



VICTIMS OF COMMUNISM
MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

2017 Annual Report



Pro-democracy demonstrators in Moscow in 1990.



Protestors clash at an "anti-fascist" rally in Texas on September 23, 2017. (Akash Thakkar)

VISION

A world free from
the false hope of communism.

MISSION

To educate this generation and future generations
about the ideology, history, and legacy of
communism.

HISTORY

The Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation is
an educational and human rights nonprofit
organization authorized by a unanimous Act of
Congress, which was signed as Public Law 103-199 by
President William J. Clinton on December 17, 1993.
From 2003 to 2009, President George W. Bush was
Honorary Chairman of the Foundation. On June
12, 2007, he dedicated the Victims of Communism
Memorial in Washington, D.C. (pictured on cover).

A YEAR *of* ACHIEVEMENTS

2017 IN REVIEW

On a cold night in Petrograd in 1917, a small group of Red Guards seized the Winter Palace and installed the world's first communist government. The Bolshevik Revolution marked the beginning of a century in which adherents to communist ideology committed some of the worst and most widespread atrocities known to history.

One hundred years later, communism as an idea and communist parties as geopolitical state actors remain a threat to freedom worldwide. In 2017, the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation worked tirelessly to report the **truth** about the failures of Marxist ideas, pursue **justice** for those still suffering under communist regimes, and honor the **memory** of every single victim of communism.

We equipped teachers and students to counter Americans' warming attitudes toward socialism, we partnered with lawmakers and dissidents to publicly identify and condemn the abuses of communist dictatorships, and we convened the most significant commemoration in the world to mark the solemn 100th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution.

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Message from the CHAIRMAN

Some 30 years ago, President Ronald Reagan stood before the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin and declared, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!" Soon after, the Berlin Wall fell, marking the end of an "evil empire" and beginning a new era of freedom in Eastern Europe. My personal fight against communism, however, began long before Reagan's historic speech.

I was inspired by my father Willard Edwards, who, as a Washington-based reporter for the *Chicago Tribune*, covered every important Congressional hearing about communism. What he learned and whom he met along the way (including Richard Nixon and Whittaker Chambers) left a lasting impact on him and me.

As a student in Paris in October 1956, I listened to radio reports from Budapest as young Hungarian men and women my age stormed the streets, defiantly singing their national anthem, "This we swear, this we swear, that we will no longer be slaves." As the thirty-two-foot-high bronze statue of Stalin in Budapest was toppled, I felt myself becoming a part of their anticommunist rebellion. It was the birth of my life-long commitment to oppose communism and defend liberty whenever and wherever I could.

I found political mentors in Dr. Walter Judd and William F. Buckley Jr., and political heroes in Barry Goldwater and Ronald Reagan. I found friendship and gained knowledge in renowned Sovietologists such as Richard Pipes, Robert Conquest, and Zbigniew Brzezinski, whose eloquent public support was instrumental in the building of the Victims of Communism Memorial.

Eleven years ago, it was my honor to stand beside President George W. Bush as he dedicated the Memorial. A central theme of the day: communism is a god that failed, a science that never was, and a political system that sits abandoned on the ash heap of history. To quote President Bush, "Freedom is the permanent hope of mankind." This truth anchors the work of the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation.

Last November, our Foundation hosted the Victims of Communism Centennial Commemoration in Washington, D.C.

Our purpose was twofold: to reflect on the significance of the Bolshevik Revolution and the worldwide havoc it created; and to honor an individual and an institution for their tireless defense of freedom. The individual was the Israeli statesman and former Soviet political prisoner Natan Sharansky; the institution was Memorial Society, a Russian non-governmental organization (NGO) dedicated to telling the truth about the past and to perpetuating the memory of the victims of political repression under the Soviet Union.

After 25 years of leadership roles here, I will be resigning from my role as chairman in December 2019. We have begun our search for a qualified, committed person to be my successor. I will continue to serve as a board member and to provide counsel to our stalwart executive director, Marion Smith, and his talented, mission-driven staff. Reflecting on our beginnings and where we are now, I am full of hope.

As always, the Board of Trustees of the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation remains committed to our mission of educating this generation and future generations about the destructive ideology, history, and legacy of human suffering under communism. Your generous and continuing support makes our work possible.

In the fall of 1956, my ears rang with the chant of brave young Hungarians, "We will no longer be slaves." Let us all resolve to work toward the day when those who now live under communist regimes in China, Cuba, North Korea, Vietnam, and Laos will be free citizens of freedom-loving nations.

May God bless you,

Lee Edwards, Ph.D.



Message from the **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Fewer Americans are now aware of the crimes of communist regimes and fewer Americans are skeptical of Marxist ideas than at any time since the Berlin Wall fell in 1989. From Hong Kong to Venezuela, dictators suppress freedom and justify their actions by appealing to the godfather of modern tyranny—Karl Marx. It has never been more important, nor more urgent, to lay bare the flawed ideology of Marxism and the crimes of those communist regimes that, in the name of equality, have engendered a new form of slavery in the modern world.

There are at least three reasons for our current state of affairs. First, there was never a moral reckoning for crimes committed in the name of communism in the USSR and other communist states. There should have been dozens of Nurembergs for communist regimes. Sadly, there has not been even one.

There is a double standard for the crimes committed by Nazis and those perpetrated by the Soviets, Mao, Pol Pot, and others. And although communist regimes began collapsing in Europe in 1989, they live on in Asia and Latin America, but with too few critics. Well-meaning Americans accepted the deceitful promises of self-reform made by the communist parties in Cuba and China and they only pay attention to the North Korean regime's sinister nature when they threaten to strike at America. The consequences of our historical amnesia and our indifference to tyranny today are dire, and may be more far-reaching than we can yet imagine.

Second, our country's educational institutions have failed to teach the most important lessons of the twentieth century to a new generation of Americans. As our staff work with high school teachers and college students in all 50 states, it is clear that we are filling a crucial gap in the proper education of young Americans.

Third, geopolitical actors from Beijing and Pyongyang to Havana and Caracas desperately want to undermine the West's ability to condemn their tyrannies and prevent us from emboldening their people's desire for freedom. They audaciously present single-party dictatorship and high-tech totalitarianism as acceptable twenty-first century alternatives to liberal democracy. This tactic is working. From the United Nations at Turtle Bay to the European Union headquarters in Brussels, and even at times the

White House, too many institutions have accepted their claims as valid. All told, we are not in an easy position as lovers of freedom in the early decades of the twenty-first century. And yet, we know that the best hope for keeping our liberties at home in the United States of America is to understand how fragile our way of life is and how different it could be if we accepted the precepts of Marxist collectivism. Ideas have consequences. The historical record is clear: communism kills.

At least 20 percent of the world's population today lives under the oppression of a Marxist dictatorship. The witness accounts of the dissidents who fight for freedom in those countries help counter the propaganda that is so successfully misleading American politicians, media, and academics. These dissidents need America to remain the home of the free where speech is protected in all arenas of society and debate is not confounded by those who would make the citizen subservient to the government instead of governments subservient to the citizen.

Both abroad and at home, it is the truth that makes—and will keep—us free.

Thank you for courageously and generously supporting the work of Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation. I hope you take encouragement from this account of how we spent the year 2017.

Together we are honoring the millions of victims, supporting the heroic dissidents of our day, and educating a new generation of Americans so that they will see through the false hope of Marxism and defend our precious experiment in human liberty.

Sincerely,

Marion Smith

TEACHING TRUTH



Our *Witness Project* is a video series featuring the powerful stories of witnesses of communism. The third installment features Chinese actress, beauty queen, and human rights advocate Anastasia Lin. Growing up in China, Anastasia was indoctrinated to believe that the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) was always right. After moving to Canada with her mother, she learned about the Tiananmen Square Massacre and the CCP's terrible abuse of the Chinese people. As Miss World Canada, she used her platform to share the truth about human rights abuses in China. Visit our YouTube channel to watch her video.

Sadly, Americans haven't learned much from 100 years of communism. Millennials, the largest generation in America, increasingly say they prefer socialism to capitalism. Publishers romanticize the ideology and ignore the history, while news outlets praise militant, far-left groups who intimidate and antagonize in the name of "anti-fascism."

Leaders of the newly emergent Marxist movement deploy the phrase "democratic socialism" as their new ideal. Yet it remains unclear how their vision differs from the bloody and economically disastrous socialism experienced by nearly 40 nations in the last hundred years. Americans need to understand how communism and socialism relate and that every time communism is tried, it results in economic collapse, a police state, human suffering, or great loss of life.

To counter America's trend toward Marxism, we trained dozens more high school teachers, expanded our college student network, and launched a new animated video series. These programs brought to light the truth about communism and socialism's deadly legacy of destruction to thousands of our younger citizens. Our public events, publications, and digital marketing, including social media, delivered the facts to tens of thousands more.

CHANGING HOW COMMUNISM IS TAUGHT IN THE CLASSROOM

National Seminars for High School Educators



Dr. Gregory McBrayer lectures on Political and Economic Theory during seminar session one in Washington, D.C.'s Union Station. From July 16–21, we convened our second annual National Seminars for High School Educators, equipping teachers with the tools to change how communism is taught in their classes, their schools, and their states.



Tom O'Hare (front center), 2016 National Seminar alum, leads a workshop on communism at a teachers convention hosted by the South Carolina Independent Schools Association.



Betsy Newmark, 2017 National Seminar alum, Landon Wang, winner of the VOC student essay contest, and his father Dr. Jiangbo Lu attend the Victims of Communism Centennial Commemoration in Washington, D.C. on Nov. 9.

2017 BY THE NUMBERS

HIGH SCHOOL
TEACHERS
TRAINED

25

STATES
WITH ALUMNI

18

TOTAL HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENTS REACHED
SINCE 2016

15,450

TOTAL TEACHER
ALUMNI IN
SCHOOLS

64

COUNTERING MARXISM ON CAMPUS

VOC COLLEGE PROGRAMS

In 2017, we organized college events in all 50 states and educated 5,615 students about the dangers of communism and socialism. We partnered with existing faculty and student organizations to grow our network and host lectures, panel discussions, and film screenings. Many campus speakers were witnesses of communism's atrocities, such as Cuban dissidents Rosa María Payá and Sirley Ávila León, and Tiananmen Square protester Dr. Yang Jianli. Their personal stories left an intense impact on students.



We sponsored Chinese dissident Lily Tang Williams (center in red with University of Pittsburgh students) to visit 19 colleges in 2017. She shared her personal experience growing up under Mao, and warned how the seemingly benign Confucius Institutes on US campuses advance Chinese Communist Party propaganda.

2017 *BY THE NUMBERS*

Advancing the Fight Every Day

5,615

COLLEGE
STUDENTS

86

CAMPUSES

41

FACULTY

50

STATES + D.C.

ORIGINAL VIDEOS

Explainer Series

In April, we launched an animated video series to help explain difficult concepts related to the theory and practice of communism. This is one of our most effective tools for delivering facts and clarity to young Americans. The first video “What Is Socialism?” debunks the myth that socialism provides greater equality and prosperity than free enterprise.



Witness Project

Our *Witness Project* series features the powerful stories of men and women who witnessed the ravages of communism firsthand. In November, we released a promotional trailer online that introduced our two newest witnesses to the public: Rosa María Payá from Cuba and Wanda Lorenc from Poland. Their videos will be released in February and May 2018.



ROSA MARÍA PAYÁ



ANASTASIA LIN



NAL'OUM

Tiananmen Square

On June 4, we released online our video entitled "What Happened In Tiananmen Square On June 4, 1989?" commemorating the anniversary of the Tiananmen Square Massacre perpetrated by the Chinese communist regime.



REPORT ON US ATTITUDES TOWARD SOCIALISM

MILLENNIALS WANT COLLECTIVISM, BUT STRUGGLE WITH DEFINITIONS

VOC's Second Annual Report on US Attitudes Toward Socialism

On November 2, we released our Second Annual Report on US Attitudes Toward Socialism, confirming that young Americans remain largely ignorant of the crimes of communist regimes and how Marxist ideology directly enables such atrocities. The percentage of Millennials who would prefer socialism to capitalism is a full 10 points higher than that of the general population.

The significance of this finding cannot be overstated: the largest generation in America would rather live under socialism or communism than under a free market system that respects the rule of law, private property, and limited state intervention. And yet, despite Millennials' enthusiasm for socialism and communism, they do not, in fact, know what those words mean.



Source: Second Annual Report on US Attitudes Toward Socialism by VOC and YouGov.

MORE THAN 30 MAJOR MEDIA OUTLETS CITE VOC'S REPORT

Bloomberg

"Get Rid of Capitalism? Millennials Are Ready to Talk About It"

the weekly Standard

"Have 100 Years of Communism Taught Us Nothing?"

FOX NEWS

"Army officer: In a divided country, will it soon become dangerous to wear my uniform in public?"

The Washington Post

"The New York Times keeps whitewashing communism's crimes"

The New York Times

"No Wonder Millennials Hate Capitalism"

USA TODAY

"Today's kids love socialism — but it's not because of their radical professors"

WITNESS PROJECT

WITNESSES OF COMMUNISM DELIVER WAKE UP CALL TO YOUNG AMERICANS

As more and more Americans embrace socialist ideas, it is urgent to preserve the testimony of men and women who witnessed communism in the past century and lived to tell the cautionary tale. We produce *Witness Project* to tell their powerful stories. These mini-documentaries are professionally filmed and housed on our YouTube channel.

We integrate *Witness Project* with our high school and college programs because seeing and hearing the heart-wrenching stories of individual suffering and brutality endured under communism shows young Americans its shocking dystopian reality. Teachers in our network are using the videos as an educational tool in their classrooms and inviting dissidents to speak to their students.

Episodes 1-3 feature Dániel Magay, a Hungarian Olympic fencer; Nal Oum, a Cambodian pediatrician; and Anastasia Lin, a Chinese beauty queen and human rights advocate. Episodes 4 and 5, which will be released in 2018, feature Rosa María Payá, Cuban dissident and daughter of slain opposition leader Oswaldo Payá, and Wanda Lorenc, a Polish-American who escaped the Nazis and the communists.



Dr. Murray Bessette, Director of Academic Programs, leads a Q&A with Chinese beauty queen and human rights advocate Anastasia Lin at American University's screening of her *Witness Project* episode in March.



Anastasia Lin with an American University student.



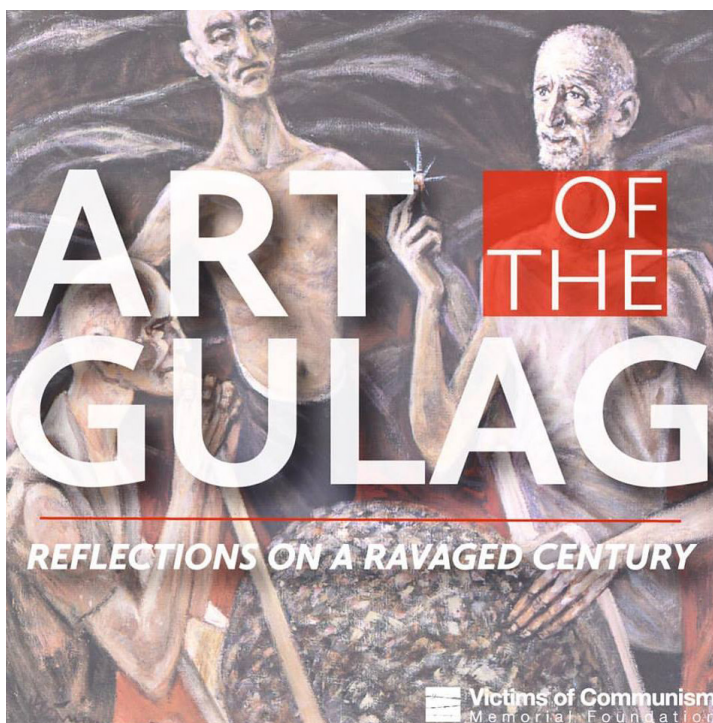
Students ask Anastasia Lin about China's suppression of human rights.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Our social media engagement and following grew dramatically in 2017. Here is a selection of our top posts from Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.



We featured this image of Hitler and Stalin in our campaign to educate people about the connection between fascism and communism.



Our "Art of the Gulag" campaign showcased a selection of paintings from The Gulag Collection by Nikolai Getman.

1/3 OF MILLENNIALS BELIEVE THAT
GEORGE W. BUSH KILLED MORE
PEOPLE THAN JOSEPH STALIN.

#KnowTheTruth

100 YEARS
100 MILLION KILLED

 Victims of Communism
Memorial Foundation

1/4 OF CAMBODIA'S POPULATION
WERE MURDERED IN THE NAME
OF COMMUNISM.

#KnowTheTruth

100 YEARS
100 MILLION KILLED

 Victims of Communism
Memorial Foundation



This image of the Korean Peninsula dramatizes the difference between communist North Korea and free South Korea.



During the 1956 revolution, Hungarians cut the communist emblem out of their country's flag, returning it to its original design.



In 1980, the #Solidarność trade union was legalized, marking the beginning of the end for the communist regime in Poland.

IN 2017, OUR AUDIENCE GREW...

+400%

SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

+13,000

TWITTER FOLLOWERS

+7,000

FACEBOOK FRIENDS

ON THE DISSIDENT BLOG

In 2017, we published 112 original articles on our blog *Dissident*. Our work attracted a young crowd—of the 250,000 people who viewed our blog, 45% were younger than 35 years old. To read our latest work, visit blog.victimsofcommunism.org.



FEBRUARY REVOLUTION

Russia Could Have Been a Democracy
Naphtali Rivkin

When Tsar Nicholas II abdicated the throne of the Russian Empire on February 23, 1917, it was not inevitable that Russia would become the first communist country in history the following October. On the contrary, the February Revolution of 1917 that overthrew the Tsar contained all the right ingredients for a Western-oriented liberal regime. For a fleeting moment in February 1917, a fairly diverse, spontaneous, and sincere revolution gave Russia a chance to join the Western liberal world.



SOLZHENITSYN AND THE GULAG ARCHIPELAGO

The Pen That Topped An Empire
Dr. James Pontuso

Solzhenitsyn was born in 1918, just as the Bolshevik Revolution solidified its power over his Russian homeland. In his classic *The Gulag Archipelago*, he displays with great force that the monstrous evil of the Soviet Union was not caused by the misapplication of Marx's ideals, by Stalin's pathology, or by Russian nationalism. It was the inevitable consequence of expecting perfection—and abusing the coercive power of the state to impose it—from imperfect human beings.



WATCH PARTY

The 19th Chinese Communist Party Congress
Matthew Fagerstrom

On October 18, the Chinese Communist Party convened in Beijing for its 19th Party Congress. Xi Jinping's political ambitions made the 2017 Congress the most important in recent memory. He cemented his power and locked his loyalists, ideas, and policies into place by abolishing his term limits and having his name written into the party's guiding ideology alongside "Mao Zedong Thought" and "Deng Xiaoping Theory."



FIRST THEY KILLED MY FATHER

The Khmer Rouge, Anonymity, and the Psychology of Terror
Adrienne DePrisco

In September, Angelina Jolie released her biographical movie thriller, *First They Killed My Father*, which follows the life of five-year-old Loung Ung. Through the eyes of a child, the film portrays the increasing suffering of the Cambodian people during the reign of the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia. Over two million Cambodians died from executions, starvation, and disease, making it one of the worst genocides in human history.

OP-EDS

Executive Director Marion Smith authored three op-eds in 2017, published by major media outlets, addressing the legacy of communism in the United States, the twin ideologies of fascism and communism, and why Donald Trump may be the most anticommunist president since Ronald Reagan.



100 YEARS OF COMMUNISM'S BLOODY LEGACY

THE DAILY BEAST

April 23

“We must fight to cultivate accurate memory about this difficult history, without which neither truth nor justice is possible. Nor, it would seem, is American democracy.



OLD HATREDS MADE NEW

The Washington Times

August 21

“It is critical to remember that Nazism and Soviet communism are two sides of the same totalitarian coin.



DONALD TRUMP, ANTI-COMMUNIST

RealClear Politics

October 17

“President Trump is naming and confronting the human rights abuses of single-party dictatorships. In a manner not seen since Ronald Reagan, he is attacking their flawed claim of justice—Marxism—by which they deem to rule millions against their will.

PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGNS



TODAY,
1 IN 5
PEOPLE
LIVE UNDER
A COMMUNIST REGIME

Paid for by the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation

"I don't know a lot about politics,
but the totalitarian dictatorship
of the Castros is one of the world's
MOST CORRUPT AND CRIMINAL."
-Sirley Ávila León

CUBA
#communismkills

Paid for by the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation



Our #CommunismKills campaign billboards, which ran in Times Square from October 2016 to March 2017, forced 1.1 million people to confront the dangers of collectivism.

Tibetan freedom advocates march under our Times Square billboards on Tibetan National Uprising Day in March.



SEEKING JUSTICE



Venezuelan violinist Wuilly Arteaga protests peacefully in the streets of Caracas (Federico Parra - AFP).

In 2017, the territory of the free world shrank. Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea and occupation of Eastern Ukraine, China's systematic stripping of Hong Kong's freedom and autonomy, North Korea's reckless pursuit of nuclear weapons, and Nicolás Maduro's destruction of Venezuela, supported by Cuba, reminded us that communism is not dead. Yet much of the world fails to understand, or worse, ignores the growing threat.

In response, we partnered with lawmakers and dissidents to name and condemn the abuses of single-party dictatorships. We expanded our government relations team, brought Venezuelan, Cuban, and North Korean dissidents to advocate on Capitol Hill, and launched public petitions that called on lawmakers and media to condemn civil and human rights abuses carried out in the name of socialism.

ENCOURAGING THE ADMINISTRATION IN THE FIGHT TO FREE POLITICAL PRISONERS



As President Trump was sworn into office, we released five videos as part of a campaign to educate policymakers in Congress and the new administration on the urgent need to take action on behalf of political prisoners held by communist regimes. Our video on China featured poet, dissident, and Nobel Laureate Liu Xiaobo (pictured), who had been imprisoned by the Chinese Communist Party since 2008. After too-long being denied medical treatment for liver cancer, he died in captivity in July. We held a vigil in his memory and continue to urge the administration to take up the cause of Liu Xia, his widow, who remains under house arrest.



NORTH KOREA

US citizen Otto Warmbier was sentenced to 15 years hard labor in North Korea in 2016. After President Trump secured his release, Otto was sent home in a coma and died of torture-induced injuries on June 19. We led a campaign in his honor to educate Americans about North Korea's brutal regime.



CUBA

Dissident artist "El Sexto" was imprisoned following Fidel Castro's death. After his release in January, we conducted a live interview with him to highlight Cuba's crackdown on freedom of expression. We continue to advocate for the release of Cuba's political prisoners.



LAOS

In 2012, Lao civil society activist Sombath Somphone was kidnapped by state security forces. His fate remains unknown. We call for the communist regime to disclose his health and location, and to release him immediately and unconditionally.



VIETNAM

Priest, pro-democracy advocate, and Truman-Reagan Medal of Freedom laureate Father Thadeus Nguyen Văn Lý has suffered more than 20 years of his life in prison for advocating religious liberty. We call for his release, as he remains under house arrest in Vietnam.

NORTH KOREA



Otto Warmbier is led to trial in North Korea in 2016.



Kim Jong-un and his "friend for life" Dennis Rodman in North Korea.

HONORING OTTO WARMBIER

“Unfortunately, what has happened to Otto Warmbier is how they treat their own citizens. It is a cruel regime, and you can say, in fact, that all 25 million citizens live in a slave camp.
- Marion Smith on *Tucker Carlson Tonight*

The North Korean regime is one of the world's most brutal communist dictatorships, starving its people, constantly threatening nuclear war, and, not for the first time, murdering an American citizen. In June, Otto Warmbier was sent home in a coma after suffering 17 months of imprisonment in North Korea for allegedly stealing a propaganda poster. He died on June 19 as a result of torture-induced injuries. We honored Otto by educating Americans about North Korea's barbaric communist regime and calling out those who defend Kim Jong-un.

With America's attention on North Korea, we highlighted the outrageous praise of that regime by former NBA star Dennis Rodman, who considers Kim Jong-un a "friend for life." We launched petitions on Change.org and StandUnited.com to remove Rodman from the Basketball Hall of Fame. Thousands of people added their names in support. Our petition was also written up in dozens of media outlets, including *USA Today*, *CNN*, *TMZ*, *Maxim Magazine*, and *The Washington Post*.

On the day of Otto's funeral, June 22, we sent flowers to his family and laid a wreath in his honor at our Memorial, which is located within view of the US Capitol and features a ten-foot bronze replica of the Goddess of Democracy. We stand firm in our commitment to honor every victim of communism. It is with great sorrow that we added Otto's name to that list.



Marion Smith appears on *Tucker Carlson Tonight* on June 20.

TMZ

"Human Rights Org Wants Rodman Removed from HOF...Over N. Korea Ties"

June 21

CNN

"Group wants Dennis Rodman kicked out of Hall of Fame"

June 22

VENEZUELA



Wuilly Arteaga playing violin at the Victims of Communism Memorial in June.



Wuilly Arteaga protests Maduro's tyranny on the streets of Venezuela, as more than 160 protestors were killed in Venezuela in 2017.

MUSIC BUOYS HOPE FOR A FREE VENEZUELA

In 2017, we watched in real time a new communist regime take form in the Western Hemisphere. With the support of Cuba, Nicolás Maduro erased private property, human rights, political freedom, and the rule of law across Venezuela. Wuilly Arteaga, a 23-year-old Venezuelan violinist and freedom advocate, became an icon of the movement protesting Maduro's abuses. He gained worldwide attention in May when he joined the protests in Caracas armed with his only weapon, his violin.

In June, Wuilly performed at our 10th Annual Roll Call of Nations Ceremony. While he was in our nation's capital, we had him brief Members of Congress and we raised \$1,500 to buy him a new violin, which replaced the one that had been deliberately destroyed by a Venezuelan National Guard soldier in May. Just ahead of Maduro's sham elections on July 30, Wuilly was injured while protesting, arrested on fake charges, and held in custody for 19 days. He was released on August 16, and remains committed to bringing hope to the Venezuelan people through his music.

LATIN TIMES

"Violinist Wuilly Arteaga Injured By Maduro Thugs, Human Rights Calls On US Gov To Condemn Violence"
July 24

NATIONAL REVIEW

"Despite Venezuela, Socialism Is Still Popular in the U.S."
December 20

¡No Che! Noche Rally



Our ¡No Che! Noche rally contrasted the brutality of the "revolutionary" Che Guevara with the bravery of Oswaldo Payá, a true hero of the Cuban people.

The ¡No Che! Noche rally crowd stands in solidarity on the steps of the US Capitol on July 19.



BOOSTING DISSIDENT TRUTH-TELLING



Henry Li, Marion Smith, Dr. Yang Jianli, and guests hold vigil for Liu Xiaobo.



Supporters light candles in memory of Liu Xiaobo.

NATIONAL CAPTIVE NATIONS WEEK

Each July we mark Captive Nations Week, first observed in 1959 under President Dwight D. Eisenhower, by recognizing those peoples and nations suffering under communist and other totalitarian regimes.

The tragic death of Chinese dissident and Nobel laureate Liu Xiaobo precipitated an early start to our 2017 Captive Nations Week observances. On July 17, we held a candlelight vigil at the Victims of Communism Memorial to commemorate Liu Xiaobo's life, which inspired so many Chinese to stand up for democratic reform.

On July 19, we honored slain Cuban dissident Oswaldo Payá by organizing a *¡No Che! Noche* (No Che Night) rally on the steps of the US Capitol. We passed out t-shirts with Che Guevara's face marked out to symbolize his brutality, and reflected on the legacy of Payá, a true Cuban hero. More than 200 people joined us at the Capitol and 3,500 tuned in online.

We hosted a phone conference briefing for the public to call in as well as a private luncheon where activists reported on the ongoing struggle for freedom in China, Crimea, Cuba, Hong Kong, Laos, North Korea, occupied Eastern Ukraine, Venezuela, and Vietnam. Reports on each Captive Nation are published on our blog *Dissident*.

Millions of people around the world still live under brutal repressive communist regimes. During National Captive Nations Week, we united Americans in solidarity with them.

¡NO CHE! NOCHE RALLY



Marion Smith addresses the crowd assembled for our ¡No Che! Noche rally in honor of Oswaldo Payá at the US Capitol.



Venezuelan freedom advocate Enrique Altamari criticizes the Maduro regime's abuse of power.



Ofelia Acevedo, wife of murdered opposition leader Oswaldo Payá, shares remarks.



Rep. Albio Sires (D-NJ) meets with Ofelia Acevedo, John Suarez, Enrique Altamari, and VOC staff during Captive Nations Week.



Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) supports Captive Nations Week on the House floor.

VIETNAM

ART EXHIBIT AND PANEL REFLECT THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEE EXPERIENCE

We co-sponsored “War and Refuge: Reflections on the Vietnamese Refugee Experience and Its Applicability to the Global Migration Crisis” on August 3 to help Americans learn from the Vietnamese who fled communism in the 1970s. Over 150 people attended our panel, *VIETNAMERICA* film screening, and art exhibit, organized in partnership with the Vietnamese American Heritage Foundation (VAHF), the Vietnamese American Arts & Letters Association, and the Vietnam Culture Center of Washington, D.C.

Speakers included Charlie Ton, CEO of Regal Nails Salon & Spa; Nancy Bui, President of VAHF; and Nguyet Anh Duong, a Senior Executive at the Department of Homeland Security. They discussed the consequences of American withdrawal from Indochina and the success of Vietnamese-Americans in enriching American society.



Dr. Mylene Huynh, physician and US Air Force veteran, views paintings by Vietnamese-American artists at our exhibit on Capitol Hill.



Charlie Ton, CEO of Regal Nails Salon & Spa, and Nancy Bui, President of VAHF, speak on the “War and Refuge” panel on Capitol Hill.



Over 150 people attended our panel, film screening, and art exhibit on Capitol Hill.

CUBA



"El Sexto" pays his respects at the Victims of Communism Memorial in February.

LIVE WITH "EL SEXTO"

In Havana on the evening of Fidel Castro's death—November 25, 2016—the artist Danilo Maldonado Machado (a.k.a. "El Sexto," meaning "The Sixth" in Spanish) spray-painted "He's Gone" on the hotel where Castro quartered his soldiers in 1959. For this, Danilo was imprisoned for 55 days. After being released, he visited Washington, D.C. in February to testify at the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee hearing entitled "Democracy and Human Rights: The Case for U.S. Leadership." We invited him to our office for a Facebook Live interview with VOC staff. Over 14,600 people watched our February 15 conversation about El Sexto's story and art's power to transform society.

PAYÁ CONTINUES HER FATHER'S QUEST FOR A FREE CUBA

On April 6, we hosted the conversation "A Cuban Dissident's View: Memory, Justice, and US-Cuban Relations" with Cuban dissident Rosa María Payá, following the reintroduction of a bipartisan bill to rename the street in front of the Cuban Embassy in D.C. as "Oswaldo Payá Way." Sen. Ted Cruz, Sen. Marco Rubio, and Rep. Dennis Ross joined Rosa María to discuss her father's legacy and Cuba's path to freedom. Changing the street name will serve as a permanent reminder that the US supports the aspirations of Cuba's citizens to decide their own future.



Marion Smith and Rosa María Payá with Sen. Ted Cruz.



Sen. Marco Rubio calls for US support of the Cuban people, not the Castro regime.



10TH ANNUAL ROLL CALL OF NATIONS

HONORING, REMEMBERING, CELEBRATING



We convened 20 embassies, 33 ethnic and human rights organizations, and over 150 guests to honor the memory of the victims of communism, to celebrate liberty where it has triumphed, and to further our pursuit of a world free from communism.

June 2017 Roll Call of Nations family photo.

KEEPING MEMORY

10TH ANNUAL ROLL CALL OF NATIONS



“Communism is fundamentally wrong and inhumane, teaching the denial of the brotherhood of all people.
- H.E. Vytautas Landsbergis, Ph.D.

On June 9, the ten-year anniversary of our Memorial's dedication, we held our annual Roll Call of Nations Wreath-Laying Ceremony. This year's ceremony centered on the legacy of communism in the Baltic nations of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. We awarded our Truman-Reagan Medal of Freedom to H.E. Mart Laar, the first Prime Minister of Estonia's Second Republic. H.E. Vytautas Landsbergis, first head of state of Lithuania after it declared independence from the Soviet Union, offered keynote remarks. Guests enjoyed music by Venezuelan violinist and freedom advocate Wuilly Arteaga, who laid a wreath on behalf of the people of Venezuela and Cuba. The day was a powerful reminder of the bond between those who fought for freedom in the 20th century and today's dissidents pursuing freedom still.



VOC Chairman Dr. Lee Edwards offers remarks at the 10th Annual Roll Call of Nations.



Lithuanian statesman H.E. Vytautas Landsbergis delivers keynote address.

CHARTER 77 ANNIVERSARY CONTINUES HAVEL-PAYÁ DIALOGUE

On February 3, we marked the 40th anniversary of Charter 77, a declaration that inspired communist Czechoslovakia's civil society movement in 1977 and today resonates with those still living under totalitarian regimes. We partnered with the Embassy of the Czech Republic to host a panel entitled "The Enduring Significance of Charter 77" featuring: Ambassador Martin Palouš, an original signatory of Charter 77 and former Ambassador of the Czech Republic; Dr. James Pontuso of Hampden-Sydney College; Dr. Flagg Taylor of Skidmore College; and Marianne Canavaggio Silvereano of the Lycée Rochambeau.

Afterward, at Georgetown's Riggs Library, Amb. Palouš and Rosa María Payá, daughter of slain Cuban dissident Oswaldo Payá, discussed what Cubans today can learn from Charter 77, and we screened the short film *An Unfinished Dialogue between Oswaldo Payá and Václav Havel*. The kinship between Oswaldo Payá—who was murdered by the Castro regime for his peaceful advocacy—and Havel—the Charter 77 spokesman and first president of the free Czech Republic—illustrates how Latin Americans and Eastern Europeans can support one another in the fight against communism. Today, Rosa María and Amb. Palouš continue to advocate for freedom and democracy. Over 1,000 people tuned in to our Facebook livestream to view their discussion.



Amb. Martin Palouš and Rosa María Payá discuss Charter 77 at Georgetown.



Václav Havel and Oswaldo Payá meet face-to-face in 2002.



Marianne Canavaggio Silvereano, Havel's French teacher, speaks at the Czech Embassy.



VOC's Josh Dill and Amb. Palouš visit the Václav Havel bench at Georgetown.



VICTIMS OF COMMUNISM CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION



NOVEMBER 7-9, 2017
UNION STATION

ANTICOMMUNISTS MARK BOLSHEVIK CENTENARY



Reflections on a Ravaged Century conference in the Library of Congress, Nov. 8–9.

On Nov. 7–9, 2017, we convened more than 1,000 anticommunists—including diplomats and members of Congress, historians and dissidents, and champions of freedom and human rights—in Washington, D.C. for the Victims of Communism Centennial Commemoration, solemnly marking the 100th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution.

In sum, we launched a bipartisan Victims of Communism Caucus in Congress, welcomed the President's message declaring the first National Day Commemorating the Victims of Communism, premiered the documentary *Women of the Gulag*, hosted a Russian Orthodox choir concert, and organized a two-day conference in the Library of Congress.

Our reflection culminated with a dinner on Nov. 9 in the main hall of Union Station. Prominent British economic historian and bestselling author Dr. Niall Ferguson delivered the keynote speech on communism and civilization. We awarded the Truman-Reagan Medal of Freedom to Natan Sharansky, the former Soviet political prisoner and Israeli statesman, and to the Russian NGO Memorial Society, represented by their Executive Director Elena Zhemkova.

President George W. Bush sent a video message thanking Sharansky and Memorial Society for their work, and reminded us all "that freedom is precious and cannot be taken for granted, that evil is real and we must confront it."

Thank you to all those who joined us to mark this historic anniversary, and all those who were with us in spirit.



PRESIDENTIAL DECLARATION

President Donald Trump declared November 7 “National Day for the Victims of Communism” in an historic statement: “Today, we remember those who have died and all who continue to suffer under communism. In their memory and in honor of the indomitable spirit of those who have fought courageously to spread freedom and opportunity around the world, our Nation reaffirms its steadfast resolve to shine the light of liberty for all who yearn for a brighter, freer future.”



BIPARTISAN CAUCUS LAUNCH

We launched a bipartisan Victims of Communism Caucus for the 115th Congress with co-chairs Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-OH, pictured), Rep. Dan Lipinski (D-IL), Rep. Dennis Ross (R-FL), and Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ), dedicated to raising awareness about the history of communism, the five existing communist countries, and how communism shapes international relations today. “This caucus will shine a light on the victims’ struggle, and work to keep the flame of human rights around the world alive,” said Kaptur.



WOMEN OF THE GULAG PREMIERE

We premiered *Women of the Gulag*, a new documentary featuring the personal stories of six women who were political prisoners in Stalin’s Gulag, followed by a discussion with film director Marianna Yarovskaya and executive producer Dr. Paul Gregory.



RUSSIAN SACRED MUSIC CONCERT

More than 200 guests joined us for a Russian Orthodox choir concert featuring the Choir from the Synodal Cathedral of the Icon of Our Lady of the Sign in New York. The music, inspired by Russian composers who were censored, exiled, and martyred under communism, paid tribute to the power of art and the indomitable spirit of people of faith.

REFLECTIONS ON A RAVAGED CENTURY

On November 8–9, we convened a two-day conference entitled *Reflections on a Ravaged Century* in the Library of Congress in partnership with Stanford University's Hoover Institution. The conference featured Congressional remarks and panel discussions with more than 20 leading historians, economists, statesmen, and pro-democracy activists. They examined the connections between Marxist ideology and the political, economic, cultural, and foreign policy practices of the Soviet Union.



Dr. James McAdams, University of Notre Dame; Vladimir Kara-Murza, Russian pro-democracy activist; Dr. Paul Hollander, eminent American scholar; and VOC Executive Director Marion Smith discuss the Bolshevik Revolution and the establishment of the Soviet Union in the Library of Congress on Nov. 8.



Dr. Frank Dikötter, author of "The People's Trilogy" and Chair Professor of Humanities at the University of Hong Kong.



Peter Robinson, author of Reagan's "Tear down this wall" speech.

“ The United States not only espouses the principles of freedom, we act on it, we lead.

- Hon. Paula Dobriansky, Ph.D.



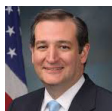
“ It is our duty to tell these stories, the truth about communism, and preserve this history for all generations.

- Rep. Dan Lipinski



“ Truth matters. The truth is, communism is an unmitigated evil.

- Sen. Ted Cruz



“ The best guarantee of a democracy, any democracy, are the citizens who maintain it.

- Vladimir Kara-Murza



“ The communist reality has been a legacy of tyranny, untold suffering, scarcity, murderous inefficiency, and arbitrary inequality.

- Dr. Alan Charles Kors



“ Dissidents proved that one could challenge the regime and survive, that truth provided its own strength, that law was worth defending.

- Joshua Rubenstein



“ We should not be lulled into thinking that communism is no longer a threat to freedom in the world.

- Rep. Dennis Ross



H.E. Vytautas Landsbergis, Ph.D., Lithuanian statesman.



Dr. Russell Roberts, Hoover Institution Research Fellow and host of *EconTalk* podcast.



H.E. Sen. Anna Maria Anders, Plenipotentiary of the Prime Minister of Poland for International Dialogue, comments during discussion.



Dr. Arkady Ostrovsky, Russia and Eastern Europe editor for *The Economist*.



Hon. Paula Dobriansky, Ph.D., former Under Secretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs and VOC Trustee.



Inci Bowman, President of International Committee for Crimea, and David Satter, Hudson Institute Senior Fellow and former Moscow correspondent.

“ The society that was created in 1917 by the Bolsheviks, from the very first days of its existence, deprived people of freedom. It deprived people of life. And it attempted to destroy the memory of those people.

- Elena Zhemkova



“ Being inside of the Soviet Union, where everything was upside down, religion was anti-moral, progress was anti-progress, it was extremely important to think that one day we would come out of the cave of Soviet reality.

- Hon. Emanuelis Zingeris



Dr. Alan Charles Kors, intellectual historian, and Dr. Paul Gregory, Hoover Institution Research Fellow, speak with audience members after the panel.



Cuban dissident Sirley Ávila León meets Natan Sharansky.



Dr. Jonathan Brent, Executive Director of YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, and Dr. Frank Dikötter, author of "The People's Trilogy" on Mao's China.



Sen. Ted Cruz and Amb. Floreta Faber of the Embassy of Albania.

“ Let me add that being outside the Soviet Bloc did not by any means guarantee a lessening of repression. Some of the worst atrocities in China occurred after it left the Soviet Bloc.

- Mark Kramer



“ Our bipartisan caucus is determined to ensure that Congress and the American people remain aware of and continue to fight against the deadly and ongoing evil of Marxist and Leninist ideology.

- Rep. Chris Smith



Audience member and H.E. Václav Klaus, Czech economist and statesman.



Hon. Donald Ritter and Vladimir Kara-Murza, pro-democracy activist.

CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION DINNER



Chairman Dr. Lee Edwards, Trustee Thomas Peterffy, Executive Director and Trustee Marion Smith, and keynote speaker Dr. Niall Ferguson at the Centennial Commemoration dinner in Union Station on Nov. 9.



His Imperial Highness Prince Ermias Sahle Selassie views paintings from The Gulag Collection by Ukrainian artist Nikolai Getman.



Truman-Reagan Medal of Freedom laureates Elena Zhemkova, representing the Russian NGO Memorial Society, and Natan Sharansky.

“ This is the reality of communism. A god that failed, a science that never was, a political system that sits abandoned and bereft on the ash heap of history.
- Dr. Lee Edwards



Our stage was flanked by the flags of countries participating officially: Albania, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Georgia, Hungary, Israel, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Malta, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Sweden, Ukraine, the UK, and the US.



Dr. Niall Ferguson delivers the keynote address on communism and civilization.



President George W. Bush thanks our Foundation, Natan Sharansky, and Memorial Society in a video message.

“ The best reason, in my view, to support the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation is to learn from our past mistakes.
- Dr. Niall Ferguson



Rosa María Payá and Drs. Josefina and Omar Vento.



Edith Lauer, Justice István Stumpf, and Anna Smith Lacey.



Owen Dorney, Tom Coffman, Andrew DeJoy, Foundation Vice Chairman Amb. Aldona Wos, Marshall Macheledt, Stephanie Xu, Heather Clarke, and Karen Armstrong.



Amb. Piotr Wilczek and H.E. Sen. Anna Maria Anders with Dr. Niall Ferguson.



Thomas Peterffy, Lynne Wheat, Anikó Gaál Schott, Mary Mochary, and Katharine Gorka.



His Imperial Highness Prince Ermias Sahle Selassie and Amb. György Szapáry.



Professor and Mrs. Paul du Quenoy.



Lithuanian Minister Counsellor Lyra Puišytė-Bostroem, H.E. Vytautas Landsbergis, Živilė Kriščiūnienė, and Amb. Rolandas Kriščiūnas.



Yevgenia Kara-Murza, H.E. Emanuelis Zingeris, and Vladimir Kara-Murza meet with Natan Sharansky.



Dan Mauler and Kathryn Ciano.



Zsigmond Perényi, Petra Perényilsky, Dr. Jenő Megyesy, and Casey and Houston Sanford.



Phillip Hancock, Marianna Yarovskaya, and Hawk Jensen.



Kristina Loverro, Hon. Donald Ritter, Victoria Stack, and Dr. Jorge and Soledad Minera.



Dr. Frank Dikötter, David Talbot, Dr. Niall Ferguson, and Kristina Olney.



Francisco Weitzman, Nicholas Virzi, and Sirley Ávila León.



Czech Deputy Chief of Mission Zdenek Beranek, David Frous, Petr Macinka, and H.E. Václav Klaus.



Very Rev. Charles Nalls and Metropolitan Jonah.



Bartosz Szajda, Małgorzata Grzegorzółka, Maciej Olchawa, and Edward Andries.



Sally and Josh Dill.



Prince and Princess Bryan Chingiz.

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HOST COMMITTEE

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TRUMAN-REAGAN MEDAL OF FREEDOM



HON. NATAN SHARANSKY

2017 LAUREATE

“Shortly after six o'clock on the evening of March 15th 1977, I was abducted by the KGB outside an apartment on Gorky street in downtown Moscow. I spent the next nine years in prison and labor camp, including more than 400 days in punishment cells and more than 200 days on hunger strikes.

Hon. Natan Sharansky is an Israeli statesman, human rights activist, and author. Born in the Soviet Union, Sharansky was refused an exit visa to Israel in 1973, after which he became a dissident and human rights activist, working as a translator for Andrei Sakharov, a spokesman for the Moscow Helsinki Group, and a defender of his fellow “refuseniks” (Soviet Jews who had been denied exit visas). For his activism, Sharansky was arrested in 1977 and jailed for nine years. After an international campaign led by his wife Avital, Sharansky was released in 1986 and emigrated to Israel, where he cofounded the political party Yisrael BaAliyah to represent Soviet Jews in Israel and served in a number of ministerial positions between 1996-2005.



Natan Sharansky (second left) is met upon arriving at Ben-Gurion Airport in November 1986 by his wife, Avital; then-prime minister Yitzhak Shamir (right); and then-deputy prime minister Shimon Peres (Government Press Office).



Natan Sharansky is escorted by US Ambassador Richard Burt after Sharansky had crossed the border at Glienicker Bridge on Feb. 11, 1986 at the start of an East-West spy and prisoner exchange in Berlin (AP Photo/Heribert Proepper).



Former dissidents Václav Havel and Natan Sharansky in Prague, June 2007 (RFE/RL).



President Ronald Reagan and Natan Sharansky, December 1986.



Sharansky's wife Avital holds an event near the UN shortly before Reagan speaks on October 24, 1985.



MEMORIAL SOCIETY

2017 LAUREATE

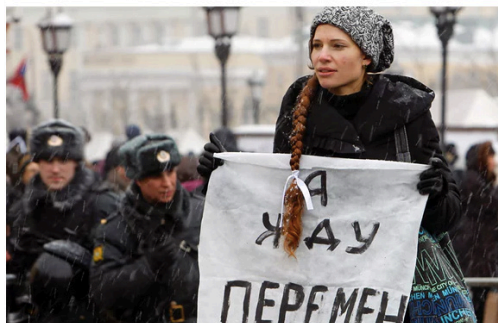
“Overcoming the legacy of our past lies in bringing memory and freedom together.

- Elena Zhemkova, Executive Director

MEMORIAL: An International Historical, Educational, Human Rights, and Charitable Society is an organization founded in 1989 by Andrei Sakharov and other leading Soviet dissidents to document the crimes of the Soviet Union. Its name and logo are a transliteration of the English word "memory." Its mission is to promote mature civil society and democracy based on rule of law; assist the formation of public consciousness and the establishment of human rights in practical politics and in public life; and promote the revelations of the truth about the historical past and perpetuate the memory of the victims of political repression under the Soviet Union. Elena Zhemkova, Executive Director of Memorial Society, accepted the award. She is curator of Memorial's projects concerning the legacy of World War II in Russia.

Russian human rights group faces threat of closure

For 25 years, Memorial has uncovered communist era repression and modern day discrimination. Now, the justice ministry is calling for it to be shut down. [RFE/RL reports](#)



A protestor holds a sign at an opposition rally in Russia in 2012 (Denis Sinyakov/Reuters).



Commemorative plaques posted by Last Address.

Sept. 04 2015 - 15:09

Memorial NGO Fined for Noncompliance With Foreign Agent Law



Graffiti artist paints "Foreign Agent" on the side of a building.



Memorial society leaders Oleg Petrovich Orlov, Arseny Borisovich Roginsky, and Elena Zhemkova with Jakob von Uexküll, founder of the Right Livelihood Award.



"Here lived Yeraterina Mikhailovna Zhelvatykh, typist, born in 1905, arrested 11/1/1938, executed 04/05/1938, rehabilitated in 1957." To commemorate ordinary people, a small plaque is installed on the houses known as the last residential addresses of those arrested.



H.E. MART LAAR, PH.D.

2017 LAUREATE

“Estonians lived for decades under the rule of communism, so we know precisely what communism is. This is why our task is not to let it happen again.

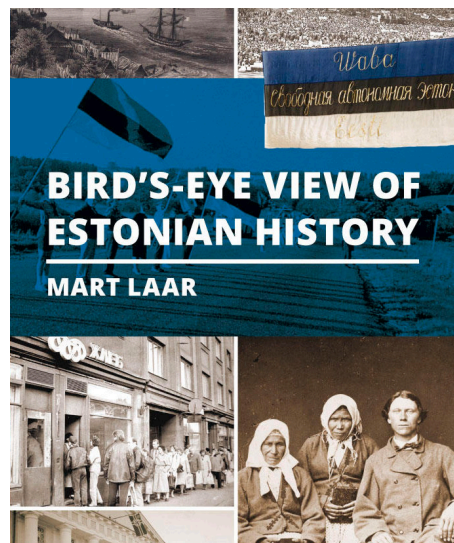
H.E. Mart Laar is a historian, professor, and scholar who became the first Prime Minister of Estonia's Second Republic in 1992. Dr. Laar's leadership helped create accountable government for post-Soviet Estonia and implement free-market principles in the economy. During his first term as prime minister, he established a flat tax and took steps to privatize previously state-run industries. During his second term, he laid the groundwork for Estonia's accession to the European Union and NATO. He also served as Estonia's Minister of Defense from 2011 to 2012. Today, Dr. Laar is chairman of the Bank of Estonia, and is involved in many human rights, economic, and historical organizations.



Mart Laar was elected the first prime minister of Estonia on October 21, 1992.



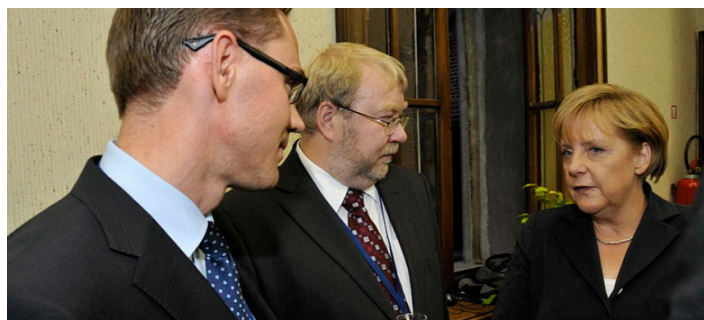
Laar as Minister of Defense with British ambassador Peter Carter and British defence attaché Ian Watts.



Laar published a book on Estonian history in 2017.



At 32 years old, Mart Laar became the youngest European prime minister in 1992.



Laar with German chancellor Angela Merkel and Finnish finance minister Jyrki Katainen at European People's Party Summit in 2010.

TRUMAN-REAGAN MEDAL OF FREEDOM LAUREATES

The Truman-Reagan Medal of Freedom is awarded each year by the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation to those individuals and institutions that have demonstrated a lifelong commitment to freedom and democracy and opposition to communism and all other forms of tyranny.

YEAR	MEDAL LAUREATES	
2017	H.E. Mart Laar, Ph.D. Memorial Society Hon. Natan Sharansky	Rep. Dana Rohrabacher Tran Văn Bá
2016	Paul A. Goble	2006 Edwin J. Feulner, Jr., Ph.D. Hon. Milada Horáková
2015	Chen Guangcheng Guillermo Fariñas Alexander Podrabinek	H.E. Lech Wałęsa
2014	Mustafa Dzhemilev Myroslav Marynovych	2005 Pope Saint John Paul II Hon. Lev E. Dobriansky Lt. Gen. Edward L. Rowny, USA (Ret.) Solidarity Free Trade Union of 1980 Anna Walentynowicz
2013	H.E. Václav Klaus, Ph.D. Fr. Thadeus Nguyen Văn Lý Yang Jianli, Ph.D.	2004 Lockheed Martin Corporation Rep. John Shimkus Maj. Gen. John Singlaub, USA (Ret.)
2012	Hon. Donald Rumsfeld H.E. Stanislau Shushkevich	2003 H.E. Václav Havel National Endowment for Democracy Michael Novak
2011	Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen H.E. Vaira Vīķe-Freiberga John C. Whitehead	2002 Hon. Philip M. Crane Hon. Hae Yung Chung Hon. Joseph Lieberman H.E. Viktor Orbán
2010	Robert Conquest Hon. Armando Valladares Harry Wu H.E. Emanuelis Zingeris	2001 Vladimir Bukovsky Hon. Jesse Helms
2009	Rep. Steny Hoyer Hon. Jack Kemp Hon. Bishop László Tőkés Hon. Edwin Meese III Richard Pipes, Ph.D.	2000 Đoàn Viet Hoat Col. John McKone, USAF (Ret.) Col. Lewis Millett, USA (Ret.) Hon. Orson Swindle Gen. Paik Sun-yup, ROKA (Ret.) Wei Jingsheng Youk Chhang
2008	Midge Decter Hon. Paula J. Dobriansky, Ph.D. Hon. Tom Lantos Hon. Kateryna Yushchenko	1999 Elena Bonner H.E. Philip Dimitrov Lane Kirkland H.E. Vytautas Landsbergis, Ph.D.
2007	William F. Buckley, Jr. Hon. János Horváth Hon. Henry "Scoop" Jackson	

“The seeds of totalitarian regimes are nurtured by misery and want. They spread and grow in the evil soil of poverty and strife. They reach their full growth when the hope of a people for a better life has died. We must keep that hope alive.
- President Harry S. Truman

“Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same.
- President Ronald Reagan

FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS

Total current assets	\$	444,324
Property and equipment, net		1,064,338
Other assets		
Security deposits		25,518
Total assets	\$	1,534,180

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$	116,706
Total current liabilities		116,706
Net assets		
Unrestricted net assets		951,774
Temporarily restricted net assets		465,700
Total net assets		1,417,474
Total liabilities and net assets	\$	1,534,180
Change in net assets from operations		(622,199)
Net realized gain on investments		19,461
Change in net assets		(602,738)
Net assets, December 31, 2016		2,020,212
Net assets, December 31, 2017	\$	1,417,474

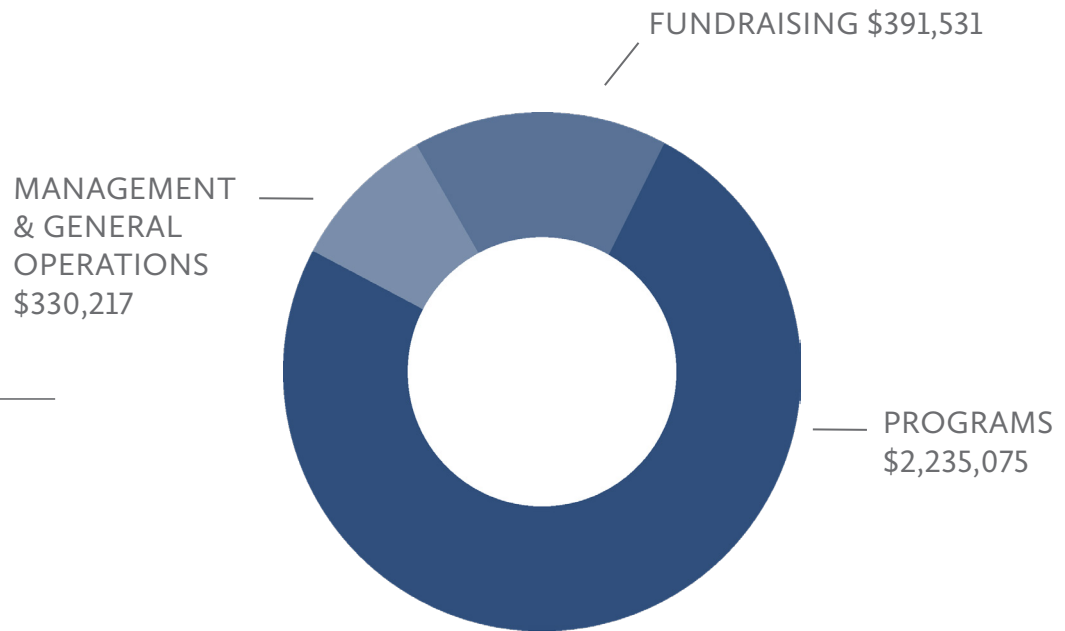
Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation's financial position is based on an independent auditor's report for the fiscal year January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017.

The Foundation did not receive any government funding in 2017.

The Foundation is very grateful to the generosity of its community of stakeholders.

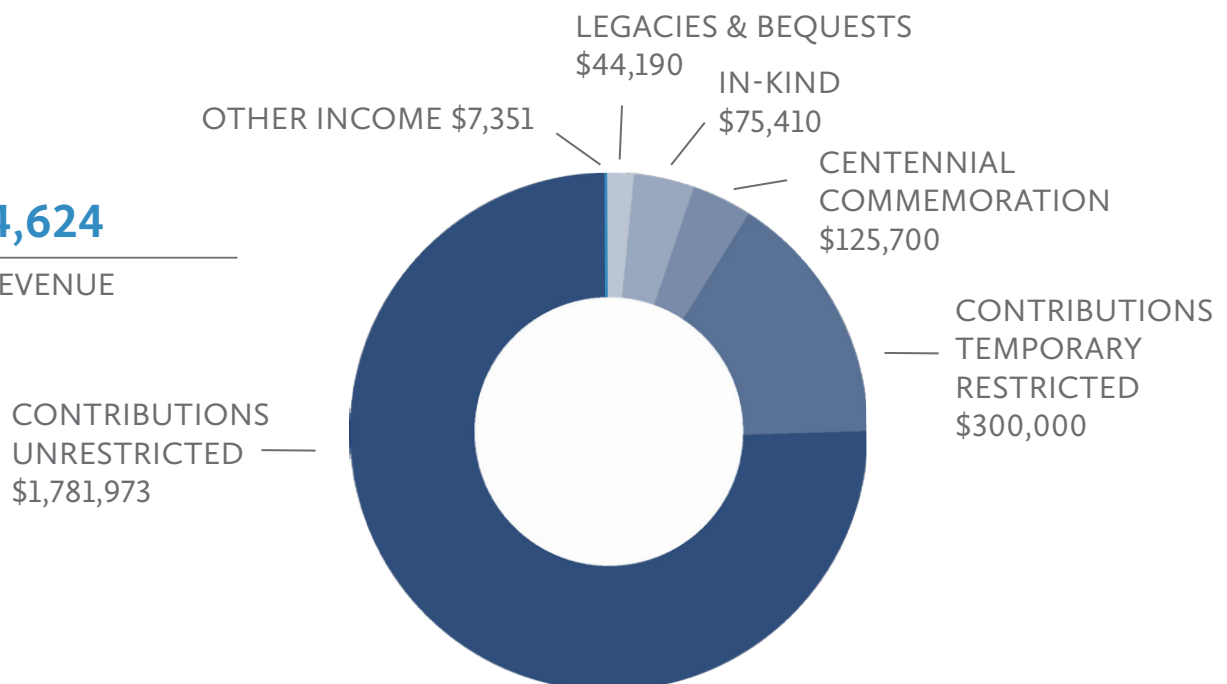
\$2,956,823

TOTAL EXPENSES



\$2,334,624

TOTAL REVENUE





(Standing left to right) Stephen Klein, Brandt and Jessica Anderson, Dan Mauler, Kathryn Ciano, Will and Anna Dunham, Hudson Hollister, Will Boyington, Jenna and David Talbot, and Ryan Mauldin. (Kneeling) Marion and Anna Smith Lacey.

“We at the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation are committed to the fact that as long as there are communists, there will be anticommunists!

—Marion Smith, Executive Director

Victims of Communism Centennial Commemoration, November 9, 2017

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