

SPEAK

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FARTUUN ADAN is a Somali activist and educator. She is the Executive Director of the Elman Peace and Human Rights Centre, Somalia's leading organization on peace-building, development, women's empowerment, and the rehabilitation of child soldiers. In 1996, Somali warlords assassinated her husband for his and Adan's peacemaking efforts. Adan and her three daughters fled to Canada, but she returned to Somalia in 2007 at the height of conflict in Mogadishu to continue the work that she and her late husband had begun. To date, the center has served hundreds of Somali women and girls, offering counseling and medical services, business start-up kits and funds, entrepreneurial skills training, and relocation to safe havens.



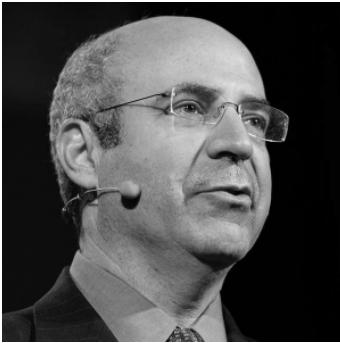
FELIX AGBOR NKONGHO is a Cameroonian human rights lawyer and activist. He founded the Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Africa, an organization that represents victims of human rights violations. In 2017, he was arrested and charged with treason and terrorism for organizing a peaceful protest defending the rights of Anglophone Cameroonians. Since his release from prison, Agbor Nkongho continues to defend the rights of Anglophone Cameroonians targeted by Paul Biya's regime. He currently serves as the Vice President for the African Bar Association's Central region.



SVETLANA ALEXIEVICH is an award-winning Belarusian author and historian. Over the last 30 years, she has given a voice to survivors of conflict and disaster throughout the Soviet Union, including during World War II, the Chernobyl disaster, and the Soviet-Afghan War. Her first book, *War's Unwomanly Face*, was published in 1985 and included direct accounts of women's experiences during World War II. Due to Alexievich's outspoken criticism of Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko, she was forced to leave her country in 2000. She was offered sanctuary by the International Cities of Refuge Network, and was only able to return to Belarus in 2011. In 2015, Alexievich became the first-ever Belarusian to win the Nobel Prize in Literature.



MASIH ALINEJAD is an Iranian journalist and activist. In 2014, she spearheaded a Facebook page called "My Stealthy Freedom" to protest Iran's compulsory public hijab law for women and girls. The campaign escalated in December 2017, when activists began removing their headscarves in public as a form of protest. Iranian authorities responded violently, arresting protesters and violating their rights while in custody. Alinejad continues to oppose the compulsory hijab and to speak out in defense of her fellow activists. Her commitment to human rights has won her UN Watch's International Women's Rights Award, the AIB Media Excellence Award, and the Swiss Freethinker Association's Freethinker Prize, among other honors. Alinejad currently lives in exile in New York City.



BILL BROWDER is the co-founder and CEO of Hermitage Capital Management, an investment fund and asset management company specializing in Russian markets. Russian officials blacklisted Browder as a “threat to national security,” and barred him from entering Russia after his firm investigated high-level corruption. In November 2008, one of Browder’s lawyers, Sergei Magnitsky, accused Russian tax officials of theft and fraud and was subsequently arrested and died in custody. Browder began a global campaign to bring justice to Magnitsky’s killers which resulted in the Magnitsky Act, a U.S. law that prohibits any Russian officials, connected to the Magnitsky case, from entering the U.S. and using U.S. banking systems. As of 2019, Browder’s global expansion of the Magnitsky Act has resulted in six countries adopting similar legislation.



PREET BHARARA is an American lawyer who served as U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York from 2009 to 2017. In 2012, Bharara was included in TIME Magazine’s “100 Most Influential People in the World” list. During his time as U.S. attorney, Bharara investigated money laundering schemes carried out in New York City by Russian criminal organizations linked to the Kremlin, and prosecuted spies with ties to Russia’s foreign intelligence service, SVR. Currently, Bharara holds a faculty position at the New York University School of Law as a Distinguished Scholar in Residence and works at CNN as a Senior Legal Analyst.



LARITZA DIVERSENT is a Cuban lawyer, independent journalist, and human rights defender. She serves as the executive director of Cubalex, a nonprofit organization that provides legal assistance to Cuban citizens and advocates for human rights and democracy in Cuba. In 2017, Diversent and her team at Cubalex fled the island after Cuban officials raided their headquarters and stole hundreds of documents, rescinding the organization’s legal authorization to work. Diversent learned that Cuban authorities had opened a case against her, accusing her of breaking the law by offering legal counsel to the Cuban people, and barred her from leaving the country. Diversent and Cubalex now work from exile in the United States.



LAILA HAIDARI is an Afghan advocate who has dedicated much of her career to combating drug addiction in Afghanistan, one of the world’s largest producers of opium. Haidari founded “Mother Camp,” Kabul’s only private drug rehabilitation treatment center, in large part due to the impact of drug addiction on her brother. Haidari personally funds the center through a popular Kabul cafe, where unmarried men and women interact. Haidari has been called the “mother of a thousand children” due to the fact that her center has rehabilitated nearly 5,000 Afghans. As a former child bride married at the age of 12, she has also committed herself to fighting against religious extremism, organizing public efforts to oppose U.S. peace talks with the Taliban.



DENISE HO is an award-winning Hong Kong-based singer, actress, and pro-democracy and LGBTQ rights activist. Ho is an accomplished musician who entered the music industry in the 90s at age 19. In 2012, she became the first mainstream female singer in Hong Kong to come out of the closet. Ho was also a staunch supporter of the 2014 Umbrella Movement in Hong Kong, and was arrested for taking part in the nonviolent pro-democracy protests. Since then, the Chinese government has banned her from performing in China, where she previously enjoyed popularity as a singer. Despite pressure from the Chinese government, Ho continues to speak out for democracy in Hong Kong and LGBTQ rights globally, and was featured in a recent profile in *The New Yorker*.



ESTHER HTUSAN is a Pulitzer Prize-winning Kachin journalist from Burma. In 2017, she was forced to flee to Thailand after receiving numerous threats for having reported on Aung San Suu Kyi's counterinsurgency policies toward Rohingya refugees. Htusan began her career in journalism as a producer and translator for international news agencies in the northern region of the country, which has been plagued by a civil war for years. In 2013, she started reporting for the Associated Press on human rights abuses with a focus on the ethnic cleansing against Rohingya Muslims in the Rakhine state. In 2016, Htusan was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in Public Service for her investigative reporting on human trafficking in Southeast Asia. Htusan's work has been featured in *The Guardian*, *The Washington Post*, and *The Daily Mail*.



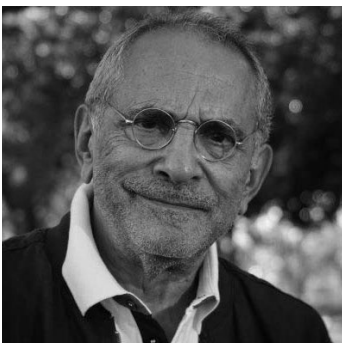
AUDREY MBUGUA is a Kenyan activist who heads Transgender Education and Advocacy (TEA), an organization that defends the rights of transgender individuals in Kenya. In 2014, the High Court of Kenya ordered The National Council of NGOs to officially register and recognize TEA and pay its legal fees as a result of Mbugua's efforts. Later that year, Mbugua won a landmark case wherein the Kenya National Examinations Council was ordered to legally change Mbugua's name and remove the existing gender designation on her academic certificates. Mbugua has also advocated for permission of sex reassignment therapy in Kenya by challenging the 2016 Health Bill. She continues to fight for transgender rights, and was nominated for the Human Rights Tulip award.



ESKINDER NEGA is an Ethiopian journalist, blogger, and advocate for press freedom. He has been imprisoned seven times by the Ethiopian government for his outspoken criticism of its unfair elections. In 2012, Nega was sentenced to 18 years in prison on alleged charges of treason, and was marked as a terrorist for his work as a journalist. The following year, the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention declared that his sentence violated international law. Nega was unconditionally released on February 14, 2018. His commitment to journalistic integrity, freedom of expression, and human rights has been recognized worldwide by outlets such as PEN America, the World Association of Newspapers, and the International Press Institute.



PETE PATTISSON is a video and photo journalist based in Kathamandu. He advocates on behalf of workers' rights and raising awareness of modern slavery, particularly in South Asia. His works have been published in outlets such as BBC, Sunday Telegraph, TIME, and The Kathamandu Post. He is also a regular contributor to The Guardian. He has hosted several photography exhibitions on this topic, and has published a collection of photographs entitled "Forgotten But Not Gone: Slavery and Resistance 200 Years After Abolition." In 2013, Pattison's exposé on the deaths of dozens of migrant construction workers in Qatar during the 2022 World Cup made international headlines. More recently, he has broken stories on the continuation of forced labor in Qatari hotels, along with other human rights violations in Nepal.



JOSE RAMOS-HORTA served as the fourth president of East Timor. He co-founded the political party Fretilin, which spearheaded the struggle for independence from Portugal. President Ramos-Horta primarily worked with the United Nations to first establish full independence from Indonesia, and then lead the country toward a peaceful transition. In 1996, he was the co-recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize along with Bishop Ximenes Belo, and was elected president of East Timor in 2007. After the end of his term in 2012, he was appointed as UN envoy for his country, where he continues to advocate for peace and ending poverty in East Timor.



ADAM ROA is an internationally-renowned and Los Angeles-based motivational speaker, poet, filmmaker, and actor. He is particularly well known for his "The Deep Dive" podcasts, that "give an authentic look into the minds of the thought leaders and game changers of today." Through sharing anecdotes of his travels and experiences around the world, he encourages his audience to realize their own human potential to help change the world for the better. His messaging — done through mediums such as film, music, spoken word poetry, social media, and podcasts — also primarily focuses on positive energy, spirituality, and empowerment towards personal development. Adam Roa has toured the United States and Canada, and was recently listed as one of the Top 33 Goal-Getters of 2019 by Goalcast.



TIMOTHY SNYDER is an American historian and the Richard C. Levin Professor of History at Yale University. Specializing in Eastern European history and politics, he has published six award-winning books, has conducted research in 10 languages, and is a member of the editorial boards of the Journal of Modern European History and Eastern European Politics and Societies. His writing is frequently published in prominent news outlets such as The New York Times, The New York Review of Books, Foreign Affairs, and The New Republic. In 2015, he was honored as the inaugural recipient of the Andrew Carnegie Fellowship and the winner of the Havel Foundation prize for his work.



NURY TURKEL is a U.S.-based Uighur activist and attorney at Covington & Burling LLP in Washington D.C., where he specializes in discovery and government litigation. Turkel was born in a re-education camp in China's Xinjiang province, and has been advocating for the rights of the Uighur people in the region. Turkel is the former president of the Uighur American Association (UAA) as well as the former executive director of the Uighur Human Rights Project (UHRP), an organization that is committed to promoting human rights and democracy. Turkel serves as a prominent voice for the Uighur people by urging international action against the repression of the Uighur people, such as international sanctions against Chinese government officials who actively participate in the abuse of human rights.



AI WEIWEI is one of China's most well-known artists and activists. He is a strong critic of the Chinese regime and he uses his art to raise global awareness about China's corruption and authoritarianism. Due to his citizen investigations into corruption within the Chinese Communist Party and his high profile activism, Ai Weiwei was harassed, arrested, and tortured by the government until he was imprisoned in 2011. His arrest garnered widespread international attention with heads of state, international human rights organizations, and prominent members of the global art community all petitioning for his release. Ai Weiwei's most famous works include Study of Perspective Tiananmen Square, Sunflower Seeds, and Surveillance Camera. His recent feature documentary, Human Flow, explores and humanizes the global refugee crisis.

