



Freedom  
House

# A WORLD WHERE

Can you imagine being told you can't go to school because you're a girl? Being arrested or beaten for reporting news the authorities don't want published? Being imprisoned for decades for practicing your religion, or forcibly sterilized because of your ethnicity?

Dictators around the world deny people their most basic freedoms. Freedom House is working every day to challenge this growing trend—and to build

**a world where all people are free.**

# ALL PEOPLE ARE FREE.



Eleanor Roosevelt, an early Freedom House trustee and co-chair, holds a copy of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which she played an instrumental role in drafting and which was approved by the United Nations in 1948.

**Freedom House** was founded in 1941 to mobilize policymakers and a broadly isolationist American public to engage in the fight against Nazi Germany and the fascist threat to American security and values. In the decades since, Freedom House has established itself through its advocacy, programs, and research as the leading nonpartisan American organization devoted to the support and defense of freedom around the world.

Our experts conduct objective research to identify threats to freedom. Channeling our findings into action, we work across political divides to enact policies that strengthen democracy and protect human rights. We support a vast, trusted network of activists and advocates who are leading the struggle for democratic change in their countries. When these courageous individuals are attacked for their activism, journalism, or opposition to tyranny, we act to keep them safe so they may continue their important work.



# We Inform

For more than 50 years, Freedom House has tracked threats to democracy and freedom across the globe. We publish detailed research on more than 200 countries and territories, because accurate data and rigorous analysis are essential to shining a light on the erosion of freedom.

Policymakers, activists, and civil society groups rely on our research for guidance as they work toward a more open, just, and free world. Business leaders turn to Freedom House to help ensure that their actions support—rather than undermine—democracy.

From detailed assessments of political rights and civil liberties, to the definitive study of internet freedom, to groundbreaking research on tactics authoritarians use to silence their critics or grow their influence, our research and analysis provide essential insights into the state of freedom and democracy around the world.

# INFORM



Yoseph Badwaza, Freedom House's senior regional advisor for Africa programs, testifies at a US House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing.

## Impact



### In the media

Freedom House shapes the global understanding of freedom and democracy. Each year, Freedom House is cited in more than 25,000 stories in thousands of media outlets spanning hundreds of countries and media markets. Our work is featured in outlets like the *Washington Post*, the *Wall Street Journal*, Al Jazeera, CNN, the *New York Times*, the BBC, the *Economist*, the *Atlantic*, Deutsche Welle, the *Guardian*, and WIRED.



### In the board room

When Microsoft was approached by a government to install facial-recognition technology on cameras in the country's capital city, executives rejected the deal based on Freedom House's assessment of the country as "Not Free" and the technology's potential to suppress free assembly.

# WE

## We Mobilize

Freedom House's analysis of the state of global democracy and extensive work with front-line activists gives us unique credibility to advocate for policies that strengthen democracy in the United States and around the world. We work closely with policymakers to protect human rights. We enable advocates and rights defenders to tell their stories to the US Congress and executive branch, media, and the United Nations to ensure that information from the front lines reaches decision-makers. And we work with peer groups to galvanize people around the world to support democracy.

# MOBILIZE

### Impact



#### In governments around the world

The same desire that drives authoritarians to crush opposition at home also motivates them to reach across borders to silence, harass, and harm their critics living in exile. This phenomenon is known as transnational repression. Freedom House's groundbreaking analysis and advocacy in this area has led the United States, and key governments in Europe and Asia, to create new policies and tools to protect activists and journalists threatened by authoritarian governments.



#### In the US Congress

Freedom House advocacy helped lead to the passage and reauthorization of the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act, one of the world's strongest tools to punish the worst human rights abusers and perpetrators of corruption. It has been used to freeze the assets and prohibit entry of more than 475 individuals and entities in more than 40 countries.



Sudanese protesters in Khartoum take part in a rally against military rule in April 2022. (Photo: AFP via Getty Images)



# We Support

Freedom House is a leading provider of emergency assistance to at-risk human rights defenders globally. Since 2007, we have assisted tens of thousands of activists, organizations, and victims of severe religious persecution across 150 countries. This includes support for urgent needs like relocation, legal representation, trial monitoring, technical equipment, medical and living expenses, and other life-saving services. We strengthen their ability to fight corruption, monitor and document human rights abuses so offenders can be held accountable, and demand equal rights, especially for at-risk communities. We help them do this even in the most challenging, authoritarian environments.

We also conduct targeted campaigns for the release of activists from prison so they can continue their work, often in exile, to bring democratic change to their countries.



Actor Nazanin Boniadi (left) and journalist Aida Ghajar accept the 2023 Freedom Award on behalf of the women of Iran at Freedom House's annual awards dinner in Washington, DC. Thousands of Iranian women bravely took to the streets to protest the regime in the wake of Mahsa Amini's death at the hands of the government's morality police.

## Impact



### In Latin America

Freedom House has supported networks of more than 6,000 lawyers and human rights defenders to monitor and document the cases and living conditions of political prisoners and detainees across the region, and connect victims to lawyers who can help them. Since 2020, these efforts have contributed to the release of more than 400 political prisoners and arbitrary detainees in just the Latin America and Caribbean region.



### In Afghanistan

Since the Taliban captured Kabul in 2021, Freedom House has worked to sustain the network of activists behind Afghanistan's decades-long struggle for democracy. Among those forced to flee was a human rights leader who resettled in Canada. Our assistance helped him establish a Canadian affiliate to speak out on the situation in Afghanistan and channel resources and training to colleagues in Kabul. It's just one example of more than 10,000 Afghans who have benefited from Freedom House's support.

# SUPPORT

# By the Numbers

**210**

countries and territories assessed annually for political rights and civil liberties

**\$42M+**

in assistance to tens of thousands of at-risk activists

**100+**

reports published to identify threats to freedom and offer solutions

**174**

Freedom House citations included in legislation since 2003

**6,000**

lawyers and democracy defenders supported so they can monitor the plight of political prisoners and detainees in Latin America

**150**

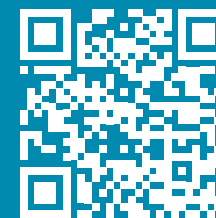
countries where Freedom House has provided support to human rights defenders and democracy advocates

# How You Can Help

We believe that every human being deserves to live in freedom. We know that democracy is the best system to secure our rights because it is the only system where leaders are held accountable to their country's citizens.

Freedom House is proud to partner with philanthropists, foundations, corporations, NGOs, governments, and citizens who share our commitment to democracy and human rights. Join us in this critical work.

Contact [Development@FreedomHouse.org](mailto:Development@FreedomHouse.org) to pledge your support or donate online at [www.FreedomHouse.org/Donate](http://www.FreedomHouse.org/Donate).



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