



OSLO FREEDOM FORUM 2021

OSLO
FREEDOM
FORUM



PROGRAM

OCTOBER 4-5, 2021
NEW WORLD CENTER
MIAMI, FL



SCHEDULE

SUNDAY,
OCTOBER 3

8:00 - 20:00
Registration

21:00
"The Dissident"
Film Screening

MONDAY,
OCTOBER 4

All Day
Registration

10:00-13:15
Theater Sessions

13:15-15:00
Lunch

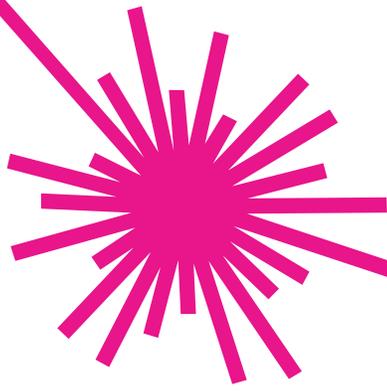
15:00-18:30
Interactive
Programming

TUESDAY,
OCTOBER 5

10:00-13:15
Theater Sessions

13:15-15:00
Lunch

15:00-18:30
Interactive
Programming



INTERACTIVE SESSIONS

MONDAY, OCTOBER 4

15:00 Fake News, Censorship, and Encryption

WORKSHOP | Innovation, Tech, & Civil Liberties

The internet is now the most important tool authoritarians use to stifle dissent and suppress freedom. Vast censorship operations like the great firewall in China allow governments to monitor and censor all content, while sophisticated software like Pegasus grants dictators the ability to hack into the phone of any activist or journalist. Authoritarian regimes can also use blunter tools, like overwhelming social media with propaganda or shutting the internet off during contentious periods like election cycles or military coups, in order to spread misinformation, mistrust, and impede communication. This panel will explore what tools regimes use to discredit, censor, intimidate, and silence people, the challenges activists specifically face from authoritarian regimes, and how activists can use technology to get around censorship under a dictatorship.

15:00 The Pernicious Myths Sustaining Authoritarianism in Cuba

PANEL | Accountability, Justice, & Reform

Like many other authoritarian regimes, the Communist dictatorship in Cuba has, since its early years, relied on a series of myths to legitimize its grip on power abroad and exercise control at home. For decades, politicians, artists, and intellectuals from around the world have praised Cuba for its achievements in providing universal health care and literacy to its citizens, ending institutional racism, and being a center for artistic and academic development. The reality is that much of these claims are overblown or outright fabricated, as the regime spends considerable resources not only suppressing all criticism at home, but also exporting pernicious propaganda all over Latin America and beyond. This panel will address the ways in which the Cuban dictatorship continues to promote these myths, and how regular Cubans, both in the island and in exile, are fighting back against them.

15:00 Submitting Case Files Under the Global Magnitsky Act

WORKSHOP | Accountability, Justice, & Reform

Under the U.S. Global Magnitsky Act, organizations are invited to submit case files about perpetrators who have engaged in acts of corruption and serious human rights abuses, to the U.S. State and Treasury Departments. This workshop will run through precisely how organizations can put together and submit these cases, and invite interested organizations to join the Global Magnitsky Coalition, while stressing the critical importance and reach of sanctions. Global sanctions regime mechanisms will also be discussed.

15:00 Twitter Safety and Best Practices

WORKSHOP | Innovation, Tech, & Civil Liberties

This workshop, run by Twitter, will address best practices in digital security; Twitter recommendations to share and consume information; and the ins and outs of Twitter security: rules, reporting channels, and tools to control your experience on the platform.

15:50 How Bitcoin Is Empowering Millions Worldwide

FIRESIDE | Sustainable Finance, Investment, & Human Rights

From Nigeria to Cuba, to Turkey to Belarus, individuals are using Bitcoin to escape financial crises, to connect with the world around them, and to circumvent regime restrictions. In this fireside, learn about how Bitcoin is emerging as an important tool for human rights.

15:50 How to Develop a Security Ethos

WORKSHOP | Creativity, Resilience, & Movements

Global Press is reimagining the field of international journalism, and keeping journalists safe is central to its ethos and operations. Global Press' Duty of Care program is a holistic safety and security program designed to meet the specific needs of local journalists, for whom extraction during global crises is not an option. Duty of Care requires an interconnected security system that prioritizes physical, emotional, digital, and legal security, and is implemented across training, protocols, and crisis response. Founder and CEO, Cristi Hegranes, will lead a workshop rooted in research, implementation, and expertise in ensuring the safety and security of local staff members. Participants will develop an understanding of their own security and risk tolerance and build their own security ethos through a series of self-assessments and discussion. Leveraging Global Press tools, participants will also learn how to develop their own security purpose statement, a foundational step toward the Duty of Care.

**15:55 Media and Mobilizations:
How to Film Your Street Protests Like an Expert**

WORKSHOP | Creativity, Resilience, & Movements

Activists often work with limited resources, especially when most of these resources are allocated to street organizing. How do you make sure that you film and record mobilizations in a way that international media can use your material? This session will teach you how to make the most of your phone, camera, lanterns, candles, or whatever resources you have available.

17:00 What Makes a Transition to Democracy Successful?

PANEL | Creativity, Resilience, & Movements

Why do so many countries achieve a nonviolent revolution but then fail to complete a transition to democracy? By exploring examples from successful and failed transitions in post-Soviet States, during the Arab Spring, and in Latin America, panelists will analyze and discuss patterns between different transitions, and how the role of civil society and political leadership may lead to the success or failure of any given transition.

17:00 The Business Model of a Genocide

PANEL | Sustainable Finance, Investment, & Human Rights

Between 1-3 million Uyghurs, along with Kazakhs, Tajiks, and other ethnic minorities, have been forcibly separated from their families and detained in China's mass network of camps where they are subject to torture, forced sterilizations, political indoctrination, and forced labor. This system of abuse has been recognized as a genocide by the United States. There is a good chance that your shirt, your shoes, your mask, and the device you are using are made by Uyghur forced labor. The global economy – from the fashion industry, to tech, to solar – is inextricably tied with the Uyghur genocide. What are the implications of this, and how should democratic countries respond and react?

**17:00 Pegasus Spyware & Other Threats:
What You Need to Know Now**

WORKSHOP | Innovation, Tech, & Civil Liberties

Over 50 thousand people, including journalists and human rights defenders were selected for monitoring with NSO Group's notorious Pegasus spyware. Behind the scenes? A who's who of authoritarian regimes. What does this and other revelations about hacking against dissidents mean for how you organize? And what about your personal digital safety? Experts John Scott-Railton from Citizen Lab and John Shaffer will be on hand to talk it through. Come prepared for a candid conversation, and practical suggestions, about speaking truth to power in the golden age of surveillance.

17:15 Twitter Office Hours

OFFICE HOURS | Innovation, Tech, & Civil Liberties

17:50 Authoritarianism and the Promotion of LGBTQ+ Rights

FIRESIDE | Creativity, Resilience, & Movements

LGBTQ+ activists all over the world face a variety of challenges in advancing their rights. Those living under authoritarian regimes, in particular, face significant legal obstacles that stem from the judicial systems of these regimes, and are subject to mass violence, among other threats and social stigmas. Feelings of social isolation and ostracization for LGBTQ+ people in closed societies were exacerbated with the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. In this fireside, LGBTQ+ activists from or working in countries under authoritarian rule will share their experiences, address the impact of COVID-19 on the LGBTQ+ community, and offer a call to action to the international community.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5

15:00 The Autocrats Have Become Hackers: Can We Stop the Mercenary Hacking Industry Before It's Too Late?

FIRESIDE | Innovation, Tech, & Civil Liberties

The mercenary surveillance industry is exploding. Revelations like the Pegasus Project show how many dictators wield powerful hacking and surveillance tools like Pegasus against their perceived enemies. Are we headed toward a future in which every dictator can hack any phone in the world? What tactics and strategies are available to slow the mercenary hacking industry that is driving the problem? Who are our natural allies? And why isn't more being done?

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15:00 Twitter Office Hours

OFFICE HOURS | Innovation, Tech, & Civil Liberties

15:50 The Human Cost of Internet Shutdowns

PANEL | Innovation, Tech, & Civil Liberties

Over the last decade, the frequency, severity, and duration of government-imposed internet shutdowns has been fast accelerating. Used to quash dissent and stifle democratic participation, shutdowns are a blunt tool that strip individuals of their human rights, and cause untold damage to economies, education, and healthcare. Scott Carpenter, Director of Policy and International Engagement from Jigsaw, a unit at Google that explores threats to open societies, will outline the tactics authoritarian governments have used to impose internet shutdowns and will explore the many consequences they hold. A panel with Access Now, Censored Planet, and Jigsaw will follow, detailing the technology and movements that are working to secure a free and open future for the internet.

15:55 How to Develop a Security Ethos

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17:00 The Long Tentacles of Putin's Dictatorship

PANEL | Accountability, Justice, & Reform

Under Putin's leadership, Russia has become one of the most repressive and authoritarian regimes in the world, where the media is heavily censored, elections are rigged, and opposition politicians are murdered. But Putin's dictatorship also reaches far beyond the borders of Russia. Putin's Russia has invaded several of its neighbours, funded extremist parties and disinformation campaigns, and sent assassins to kill dissidents abroad. Putin's goal is to undermine the strength of democracies, sow discord and division in democratic societies, and inspire fear in Russians at home and abroad. This panel will examine the tactics and objectives of Putin's dictatorship.

17:00 Islam, Freedom, and Tolerance: Is There a Need for Change?

FIRESIDE | Accountability, Justice, & Reform

Authoritarianism continues to persist in Muslim-majority countries. It is important to address what gives rise to extremism as well as how Muslim minorities in countries like China and Burma have been oppressed under the guise of "combatting extremism." In a conversation inspired by his recent book *Reopening Muslim Minds: A Return to Reason, Freedom, and Tolerance*, Mustafa Akyol will address Islam and the principles of freedom, democracy, and human rights; why there is a democratic deficit in many Muslim-majority countries; and the root of extremist ideologies. It will conclude by offering a new Muslim worldview on a range of issues, including freedom of religion and freedom from religion.

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17:40 Book Signing with Mustafa Akyol Reopening Muslim Minds: A Return to Reason, Freedom, and Tolerance

BOOK SIGNING | Accountability, Justice, & Reform

Media and Mobilizations:

17:45 How to Film Your Street Protests Like an Expert

WORKSHOP | Creativity, Resilience, & Movements

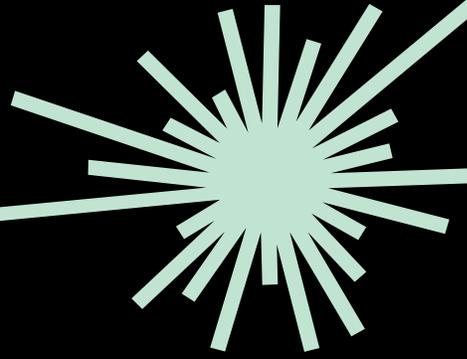
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THEMES



■ Innovation, Tech, & Civil Liberties

Over the past decade, the internet and other digital technologies have played a central role in organizing social movements across the globe. However, even as these technologies have connected billions of people, authoritarian regimes have manipulated them to encroach on civil liberties, censor dissidents, and spread discord. Surveillance states, troll factories, and internet blackouts all serve to prevent ordinary people from uncovering the truth and organizing resistance. And yet, despite these challenges, activists from Belarus to Burma have harnessed the power of innovation to overcome the barriers put up by dictatorships, and are igniting the struggle for freedom online and on the ground.

■ Accountability, Justice, & Reform

Justice is the bedrock of a prosperous and free society because it allows everyday citizens to hold those in power accountable for their actions. In a dictatorship, the people in power are accountable only to themselves, and authoritarian regimes will do everything to maintain impunity. Without independent judiciaries, free media, and democratic elections –in other words, without the truth– ordinary citizens cannot protect themselves from government abuse. Activists and their allies work to hold regimes accountable – revealing their corruption, reporting on their brutality, and showing that a fairer, more just society is possible.

■ Creativity, Resilience, & Movements

Successful movements rely on the passion and commitment of their fiercest advocates. Some of the most effective activists leverage their creative talents to build a coalition of people to face up against tyranny. Painting, music, theater, and film are all tools that dissident artists use to uncover the truth, reveal the corruption of dictatorships, and create symbols that unite people around a common message of freedom. But in building these movements, activists also face challenges along the way and learn to develop resilience. The mental health and physical well-being of activists, though often ignored, is crucial to building a lasting and impactful movement.

■ Sustainable Finance, Investment, & Human Rights

Financial freedom is an increasingly important aspect of human rights. Authoritarian regimes are more likely to devalue their currencies, steal from ordinary citizens, and freeze activists' bank accounts. From Venezuela to China, dictatorships use money to pressure ordinary citizens to behave a certain way, whether that be by monitoring bank accounts or providing incentives to join a political party. At the same time, international corporations are often willing to invest in dictatorships that ignore the human rights and environmental standards of democracies. Corporations that engage with dictators help to obscure the reality of authoritarian regimes by granting them false legitimacy.



There will also be a Bitcoin Academy running on both days. [Click here](#) to learn more about the speakers and programming.