting emblematic cases to judicial and semi-judicial bodies to achieve justice and accountability.

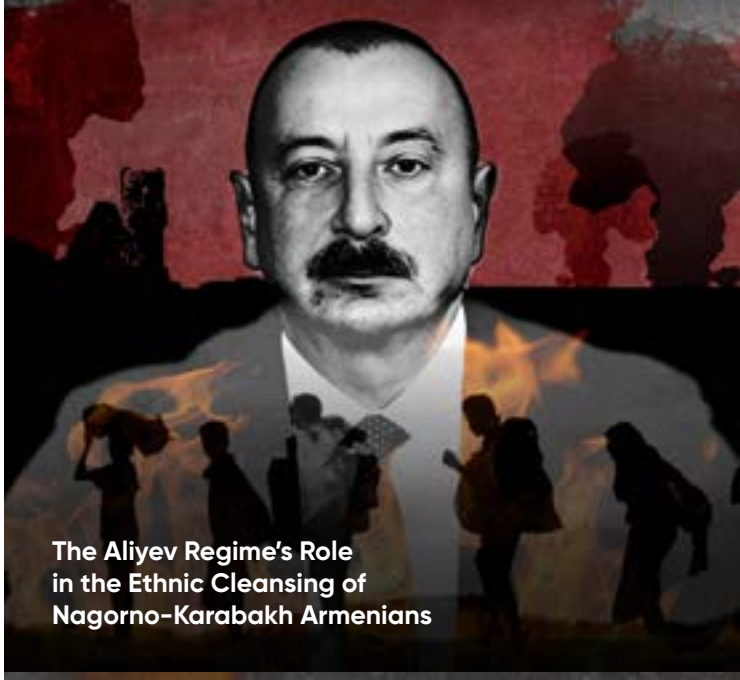


Legal Advocacy & Policy Research

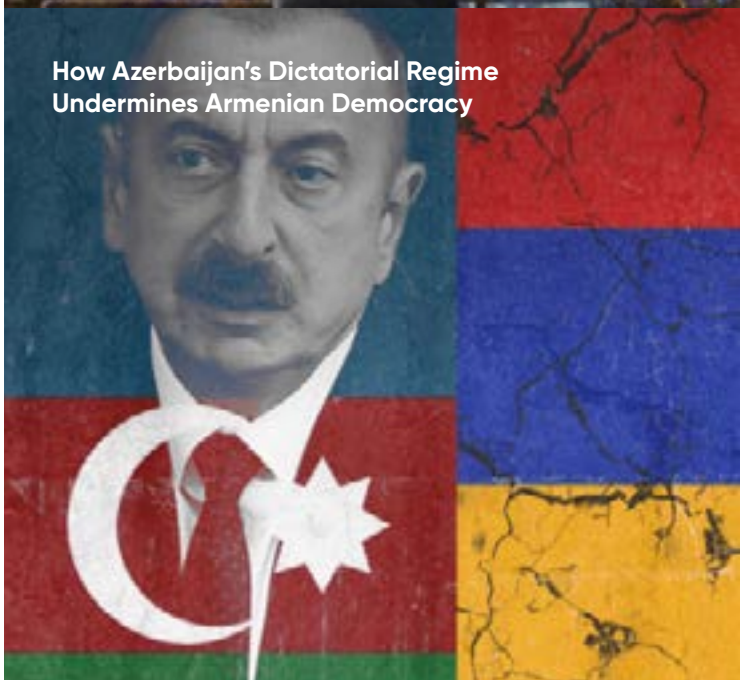


LEGAL ADVOCACY & POLICY RESEARCH

Notes on Policy







Notes on Policy provides insight and commentary on today's most pressing human rights issues.

Read HRF's blog posts and policy notes at **hrf.org**.



Bloody January Remembered





Pakistan's Contentious Election



Capital Punishment in Vladimir Putin's Russia



Modi Secures Third Term Amid Electoral Irregularities





The Silencing of Dissident Artists

Political Regime Project



Democracies

105 COUNTRIES & TERRITORIES
2.3 BILLION PEOPLE

Governments that largely guarantee free and fair elections, the freedom to dissent, and an independent judiciary.

Hybrid Authoritarian Regimes

37 COUNTRIES & TERRITORIES
2.8 BILLION PEOPLE

Regimes that generally allow for a non-trivial degree of electoral competition and/or basic political freedoms, but deny these basic democratic rights and fundamental freedoms to a degree that they make a change of government through democratic means very difficult.

Fully Authoritarian Regimes

55 COUNTRIES & TERRITORIES
2.9 BILLION PEOPLE

Regimes that systematically deny their citizens meaningful electoral competition, basic political freedoms, and an independent judiciary willing and capable of checking the regime's ability to repress basic democratic freedoms.



HRF monitors and measures basic democratic freedoms in countries and territories around the world. With the support of an extensive network of on-the-ground human rights defenders, HRF's in-house research team evaluates the extent to which electoral competition, freedom of dissent, and judicial independence exist in each country. The team's unique qualitative methodology classifies countries as democratic, hybrid, or fully authoritarian.

HRF expects to launch a "Tyranny Tracker," the first public-facing version of this global classification, by 2026.

LEGAL ADVOCACY & POLICY RESEARCH

Impact Litigation

Through the Impact Litigation program, HRF's in-house international legal team litigates on behalf of courageous individuals before international courts and semi-judicial bodies, such as the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (UNWGAD). Thus far, the UNWGAD has issued opinions on a majority of the cases HRF has submitted, and each outcome has been in the client's favor.

HRF represents prisoners of conscience whose cases are emblematic of a dictatorship's brutality. Litigation before the UNWGAD addresses the inadequacies of judicial systems in authoritarian regimes and offers remedies for pursuing justice for victims of corrupt judicial systems.

FEBRUARY

Senegal

HRF submitted an individual complaint on behalf of Senegal's now-President Bassirou Diomaye Faye and prominent activist Aliou Sané. Eleven days later, Faye was released from prison, allowing him to resume his presidential campaign and eventually win the election, becoming Africa's youngest elected president.

APRIL

Swaziland

HRF submitted an urgent appeal on behalf of Tanele Maseko, widow of renowned Swazi lawyer Thulani Maseko, who was assassinated in January 2023. In late March, Tanele was arrested while entering Swaziland from South Africa and held for questioning regarding her husband's death. She was allowed to leave but must return to Swaziland every 30 days.

MAY

Belarus

HRF and the Human Rights Center Viasna submitted a joint individual complaint on behalf of Belarusian pro-democracy activist Palina Sharenda-Panasiuk. In 2021, she was convicted of "insulting a government official" and "insulting the president of the Republic of Belarus" and sentenced to two years — and later two more years — in prison.

JUNE

Russia

HRF and several human rights organizations submitted an urgent appeal and an individual complaint in the case of Russian opposition leader and pro-democracy advocate Vladimir Kara-Murza. In 2023, he was sentenced to 25 years in prison on "treason" charges after criticizing Russia's invasion of Ukraine. On Aug. 1, 2024, he was released.

JULY

Uzbekistan

HRF submitted an individual complaint on behalf of Dauletmurat Tazhimuratov, a lawyer, journalist, and human rights defender from the Karakalpak region of Uzbekistan. The petition called on the UNWGAD to determine that Tazhimuratov's arrest and 16-year sentence were arbitrary and to order Uzbekistan to release him immediately.

JULY

Egypt

HRF submitted an individual complaint for Egyptian human rights and environmental activist Ahmed Amasha, who was arrested on trumped-up terrorism charges in June 2020. He has been subjected to torture and denied communication with his family.

JULY

Rwanda

HRF received an opinion from the UNWGAD in the case of nine Rwandan individuals: Hamad Hagenimana, Emmanuel Masengesho, Alphonse Mutabazi, Marcel Nahimana, Jean Claude Ndayishimiye, Theoneste Nsengimana, Alexis Rucubanganya, Sylvain Sibomana, and Claudine Uwimana. Eight of them attended an online training on peaceful resistance, and one of them criticized the regime on YouTube, leading to their arrest in late 2021. The UNWGAD's opinion called for their immediate release, concluding that Rwandan officials failed to establish a legal basis for detaining the dissidents.

JULY

Qatar

HRF received an opinion from the UNWGAD in the case of Abdullah Ibhais, the former media manager for the Qatar 2022 World Cup organizing committee. In 2021, a Qatari court convicted and jailed Ibhais of trumped-up financial crimes after he refused to downplay a migrant workers' strike at an event construction site. The UNWGAD urged Qatar to release him and initiate an investigation immediately.

JULY

Singapore

HRF submitted an individual complaint on behalf of Singaporean activist Jolovan Wham. One of Singapore's few activists, Wham was fined thousands of dollars and spent 54 days in jail for peaceful protests and social media posts.

AUGUST

Kazakhstan

HRF submitted a complaint to the UN Special Procedures regarding the case of Marat Zhylanbaev, a wrongfully detained opposition leader in Kazakhstan. The complaint asks the Special Procedures to address Zhylanbaev's arbitrary arrest and sentencing based on his exercise of fundamental rights.

AUGUST

Swaziland

HRF submitted an individual complaint to the UNWGAD on behalf of two former lawmakers, Mduduzi Bacede Mabuza and Mthandeni Dube. They were sentenced to 25 and 18 years in prison, respectively, after calling for a democratic election of the country's prime minister, measures against corruption, and encouraging citizens to exercise their constitutional rights.

OCTOBER

Vietnam

HRF and the Khmers Kampuchea-Krom Federation (KKF) submitted a joint petition to the UNWGAD on behalf of indigenous activists To Hoang Chuong and Thach Cuong. The men are members of the Khmer Krom indigenous group in Vietnam and are outspoken activists on behalf of the Khmer Krom people. They were arrested on July 31, 2023, on charges of "abusing" democratic freedoms because of their activism and were sentenced on March 20, 2024. To Hoang Chuong received three and a half years, and Thach Cuong received four years in prison.

NOVEMBER

India

HRF submitted an individual complaint to the UNWGAD for prominent pro-democracy activist Umar Khalid. Khalid was one of the leaders of the 2020 nationwide protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), a controversial bill that created fast-track citizenship for undocumented migrants of various faiths but excludes Muslims. For his activism, Khalid has been languishing in prison for more than four years, awaiting trial. Khalid's case is emblematic of growing repression of dissent under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's administration and had a ripple effect on Indian civil society. With its petition, HRF seeks to contribute to growing international and domestic pressure to immediately release Khalid.

NOVEMBER

Thailand

HRF and Thai Lawyers for Human Rights submitted an individual complaint to the UNWGAD on behalf of Sopon Surariddhidhamrong, a well-known Thai pro-democracy activist who advocates for the end of activists' persecution under Thailand's royal defamation law (lèse-majesté). He is serving a sentence of eight years and six months for peacefully criticizing the monarchy.

DECEMBER

Equatorial Guinea

HRF submitted an individual complaint to the UNWGAD and an urgent appeal to several UN Special Procedures, including the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (UNWGEID), on behalf of Equatoguinean activist and lawyer Anacleto Micha Ndong Nlang. He has been detained since January 2024, when four plainclothes security officials violently arrested Ndong Nlang at his home without a warrant. His arrest followed a complaint he filed against high-ranking security officials, exposing the kidnapping and torture he endured during his earlier detention from September 2022 to June 2023.

DECEMBER

Vietnam

HRF submitted an individual complaint to the UNWGAD on behalf of well-known Vietnamese activist and blogger Nguyễn Chí Tuyến, also known as Anh Chí. Tuyến uses social media, primarily his YouTube channels, to report on social issues and peacefully advocate for human rights and democratic reforms in Vietnam. A judge sentenced Tuyến to five years in prison under Article 117 of the Vietnam Penal Code for "making, storing, disseminating, or propagandizing information, materials, and products that aim to oppose the State of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam" in relation to two YouTube videos he posted in 2021 in which he criticized corruption in the government and commented on potential democratic reforms.


PEACE SAVER'S
GLOBAL FAMILY

At the height of Iran's "Women, Life, Freedom" protests in September 2022, Iranian hip-hop artist Toomaj Salehi released songs supporting women's rights. His song, "Divination," grew in popularity among protestors, singing 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." Salehi was subsequently arrested by the Iranian regime in October 2022.

Iran's Supreme Court released him on bail in November 2023 and 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, Salehi posted a YouTube video describing the torture he endured and his forced confession.

On April 23, 2024, Branch 1 of the Isfahan Revolutionary Court sentenced him to death.

In absentia, HRF awarded Salehi the 2024 Václav Havel International Prize for Creative Dissent at the Oslo Freedom Forum (OFF) in June. The live ceremony recognizing him was reposted and liked on social media more than 10,000 times. Twitter co-founder, Block CEO, and OFF speaker Jack Dorsey attended the ceremony and tweeted "#FreeToomaj," which received 10,000 likes and 2,800 reposts.

While in Oslo, HRF President Céline Assaf-Boustani and a delegation of Iranian activists that included Masih Alinejad met with the president of the Norwegian Parliament, Masud Gharahkhani, to advocate for his case and that of other Iranians.

Iran's Supreme Court overturned Salehi's death sentence two weeks later.

HRF worked diligently with Doughty Street Chambers and Index on Censorship to represent Salehi and his family at the international level. The three groups submitted an individual complaint to the UNWGAD on July 10 to ensure Salehi remains free from judicial harassment.

After 753 days in detention, Iranian officials released Salehi on Dec. 1 in the middle of the night. He was left stranded near his father's home to find his own way home. Iran's state-backed news outlet reported Salehi had served his one-year sentence and was therefore released.

A CLOSER LOOK

The Case of Toomaj Salehi

"Someone's crime was that her hair was flowing in the wind. Someone's crime is that he or she was brave and... outspoken."

TOOMAJ SALEHI
LYRICS FROM "DIVINATION"

LEGAL ADVOCACY & POLICY RESEARCH

Universal Periodic Reviews

HRF conducts advocacy work through Universal Periodic Review (UPR) submissions to the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC). UPRs allow NGOs and civil society groups to call for assessments of Member States' human rights situations. To date, HRF has submitted 50 UPRs.

HRF completed 10 Universal Periodic Review submissions in the 2024 sessions of the UNHRC.

47th Session
5 UPRs

- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Equatorial Guinea
- Nicaragua
- North Korea
- Qatar

48th Session
3 UPRs

- Bolivia
- Iraq
- Kazakhstan

49th Session
2 UPRs

- Laos
- Turkey

LEGAL ADVOCACY & POLICY RESEARCH

Human Trafficking & Authoritarianism

HRF's Human Trafficking & Authoritarianism reports investigate the correlation between authoritarianism and human trafficking. Since 2018, HRF has expanded its research, publishing blog posts, policy briefs, and in-depth research reports.

The Path Backward

HRF hosted the panel "The Path Backward: Authoritarianism and Trafficking" at the 2024 Oslo Freedom Forum. The panel explored the intersection of migration and human trafficking, emphasizing how policies in authoritarian countries worsen migrants' circumstances and create an environment conducive to human trafficking.





POLICY BRIEF

Sex Trafficking in Cuba

In January, HRF published its second policy brief on human trafficking in Cuba, *Sex Trafficking in Cuba: A Form of Gender-Based Violence and Human Trafficking*. The report explored the issues of sex trafficking, gender-based violence, and the complicity of the Cuban regime.



POLICY BRIEF

Global State of Trafficking

HRF published a second global policy brief analyzing the current global state of human trafficking in authoritarian regimes. HRF examines cases in which authoritarian regimes aid one another in perpetuating trafficking, such as China accepting forced labor from North Korea and Venezuela accepting doctors from Cuba's repressive medical missions.

LEGAL ADVOCACY & POLICY RESEARCH

Combating Kleptocracy

HRF's Combating Kleptocracy program exposes how dictatorships use financial secrecy and influence campaigns to entrench their regimes, smother democratic opposition, and enrich themselves that much further. Through research, public awareness campaigns, and media coverage, HRF has taken a global lead in highlighting the threats of kleptocratic regimes worldwide.



Kleptocracy Laundromat

In the 2024 Oslo Freedom Forum's Expo, HRF featured the "Kleptocracy Laundromat," an interactive installation showing how kleptocrats and other bad actors are "washing away their dirty money" through money laundering schemes in industries from Italian luxury goods, to Norwegian fishing, to British investment banks.



Kleptocracy in the News

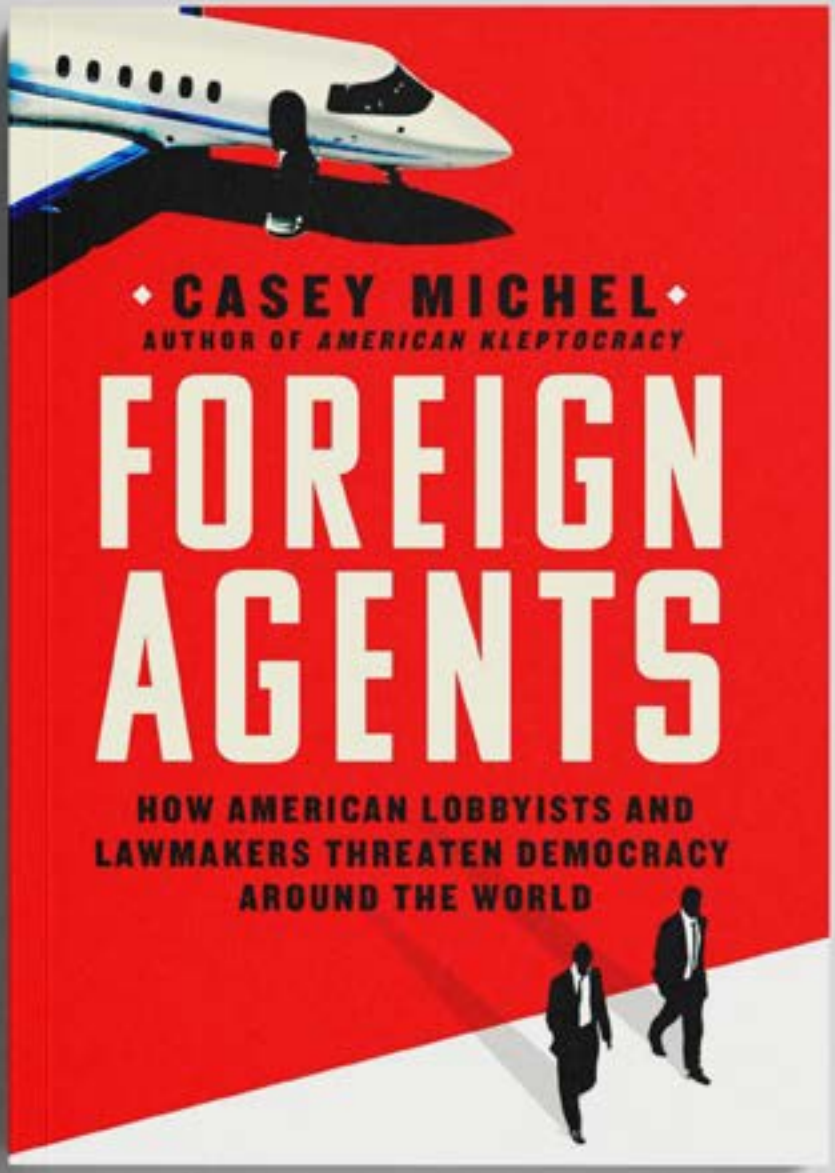
Op-eds and other writings from the Combating Kleptocracy team have appeared in The Wall Street Journal, the Financial Times, The Atlantic, Foreign Policy, New York Magazine, Mother Jones, and more. Combating Kleptocracy Director Casey Michel has also appeared on NPR and MSNBC to discuss the program.



NEW REPORT

Infiltrating America

In May, HRF published "Infiltrating America," the first report exposing the United Arab Emirates's (UAE) influence and infiltration operations. It provides an unprecedented look at how the Emirati dictatorship has created a playbook that other autocracies are eager to follow.



In August, Casey Michel released his new book, "Foreign Agents: How American Lobbyists and Lawmakers Threaten Democracy Around the World." Michel provides a stunning, accolade-earning investigation into the threat posed by US lobbyists working for foreign dictatorships and how they've strengthened kleptocratic regimes.

04

HRF exposes and confronts authoritarian abuses through innovative and multi-faceted campaigns.

Initiatives target key industries, such as fashion and sports, while leveraging creative platforms like art and technology. Through strategic partnerships with industry leaders, HRF develops pioneering strategies to challenge and dismantle authoritarian repression.



Staff at the Oslo Freedom Forum engage with "Destination Unfiltered," which exposes the dark realities of popular tourist destinations.

Global Advocacy & Campaigns



Art in Protest

Art in Protest elevates the work and creativity of courageous artists living in, or exiled from, countries ruled by authoritarian regimes.

HRF offers dissident artists the opportunity to enhance their work and expand their reach through a residency program, exhibition spaces, and new global platforms.

2024 Art in Protest Resident Artists

In February, HRF announced the third cohort of the Art in Protest Residency program and its new partnership with the nationally recognized Fountainhead Arts in Miami, Fla. The residency empowers dissident artists to expand their practices while cultivating a community of support.



NADIA HERNÁNDEZ



KEVORK MOURAD

Nadia Hernández

Informed by her experience as a Venezuelan woman living in Australia, Hernández's multi-disciplinary practice reflects a process of bearing witness to the loss of home and the symbolic power of memory and memorialization.

Kevork Mourad

Born in Qamishli, Syria, to a family of Armenian heritage, visual artist Mourad employs a unique technique of live drawing and animation in concert with musicians, developing a collaboration in which art and music harmonize.

Art in Protest at Roskilde

HRF is thrilled to announce a significant gift from Denmark's Roskilde Festival — one of Europe's largest — to the Art in Protest program.

At Roskilde Festival in July, HRF hosted a panel, "The Power and Risk of Art," to discuss how art can be a force for change, particularly in environments that restrict and repress human rights. Panelists included exiled artists Alireza Shojaian, Emmanuel Jal, and Natalia Kaliada, who represented the Middle East, Africa, and Eastern Europe.



TOP *Natalia Kaliada, Alireza Shojaian, and Emmanuel Jal collaborate on a panel to discuss the importance of art as a tool for dissent.*

BOTTOM *Roskilde Festival attendees enjoy captivating performances from an impressive artist lineup.*



Art in Protest

Art, Music, & Film at OFF

At the 2024 Oslo Freedom Forum (OFF), HRF featured the work of musicians, performers, filmmakers, and visual artists creatively challenging tyranny. Attendees witnessed the soft power of art, music, and film, exposing the abuses and injustices perpetrated by dictators.







Art Exhibitions

The bold works of artists were present throughout the conference, including Venezuelan multidisciplinary artist Nadia Hernández; Iranian artist and human rights activist Atena Farghadani; North Korean defector Song Byeok; and Central Asian artist-activists Altyn Kapalova, Rita Karasartova, Timur Nusimbekov, Zhanel Shakhan, Ermina Takenova, and Tatyana Zelenskaya.

TOP LEFT *Iranian painter Atena Farghadani's "We are Products of the Same Factory" explores the profound impact of protest art and shines a spotlight on injustices in her home country.*

TOP RIGHT *Song Byeok's "Heaven on Earth" hosts propaganda posters for the North Korean regime depicting scenes of utopia among famine, torture, and abuse.*

RIGHT *"En Todo Tiempo" by Nadia Hernández reflects her experience in the Venezuelan diaspora with a sound-based installation and a poetic collage.*

Powerful Performances

Composers, singers, and performers took the OFF stage, lending their music to the cause of freedom and human rights. Attendees witnessed captivating performances from Colombian Grammy-winning singer, composer, and author Carlos Vives *(pictured)*; cellist and composer Joshua Roman; French-Iranian opera singer Ariana Vafadari; and the Jerusalem Youth Chorus, a choral and dialogue program for Palestinian and Israeli youth in Jerusalem.



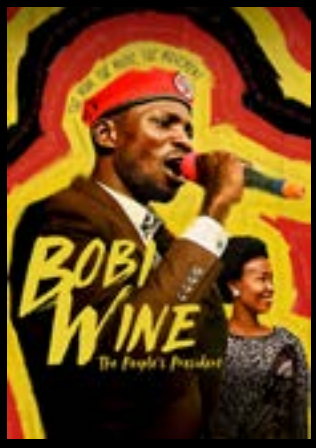


Film Festival

OFF attendees were invited to attend the screenings of two films before the start of the conference. HRF screened "Invisible Nation," which took the audience through the election and tenure of Tsai Ing-wen, the first female president of Taiwan. Meanwhile, "Bobi Wine: The People's President" followed Ugandan opposition leader and pop star Bobi Wine, who has used his music to fight the Ugandan regime.



"Invisible Nation" investigates the election and tenure of Taiwan's sitting head of state, Tsai Ing-wen. The film was shown at the 2024 Oslo Freedom Forum with a powerful Q&A with director Vanessa Hope.



"Bobi Wine: The People's President" follows how the former Ugandan politician used music to fight his country's authoritarian regime. The film was screened at the 2024 Oslo Freedom Forum.

In the News

NATIONAL REVIEW

Depicting North Korea

JAY NORDLINGER · JUNE 17

2

Det var da jeg forsto hvem de egentlig var *(It was then that I understood who they really were)*

HÅKON KVAM LYNGSTAD · JUNE 15

VOA

'탈북 화가,' 오슬로자유포럼 전시회 통해 '북한 인권 참상' 알려 *(North Korean defector artist publicizes North Korean human rights atrocities through exhibition at Oslo Freedom Forum)*

KIM YOUNG-KWEON · JUNE 5

2

De er redde for sin egen skygge *(They are afraid of their own shadow)*

HÅKON KVAM LYNGSTAD · JUNE 13

GLOBAL ADVOCACY & CAMPAIGNS

Wear Your Values

The Wear Your Values (WYV) program aims to expose the hidden social costs of the fashion industry.

WYV uses creative advocacy campaigns and educational exhibitions to raise awareness about forced labor, advocate for transparency in global supply chains, and encourage ethical shopping among consumers.

If you are interested in collaborating, please e-mail **wearyourvalues@hrf.org**.

2024 Awards

ANTHEM COMMUNITY VOICE

HUMAN RIGHTS & CIVIL RIGHTS

VIDEO: PUBLIC SERVICE & ACTIVISM

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY: FILM, VIDEO & SOUND



In the News



WWD

San Francisco Casts Lens on Art, Fashion and Activism

ADRIANA LEE · APRIL 26



AP Associated Press

26M tons of clothing end up in China's landfills each year, propelled by fast fashion

TIAN MACLEOD JI · JULY 10



Miami Herald

Miami-based clothing company has a mission that goes beyond fashion

C. ISAIAH SMALLS II · JULY 15

Partnerships

Fashion Incubator San Francisco (FiSF)

This year, HRF partnered with the Fashion Incubator San Francisco (FiSF). For 12 years, FiSF has supported designers in San Francisco, Calif., and globally, through thoughtful training and mentorship. Much like WYV, FiSF aims to elevate ethical and sustainable designers and brands, build a supportive community, and advocate for better practices in the fashion industry.



TOP *Wear Your Values collaborated with FiSF to host Artisan Fashion at the de Young museum, highlighting a passion and commitment to building ethically and sustainably minded brands.*



RIGHT *Jeanine Barnett Silberblatt, president and board chair of Fashion Incubator San Francisco, speaks at a joint event with HRF in April.*

Celebration of Fashion & Human Rights

In April, HRF joined forces with FiSF for a celebration of fashion and human rights at the de Young Museum in San Francisco, California. Attendees received a private tour of the museum's fashion exhibition and an exclusive look at designs from FiSF's residency program graduates.



Impact Media

WYV collaborated with Impact, a popular digital platform that simplifies complex political issues for Gen Z. The partnership enabled WYV to educate Impact's users of the fashion industry's complicity in forced labor and of the Chinese regime's persecution of the Uyghur people into concentration camps, who are subsequently forced to meet the demands of the fashion industry.

Impact users were invited to follow WYV's new Instagram account and to download via Google Chrome HRF's Uyghur Forced Labor Checker, a plug-in to aid consumers when they shop online.

The Instagram carousel consisted of 10 graphics, including six stories, which resulted in **988,573** impressions, **826** link clicks, and **48,762** total actions.

Celebrities & Dictators

The Celebrities & Dictators program encourages celebrities, social media influencers, entertainment brands, and professional sports institutions to refuse partnerships and collaborations with authoritarian regimes.

HRF urges public figures and global platforms to leverage their influence to challenge these regimes, expose human rights abuses, and amplify dissenting voices.





Destination Unfiltered

Authoritarian regimes are increasingly using the allure of their country's natural beauty, infrastructure, history, and culture to generate tourism and whitewash their human rights abuses. They spend countless dollars on marketing and social media campaigns to convince tourists to visit and post pictures, slowly changing the public perception of their country.

HRF combated this narrative through a unique photobooth, "Picture It: Destination Unfiltered," first exhibited at the 2024 South by Southwest conference and later at the Oslo Freedom Forum. Visitors were invited to look beyond the postcard-perfect façade and witness the harsh reality of dictatorships, providing prospective tourists with the tools to become conscious travelers.

TOP LEFT *At the 2024 Oslo Freedom Forum, attendees receive the tools to become more conscious travelers and aware of the struggles of living under an authoritarian regime.*

BOTTOM LEFT *With "Picture It: Destination Unfiltered," SXSW attendees look beyond the postcard-perfect façade and witnessed the harsh reality of dictatorships.*

Sports & Dictators

In the modern era, authoritarian regimes have harnessed sports to manipulate both domestic and international perceptions — a tactic often called "sportswashing." HRF aims to shed light on the evolving role of sports within authoritarian politics and raise awareness among athletes, activists, and fans.

Run Aramco Out of Houston



In January, HRF launched a campaign against the Saudi Aramco sponsorship of the Houston Half Marathon, a tactic used by the Saudi Arabian regime to whitewash its brutal reputation. HRF petitioned the Houston Marathon Committee to reconsider the Aramco sponsorship and informed marathon bystanders of the Saudi regime's deception.

History of Sports & Dictators



Long before the inception of the Olympic Games, sports have been used to test foreign policies, thaw diplomatic tensions, and broadcast political and social messaging. Yet, over the past decade, dictators have increasingly weaponized sports to launder their reputations and distract from abuses. This blog series delves into the history of sportswashing, analyzing its ancient roots, its popularity among dictators in the 20th century, and its modern evolution.

Play the Game Conference



In February, HRF Sports & Dictators Fellow Karim Zidan spoke on the evolution of "sportswashing" at Play the Game, an international conference in Trondheim, Norway. The event gathered academics, journalists, and other stakeholders in sports to share research and debate key issues in international sports.

Despots on the Pitch

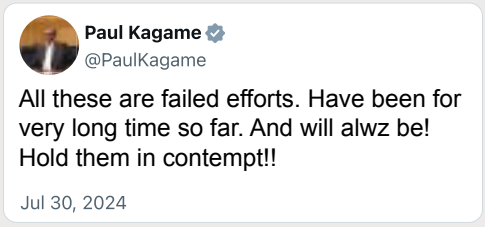


At the 2024 Oslo Freedom Forum Expo, HRF exhibited "Despots on the Pitch," a tool for attendees to learn whether their beloved soccer club is linked to an authoritarian regime. The booth raised awareness of dictators investing in soccer, while encouraging fans to oppose this troubling trend.



NBA x Rwanda

In July, ESPN published "How the NBA got into business with an African dictator," an extensive two-year investigation spotlighting HRF's advocacy around the NBA's ongoing partnership with the Rwandan dictatorship. HRF's involvement with ESPN began in 2022, when HRF Senior Policy Officer Mohamed Keita shared private letters sent to leading NBA executives. Keita remained closely involved and provided ample background and contacts of key interviewees.



Rwandan dictator Paul Kagame responded to the ESPN report on X, retorting all criticism. A spokeswoman of the Rwandan regime also claimed that, "These critics are not only trying to deprive us of the economic benefits of global support, but they're actively trying to undermine our efforts to achieve social cohesion."

"It's as if the NBA invited and partnered with a mosquito to do a campaign about health."

MOHAMED KEITA
HRF SENIOR POLICY OFFICER, AFRICA

Financial Freedom



Jack Dorsey talks onstage at the 2024 Oslo Freedom Forum with macroeconomist Lyn Alden about the importance of open source and decentralization, arguing that the free speech debate should be more focused on free will, especially as people are being programmed by black box algorithms.

Today, billions of people living under authoritarianism lack financial freedom. Dictators frequently debase, manipulate, demonetize, and surveil currencies, confiscate property, and freeze the bank accounts of critics and dissidents.

The Financial Freedom program highlights how authoritarian regimes engage in financial repression to crack down on dissent. Through public education, direct support, and new, open-source technologies, HRF aims to empower activists with financial sovereignty, enabling them to operate freely, expand their movements, and continue their struggle for democracy.



Public Education

HRF aims to educate activists and the wider public on how decentralized finance, privacy technology, and decentralized communications can be important, life-saving tools in the face of financial repression.

Global Events

HRF's Financial Freedom team organized, sponsored, and attended conferences and gatherings around the world to discuss and brainstorm ways to best advance financial freedom for billions. Through its events, HRF connected hundreds of developers, activists, and educators from over 50 countries and six continents.

Financial Freedom Report

In 2024, HRF expanded its Financial Freedom Report, a weekly newsletter on the role money and banking play in the civil liberties and human rights of those living under authoritarian regimes. The report shares relevant global news and helpful resources, revealing how new monetary inventions like Bitcoin can help secure more personal freedoms.



CBDC Tracker

HRF continued to advance its Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) Tracker, the premier resource for monitoring the research, development, and implementation of CBDCs worldwide. The tracker aims to highlight the rapid advancements in these centralizing technologies and their potential threats to liberty in both open and closed societies.



Financial Freedom



Guiding Bitcoin Adoption

HRF launched a free quarterly webinar to teach nonprofits, particularly human rights organizations, how to integrate Bitcoin into their work to challenge state censorship and confiscation. Sessions teach organizations how to counter financial repression, use alternative tools for crowdfunding and making payments, and protect their financial privacy.



Finney Freedom Prize

In April, HRF announced the Finney Freedom Prize to honor individuals making important contributions to digital privacy, financial freedom, and human rights. Created with the support of Fran Finney, wife and partner of civil liberties advocate and software developer Hal Finney, the prize celebrates Finney's belief that computers can be tools of liberation rather than repression.



High Level Research

HRF launched two pioneering research initiatives in 2024. The CISA Research Fellowship, led by Fabian Jahr, explores how Cross-Input Signature Aggregation (CISA) can enhance Bitcoin privacy and reduce transaction costs; and a study, in partnership with the Reynolds Foundation and Cornell University, led by Professor Sarah Kreps, will be tracking Bitcoin and stablecoin adoption in authoritarian regimes.



Members of the Financial Freedom team at Bitcoin Conference 2024

Bitcoin Development Fund

Since 2020, HRF's Bitcoin Development Fund has supported software developers in making financial technologies more secure, private, and resilient so they can better serve human rights activists, civil society organizations, educators, and journalists.

2024 Impact

82 GRANTS

$2.5M TOTAL AMOUNT GRANTED

"My country is ruled by the oldest military regime in Africa. The Human Rights Foundation supported us by providing a platform to work together on how we can better strengthen our resistance against authoritarianism: gathering, African businesses, entrepreneurs, investors on how to fasten financial inclusion in Africa."

FARIDA NABOUREMA
TOGOLESE HUMAN RIGHTS & DEMOCRACY ACTIVIST

CCP Disruption Initiative

The Chinese Communist Party Disruption Initiative aims to thwart the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) ongoing attacks on civil liberties and expose President Xi Jinping's brutal regime.

The program focuses on the CCP's various tactics and abuses, including corporate intimidation, digital surveillance, the crackdown on Chinese human rights defenders, the Uyghur genocide, the severe stifling of freedoms in Tibet, and the trampling of freedoms in Hong Kong.





Uyghur Youth Mobilization Workshop

In February, HRF hosted an online workshop, "Uyghur Youth Mobilization," to provide the next generation of activists with the skills necessary to strengthen their advocacy. Designed to amplify Uyghur voices and combat the influence of the CCP, this workshop gathered over 20 young activists, artists, and representatives from Uyghur youth-led organizations to refine campaigning strategies, share tactics, and build community.

BLOG SERIES

Beyond Borders

Throughout 2024, HRF published a three-part blog series, highlighting the CCP's coercion and co-optation tactics to shape global public discourse. The series explores China's transnational repression of the world's Uyghur diaspora, censorship tactics and propaganda to control the global media narrative, and methods of suppressing and infiltrating global academia.

Hong Kong Sanctions

HRF is preparing a submission of a list of Hong Kong (HK) officials to sanction under Executive Order 13936 (President's Executive Order on Hong Kong Normalization) to the State and Treasury Departments for their complicity in the transnational repression of overseas Hong Kong activists and the passage of the draconian Article 13. If sanctioned, HK officials will be blocked from the US financial system, including using banks or buying property in the US. The letter is part of a broader campaign to "name and shame" perpetrators of transnational repression and hold accountable those responsible for the erosion of freedoms in Hong Kong.



Uniting with the HK Diaspora

In April, HRF supported the United Kingdom-Hong Kong (UK-HK) Symposium, where HRF presented a keynote speech on the CCP Disruption Initiative and its ongoing efforts in Hong Kong. HRF provided travel stipends to three Hong Kong activists, allowing them to attend the conference. At the Symposium, HRF connected with an activist looking to launch a Hong Kong-European alliance, which HRF later supported with a microgrant.

Korea Desk

The Korea Desk aims to combat Kim Jong-un's oppressive dictatorship. Throughout 2024, HRF fostered and strengthened partnerships with local activists, civil society organizations, and international bodies to improve the human rights conditions in North Korea. It also developed new strategies to expose North Koreans to life outside the Kim regime's totalitarian "utopia."

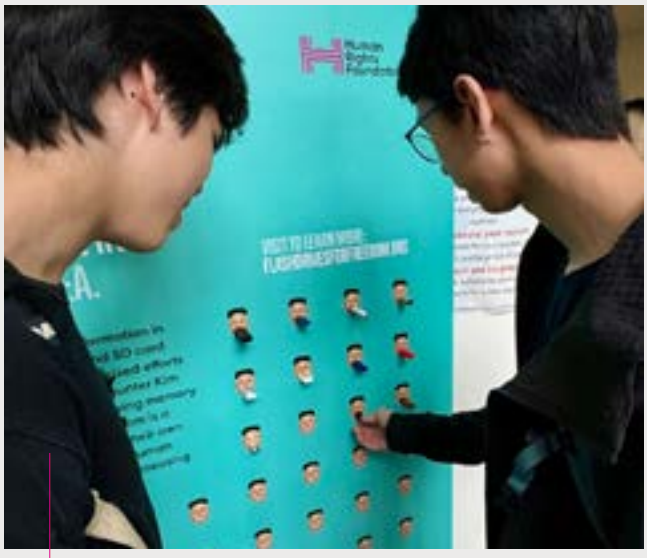
This year, HRF distributed grants to grow our impact among grassroots North Korean human rights organizations, as well as our overall footprint in South Korea. Many of these grantees are of diverse age ranges with innovative ways to shed light on the state of North Korea and empower the next generation of activists, from training sessions of young professionals to a documentary illustrating how baseball can unite the South Koreans and North Korean defectors. HRF believes that this next chapter will demonstrate our increased investment and commitment to advancing advocacy in North Korean human rights.

2024 GRANTEES

North Korea Human Rights Corporation (NKHRC)
Korea Young Leaders Forum
International Democracy Hub (IDH)
North Korea Baseball Association
Smart Raccoon Production

Flash Drives For Free-Dom

Flash Drives for Freedom (FDFF) is a multi-award-winning program that aims to free the minds of North Koreans from the regime's pervasive propaganda and help them become critical consumers of information. FDFF achieves this by accepting USB drive donations, loading them with external content, and smuggling them into North Korea in partnership with local activist groups.



In June, with the support of HRF, students from the Amnesty International Club at Taipei European School in Taiwan organized a school-wide event highlighting FDFF. The event, opened virtually by a North Korean defector, exposed students to North Korean human rights issues and encouraged the donation of flash drives.

2.2K FLASH DRIVES DONATED

22K NORTH KOREANS REACHED

42K HOURS OF FOOTAGE SENT INTO NK

1M HOURS OF READING MATERIALS DISSEMINATED

NK INSIDER

Launched in January, NK Insider (NKIN) is the first English-language news platform featuring information, analyses, and op-eds about North Korea written by North Korean defectors. Through weekly articles, NKIN provides insight into various aspects of North Korean society, including the country's human rights violations, politics, economy, culture, diplomacy, military, science, and technology.



In the News

VOA

North Korea defector journalist speaks for those who can't escape

WILLIAM GALLO · AUG. 19

NKIN journalist Zane Han shared his experience fleeing North Korea with VOA.

169 ARTICLES

4.9K READERS

105 COUNTRIES REACHED

The HRF-produced film "Beyond Utopia" was nominated for the 2024 British Academy Film Award (BAFTA) for Best Documentary and for the 2024 Emmy Award for Exceptional Merit in Documentary Filmmaking.

"Beyond Utopia" shares the harrowing events of North Koreans fleeing Kim Jong-un's tyranny and features Oslo Freedom Forum speaker Pastor Seungeun Kim, who heads the Caleb Mission in South Korea. The documentary won the Audience Award for US Documentary at the 2023 Sundance Film Festival, received a duPont-Columbia Award, has been nominated for the 2024 British Academy Film Award for Best Documentary, and was shortlisted for the 2024 Oscar for Best Documentary.



NK Insider Forum

In December, HRF organized the 2024 NK Insider Forum in Seoul, South Korea, bringing together new defectors who were once former elites in the North Korean regime and engaging with them on key issues.

Given the increasingly complex situation surrounding the country and the noticeable defection of those from the elite class, the forum provided a meaningful opportunity to explore the causes behind these developments and consider possible solutions in greater depth.

The forum hosted 84 participants, including senior government officials from both the United States and South Korea, representatives from the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Korea, senior diplomats from about 10 countries, leaders from local legal, business, and civil society sectors, and activists.



Former researcher under the ruling Workers' Party of Korea Jang Hyeok explains how even at an elite university, students were closely monitored by a complex hierarchy of student groups and leaders.



Mainstage speaker and author of "A Pyongyang Woman From London," Oh Hye-sun discusses the challenges of adapting to South Korean society as a North Korean defector. Joined by moderator Kim Jin, elite defectors Lee Il-kyu and former researcher Jang Hyeok, they explore the complexities of newfound freedom.



Former political counselor at the North Korean Embassy in Cuba, Lee Il-kyu, shares how he negotiated the release of a North Korean ship carrying arms.

05

Confronting tyranny requires the support of communities and industries across the world.

Through various public education initiatives and events, including the Oslo Freedom Forum conference series, HRF aims to engage and unite a global audience in the struggle against tyranny.



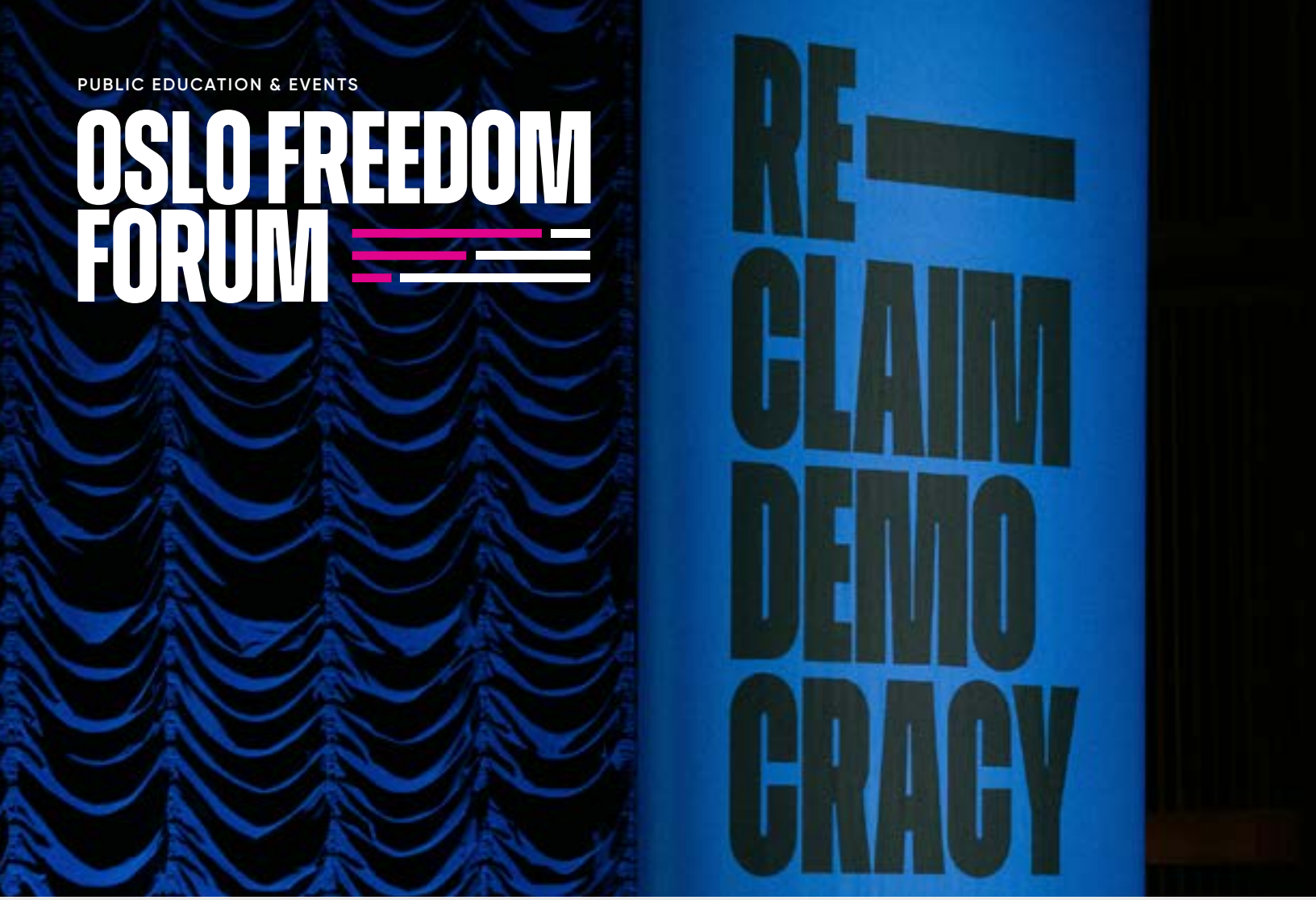
Humanitarian and real-life hero of "Hotel Rwanda," *Paul Rusesabagina, shared his insights on peace and democracy at the 2024 Oslo Freedom Forum.*

Public Education & Events



PUBLIC EDUCATION & EVENTS

OSLO FREEDOM FORUM



The Oslo Freedom Forum (OFF) is a global conference series that brings together the world's most prominent human rights defenders and industry leaders to exchange valuable tools, knowledge, and resources in the struggle for basic rights and individual liberties.

HRF returned to Oslo, Norway, from June 3-5 to host the 16th annual OFF. The 2024 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.

This year's theme, Reclaim Democracy, *promoted the importance of speaking truth to power and freedom.*

Theater Talks

Human rights activists and thought leaders from across the globe gather at OFF to share how they challenge various injustices and advance freedom. Speakers included Gazan writer and analyst Ahmed Alkhatib, Azerbaijani human rights activist Zhala Bayramova, founder of India Hate Lab Raqib Hameed Naik, Venezuelan human rights activist Olga González, and Russian politician and opposition figure Anastasia Shevchenko.





TOP *Olga González shares her story of resilience and strength after Venezuelan security forces murdered her husband at a peaceful protest against dictator Nicolás Maduro.*

RIGHT *Georges Azzi details the struggle for LGBTQ+ rights in the Middle East and the pursuit of a just and democratic society.*

PUBLIC EDUCATION & EVENTS

OSLO FREEDOM FORUM

Interactive Programming

Participants of panel discussions, fireside chats, and workshops were challenged to think critically about the issues presented during theater talks and to create practical and innovative solutions to advance freedom. Programming explored tech surveillance, financial freedom, conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza, kleptocracy and corruption, trauma prevention, and gender and sexual rights.



TOP *The panel, "Gaza: What Happens Next?," led by Norwegian Foreign Minister Espen Barth Eide, features Palestinian diplomats and Israeli journalists who took a human-rights-centered approach to discussing the Israel-Hamas war, the International Criminal Court arrest warrants for Israeli and Hamas leadership, and accountability for the thousands of women, men, and children who have been killed by the IDF and by Hamas since Oct. 7.*



LEFT *"Defying Gender-Based Violence in Authoritarian Regimes" explores the intersection of gender-based violence and women's rights activism in countries ruled by authoritarian regimes, emphasizing the critical role women have played and continue to play in global movements.*



Expo Space

Attendees explored the unique programs and creative campaigns led by HRF and its partner organizations. This year's expo featured booths including the CBDC Tracker, Despots on the Pitch, Kleptocracy Laundromat, Picture It: Destination Unfiltered, North Korean Portraits and Paradoxes, and Faces of Torture.

The Speaker Library features literature authored by HRF community members and activists that promote stories of freedom and democracy.



Congo Clothing Company features a booth at the 2024 Oslo Freedom Forum to highlight its empowerment of survivors of sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo.



Iranian journalist and human rights activist Masih Alinejad joins Iranian protesters Sima Moradbeigi, Kosar Eftekhari, and Zanier Tondo to promote their movement for democracy and human rights in Iran.



Meetings & Partnerships

OFF has a ripple effect, inspiring policy changes, meetings, and global solidarity. As a result of this year's event, former Twitter co-founder Jack Dorsey shared a new open-source platform with OFF speakers; Iranian activist Masih Alinejad met with Norwegian officials to discuss violations in Iran; Ugandan OFF speaker Agather Atuhaire received incredible online support at home; and the Congo Clothing Company, a brand supporting survivors of sexual violence, earned tremendous sales.

Agather Atuhaire impresses upon the audience that open and free digital platforms are vital tools to publicly engage policy in her country. She is a lawyer, journalist, and digital activist from Uganda.

OSLO FREEDOM FORUM

The Thulani Maseko Justice Prize



The prize honors the late Swazi human rights lawyer Thulani Maseko, who was assassinated in his home on Jan. 21, 2023. He was a renowned democracy advocate and former Oslo Freedom Forum speaker.







As part of the Oslo Freedom Forum in June, HRF hosted the inaugural Thulani Maseko Justice Prize ceremony at Oslo City Hall. The award recognizes courageous human rights lawyers who risk, or have risked, their lives to defend the rule of law and democracy. The late Russian dissident and opposition leader Alexei Navalny posthumously received this year's award.

Navalny founded the Anti-Corruption Foundation in 2011, through which he investigated state companies and senior Russian government officials. Navalny ran for election in 2013 for Moscow's mayorship — he came in second — and eventually for the Russian presidency in 2018 but was illegally disqualified from appearing on the ballot. Navalny called for peaceful protests of fraudulent city council elections in 2019 and was subsequently imprisoned under the politically motivated charge of "violating protest laws." Russian agents attempted to assassinate Navalny in August 2020 with a Novichok nerve agent. He survived and recovered in Germany and then returned to Russia, where he was arrested, charged with "extremism," and sentenced to 19 years in prison. Alexei Navalny had boundless courage, just like Thulani Maseko, and on Feb. 16, 2024, he was murdered for it. He was 47 years old. Thulani Maseko's widow, Tanele Maseko, presented the award to Alexei Navalny's widow, Yulia Navalnaya.

The emotive ceremony closed with the song, "Another Love," performed by Lavrans Svendsen and accompanied by Julien Carton on the piano to honor the courageous individuals.

TOP *Tanele Maseko presents the 2024 Maseko Justice Prize to Yulia Navalnaya, the widow of Alexei Navalny, this year's recipient, for his courage in anti-corruption investigations against the Kremlin.*

LEFT *Yulia Navalnaya accepts the 2024 Maseko Prize on behalf of her late husband and Russian opposition leader, Alexei Navalny.*

LEFT *HRF CEO Thor Halvorssen gives opening remarks during the Thulani Maseko Justice Prize ceremony at Oslo City Hall in June.*

OSLO FREEDOM FORUM

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 during OFF, followed by a performance of "Canaima: A Quintet for Piano and Strings" by laureate Gabriela Montero.



IRANIAN HIP-HOP ARTIST

Toomaj Salehi

Salehi is an Iranian hip-hop artist known for lyrics protesting the Iranian regime and calling for human rights. He was arrested in October 2022 and released on bail over a year later. On Nov. 27, 2023, he posted a YouTube video describing the torture and forced confession he experienced during his detention. Three days later, he was abducted and subsequently charged in two trials. On April 24, he was sentenced to death. On June 22, two weeks after Salehi was awarded the Havel Prize, Iran overturned his death sentence. His friend and social media manager, Negin Niknaam, accepted on his behalf. On Dec. 1, after 753 days in detention, Iranian officials released Salehi.



UYGHUR POET & FILMMAKER

Tahir Hamut Izgil

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.



VENEZUELAN PIANIST & RECORDING ARTIST

Gabriela Montero

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).

College Freedom Forum

The College Freedom Forum (CFF) is an event series held on university campuses, designed to connect students with renowned activists working to promote democracy and human rights in authoritarian regimes.

Through CFF, students gain exposure to today's most pressing human rights issues, academic resources, and professional connections. HRF aims to engage the next generation of scholars, policymakers, journalists, business and nonprofit leaders, and educators in critical dialogue about human rights.

Universidad Francisco Marroquín

HRF hosted the seventh edition of CFF at the Universidad Francisco Marroquín, where students and faculty learned about the work, challenges, and personal stories of the founder and president of Ideas Beyond Borders, Faisal Saeed Al Mutar; Venezuelan human rights activist Olga González; Cuban artist and activist Yunier Suárez; Hong Kong activist Carmen Lau; and Bolivian assemblywoman and opposition leader Toribia Lero Quispe.



Ronald Flores joined Hong Kong activist Carmen Lau and Iraqi-American activist Faisal Al Mutar for a discussion on their experiences promoting human rights and democracy around the world.



Faisal Al Mutar shares insight on combating extremism and countering authoritarianism and dictatorships.

"Freedom is very vulnerable, and we must tell young people that they need to join in. When young people are willing to listen to these experiences, I think it is important because they help us move towards a better Guatemala and a better world."

TORIBIA LERO QUISPE
BOLIVIAN ASSEMBLYWOMAN
& OPPOSITION LEADER



Vietnamese pop star and political activist Mai Khoi gives a captivating performance and proved the power of music as a tool against authoritarianism.

Stanford University

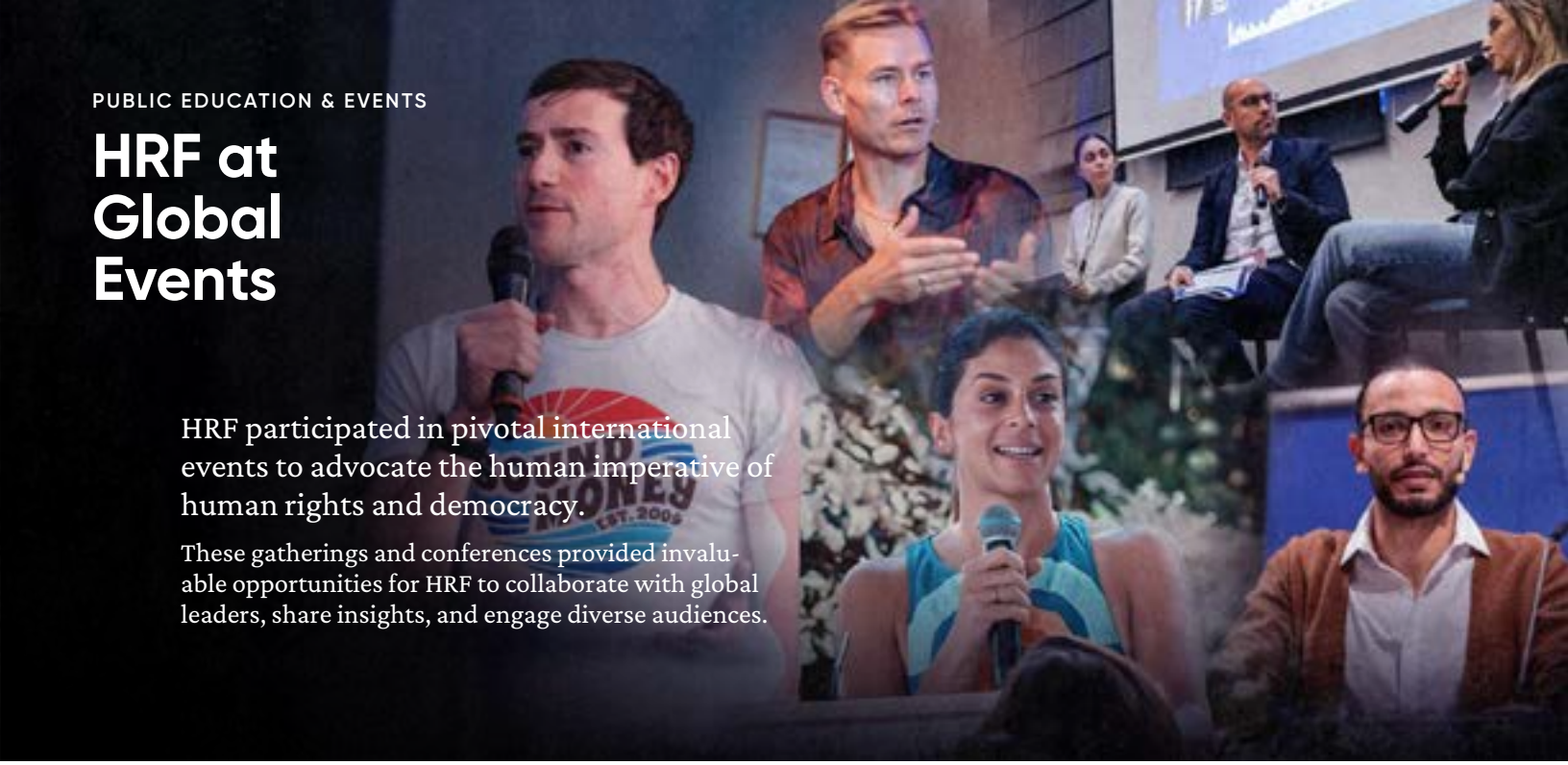
CFF returned to Stanford University to discuss the Asia-Pacific region and featured Uyghur advocate Jewher Ilham, who is the daughter of imprisoned scholar Ilham Tohti; North Korean defector and advocate Eunhee Park; Vietnamese pop star and political activist Mai Khoi; and former President of the Tibetan government-in-exile Lobsang Sangay. Stanford faculty also attended, including renowned democracy scholars Francis Fukuyama and Larry Diamond.

> *"It's incredibly important that the message of global freedom reaches younger generations of people [...] the College Freedom Forum is an excellent venue for people to learn about the terrible things that are going on [in authoritarian regimes]."*
>
> **FRANCIS FUKUYAMA**
> AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENTIST & AUTHOR



Former president of the Tibetan government-in-exile, Lobsang Sangay, discusses the CCP's colonization of Tibet and the unique ways Tibetans are promoting freedom and democracy.

HRF at Global Events



HRF participated in pivotal international events to advocate the human imperative of human rights and democracy.

These gatherings and conferences provided invaluable opportunities for HRF to collaborate with global leaders, share insights, and engage diverse audiences.

Play the Game
TRONDHEIM, NORWAY
FEB. 4–7

BLISS Summit 2024
NOSARA, COSTA RICA
FEB. 4–6

Bitcoin Atlantis
MADEIRA, PORTUGAL
MARCH 1–3

SXSW
AUSTIN, TEXAS
MARCH 9–13

United Kingdom–Hong Kong Symposium
LONDON, UK
APRIL 27–29

Copenhagen Democracy Summit
COPENHAGEN, DENMARK
MAY 14–15

Bitcoin Seoul
SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA
MAY 29–31

Safeguarding Freedom in the Digital World
FRANKFURT, GERMANY
JUNE 11

Bitcoin Prague
PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC
JUNE 19–21

Bitcoin Conference 2024
NASHVILLE, TENN.
JULY 25–28

Carnegie Africa Forum
WASHINGTON, DC
JULY 27

Oslo Innovation Week
OSLO, NORWAY
SEPT. 25

Generation Democracy Global Summit
VILNIUS, LITHUANIA
SEPT. 11–14

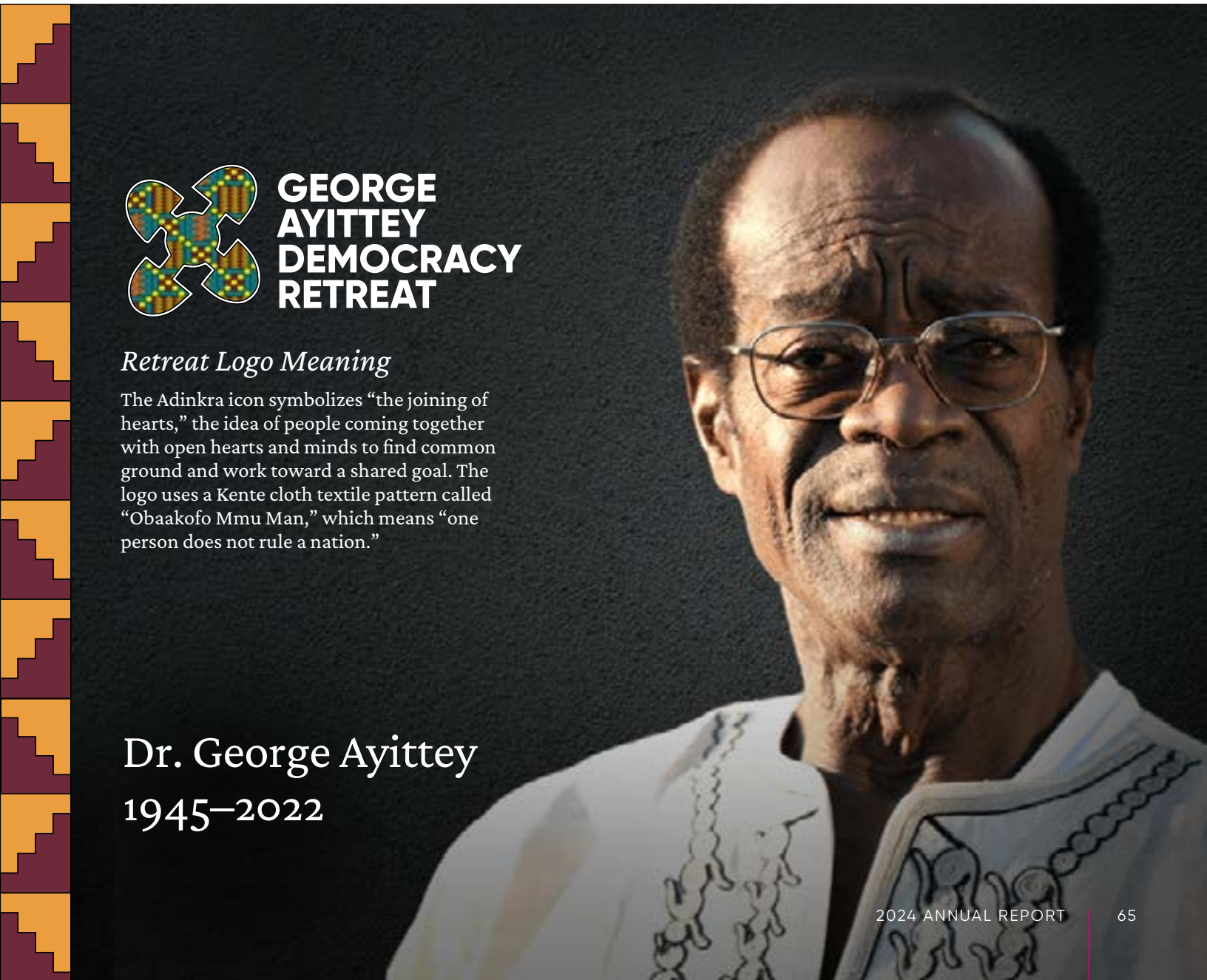
Global Bitcoin Summit
NASHVILLE, TENN.
OCT. 1–4

Forum 2000
PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC
OCT. 13–15

George Ayittey Democracy Retreat

In December, HRF and 14 activists from sub-Saharan Africa assembled in Accra, Ghana, for the third edition of the retreat to reflect on Ayittey's teachings on democracy and authoritarianism. Experts taught participants best practices in fundraising, digital security, mental health, media, Internet shutdowns, and financial freedom. The retreat also aims to strengthen solidarity across borders and foster community by providing a haven for participants to share their experiences with peers.

The retreat honors the late renowned Ghanaian scholar, author, and activist Dr. George Ayittey, who was a founding member of HRF's International Council and former Oslo Freedom Forum speaker.



PUBLIC EDUCATION & EVENTS

Dissidents & Dictators

HRF relaunched its "Dissidents & Dictators" podcast series, sharing new stories and analyses from activists, journalists, artists, and scholars on the frontlines of democracy.

Hosted by HRF's Director of Combating Kleptocracy Casey Michel and Communications Director Elisha Maldonado, each episode discusses pressing human rights issues and the important work being done to address them. HRF aims to educate new audiences worldwide, bringing human rights into the mainstream of public discussions.



Co-hosts Elisha Maldonado & Casey Michel speak with real-life "Hotel Rwanda" *hero Paul Rusesabagina and his family for a live recording of* "Dissidents & Dictators" *at the 2024 Oslo Freedom Forum.*

Our Reach

4 STREAMING PLATFORMS

150 EPISODES TO DATE

91K TOTAL LISTENS

2.5K TOTAL LISTENERS

Top Episodes



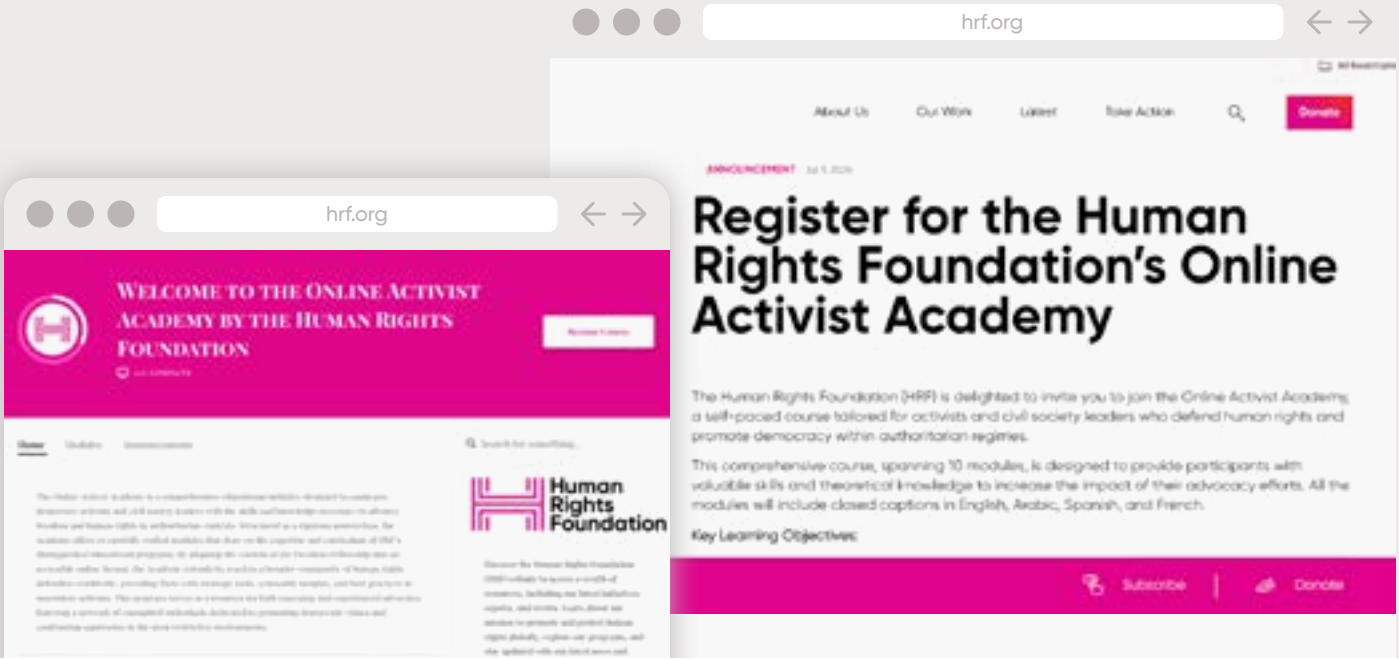
Listen to **Dissidents & Dictators** on:

Spotify · Listen on Podcasts · SOUNDCLOUD · YouTube

Online Activist Academy

The Online Activist Academy is a self-paced course tailored for activists and civil society leaders defending human rights and democracy within authoritarian regimes.

This comprehensive course is designed to provide participants with valuable skills and theoretical knowledge to increase the impact of their advocacy efforts.



Key Learning Objectives

1. Develop a thorough understanding of effective nonviolent strategies for human rights advocacy in authoritarian regimes.
2. Acquire practical skills to enhance advocacy and outreach initiatives.
3. Explore theoretical frameworks to increase understanding and approach to nonviolence theory, digital security, social media, fundraising, mental health, and more.

4 LANGUAGES

10 MODULES

270 STUDENTS

06

In countries ruled by authoritarian regimes, the work of individual activists and civil society organizations often proves more impactful than that of large intergovernmental and non-governmental entities.

For this reason, HRF provides direct support to those on the frontlines of freedom and democratic reform. Its support comes in many forms, including mentorship programs, networking opportunities, technical support, and financial aid, all designed to empower and sustain these courageous efforts.



Direct Support



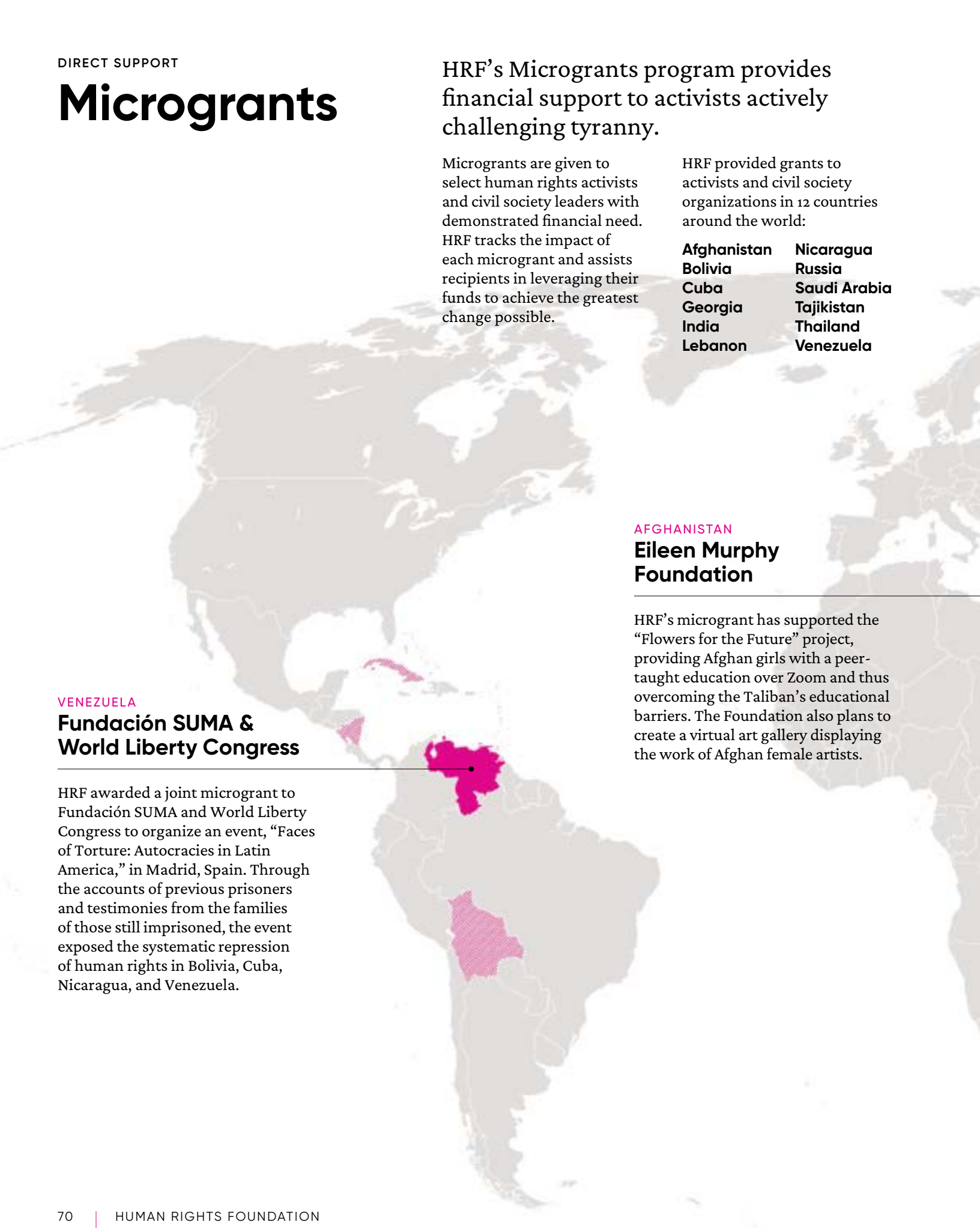
Microgrants

HRF's Microgrants program provides financial support to activists actively challenging tyranny.

Microgrants are given to select human rights activists and civil society leaders with demonstrated financial need. HRF tracks the impact of each microgrant and assists recipients in leveraging their funds to achieve the greatest change possible.

HRF provided grants to activists and civil society organizations in 12 countries around the world:

Afghanistan
Bolivia
Cuba
Georgia
India
Lebanon
Nicaragua
Russia
Saudi Arabia
Tajikistan
Thailand
Venezuela



AFGHANISTAN

Eileen Murphy Foundation

HRF's microgrant has supported the "Flowers for the Future" project, providing Afghan girls with a peer-taught education over Zoom and thus overcoming the Taliban's educational barriers. The Foundation also plans to create a virtual art gallery displaying the work of Afghan female artists.

VENEZUELA

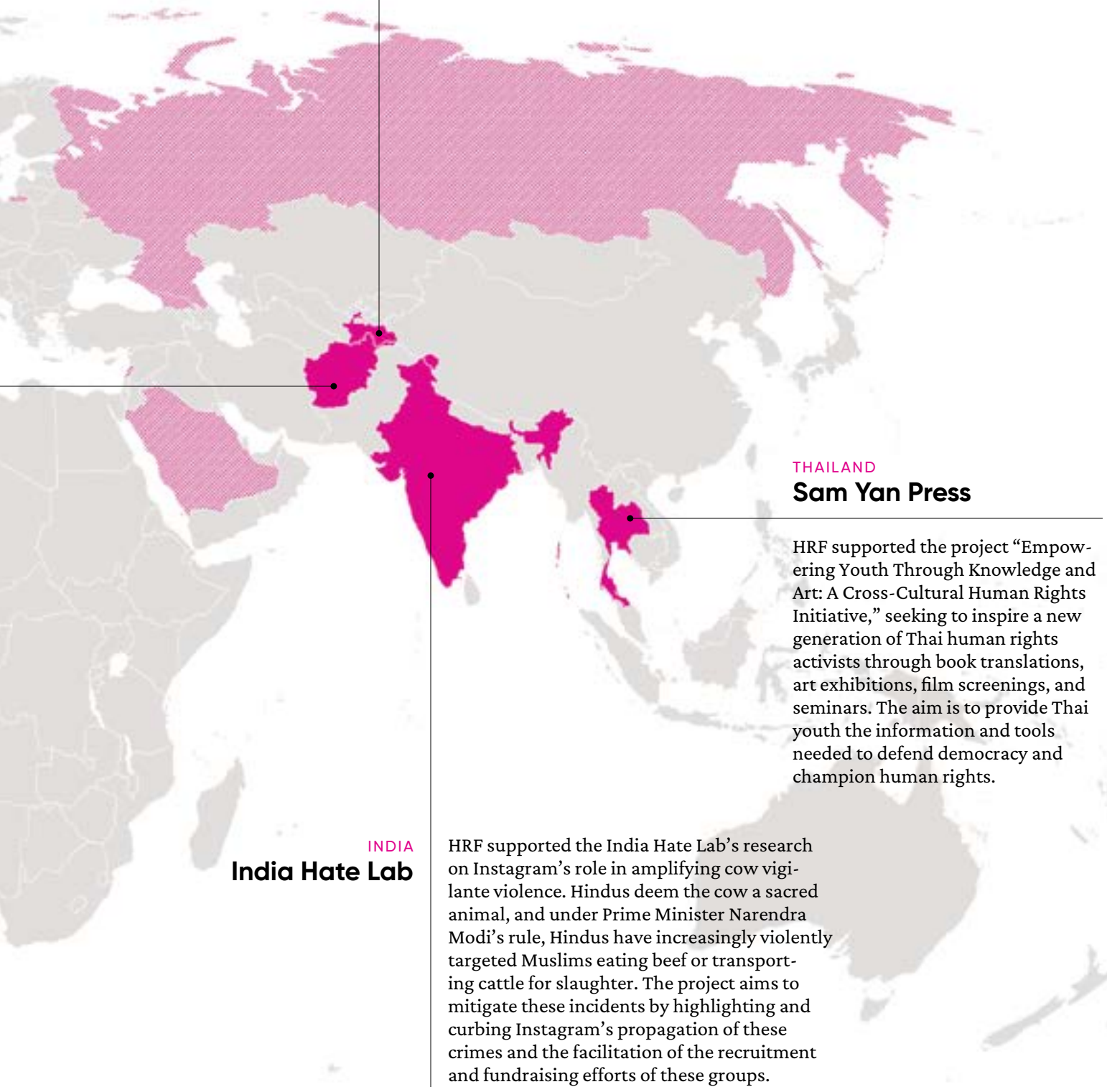
Fundación SUMA & World Liberty Congress

HRF awarded a joint microgrant to Fundación SUMA and World Liberty Congress to organize an event, "Faces of Torture: Autocracies in Latin America," in Madrid, Spain. Through the accounts of previous prisoners and testimonies from the families of those still imprisoned, the event exposed the systematic repression of human rights in Bolivia, Cuba, Nicaragua, and Venezuela.

TAJIKISTAN

Foundation for Intercultural Integration

HRF's microgrant supports the project "Tajikistan: Promoting Press Freedom and Advocating for Imprisoned Journalists from Exile." The project aims to amplify the stories of imprisoned journalists through articles and videos and add international pressure on Tajikistan through meetings with policymakers.



THAILAND

Sam Yan Press

HRF supported the project "Empowering Youth Through Knowledge and Art: A Cross-Cultural Human Rights Initiative," seeking to inspire a new generation of Thai human rights activists through book translations, art exhibitions, film screenings, and seminars. The aim is to provide Thai youth the information and tools needed to defend democracy and champion human rights.

INDIA

India Hate Lab

HRF supported the India Hate Lab's research on Instagram's role in amplifying cow vigilante violence. Hindus deem the cow a sacred animal, and under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's rule, Hindus have increasingly violently targeted Muslims eating beef or transporting cattle for slaughter. The project aims to mitigate these incidents by highlighting and curbing Instagram's propagation of these crimes and the facilitation of the recruitment and fundraising efforts of these groups.

DIRECT SUPPORT

Freedom Fellowship

HRF's Freedom Fellowship is a unique, one-year program that gives human rights advocates, social entrepreneurs, and nonprofit leaders from challenging political environments the opportunity to increase the impact of their work.

Through mentorship and hands-on training sessions, fellows develop critical skills and join a growing community of human rights activists.

2024 Working Retreats



Freedom Fellows gather to exchange skills and ideas to help sustain their nonviolent movements.



The 2024–25 Freedom Fellows collaborate and learned to find best practices to increase the impact of their work.

Costa Rica

During a week in Costa Rica, the 2024-25 class of Freedom Fellows engaged in intensive training designed to dramatically enhance their impact across several critical areas of activism. They received expert mentorship in public narrative, movement-building, organizing, and mental health.



The 2024 Freedom Fellows at the Freedom Fellowship Working Retreat in February.

San Francisco

In February, the 2023-24 class of Freedom Fellows united in San Francisco, Calif., for the 2024 Freedom Fellowship Working Retreat. They attended curated workshops on cryptocurrency with Square, leadership training with expert and mentor Gayle Karen Young, panels on democracy and transition studies with Larry Diamond of Stanford University, and more.

The 2024–25 Class of Freedom Fellows

The new class of Freedom Fellows began their Fellowship program at the 2024 Oslo Freedom Forum.



Shely Andriamihaja
Malagasy activist



Carmen Lau
Hong Kong activist & politician



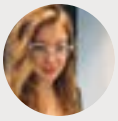
Elizaveta Volkova
Russian democracy defender



Owen Au
Hong Kong political activist



Chemi Lhamo
Tibetan community organizer & activist



Anna Chekhovich
Russian activist



Samady Ou
Cambodian human rights activist



Prempapat Plittapolkranpim
Thai-born filmmaker & activist



Jonathan Duarte
Nicaraguan-American political consultant & campaign strategist

Ignite Talks

HRF continued its partnership with Ignite Talks, providing fellows with additional tools to craft compelling narratives, speak confidently in public settings, and convincingly pitch ideas. Fellows become better equipped to draw attention to human rights issues and effect change worldwide.

To mark the completion of their program, fellows from Bolivia, Cuba, and Nigeria delivered five-minute Ignite Talks, sharing their activism and visions for the future with attendees at the 2024 Oslo Freedom Forum.





TOP RIGHT *Co-founder of the #EndSARS movement, Raphael Adebayo, focuses on the reality of free speech in his home country, Nigeria.*

BOTTOM RIGHT *Freedom Fellow Carolina Ballivián delivered her Ignite Talk on her work exposing the widespread human rights abuses in Bolivia.*

DIRECT SUPPORT

Building Resilience & Promoting Well-Being

Activists often face significant emotional, mental, and physical demands, making it essential to prioritize their well-being.

HRF supports its global community through trauma workshops, unique wellness retreats, and other resources. Investing in the strength and vitality of activists helps ensure that their work continues to have impactful and lasting change.



Understanding and Healing from Trauma

The violence and oppression that dissidents, activists, and opposition leaders experience often create trauma that leaves a lasting impact on the body and brain. Dr. Bessel van der Kolk, the pioneering trauma researcher, clinician, and author of the New York Times bestseller "The Body Keeps the Score," presented methods for understanding and recovering from trauma at the 2024 Oslo Freedom Forum.



Sustaining Well-Being: Caring for the World and Ourselves

During this Oslo Freedom Forum workshop, clinical professor of psychiatry Dr. Dan Siegel and co-founder of Insight Meditation Society and Spirit Rock Center Dr. Jack Kornfield offered guidance and methods of self-care amid the trauma and stress that accompanies activism.



The Resilience Retreat

In August, 20 activists from 12 countries attended the first-ever HRF Resilience Retreat in Nosara, Costa Rica. In partnership with the Blue Spirit retreat center, experts in psychology, trauma, somatics, nonviolence, and leadership joined participants to equip them with the resources and practices to become resilient leaders in their movements.

QUOTES FROM PARTICIPANTS

"The Resilience Retreat was a transformative and comforting experience. In my routine activism I often feel alone or different from ordinary people, I also face the suffering of displaced people and persecuted by dictatorships and violence. Thanks to what I learned, I have more self-care tools for myself, my team, and the people we help. I returned healed, happy and grateful, with the courage to continue fighting for the freedom of my country and my compatriots."

FARIDA ACEVEDO
VENEZUELAN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER

"What we learned at the retreat was that understanding or acknowledging your vulnerabilities doesn't weaken you. In fact, if it's done from a position of determination, from a sense of purpose, it can actually grow your power and your leadership, and the power of your community."

JAMILA RAQIB
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE ALBERT EINSTEIN INSTITUTION

DIRECT SUPPORT

Oslo Scholars



Norwegian students attend the Oslo Freedom Forum.

The Oslo Scholars program offers university students the opportunity to intern with some of the world's leading human rights defenders and activists.

HRF matches students with past Oslo Freedom Forum speakers and Freedom Fellows based on their regional knowledge, language abilities, and thematic interests for a summer-long internship.

Essay Competition

HRF selected two winners of an essay competition by the Children's Scholarship Fund in New York to attend the 2024 Oslo Freedom Forum. The Fund offers opportunities to low-income students in New York City. The winning essays responded to the prompt: "What advice would you give a person your age living in a country ruled by an authoritarian regime about why individual liberty and freedom matter?"

Partner Organizations

The Centre for Applied Nonviolent Action & Strategies

Citizen Power Initiatives for China

The Albert Einstein Institution

Ecohome

Shuddhashar

Defiende Venezuela

Students for a Free Tibet

The Foundation for Pan American Democracy

Ufolo

Scholars at the Oslo Freedom Forum

In June, 13 Oslo Scholars attended the 2024 Oslo Freedom Forum, during which HRF hosted the first-ever Oslo Scholars dinner. Scholars had the chance to meet, discuss their internships, and reflect on their experiences at the conference.



New Internships

This summer, HRF placed 26 students in internships at nine different civil society organizations. Students contributed to a variety of projects, from assessing the environmental consequences of Russia's war in Ukraine to organizing campaigns about human rights violations in Tibet to writing petitions for prisoners of conscience in Venezuela.



DIRECT SUPPORT

Venezuela Solidarity Fund

$419,000 RAISED IN 2024



The Venezuelan Solidarity Fund was created to provide direct financial assistance to courageous, non-violent individuals and local organizations in Venezuela who work tirelessly to document the regime's abuses and secure a peaceful transition to democracy.

Presidential candidate Edmundo González Urrutia and leader of the opposition María Corina Machado credibly established a wide-margin victory on July 28. The Venezuelan regime announced the fraudulent electoral victory for Nicolás Maduro.

The regime's blatant electoral corruption ignited a backlash at home and abroad. Maduro and his regime responded violently by repressing protesters, kidnapping members of the opposition, forcing disappearances, and refusing to accept defeat.

Nonviolent Protests

HRF protests against Venezuelan music conductor Gustavo Dudamel, a hardcore supporter of Hugo Chávez and Nicolás Maduro. Dudamel has played a key role in "El Sistema," a controversial state-run music program of the regime's propaganda machine. HRF urged Dudamel to stop aiding the cruel regime and use his platform to support the Venezuelan people.



María Corina Machado Live at OFF

Venezuelan opposition leader María Corina Machado joined HRF CEO Thor Halvorssen on the Oslo Freedom Forum stage to discuss the upcoming election. Her surprise satellite appearance garnered international media coverage and the attention and grassroots support of many conference attendees.



Global Solidarity

HRF's public rally with the leaders of prominent NGOs and defector groups to condemn the recent elections in Seoul, South Korea. Speakers exhibit their disapproval of Maduro, and defectors shared how the regime's current tactics are eerily similar to what they experienced in North Korea.

DIRECT SUPPORT

Belarus Solidarity Fund

$1.1M RAISED TO DATE

HRF's Belarus Solidarity Fund (BSF) was launched in 2020, amid the protests against Alexander Lukashenko's regime. BSF has since supported the country's pro-democracy movement, providing a lifeline to those targeted for their political beliefs, including activists, political prisoners, and striking workers.

HRF raises awareness of the situation in Belarus and partners with local leaders of the Belarusian diaspora, establishing fundraisers to assist victims of political repression and various humanitarian initiatives.

DIRECT SUPPORT

Ukraine Solidarity Fund

$2.4M RAISED TO DATE

HRF established the Ukraine Solidarity Fund in March 2022, just days after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. The fund provides humanitarian aid to citizens trapped in conflict zones and concurrently exposes Vladimir Putin's global war on freedom.

HRF provided grants to organizations assisting Ukrainians and their struggle for freedom.

2024 Grants

FOR DEMOCRACY

In January, HRF issued a grant to Russian America for Democracy in Russia (RADR), a network of human rights activists based in the US, Europe, and Russia. RADR works to identify, provide legal help to, and rescue Ukrainians who were detained and, in some cases, forcefully transferred to Russian territory and kept in detention centers.

CLEAR CONSCIENCE

In August, HRF provided a grant to Clear Conscience, a group of developers creating an app that will direct users away from companies doing business in Russia. Instead, users will be directed toward businesses that have cut off their ties to the country, resulting in a more conscientious shopping experience.

2024 Grants

In March, HRF issued two grants to the Belarus Solidarity Center, a Belarusian organization based in Poland. One grant supported the Center's school, the largest Belarusian school in Poland with many students whose parents had to relocate due to repression. The other grant went to a project supporting women who fled Belarus due to persecution.

In May, HRF provided a grant to INeedHelpBy, a Belarusian initiative based in the US that provides food to Belarusian prisoners of conscience and their families. As the repression of dissidents continues in Belarus and the financial burden of dissent grows, HRF's support has allowed INeedHelpBy to expand its much-needed efforts.

In June, HRF issued a grant to Mediazona.Belarus, an independent media outlet in exile that covers important developments in the country, including repression and human rights abuses. Mediazona.Belarus was on the brink of a financial crisis, but HRF's support allowed it to continue operating.

Shedding Light on Putin's War



Second Anniversary of the War

On the second anniversary of the war in Ukraine, HRF hosted an online panel on the human rights abuses perpetrated by Russian forces and how Ukraine can seek justice for the victims. HRF was joined by Ukrainian activist Oleksandra Matviichuk, American professor and lawyer Michael Scharf, and Belarusian opposition leader Pavel Latushka for this conversation.


THE HILL

OPINION > INTERNATIONAL

There is still a lawful way to seize Russia's assets to rebuild Ukraine

BY SERGEI KOROTKOV, OPINION CONTRIBUTOR - 05/14/24 10:30 AM ET

Putin's War in the News

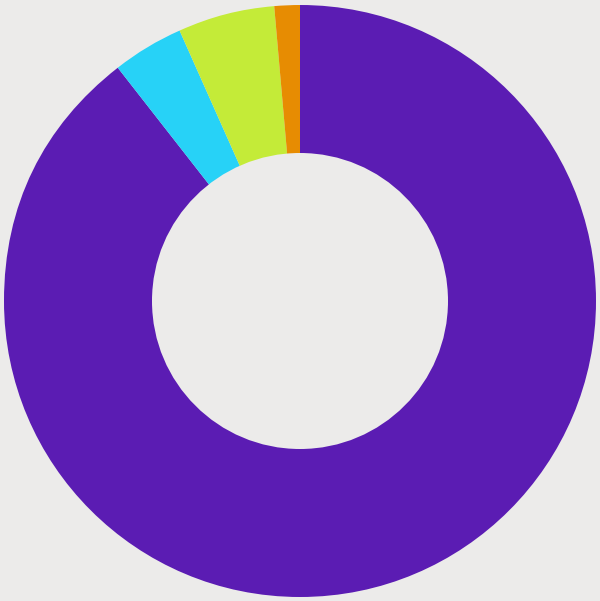
In May, HRF published an op-ed in The Hill about legal methods to seize Russia's frozen assets to help rebuild Ukraine. While international law makes asset seizure difficult due to sovereign immunity, there are exceptions. For example, a treaty between Russia and Ukraine allows Ukrainian investors to seek compensation through arbitration, potentially unlocking Russian assets.

07

2023

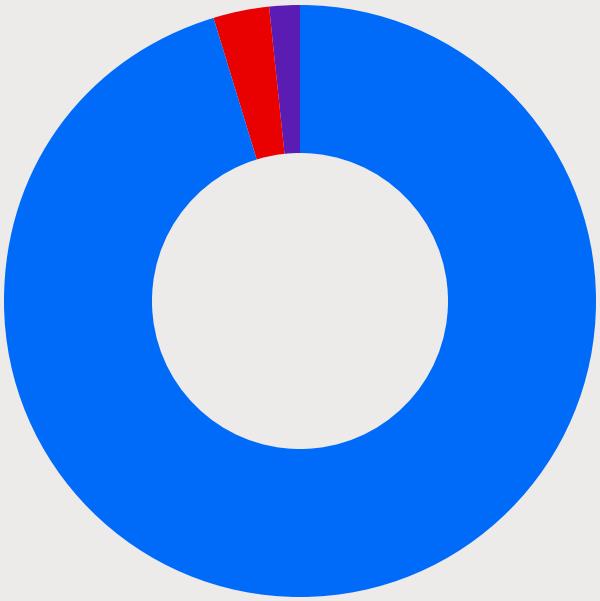
Expenses $25,627,868

Programs	$22,961,331
Development	$988,632
Administrative	$1,377,082
Oslo Freedom Forum Norway*	$300,823



Revenue $17,999,154

Contributions & Grants	$17,175,391
Program Sales	$548,785
Oslo Freedom Forum Norway*	$274,978



**Revenue and expenses generated by Oslo Freedom Forum Norway for the Oslo Freedom Forum event, planned and executed by HRF.*

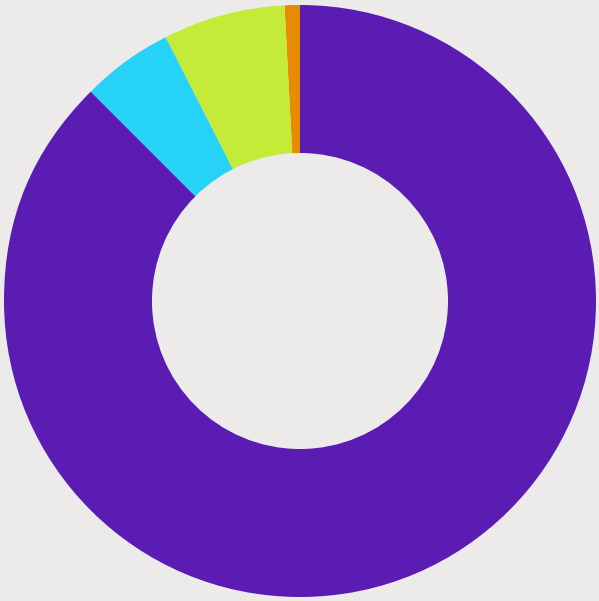
2023 HRF Financials Audited by PKF O'Connor Davies, LLP

Financials

2024

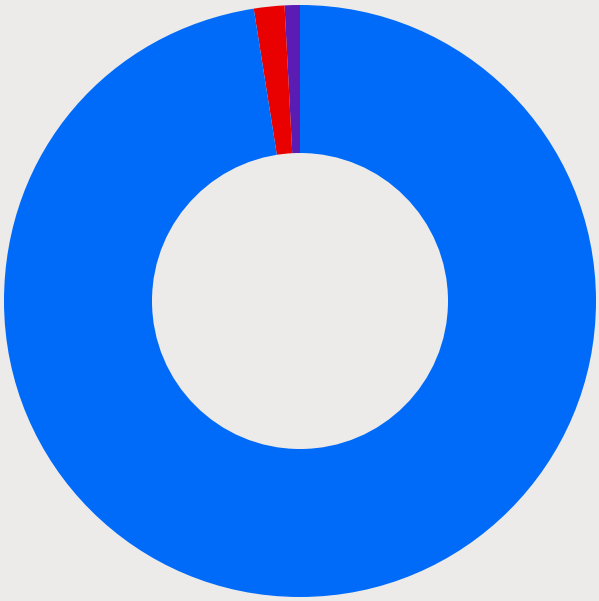
Expenses **$34,448,065**

Programs	$30,207,564
Development	$1,745,642
Administrative	$2,256,104
Oslo Freedom Forum Norway*	$238,755



Revenue **$30,172,588**

Contributions & Grants	$29,460,983
Program Sales	$481,643
Oslo Freedom Forum Norway*	$229,962



**Revenue and expenses generated by Oslo Freedom Forum Norway for the Oslo Freedom Forum event, planned and executed by HRF.*

2024 HRF Revenue & Expense Totals are Unaudited

08

Omar Al-Fotihi
Head of Video Production

Gloria Ampofo
Travel Logistics Coordinator

Kristen Anna
Senior Legal & Research Consultant

Holly Baxter
Executive Director, Art in Protest

Claudia Bennett
Legal & Program Officer

Céline Assaf-Boustani
President

Anna Chekhovich
Head of Nonprofit Bitcoin Adoption

Sophia Choi
Junior Designer

Alessandro De Nino
Comptroller

Tahlia Edgar-Chalker
Associate Producer/Editor

Javier El-Hage
Chief Legal & Policy Officer

Per Elvestuen
OFF Director, Norway

Lucian French
Associate Design Lead

Raven Germaine
Finance & Operations Associate

Sandra Germaine
Chief Talent Officer

Alexander Gladstein
Chief Strategy Officer

Cameron Gonzalez
Executive Assistant to the CEO

Roberto González
Chief Advocacy Officer

Zac Guignard
Financial Freedom Content Associate

Michelle Gulino
Director of Legal & Programs

Thor Halvorssen
Chief Executive Officer

Camilla Heiervang
Senior Communications Advisor

Victoria Aas Henriksen
Oslo Freedom Forum Associate

Kaitie Holland
International Legal Associate

Malaak Jamal
Director of Policy & Research

Sherry Jeng
Senior Development Officer

Adam Kahan
Senior Project Manager

Mo Keita
Senior Policy Officer, Africa

Christian Keroles
Director, Financial Freedom

Pavel Kutsevol
Policy Officer, Europe & Central Asia

HRF Staff

Seongmin Lee
Director of Korea Desk

Alex Li
Bitcoin Development Lead

Femi Longe
Global Financial Freedom Lead

Nolwenn Mahé
Africa Legal & Policy Consultant

Tony Abdul Malak
Digital Director

Elisha Maldonado
Communications Director

Kate Meshcheriakova
Office Administrator

Casey Michel
Director, Combating Kleptocracy Program

Arsh Molu
Financial Freedom Operations Lead

Ayelen Osorio
Financial Freedom Specialist

Elle Ota
Program Officer

Chiara-Lou Parriaud
Legal & Policy Researcher

Tara Patterson
Social Media Assistant

Alvaro Piaggio
Senior Policy Officer, Latin America

Daria Pozharko
HR & Operations Coordinator

Guillermo Purchese Escudero
Marketing & Communications Assistant

Clark Ruper
Senior Advisor, Development

Nayla Saab
Creative Consultant

Tigran Sargsyan
Policy Researcher

Natalia Saucedo
Social Media Associate

Elizabeth Shelbred
Development Coordinator

Grace Spalding-Fecher
Development Coordinator

Venla Stang
Senior Legal Associate

Alexia Tovar
Programs Associate

Caitlin Triplett
International Legal Associate

Jhanisse Vaca Daza
Senior Program Officer, Freedom Fellowship Manager

Hannah Van Dijcke
Legal & Research Officer

Nasser Wedaddy
Senior Policy Advisor

Ying Zhang
Creative Director

09

HRF Board & International Council

Yulia Navalnaya *Chair (ad honorem)*

Masih Alinejad
Diego Arria
Abdel Ould Ethmane
Dan Grossman
Thor Halvorssen
Ron Jacobs
Garry Kasparov
Mart Laar
Alexander Lloyd
Jacqueline Moudeina
Marina Nemat
Yeonmi Park
Park Sang-Hak
Mutabar Tadjibaeva
Cameron Colby Thomson
Álvaro Vargas Llosa
Konstantina Yaneva
Kenneth Anderson

In Memoriam



Václav Havel
Chairman Emeritus
1936–2011



Dr. George Ayittey
1945–2022



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 HRF's global movement for democracy and human rights.

Donate

HRF is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. It relies on the generosity of its donors to make its work possible. HRF accepts contributions by mail, online donations, Bitcoin, gifts of stock, charitable annuities, memorial gifts, and legacy gifts. Donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of US tax law.

Learn more and make a gift today at **hrf.org/donate**.



Join the Global Movement



Careers

HRF is a great place to begin or advance your career in human rights. Apply today at **hrf.org**.

Internships

HRF offers paid in-office and remote internships with flexible schedules to students and recent graduates. These positions allow students to engage in human rights work and gain hands-on experience in the nonprofit world. Inquire via e-mail at **interns@hrf.org**.

Volunteer

If you believe you have a unique set of skills or abilities HRF could use in the global struggle for freedom, please e-mail **info@hrf.org** with "Volunteer Opportunities" in the subject line.

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