

# 2022 VOC ANNUAL REPORT



VICTIMS OF COMMUNISM  
MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

## VISION

A world free from the false hope of communism.

## MISSION

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

## OBJECTIVE

Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation (VOC) is an educational, research, and human rights nonprofit organization devoted to commemorating the more than 100 million victims killed by communism around the world and to pursuing the freedom of those still living under totalitarian regimes.





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# A MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

Over 30 years since the end of the Soviet Union, totalitarianism and communism continue to cast their cruel shadow on the world. More than 1.5 billion people—one-fifth of the world's population—still live under communist tyranny.

The Chinese Communist Party perpetuates an ongoing genocide against Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities, the Venezuelan people face massive food shortages caused by Nicolás Maduro's regime, and the people of Ukraine valiantly fight an invasion by Russia orchestrated by a coterie of former communist leaders who have officially stated their desire for the restoration of the old Soviet empire.

Given the atrocities—past and present—being committed by communism, our team at the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation is grateful for the worldwide support of our mission. It is with this support that the Victims of Communism Museum opened its doors in June 2022 and has already hosted thousands of visitors, students, heads of state, diplomatic delegations, and actual victims of communism.

The more than 100 million victims killed by communism cry out: "Remember Us." And we respond saying: We remember you, and all the victims, as we advance the fight for freedom over communism.

**We must never forget the victims of communism.**



A blue ink signature of Elizabeth Spalding, Ph.D.

Elizabeth Spalding, Ph.D.  
Chairman



A blue ink signature of Ambassador Andrew Bremberg.

Ambassador Andrew Bremberg  
President



# 2022 IMPACT: BY THE NUMBERS

In 2022, we  
published:

**2**

Special Reports

**3**

Witness Project Episodes

**4**

Educational Videos

**6**

Student Lectures on Online  
Streamable Learning  
Platform

We launched:

- VOC Museum and Companion Website
- New Web-based Digital Curriculum
- Communism in Film series
- Xinjiang Police Files website, person search tool, & archive

Online, VOC made an impression  
across various platforms:

**61,600**

Twitter Followers

**43,709**

Facebook Followers

**5,500,000**

VOC Website Visits

**1,500,000**

Video Views

**11,000,000**

Impressions on Social Media

Our in-person and  
online events  
educated  
thousands:

**55**

Events

**17,762**

Event Attendees

Our experts made an  
impact in the media:

**2,000+**

Media Mentions

**41**

Op-Eds and Blog Posts

# EDUCATION





# Victims of Communism Museum

The Victims of Communism Museum opened June 13, 2022 and is dedicated to commemorating the more than 100 million victims killed by communism around the world and to those pursuing freedom from totalitarian regimes. Already, thousands of visitors have toured the museum, including school groups, dissidents of communism whose powerful stories are featured in the museum, and ambassadors representing countries now free from communism.

Visiting our Museum is a powerful experience.

Once people visit—particularly young people who have no personal experience living through the repressive communism—they understand what life is really like under communism. As visitors go through the interactive exhibits, they are swept through the history of communism, from the early 20th century to today.

Visitors come away disabused of any notion that communism was well-intentioned or noble. The Victims of Communism Museum continues to serve as a tool to educate the citizens of the US and the world on the false hope of communism.







We gathered with over 200 dignitaries, supporters, partner organizations, and witnesses and victims of communism to mark the historic grand opening of the Victims of Communism Museum. Guests heard from Founding Museum Director, Dr. Elizabeth Spalding, as well as representatives of both the Government of Poland and the Government of Hungary, both countries who made transformative gifts to the start of the Museum.

VOC also awarded our signature Truman-Reagan Medal of Freedom to Dr. Lee Edwards, Founding Chairman of VOC. Edwards has been a leader in the fight for freedom and against communism since he was a graduate student at the Sorbonne in Paris where he witnessed Hungarian students—his own age—launch a revolution in the streets of Budapest that toppled the communist regime. As Co-Founder of VOC, he was instrumental in establishing both the Victims of Communism Memorial and the Victims of Communism Museum.

The Museum opening was covered by dozens of media outlets, including *The Wall Street Journal* and George F. Will in *The Washington Post*. George F. Will wrote of the Museum, "Visitors to the museum will experience a wholesome immersion in the nation's anti-communist success. And they will be reminded that this work is unfinished."

VOC also received congratulations from supporters from around the world on the Museum's opening, including Former Vice President Mike Pence.



**"Thanks to your vision, leadership, commitment, and resolve, generations of Americans will now have a unique opportunity to learn the history and harrowing lessons of communism..."**

*—Mike Pence, Former Vice President of the United States*

## TIANANMEN SQUARE GALLERY EXHIBIT

The Victims of Communism Museum offers temporary gallery space where we highlight, together with partner organizations, significant historical or current atrocities of communism and totalitarianism. Our first installation was an exhibit on the 1989 Tiananmen Square Massacre featuring the largest collection of artifacts from the Massacre in the world. The CCP shuttered the June 4th Museum in Hong Kong several times, so VOC was especially fortunate to work with partner organizations to create an impactful and moving exhibit at our museum in Washington, DC.

Cooperating with the June 4 Massacre Memorial Association, VOC worked extensively with Dan Wang and Fengsou Zhou, the number 1 and number 5 student leaders on the Chinese government's most wanted list, and David Yu, a veteran democracy campaigner to create a series of narrative boards, a documentary film, and showcase numerous physical items, including a blood soaked shirt worn by a protestor who was severely beaten, a tent used in Tiananmen Square by demonstrators, artwork, and protest flags—that illustrated the heroic struggle for democracy in 1989.







## Two New Witness Project Episodes Premiere

### JOACHIM GAUCK

Joachim Gauck was born in Germany, during WWII. When he was 11 years old, his father was arrested and disappeared without a trace. Years would pass before Gauck saw his father, who miraculously survived the forced labor, starvation, and torture of the Soviet Gulag.

Gauck came to prominence as a Lutheran pastor, daring to speak out against East Germany's communist rulers, no matter the cost. Later, as a leader of the East German freedom movement, he aided in a popular opposition to the communist regime, culminating in the Peaceful Revolution of 1989.

Today, Gauck continues to speak out against the evils of communism. In 2019, VOC presented President Gauck with our Truman-Reagan Medal of Freedom Award for his courageous fight against communism.

Watch All Witness Project  
Episodes on YouTube:  
[youtube.com/vocvideos](https://youtube.com/vocvideos)

VOC's Witness Project is an award-winning video series telling the stories of men and women who have seen the brutal effects of communism firsthand. These short documentaries give a human face to the staggering number of victims—more than 100 million killed in 100 years—and help viewers grasp the human cost of socialism and communism. Witness Project episodes have been viewed hundreds of thousands of times on social media and screened at dozens of public events across the US and internationally.





## NURIMAN ABDURESHID

Nuriman Abdureshid was born in Kashgar, in the Xinjiang region of China. She grew up in a small village surrounded by love from her parents and her siblings. Encouraged by her family to further her education, Nur left China in 2014 to attend university in Turkey.

By this time, the Chinese Communist Party had already begun the mass internment of Uyghurs in Xinjiang. One day in 2017 when Nur called home, like she did every day, no one answered. Nur, like countless other Uyghurs, would soon face the horrifying realization that her family had fallen victim to the CCP's crimes against humanity.

Eventually, Nur learned that her family was sent to prison. It would be years later, following the release of the Xinjiang Police Files by VOC, that Nur finally received conclusive documentation about the fates of her mother, father, and two brothers who have been arbitrarily imprisoned in camps for the past five and a half years.

Their sentences range from 13 to 17 years behind bars. Their crime? Being Uyghur in communist China.

Today, Nur continues to advocate for her family while speaking out against the evils of the CCP and the plight of the Uyghurs through her work as a journalist. She currently reports at Radio Free Asia's Uyghur service, where she has made it her life's mission to raise awareness and expose China's Uyghur genocide.

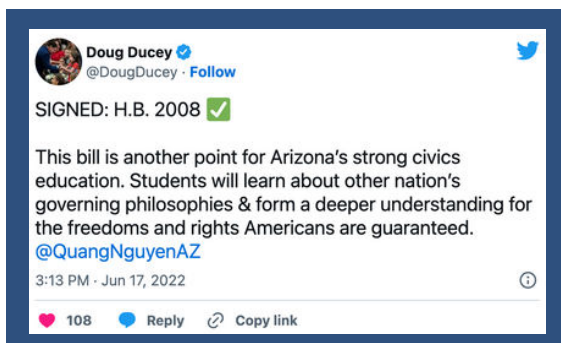
Nur has still not heard from her family.



# Arizona Governor Doug Ducey Signs Victims of Communism Education Bill



On July 6, Arizona became the second state—after Florida—to pass legislation requiring that students be taught about the crimes of communist regimes. The legislation passed the Arizona Senate in June and was signed into law by Arizona Governor Doug Ducey. The legislation requires the State Board of Education to establish and maintain a list of oral history resources to be used along with the civic education standards that provide portraits in patriotism based on first-person accounts of victims of other nations governing philosophies who can compare those philosophies with those of the United States.



VOC is working with legislators around the country to encourage other states to follow Florida and Arizona and adopt similar legislation. The legislation has also been adopted as model policy by the American Legislative Exchange Council, who share model legislation for distribution among state governments across the US.

**"This civics standards update will help ensure that our students are taught the brutal facts of oppressive communist systems and how they are fundamentally antithetical to America's founding principles."**

*—Quang Nguyen, AZ State Representative*

# National Teachers Seminar

From July 18 to 22, we convened our seventh annual National Seminar for Middle & High School Educators both in-person at the VOC Museum and virtually, where teachers from public, private, charter, and home schools gathered for training. Each educator learned how to effectively implement VOC's middle and high school curriculum. The Seminar blends scholarly lectures, peer discussions, teaching techniques, biographical films, live witness testimonials, and dissident interviews to create a one-of-a-kind training program not offered anywhere else in the US.



**"For almost 30 years, VOC has been educating all ages about the horrors of communism. The foundation has trained over 650 middle and high school educators to effectively communicate this complicated history to students.**

**Every year we also connect schools and other organizations with victims and survivors of communist regimes through our annual National Teachers Seminar and host visits to our new museum to educate these groups and the public by sharing their powerful stories."**

*—Amb. Andrew Bremberg, VOC President*

We are now near completion of our goal to launch an online version of our seminar, allowing teachers worldwide to take our seminar at their own pace and fulfill their professional development requirements, enabling us to boost our teacher alumni from the hundreds into the thousands.

Our professionally filmed lectures and our online course has created a multifaceted learning experience that is being uploaded to LearnDash online learning system for unlimited access to educators. Starting January 2023, any teacher worldwide can take our course free of charge and receive 24 hours of professional development credit.



## Expanded Web-Based Curriculum Released



VOC is proud to offer a reimagined approach for rising generations of teachers and students to study the violent past and enduring legacy of communism through our new digital curriculum, *Communism: A History of Repression, Violence, and Victims*.

Building on the impact of VOC's past curriculum, this newly revised curriculum provides 10 sections and 33 chapters of material. Each chapter contains its own set of classroom activities, including brand-new, digitally focused supplementary resources such as videos, suggested books, and podcasts. This curriculum allows educators to teach to different student learning styles—visual, auditory, reading/writing, and kinesthetic—making absorption of the material more impactful.

The curriculum exposes the truth behind the brutal ideology, history, and legacy of communism.

**"The content of the curriculum covers a myriad of topics from Communism 101 and the basic theory and ideology to the nations that are still suffering under the yoke of communism today."**

*—Dr. Elizabeth Spalding, VOC Chairman and Editor of the VOC Curriculum*

# Educating Globally Through Streamable Learning

This year, VOC partnered with Streamable Learning, an educational platform that provides live and interactive presentations for middle and high school teachers and students, to provide educational resources on communism to teachers and students who are part of Streamable Learning in 720 school districts across the US and Canada.

VOC affiliated experts hosted six lectures on topics including Communism 101, Marxism, Totalitarianism, and The Cold War, which have garnered over 650 classroom views since our launch in the fall of 2021.

## *“IDEOLOGIES AND METHODS OF RULE: COMMUNISM 101”*



Dr. Elizabeth Spalding, VOC Chairman, is a Senior Fellow at the Pepperdine University School of Public Policy. In this lecture, Dr. Spalding lays out the ideological foundations of communism, its important figures and documents, and the key events surrounding the rise of communism such as the Bolshevik Revolution and Stalin's infamous Moscow Speech.

## *“TOTALITARIANISM” WITH DR. F. FLAGG TAYLOR IV*

Dr. F. Flagg Taylor IV serves on VOC's Academic Council and is an Associate Professor of government at Skidmore College. In this lecture, Dr. Taylor teaches on totalitarianism and ideology, demonstrating to students how ideology explains the way a totalitarian regime behaves. He aims to educate students on the variety of means employed by communist regimes to achieve their political goals, and why regimes of the 20th century felt justified in using the tyrannical measures that they did.





## St. Louis Commission Continues Local Education

The Victims of Communism - St. Louis Commission (VOC-STL) hosted its second annual Loyalty Day event. This year's event was in support of the people of Ukraine to stand against the actions of Vladimir Putin. Speakers included local residents from Ukraine, Cuba, and China who spoke to their experience living under communism and the importance of standing up for freedom. Special guest, Missouri Senator Steve Roberts, spoke about his support of the VOC-STL mission and sponsorship of SCR 24, establishing Victims of Communism Memorial Day in Missouri on November 7th, and other bills providing funding to refugees.

Attendees gathered at the Artist Art venue on historic Cherokee Street for a day of recognition, information, and education on the situation in Ukraine as well as the events leading to the current war. The Ukrainian community in St. Louis has been very active in hosting rallies, fundraisers, and other events to bring awareness and generate support.

Given the rise of interest in socialism amongst young Americans, including organized socialist and communist activity in St. Louis, the importance of this mission was evident throughout the event. After sharing their harrowing experiences before and during the current war, three of the Ukrainian speakers pleaded with attendees to never support communism and to do everything possible to push back against communist activity. Speakers from Cuba and China, an exiled Cuban author and Chinese American who was arrested in Beijing for distributing flyers, underscored the importance of fighting against communist ideology.



# 15th Annual Roll Call of Nations Wreath Laying Ceremony & Presentation of the Dissident Human Rights Award

On June 10, representatives from 15 embassies, 3 delegations, and 42 ethnic and human rights organizations gathered together in person and virtually with leaders of VOC for the 15th annual Roll Call of Nations Wreath Laying Ceremony & Dissident Human Rights Award Presentation at the Victims of Communism Memorial.

This year, we presented our Dissident Human Rights Award to Alexei Navalny, the pro-democracy Russian political opposition leader, politician, and lawyer. Early in 2022, Mr. Navalny was sentenced to a maximum security prison in a "penal colony" facility by the Putin regime.

Anna Veduta, a colleague of Alexei Navalny, accepted the award from VOC President, Amb. Andrew Bremberg, on Mr. Navalny's behalf.

Ms. Veduta said at the ceremony, "Having spent more than a year in a prison camp, sentenced to nine years more in a maximum-security prison, formally facing another fifteen years behind the bars, and having no illusions that his term is anything other than a life term, Alexei Navalny is the freest man in today's Russia. Because it is impossible to take away the freedom of someone who is free in their mind."





“The iron doors slam shut behind me with a deafening clang, but I feel like a free man. The truth is on our side.”

—Alexei Navalny, *Dissident Human Rights Award Recipient*





# RESEARCH



# Corporate Complicity Scorecard

In February, VOC released a groundbreaking report assessing US companies' ties to Beijing's human rights abuses, the CCP surveillance state, and China's military modernization. US private sector companies have found themselves at the center of US-China geopolitical tension as they strive to capture Chinese markets and increase their profits. This has led to some corporations engaging in political lobbying which ultimately serves Beijing's interests and could potentially undermine the values and principles of the western democratic order.

To address these concerns, VOC published the Corporate Complicity Scorecard. The scorecard presents broad-ranging assessments of American corporations' involvement in China and grades them based on a transparent and replicable methodology. The report was authored by Horizon Advisory, a strategic consultancy focused on the assessment of geopolitical, technological, and economic change, with contributions and peer reviewed by Dr. Adrian Zenz, VOC's Director and Senior Fellow in China Studies. The authors reviewed eight well-known firms: Amazon, Apple, Dell, Facebook, GE, Google, Intel, and Microsoft. Hundreds of primary and secondary sources were fed into 12 indicator categories related to operations and partnerships to create their score.



This research does not assume that doing business in China is inherently wrong. However, support for Beijing's military modernization, surveillance state, and human rights violations may contradict professed corporate ethics, mislead consumers, and risk violating relevant laws in the US and elsewhere. Companies who do substantial business with China need to reassess their role—not just the benefit they receive, but the degree to which they could be aiding China's abusive domestic and international policies.



# Organ Harvesting Research Paper

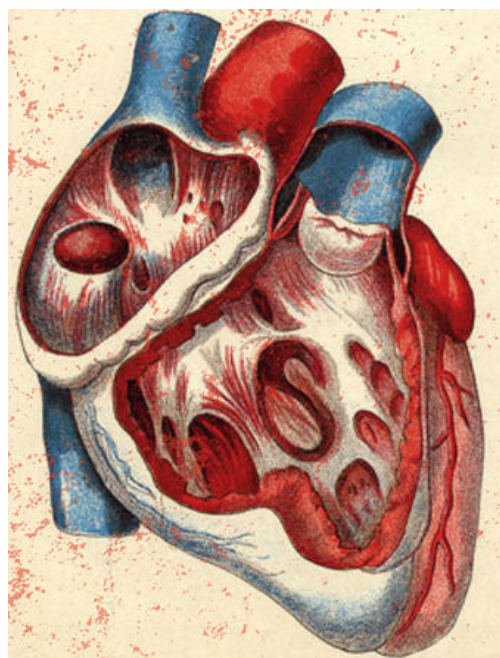
In April, a groundbreaking report detailing how Chinese doctors are executing prisoners by organ extraction, authored by Matthew P. Robertson, VOC's China Studies Fellow, and Dr. Jacob Lavee, director of the Heart Transplantation Unit at the Sheba Medical Centre in Israel, was published in *The American Journal of Transplantation*, the top journal in the transplantation field.

The report authors examined over 120,000 Chinese-language medical publications and uncovered evidence that medical professionals in China removed organs from living humans for the purposes of transplants. This process killed each individual. Many of those killed were political prisoners and prisoners of conscience.

The authors conducted a computational text analysis of 124,770 Chinese-language transplant publications to investigate the dead donor rule as practiced in China. They found evidence in 71 of these reports that brain death could not have properly been declared, suggesting that physicians in the China have participated in executions by organ removal. This finding converges the topics of organ transplant ethics and capital prisoner executions.

Mr. Robertson brought the issue of forced organ harvesting out of the realm of rumor and speculation to truth through his diligent research based on sophisticated data science methods. His report uncovered the hard evidence that physicians in China were intimately involved in a gruesome practice of killing live prisoners for organs.

The practice of forced organ harvesting breaks two long-established taboos in medicine: the dead donor rule, which forbids extracting transplant organs from living donors, and the injunction against physicians participating in executions. These practices violate medical ethics and assault human dignity and the sanctity of life. Only under a predatory government with little transparency, accountability, or rule of law could such practices persist.



**“Our findings end in 2015, but we think the abuse likely continues. Medical papers like those we studied were first unearthed by Chinese grass-roots investigators in late 2014, and it would have been simple to command journals to stop publishing the incriminating details after that. While China claims to have stopped using prisoners in 2015, our previous research raises doubts.”**

—Matthew P. Robertson and Dr. Jacob Lavee in *The Wall Street Journal* op-ed

# “No TSP for the CCP” Coalition

In April, VOC co-launched the “No TSP for the CCP” Coalition of organizations dedicated to countering and educating Americans about the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board (FRTIB)’s renewed efforts to include Beijing-controlled companies in the federal Thrift Savings Plan (TSP), the world's largest defined-contribution retirement fund with over \$730 billion in assets, thus putting the savings of hundreds of thousands of federal employees towards complicity with CCP atrocities.

Without White House or Congressional intervention, federal employees' retirement savings are in jeopardy.

In 2019, the FRTIB tried to include CCP-controlled companies in the Thrift Savings Plan. A bipartisan effort in Congress stopped it. But Wall Street is back, claiming they want to give TSP investors more choices. While VOC supports informed choices, we believe TSP investors have a right to know if the funds they are buying include CCP-controlled companies.

**"The coalition, using data compiled in June by advocacy group the Coalition for a Prosperous America, looked into five of the larger international mutual funds offered by Fidelity, State Street, BlackRock, Vanguard Group and Dimensional Fund Advisors. The group found that the funds were weighted 14% to 33% toward Chinese securities. They found companies that face allegations of engaging in forced labor of the Uyghurs. They also found a number of companies in the funds that appear on two government lists—the Defense Department list of companies linked to the Chinese military or the Commerce Department’s “entity list” of companies subject to trade sanctions.”**

*—The Wall Street Journal, August 3, 2022*







# XINJIANG POLICE FILES

[www.xinjiangpolicefiles.org](http://www.xinjiangpolicefiles.org)

## Xinjiang Police Files

In May, VOC released a bombshell report based on the to-date largest and most significant leak of internal documents directly from within the Xinjiang police networks. The “Xinjiang Police Files” consists of tens of thousands of files containing extensive incriminating details from inside China’s internment camp system.

For the first time, the files provide researchers with thousands of images of detained Uyghurs, as well as photos of police guards wielding automatic weapons and handcuffing and shackling detainees during camp security drills. The files also contain unusually candid speeches reflecting the state of mind of leading officials. They show Xinjiang’s former Party Secretary Chen Quanguo’s impassioned demands to treat persons from ethnic groups like dangerous criminals, to prevent any camp escapes, and to readily open fire to stop escapees and to safeguard the camps—outlining the extremes to which the CCP has gone to enforce stability maintenance goals.

A classified speech by China’s minister of public security, a leading central government official, directly states that Xi Jinping gave orders to provide Xinjiang’s overcrowded detention facilities with more security guards and funding, and to expand the region’s prison and internment system. The files show that Beijing considers “over two million” Uyghurs to be impacted by “extremist” religious thought, and therefore potential targets for re-education. Police spreadsheets indicate that in 2018, over 12 percent of the adult population of one majority-Uyghur county was in an internment facility.

The files were obtained from a confidential third-party who had access to inside confidential internal Xinjiang police computer networks, and the files have been authenticated and analyzed by VOC's Dr. Adrian Zenz, a foremost scholar on the Xinjiang internment campaign, in a peer-reviewed academic paper published in the respected *Journal of the European Association for Chinese Studies* and a second paper published in the online magazine ChinaFile.



Since 2017, Chinese authorities have detained between one and two million Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities in the Xinjiang Region in what Chinese Communist Party officials have labeled “vocational skills education and training centers.” The new evidence conclusively refutes these claims and shows the extent to which the central government in Beijing has been directly involved in masterminding and supporting the campaign of mass internment.

In November, the release of this information prompted the UN to respond and release a report. The report details what it calls “serious human rights violations” and concludes that the “extent of arbitrary and discriminatory detention of members of Uyghur and other predominantly Muslim groups...may constitute international crimes, in particular crimes against humanity.”

**“These findings are significant because they provide us with frank policy implementation directives along with the thought processes and intentions that made them a reality. This gives an unprecedented look into the personal attitudes of Chinese authorities and the personal involvement of Xi Jinping. Documents with this kind of insight have never before been published and their revelations are very disturbing.”**

*—Dr. Adrian Zenz, VOC Director and Senior Fellow in China Studies*



# VOC Polish Studies Fellows Present Research on Witold Pilecki and Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński

In partnership with the Polish National Foundation, VOC operates a Polish Studies Program consisting of two 10-month residential research fellowships to support publications and events aimed at understanding Polish history. Understanding how totalitarian systems oppressed the Polish people and how free government was re-established in their wake better ensures our present and future endeavors to defend liberty against the ideas and forces of tyranny.

This year, Monika Jablonska is serving as Senior Research Fellow. Jablonska, a noted scholar, lawyer, international affairs expert, and prolific author, is conducting research on the life and legacy of Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński: The Primate of the Millennium and Giant against Communism.

Agnes Tycner, 2021-22 Research Fellow, recently graduated from the Institute of World Politics with an M.A. in Statecraft and International Affairs, where she focused on Central and Eastern Europe and Russia. Ms. Tycner received her B.A. in Economics at Colorado State University where her work and experience was community focused.



Ms. Tycner's research at VOC focused on Pope John Paul II's role and impact on the fall of communism throughout the 1980s and early 1990s, as well as how these lessons can be applied in contemporary times. She examined how John Paul II fought communism by restoring human dignity and renewing a lost hope among people.



Ms. Tycner published a series of articles depicting "20 Interesting Facts about Pope John Paul II's Life" to help people better understand the story behind the man who is greatly remembered for his spiritual and political role in the collapse of communism in Central and Eastern Europe. The impact that Pope John Paul II's words and courage brought to Poland during his 1979 pilgrimage eventually spread to various nations throughout the whole world.

## Eighth Annual China Forum Conference

On December 6, VOC held its eighth annual China Forum convening scholars, international affairs experts, and policymakers in the areas of trade and economics, foreign policy and security, and human rights and political development to participate in hard-hitting discussions about the increasingly aggressive nature of the People's Republic of China, the CCP, and key issues in US-China relations. This year's China Forum was viewed by an in-person and virtual audience of over 4,600 people who heard from the world's leading experts on the use of Chinese technology in US markets, China's murderous ethnic policies, the growing tension on multiple fronts between the US and China, Uyghur forced labor, and the CCP's manipulation of international finance.



The keynote address was given by Daniel Tobin, China Studies Faculty at the National Intelligence University.

**"The kind of work VOC is doing to educate about the history of communism and the contemporary practice of Marxist Leninist politics in the PRC can play an important role in shoring up our own commitment to protecting democratic values."**

*—Daniel Tobin, National Intelligence University*

Ahead of the Forum, on December 5 at the Victims of Communism Museum, we hosted with Campaign for Uyghurs a special screening and panel discussion of the documentary film "In Search of My Sister" featuring the story of renowned Uyghur activist Rushan Abbas.

Filmed in over a dozen countries, "In Search of My Sister" tells how Rushan Abbas' sister is one of 1.8-3 million Uyghurs taken by the Chinese Communist Party.

VOC is grateful for community of donors who sponsor our annual China Forum. Without their continued support, VOC cannot produce events of this caliber. We'd like to especially thank the Diana Davis Spencer Foundation and the Taiwan Foundation for Democracy for their transformative gifts this year.





# HUMAN RIGHTS





# Diplomatic Boycott of Beijing Olympics

Ahead of the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics, VOC gathered at the U.S. Capitol to denounce the atrocities and grave human rights abuses being committed by the Chinese government—with human rights allies, Members of Congress, representatives of international governments, and athletes who have supported the diplomatic boycott of the Beijing Winter Olympics. Uyghur, Hong Kong, and Tibetan activists and representatives of other ethnic and religious groups in China shared personal stories about the brutal oppression they have witnessed and experienced.



Human rights allies denounced the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for awarding the 2022 Winter Games to Beijing despite evidence of China's ongoing human rights abuses. The top corporate sponsors of the Olympic Games—Airbnb, Alibaba, Allianz, Atos, Bridgestone, Coca-Cola, Intel, Omega, Panasonic, P&G, Samsung, Toyota, and Visa—were also denounced for failing to fulfill their human rights due diligence responsibilities and VOC urged them to immediately disclose their human rights due diligence strategies or explain their failure to carry out such assessments. Both the IOC and corporate sponsors were challenged to protect athletes from the “certain punishment” that the Beijing Organizing Committee had threatened against those who may make statements protesting the Chinese government's abuse of human rights.



# First Lady Zelenska Accepts the 2022 Dissident Human Rights Award

Each July, VOC champions National Captive Nations Week, in fulfillment of the 1959 congressional resolution adopted during the Eisenhower administration to show American solidarity with nations subjugated by communism.

This year, VOC was honored to have Mrs. Olena Zelenska, the First Lady of Ukraine, at our Museum in DC to accept VOC's Dissident Human Rights Award on behalf of the people of Ukraine for their brave fight for freedom against Russia's war of aggression. Mrs. Zelenska's arduous journey to the US to accept this award shows the strength of the Ukrainian people against communism and illustrates why the mission of VOC is relevant today.



"Communism is just another form of totalitarianism."

—Mrs. Olena Zelenska, First Lady of Ukraine







Our Summit focused on Ukraine—both its struggle for liberty against Russia's onslaught, as well as the lessons of Ukraine for captive nations around the world. Featured speakers included: Scott Busby, Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor at the U.S. Department of State; Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (D-OH), Congressional Ukraine Caucus Co-Chair and VOC Caucus Co-Chair; Ambassador Paula Dobriansky, Senior Fellow at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government; and Michael Sawkiw, Jr., Executive Vice President and Director, Ukrainian Congress Committee of America.

In her acceptance remarks, First Lady Zelenska commented, "There are three photographs of Ukrainian dissidents who are exhibited in the halls of this museum...Ukrainians are going through all this pain again as a result of Russia's aggression. The 20th century is repeating this in its worst and ugliest forms."

**"In fact, it is a worldwide fight for freedom and democracy. For that Madame Zelenska, we commend you and your husband for his brave leadership and all the people of Ukraine."**

*—Edwin J. Feulner, Ph.D., Chairman Emeritus*

Cementing the importance of Captive Nations Week, President Joe Biden remarked in his Presidential Proclamation, "As Russia relentlessly wages its brutal and unprovoked war against the people of Ukraine, our Nation has led a global response to hold Russia accountable and denounce its inhumanity and its contempt for international law. We honor the valor and sacrifice of the people of Ukraine, who have reminded the world through their courage of the universal yearning for freedom. We will continue to stand with them as they defend their country, their liberty, and their democracy."



# VOC Helps Key Xinjiang Concentration Camp Survivor Escape to Give First-Person Witness Testimony

VOC partnered with IPVM, a video security and surveillance research group, to host a press conference with a Xinjiang concentration camp survivor, Ovalbek Turdakun, and his family. The Turdakun family are Christians originally from Kyrgyzstan who safely arrived in the United States on April 8 thanks to the help of VOC and IPVM. Turdakun is the first Christian and first ethnic Kyrgyz to survive China's concentration camps.

Since 2014, Xi Jinping's Chinese government has carried out systematic genocide against Uyghurs, Kazakhs, and other Turkic Muslim Populations in China. In 2018, Chinese authorities seized Turdakun in front of his wife and child with no just cause or due process. Turdakun was then imprisoned by the CCP for 10 months in a Xinjiang labor camp where he was subjected to unspeakable gross human rights violations, including torture and forced medical procedures which had debilitating effects on his major motor functions. After his unexpected release, Turdakun fled with his wife and 11-year-old son to Kyrgyzstan, where CCP officials actively sought their return to Xinjiang.

At the press conference, Turdakun provided in precise and vivid detail the mental, physical, and emotional torture to which he was subjected while imprisoned in a Chinese Communist government-run labor camp in Xinjiang. He detailed how Chinese companies such as Hikivision set up cameras throughout the camp to track and monitor every movement of the detainees. He also explained that he and his other 22 cell mates were given unidentified injections, herbal tea, and

pills which caused painful and severe reactions. Turdakun experienced full-body rashes, nerve pain, eye aches, and serious vision problems because of these procedures.



VOC President, Amb. Andrew Bremberg, commended Turdakun for his “sheer bravery few possess” and for his “sacrifice for the sake of delivering justice for his people.”

# VOC Contributes To Cuban Exhibit At Miami Art Week

Last fall, VOC collaborated with the Cuban Art Show at Freedom Basel during Miami Art Week. During the event, art presentations from Cuban dissidents were presented to the visitors and the cultural experience attracted a large number of the Cuban diaspora community.



Among the exhibits was VOC's homage to the Cuban protests of July 11, 2021 which was a transcendent event for the Cuban nation and its fight in defense of human rights. Amongst the exhibits were "IMMERSIVE CUBA," an immersive experience that stems from the tradition of video art and avant-garde cinema to stimulate the senses and perception of the viewer and bring them closer to the reality of life in Cuba, and "Schrödinger's Cat II" by the Cuban artist and political prisoner Luis Manuel Otero Alcántara, which served as an international call from prison as tribute to prisoners of conscience through graffiti tally marks of time under detention.

The event highlighted the false narrative of the Cuban regime against artists as they fight for freedom through creative endeavors. VOC also worked with Umbrella Basel to display dissident Cuban works of art. This art exposition included art pieces from Cuban dissidents inside and outside of Cuba in one of the largest art galleries during Miami Art Week.



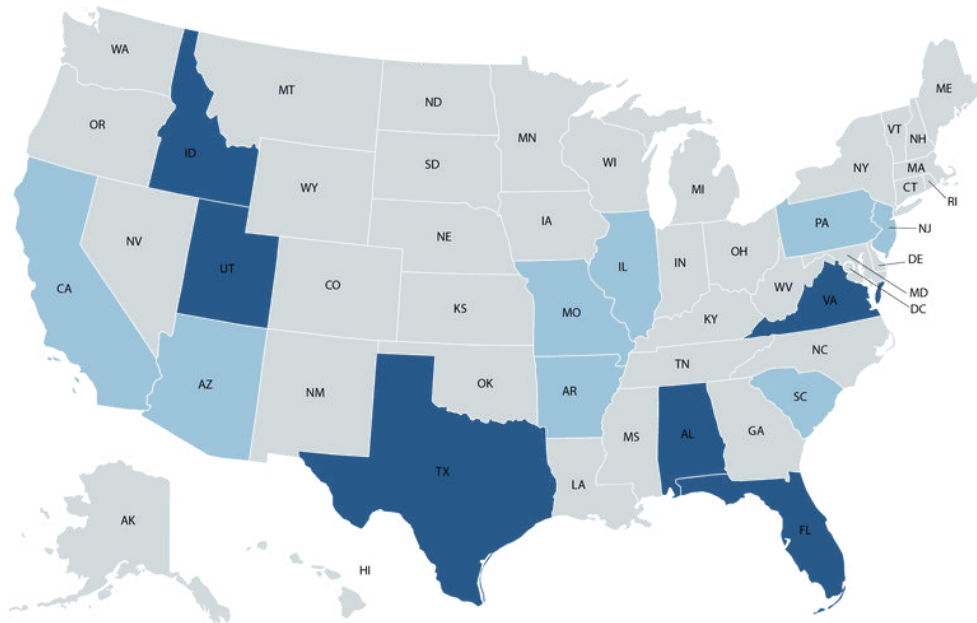
# Florida Adopts Victims of Communism Memorial Day

Each year on November 7, VOC marks the National Day for the Victims of Communism to remember those who have suffered and died at the hands of communist regimes in the past, and to stand for those who are fighting for freedom today.

In May, Florida's Governor, Ron DeSantis, signed the Victims of Communism Memorial Day bill (HB 395) into law, becoming the sixth state to recognize VOC Day. In addition to naming a day of remembrance, Florida HB 395 will require all high school students enrolled in a US Government course to learn about the history of communism and the dangers of communist dictators beginning in the 2023-2024 school year.

**“Today, I established November 7th as Victims of Communism Day to honor those who have suffered under communism and remind people of the destruction communism has caused worldwide, including a death toll exceeding 100 million. In Florida, we will tell the truth about communism.”**

*—Florida Governor Ron DeSantis*



To date, Alabama, Utah, Idaho, Virginia, Texas, and now Florida have each passed resolutions to officially recognize November 7 as “Victims of Communism Memorial Day.” Eight other states—Arizona, Arkansas, California, Illinois, Missouri, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and South Carolina—are moving to do the same.



# VOC HONORS



# Truman-Reagan Medal of Freedom Laureates

*The Truman-Reagan Medal of Freedom is awarded to those who have demonstrated a lifelong commitment to freedom and democracy and opposition to communism and all other forms of tyranny.*

2022 Lee Edwards, Ph.D.	2011 The Hon. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen H.E. Vaira Vīķe-Freiberga John C. Whitehead	2004 Lockheed Martin Corporation Rep. John Shimkus Maj. Gen. John Singlaub, U.S.A. (Ret.)
2021 Jimmy Lai		
2020 José Daniel Ferrer Garcia	2010 Robert Conquest The Hon. Armando Valladares Harry Wu H.E. Emanuelis Zingeris	2003 H.E. Václav Havel National Endowment for Democracy Michael Novak
2019 Col. Gail S. Halvorsen, U.S.A.F. (Ret.) Tiananmen Mothers H.E. Joseph Cardinal Zen	2009 Rep. Steny Hoyer The Hon. Jack Kemp The Hon. Bishop László Tőkés The Hon. Edwin Meese III Richard Pipes, Ph.D.	2002 The Hon. Philip M. Crane The Hon. Hae Yung Chung The Hon. Joseph Lieberman H.E. Viktor Orbán
2018 H.E. Valdas Adamkus H.E. Sandra Kalniete, MEP H.E. Tunne Kelam, MEP Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas	2008 Midge Decter Amb. Paula J. Dobriansky, Ph.D. The Hon. Tom Lantos The Hon. Kateryna Yushchenko	2001 Vladimir Bukovsky The Hon. Jesse Helms
2017 H.E. Mart Laar, Ph.D. Memorial Society The Hon. Natan Sharansky	2007 William F. Buckley, Jr. The Hon. János Horváth The Hon. Henry "Scoop" Jackson The Hon. Dana Rohrabacher Tran Văn Bá	2000 Đoàn Viet Hoat, Ph.D. Col. John McKone, U.S.A.F. (Ret.) Col. Lewis Millett, U.S.A. (Ret.) The Hon. Orson Swindle Gen. Paik Sun-yup, ROKA (Ret.) Wei Jingsheng Youk Chhang
2016 Paul A. Goble		1999 Elena Bonner H.E. Philip Dimitrov Lane Kirkland H.E. Vytautas Landsbergis, Ph.D.
2015 Chen Guangcheng Guillermo Fariñas Alexander Podrabinek	2006 Edwin J. Feulner, Ph.D. The Hon. Milada Horáková H.E. Lech Wałęsa	
2014 Mustafa Dzhemilev Myroslav Marynovych	2005 Pope Saint John Paul II The Hon. Lev E. Dobriansky Lt. Gen. Edward L. Rowny, U.S.A. (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.		
2012 The Hon. Donald Rumsfeld H.E. Stanislav Shushkevich		



## LEE EDWARDS, PH.D.

Dr. Lee Edwards first learned anti-communism at home. He was born in Chicago, Illinois, to Leila and Willard—a Chicago Tribune reporter—and raised in Silver Spring, Maryland.

The Hungarian Revolution of 1956 made the victims of communism all too real. As a graduate student at the Sorbonne in Paris, Edwards witnessed Hungarian students—his own age—launch a revolution in the streets of Budapest that toppled the communist regime. As Soviet tanks crushed the Freedom Fighters, Edwards was appalled by the West’s lack of response and made a lifelong pledge to oppose communism.

Since then, Edwards has been a leader in the fight for freedom and against communism. He helped found Young Americans for Freedom in 1960 and was the first editor of YAF’s magazine, *New Guard*. He served as director of public information for Barry Goldwater’s 1964 presidential campaign. He started or helped sustain key anti-communist organizations, such as the National Captive Nations Committee, the Committee for a Free China, and the American Council for World Freedom. Edwards is also the author or editor of over 25 books, including biographies of President Ronald Reagan, Senator Barry Goldwater, Dr. Walter Judd, and William F. Buckley, Jr.



In 1990, while at Sunday brunch, the Edwards family resolved that an organization was needed to memorialize all the victims of communism around the world and to educate Americans about the atrocities of communism. Soon after, Edwards and Dr. Lev Dobriansky co-founded the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation, which was authorized by a unanimous Act of Congress and signed into law by President Bill Clinton on December 17, 1993. Years of commitment resulted in the Victims of Communism Memorial, which was erected on Capitol Hill and dedicated by President George W. Bush on June 12, 2007.

Today, Edwards continues to fight for freedom and against communism. He is Founding Chairman of the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation and Founding Chairman of the Victims of Communism Museum, which opened to the public on June 13, 2022. He also served as a Distinguished Fellow in Conservative Thought at the Heritage Foundation and is an adjunct professor of politics at the Catholic University of America. Lee Edwards and his late wife Anne have two daughters and 11 grandchildren.

# Dissident Human Rights Award Laureates

*The Dissident Human Rights Award is given to activists and dissidents of Captive Nations for their bravery in standing for human rights and freedom in the face of communist tyranny.*

2022  
The People of Ukraine

2021  
Movimiento San Isidro  
Alexei Navalny

2020  
Ilham Tohti

2019  
Chen Qiushi

2018  
Mother Mushroom

2017  
Fang Zheng

2016  
Sirley Ávila León

2015  
Dolkun Isa





## 2021 LAUREATE

### ALEXEI NAVALNY

Alexei Navalny is a Russian opposition leader, politician, lawyer, and anti-corruption activist. He came to international prominence by organizing demonstrations, and running for office, to advocate reforms against corruption in Russia, Russian President Vladimir Putin, and Putin's government. Navalny has been described as "the man Vladimir Putin fears most" by The Wall Street Journal. Navalny is a Russian Opposition Coordination Council member, the leader of the Russia of the Future party and the founder of the Anti-Corruption Foundation (FBK).

Navalny publishes materials about corruption in Russia, organizes political demonstrations, and promotes his campaigns through his YouTube channel and Twitter account. In a 2011 radio interview, he described Russia's ruling

party United Russia as a "party of crooks and thieves," which became a popular epithet. Navalny and the FBK have published investigations detailing alleged corruption by high-ranking Russian officials.

Navalny has been arrested several times by Russian authorities, ran in the Moscow mayoral election in 2013, and tried to run for President of Russia during the 2018 election but was barred by Russia's Central Electoral Commission and later the Supreme Court of Russia due to a criminal conviction.

On August 20, 2020, Navalny was hospitalized in serious condition after he was poisoned with a nerve agent during a flight from Tomsk to Moscow. He was medically evacuated to Berlin and discharged on September 22. Russian prosecutors have refused to open a criminal investigation into the matter. The EU and the UK responded by imposing sanctions on six senior Russian officials and a state chemical center. On January 17, 2021, he returned to Russia, where he was immediately detained in Moscow on accusations of violating terms of a suspended jail sentence.



## 2022 LAUREATE

### THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE

On February 24, 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine in a major escalation of the Russo-Ukrainian War, which began in 2014. The invasion has likely resulted in tens of thousands of deaths on both sides. It has caused Europe's largest refugee crisis since World War II. An estimated 8 million Ukrainians were displaced within their country by late May and 7.8 million fled the country by November 2022, while Russia, within five weeks of the invasion, experienced its greatest emigration since the 1917 October Revolution.



The invasion has received widespread international condemnation. The United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution condemning the invasion and demanding a full withdrawal of Russian forces. The International Court of Justice ordered Russia to suspend military operations and the Council of Europe expelled Russia. Many countries have imposed economic sanctions on Russia, as well as on its ally Belarus, and have provided humanitarian and military aid to Ukraine, totaling over \$80 billion from 40 countries as of August 2022. Protests occurred around the world; those in Russia were met with mass arrests and increased media censorship, including a ban on the words "war" and "invasion." Over 1,000 companies have pulled out of Russia and Belarus in response to the invasion. The International Criminal Court has opened an investigation into crimes against humanity in Ukraine since 2013, including war crimes in the 2022 invasion.

This July, during our Captive Nations Summit, VOC honored the People of Ukraine with our Dissident Human Rights Award. The First Lady of Ukraine, Mrs. Olena Zelenska, accepted the award on behalf of the people of Ukraine for their brave fight for freedom against Russia's war of aggression. VOC honored the People of Ukraine for their unprecedented resistance and fighting spirit shown against the Russian invader, whose aggression has drawn near-unanimous international condemnation.

**"We send a strong warning to the world: Remember the darkest past can be easily repeated. In certain places, the darkness has never faded away. It just figured out how to operate more advanced weaponry and use social media. We are not only fighting for our freedom today, we are also fighting so that Stalin's great terror will no longer be repeated anywhere in the civilized world."**

**—Mrs. Olena Zelenska, First Lady of Ukraine**



# Financial Position

## FY 2021

### ASSETS

Total current assets	\$1,993,819
Property and equipment, net	\$8,260,458
Other assets	\$6,899,701
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$17,153,978</b>

### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current liabilities	
Current liabilities	\$491,064
Accrued expense	\$12,849
Deferred rent & Other Liabilities	\$5,785,167
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>\$6,289,080</b>

Net assets	
With/Without donor restrictions	\$10,864,898

<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>\$10,864,898</b>
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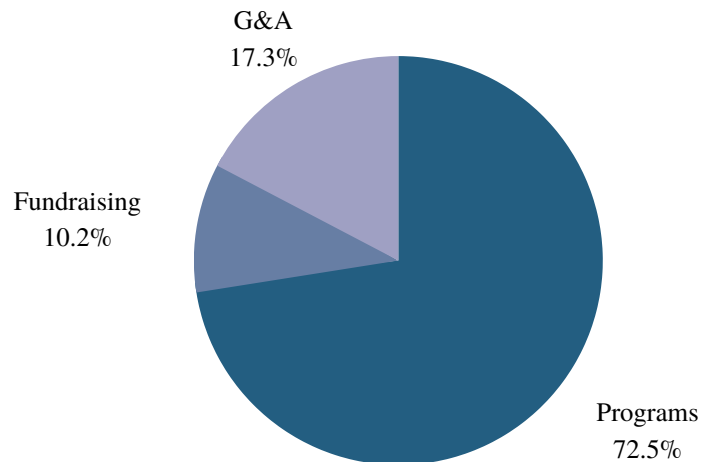
<b>Total liabilities and net assets</b>	<b>\$17,153,978</b>
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Total revenues and support	\$4,237,090
Total expenses and losses	\$5,698,400

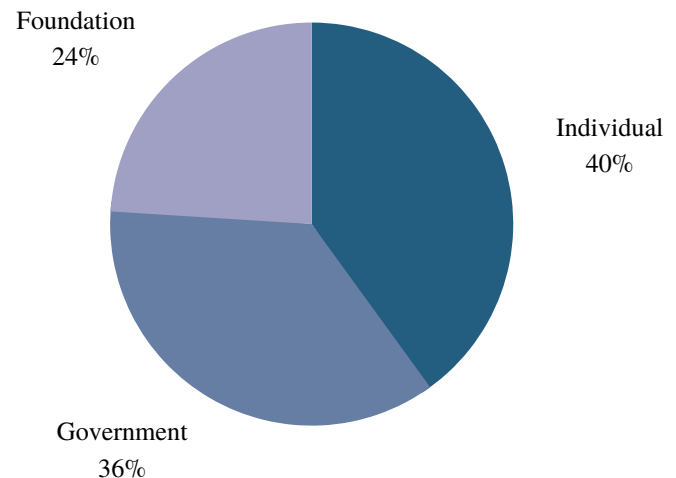
Change in net assets	(\$1,461,310)
Net assets, December 31, 2020	\$12,326,208

<b>Net assets, December 31, 2021</b>	<b>\$10,864,898</b>
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### Total Expenses \$5,698,400



### Total Revenue \$4,237,090



*Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation's financial position is based on an independent audit for the fiscal year January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021. The Foundation is grateful for the generosity of its stakeholders.*



# VICTIMS OF COMMUNISM MUSEUM

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MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

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