

A bronze statue of a woman, likely a victim of communism, holding a torch aloft in her right hand. The statue is set against a blue sky background with some trees and a building visible in the distance.

**VICTIMS OF COMMUNISM
MEMORIAL FOUNDATION**

**2024
ANNUAL REPORT**

MISSION

To educate all generations about the ideology, history, and legacy of communism and to advocate for the freedom of those still held captive by communist regimes.

OVERVIEW

The Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation (VOC) is an educational, research, and human rights nonprofit organization authorized by a unanimous Act of the U.S. Congress and signed as Public Law 103-199 by President William J. Clinton on December 17, 1993. On June 12, 2007, President George W. Bush dedicated the Victims of Communism Memorial on Capitol Hill. VOC achieves its mission through policy-relevant research, educational and academic initiatives, and through programs at the Victims of Communism Museum in Washington, D.C.



CONTENTS

2	A Message from Leadership	20	Human Rights
3	30 Years of VOC Timeline	25	VOC Honors
4	In Memoriam	29	Our Team
6	2024 Impact: By the Numbers	30	Museum Remembrance Society
8	Education	32	Leadership
15	Research		

A MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

2024 was a year of commemoration. We celebrated the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation and the 35th anniversary of the fall of communism in Eastern Europe. We also remembered, with sorrow, the brutal Tiananmen Square Massacre of 1989, and the subsequent hardening of tyrannical will in China.

Much remains to be done. Communist governments in China, Cuba, and North Korea, as well as dictatorships in Russia, Venezuela, and Nicaragua continue to repress their own citizens and threaten their neighbors.

As you will see in these pages, VOC's China Studies is the leading voice in research on the Uyghur genocide and China's use of slave labor, and our Latin America Studies sponsors events and briefings on communism's crimes in the region, most notably Venezuela's stolen elections last July and the direct impact on regional security and mass immigration.

A supporter remarked, "Your mission ought to be to make the word 'communism' and its symbols, such as the hammer and sickle, as odious to the general public as the word 'Nazi' and the swastika." We keep this in mind every time we speak with students and teachers. Read on to learn about the expansion of our outstanding education offerings and hear directly from students how VOC has empowered them to be champions of liberty.

A final commemorative word is in order. It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the passing of VOC co-founder, Dr. Lee Edwards, on December 12, 2024. Dr. Edwards was on mission to the very end, publishing, speaking, and hosting major dignitaries at VOC through the first week of November. He will be remembered as a man of ideas, author, visionary, and friend. Join us in continuing his vital work!



Elizabeth Spalding, Ph.D.
Chairman



Eric Patterson, Ph.D.
President and CEO



30 YEARS OF VOC



1993

VOC authorized by a unanimous Act of Congress and signed into law by President William J. Clinton.



1994

Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation was incorporated.



1999

First Truman-Reagan Medal of Freedom awards were given to Elena Bonner, Lane Kirkland, H.E. Vytautas Landsbergis, Ph.D., and H.E. Philip Dimitrov.



2007

President George W. Bush dedicated the Victims of Communism Memorial.



2008

Hosted the first Roll Call of Nations Wreath-Laying Ceremony.



2013

Published the first edition of our middle and high school curriculum.



2014

Screened the first Witness Project documentary testimonial video.



2015

First Dissident Human Rights Award was given to Dolkun Isa. Hosted the first China Forum.



2022

Grand Opening of the Victims of Communism Museum.



2024

30th anniversary of VOC and the first Lee Edwards Award for Scholarship was given to Paul A. Kengor.

In Memoriam

Lee Edwards, Ph.D.

1932-2024

Dr. Lee Edwards, founding Chairman of the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation and recipient of its Truman-Reagan Medal of Freedom, passed away on December 12, 2024, at home in Arlington, Virginia.

Lee Edwards was born in Chicago, Illinois, in 1932, to Leila and Willard Edwards. His father, the national political reporter for the *Chicago Tribune*, moved the family to Silver Spring, Maryland, where Lee was raised. He graduated from Duke University with a B.A. in English before serving two years in the United States Army.



While studying at the Sorbonne University in Paris in 1956, Dr. Edwards witnessed Hungarian students launch a revolution in the streets of Budapest that toppled the Communist regime. After Soviet tanks crushed the freedom fighters less than two weeks later, he was appalled by the West's lack of response and made a lifelong pledge to oppose communism.

Dr. Edwards fulfilled that pledge, dedicating the remainder of his life to the fight for freedom. He helped found Young Americans for Freedom (YAF) in 1960 and was the first editor of YAF's magazine, *New Guard*. 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.

Often called the "historian of the conservative movement," Dr. Edwards was the author, co-author, or editor of over 25 books, including biographies of President Ronald Reagan, Barry Goldwater, Dr. Walter Judd, and William F. Buckley, Jr. His most recent works include *A Brief History of the Cold War* (2016), with Elizabeth Edwards Spalding, and his autobiography, *Just Right: A Life in Pursuit of Liberty* (2017). Dr. Edwards's books have been translated into Chinese, Japanese, French, Hungarian, Polish, and Swedish.

Dr. Edwards was internationally recognized for his service. His awards and accolades include the Order of Merit of the Republic of Hungary, the Cross of Recognition of Latvia, the

Millennium Star of Lithuania, the Cross of Mariana of Estonia, the Friendship Medal of Diplomacy from the Republic of China (Taiwan), the John Ashbrook Award, the Reed Irvine Accuracy in Media Award, the Legends of YAF Award from Young America’s Foundation, the Walter Judd Freedom Award, and the Truman-Reagan Medal of Freedom from VOC.



Lee Edwards and his family in 1989, shortly before their idea for VOC was conceived.

In 1990, the Edwards family recognized the need for an organization to memorialize all the victims of communism worldwide and to educate Americans about the historical and contemporary atrocities of communist-inspired regimes. This vision led Dr. Edwards and his dear friend Dr. Lev Dobriansky to co-found the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation in 1994. Authorized by unanimous Congressional legislation and signed into law by President Bill Clinton on December 17, 1993, the Foundation began its work as an educational, research, and human rights nonprofit.

The Foundation is dedicated to commemorating the more than 100 million victims killed by communism and advocating for the freedom of those still living under totalitarian regimes. Years of dedicated effort culminated in the Victims of Communism Memorial, erected on Capitol Hill and dedicated by President George W. Bush on June 12, 2007. Dr. Edwards’ vision eventually led to the Victims of Communism Museum, which opened in June 2022, and the development of numerous VOC educational programs and materials.

Recently, the House of Representatives formally tasked the Foundation with expanding its student curriculum to teach about the evils of communism in classrooms nationwide.

Lee and Anne—his late wife of 57 years, best friend, editor, and senior counselor—are survived by two daughters and eleven grandchildren.

Friends and supporters wanting to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Edwards are invited to do so by donating to the Lee and Anne Edwards Freedom Fund at the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation.



2024 IMPACT: BY THE NUMBERS

In 2024, we published:

8

Reports

33

Videos: *Witness Project*,
Profiles in Freedom,
and *VOC Schoolhouse*

We launched:

- Bipartisan VOC Congressional Caucus
- 4th Edition High School Curriculum
- *Profiles in Freedom* Video Interview Series
- *VOC Schoolhouse* Student Interview Series

Online, VOC reached:

14 MILLION+

On Social Media

Our events educated thousands:

49

Student Group
Museum Tours

116

Events

4,200+

Museum Guests

Our experts' voices were heard in the media:

34

Op-Eds and Blog Posts

149

Scholarly Citations

2022: 841

2023: 712

2024: 1,300

Media Mentions

VOC's media mentions skyrocketed in 2024 by 83%.

We are educating the next generation:

1,900

High School
Teachers Trained
in 2024

41

States with
Alumni

557,900

Students Reached
Since 2013

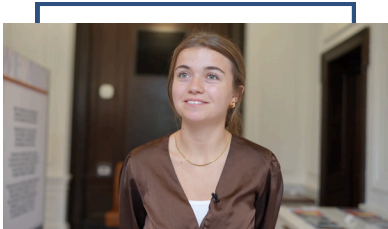
5,500

Total Teacher
Alumni in Schools

The **bipartisan Victims of Communism Caucus** launched on February 14 during the 118th Congress, co-chaired and in partnership with former Rep. Michelle Steel (R-CA) and Rep. Debbie Wasserman-Schultz (D-FL). Fourteen Caucus members were onboarded.



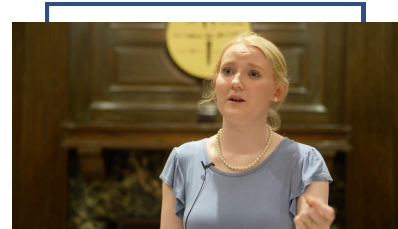
VOC Schoolhouse Interviews, our newest video product, asks visiting school groups one simple question: **What did you learn at the VOC museum?**



“It’s hard to envision the effects of communism...[The Museum] makes it so much more real.”



“Seeing the statistics made it make sense why America has fought so hard to resist communism and why we have to continue that fight.”



“This museum shows that what it means to control the economy means you have to deprive what it means to be human.”



VOC memorializes the stories and voices of individuals who have suffered and championed against communism through our award-winning **Witness Project** documentary series and **Profiles in Freedom**, our long-form conversation series.

2024 Releases:

- Rushan Abbas (China)
- Vladimir Kara-Murza (Russia)
- Stephanie Salazar Landaeta (Venezuela)
- Lech Wałęsa (Poland)
- Xi Van Fleet (China)

EDUCATION



VOC Museum is Our “Schoolhouse”

The Victims of Communism Museum serves as our schoolhouse and is the hub of our educational activities. Since the museum’s grand opening on June 8, 2022, VOC has educated over 6,800 visitors through three permanent galleries, a temporary exhibit space, and an educational center. In 2024 alone, VOC hosted 4,202 individual tour guests and 49 student group tours, including over 1,400 students, 955 event visitors, 162 group visitors, 76 private tour visitors, and 15 diplomats.



Interview with Former Russian prisoner of the Putin Gulag, Vladimir Kara-Murza, at VOC.



National security conference attendees from 12 colleges visit the museum.



Students from St. Paul’s Lutheran School receive a lecture and museum tour.



Vice President Mike Pence toured the museum, one of dozens of high-profile guests.

“After visiting the Victims of Communism Museum, I walked away with a more enriched perspective of the true menace that is communism. I learned that the dangers of communism are not only from its economics but also from the ambitions of those who lead it.”

—Matthew Acheson, The Fund for American Studies student

★★★★★ 35 weeks ago

Sobering, necessary, moving exhibits. Their messages should be taught in every K-12 school.

★★★★★ Jun 17, 2023

📷 3 photos

I came here for a talk and book signing but walked around afterward. It is a beautiful but small space.

The exhibits focus on some of the atrocities committed by communist regimes around the world.

With my entire family being impacted by the Castro regime in Cuba, this hit close to my heart.



★★★★★ 11 months ago

This museum is a hidden gem in the heart of DC! The facility is beautiful and well maintained. The experience is very education and immersive, without being overwhelming. I had the unique opportunity to participate in a VR experience while I was visiting which was so neat! The staff are friendly and obviously love what they do. Highly recommend taking the time to visit.

★★★★★ 37 weeks ago

This museum is extremely well done. I am thankful that it is providing insights into the dangers and atrocities of communism as well as serving as a warning to the USA.



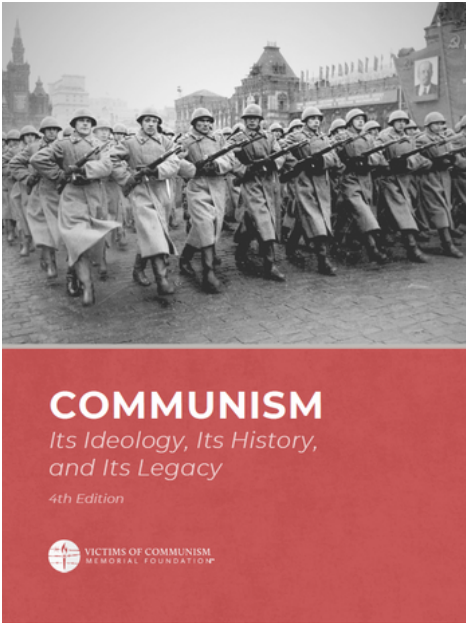
●●●●●

A Hidden and Important Gem

Oct 2024 • Solo

A moving and important museum - worth finding and taking some time to immerse. Expands your perspective on both history and the present.

VOC Trains Teachers and Educates Students



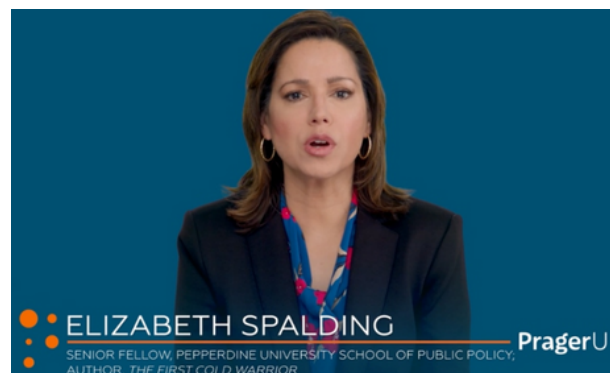
In December 2024, we proudly released the 4th edition of our flagship high school curriculum, solidifying our commitment to teaching current and future generations about the horrors of communism. VOC will feature the curriculum at teacher workshops in Florida, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, and Washington, DC in 2025.

Also in December, the U.S. House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed the Crucial Communism Teaching Act, a bipartisan bill which makes curricular materials available through VOC to educate students about the dangers of communism, and how it is contrary to the United States' founding principles of freedom and democracy.



We train teachers on our curriculum and how best to educate their students about communism. Above, a presentation to Arizona teachers by Channy Chai Laux, survivor of the Cambodian genocide. Throughout the year, VOC wants to provide teachers with the tools and strategies they need to inspire and empower the next generation's knowledge that communism's crimes and errors must not be repeated.

VOC experts actively contributed to public discourse through a variety of scholarly talks and publications, both in-person and online. Notably, our Chairman Dr. Elizabeth Spalding extended VOC's reach with two video releases in partnership with PragerU. These videos focused on the history of Harry Truman's atomic bomb decision and his broader strategy of containing communism.



VOC Internship Program



VOC's 2024 Summer Interns

In 2024, VOC proudly welcomed 14 students to our semester-long internship program. Interns participated in professional development trainings, gained insights into policy advocacy through events on Capitol Hill, and deepened their understanding of communism through guided readings and seminars. Integral to the VOC team, our interns help with signature events and contribute to our museum guests' experiences through daily interactions.

“Learning from the staff at VOC has given me the opportunity to widen my professional network in DC and has opened my eyes to the nuances behind communism and the necessity of bipartisan activity. I no longer see communism in the abstract. I see it as a real and pertinent threat.”
—Alexander St. John, VOC 2024 Summer Intern



Our 2024 interns:

13

Colleges & Universities

9

States

3

Countries

Technology as an Educational Tool

Two new Victims of Communism Museum temporary exhibitions in 2024 demonstrated the power of technology to educate and engage. “Beline – A Bulgarian Resistance Story,” featured the use of cutting-edge technology and emphasizes to our visitors that communism is still a very real, and very present, threat. Visitors had the unique opportunity to converse with gulag-survivor Nikola Daskalov through artificial intelligence (AI).



Participants converse with an AI model of Nikola Daskalov.



Visitors use the Venezuela exhibit virtual reality headset.

Our second exhibit, “Venezuela: The Deadly Toll of Socialism,” utilized immersive virtual reality to expose the recent atrocities committed by the Chavista regime. Visitors experienced the horrific conditions in Venezuela’s most notorious political prison, El Helicoide, gaining a visceral understanding of the ongoing human rights crisis in Venezuela.

VOC's Global Reach



VOC's Dr. Eric Patterson on a panel at the Annual PEMC Conference.

VOC's message reaches across the globe through partnerships that extend our educational work in the United States. In May, Dr. Eric Patterson spoke on a panel at the annual meeting and conference of the Platform for European Memory and Conscience (PEMC) in Vilnius, Lithuania.

Broadcast on Lithuanian television, Dr. Patterson joined panelists in a discussion on the critical role of memory spaces, such as the Victims of Communism Museum, in preserving historical remembrance. The trip also included visits and media interviews with VOC partners in Poland.

In December, drawing on his published research on transitional justice, Dr. Patterson spoke alongside the former President of Romania and other dignitaries in Timisoara, Romania to commemorate the 35th anniversary of that country's overthrow of communism.



Dr. Patterson with László Tóké, Romanian leader, Former Member of the European Parliament, and VOC Truman-Reagan Medal of Freedom awardee.



Dr. Patterson and PEMC leadership lay flowers at the Memorial Complex of Tuskulėnai Peace Park in Vilnius.

RESEARCH

中國論壇 THE CHINA FORUM

Raja Krishnamoorthi

John Moolenaar

Adrian Zenz, Ph.D.

Informing Policy: Research on China



Representative Chris Smith praises VOC research.



VOC Fellow Ethan Gutmann testifies in March.

Over the past year, **four VOC experts have testified** before the U.S. Congress on Capitol Hill.

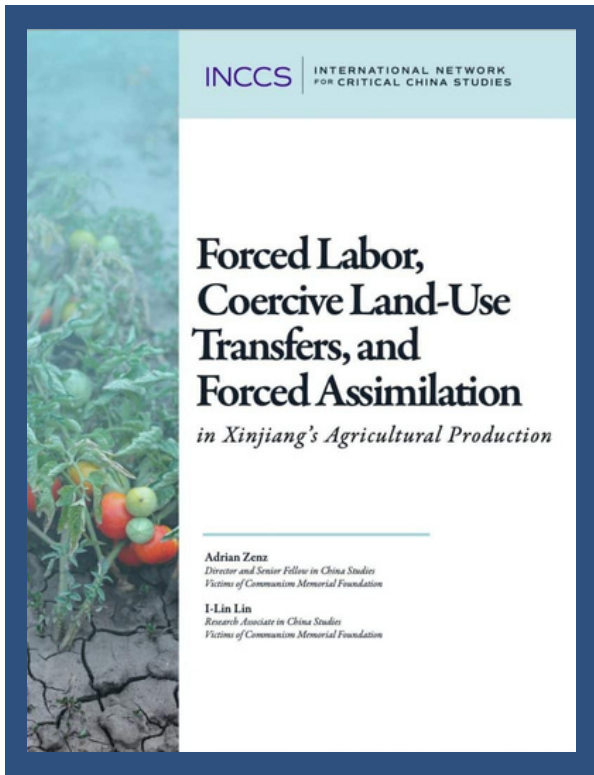
In its refreshed handbook on forced labor, the United Nations' International Labor Organization **adopted nearly all of VOC's recommendations** for new guidelines on measuring and countering the risk of forced labor in global supply chains.

The Congressional-Executive Commission on China **used VOC expert testimony** in a letter to the U.S. State Department on the illegal organ trade in the People's Republic of China. Representative Chris Smith, Co-Chairman of the Commission, complimented VOC researchers, calling their work "reliable and ... actionable."

VOC's submission to the U.S. Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (TIP) **informed the 2024 TIP Report**, specifically in detailing forced labor practices in Xinjiang and Tibet and providing critical insights into state-imposed labor transfers and their implications for human trafficking assessments.

In a major win for human rights recognized by the BBC and other media, the work of VOC played a key role in **two major German corporations leaving Xinjiang** in 2024: BASF and Volkswagen. In February 2024, following reports by VOC linking BASF to human rights abuses in Xinjiang, the German chemical company announced plans to divest its shares in two joint ventures in the region. In November 2024, Volkswagen announced they will fully divest from Xinjiang—selling both its plant and the test track, coming after VOC's work exposed forced labor linked to the Volkswagen test track and VOC's analysis of the fraudulent factory audit.

New VOC Report Raises Concerns for Western Supply Chains



Groundbreaking research from VOC's China Studies Program sheds new light on the severity of China's forced labor program. Writing in the International Network for Critical China Studies, VOC's Dr. Adrian Zenz and I-Lin Lin show that China's agricultural sector in Xinjiang is more tainted by forced labor than previously known, raising grave concerns about Uyghur lives and the culpability of Western businesses and consumers.

VOC's research provided crucial background to a BBC report and TV broadcast by implicating and linking Chinese agricultural companies and food producers. The Interparliamentary Alliance on China (IPAC) passed a motion to act on VOC's report, issuing a public statement signed by dozens of legislators. Meanwhile, lawmakers in different affected countries are preparing to engage critically with implicated companies and supply chains.



The findings of this report were covered extensively by the media, including a BBC special investigative report, a BBC feature length documentary, and articles by *The Telegraph*, *Der Spiegel*, *Politico*, *The Hill*, *La Liberation*, *RFA*, and *Table*.



Media Hits

Our media mentions skyrocketed in 2024 by 83%.

TELEVISION



Deutsche Welle
Uyghur Forced Labor



BBC
Uyghur Forced Labor

PRINT AND ONLINE



Researcher **Adrian Zenz** had found evidence of the use of forced labour in the construction of a test track in Turpan, Xinjiang, which is operated by a subsidiary of the joint venture of SAIC.”

The New York Times

*“The alliance issued its statement after **Adrian Zenz**, the director in China studies at the **Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation**, issued a report that cited a leaked audit that Volkswagen had commissioned.”*



Adrian Zenz, a researcher whose analysis of Chinese government records was instrumental to exposing China’s internment system in Xinjiang, said “the most central claims” made by VW about the audit were “misleading or false.”

Newsweek

*“The report, based on files obtained from Xinjiang Police Security Bureau and other local security sources, was released by China-sanctioned German anthropologist **Adrian Zenz**—a leading researcher on the topic...”*

POLITICO

According to a report by Beijing-sanctioned academic **Adrian Zenz**...forced labor transfers of the Uyghur Muslim workforce in 2023 “exceeded those from the previous year and surpassed state-mandated quotas.”

OP-ED

The Washington Times

Case of Y Quynh Bdap and U.S. standing up to religious persecution

July 31, 2024

Rep. Michelle Steel and Eric Patterson

THE HILL

Is that slavery on your pasta? Uyghur forced labor fuels China's food exports

December 13, 2024

Dr. Adrian Zenz



Venezuelans will keep fighting for democracy. They have no choice

August 24, 2024

David Smolansky

NATIONAL REVIEW

Ramadan under Communism

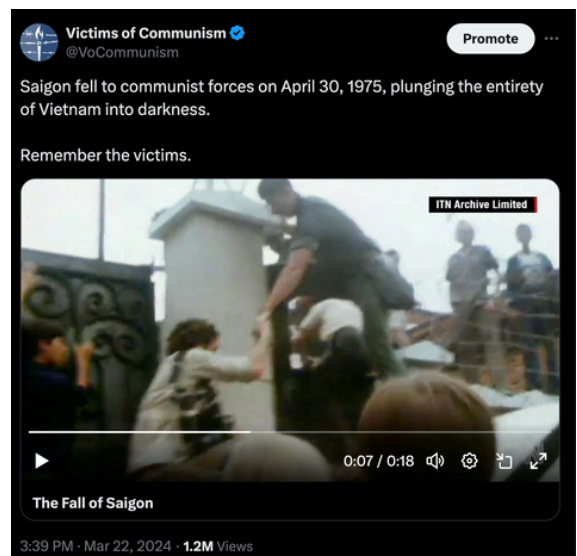
April 9, 2024

Rushan Abbas and Eric Patterson

SOCIAL MEDIA



1,300,000 Views



1,200,000 Views

HUMAN RIGHTS



Latin America Studies Impact

In 2024, VOC's Latin American Studies Program actively engaged on the ongoing crimes by Marxist regimes in the region.

VOC supported the participation of Cuban and Venezuelan partners in **advocacy meetings with relevant stakeholders**, including international human rights organizations, United Nations human rights officials, and representatives from the Organization of American States.



VOC's Ana Leca speaks on a Transnational Repression panel at the Organization of American States.



Venezuelan dissident Maria Amare and VOC Senior Fellow and former Venezuelan mayor David Smolansky speak with students at the museum.

We released four reports: *Torture: Venezuela's State Policy*, co-authored with The Coalition for Human Rights and Democracy, detailing the Venezuelan government's systematic use of torture to instill fear and suppress dissent; *Electoral Transparency*, reporting on the 2024 elections in Venezuela which were organized in an increasingly autocratic environment; *State Terrorism in Venezuela*, which details the regime's use of force to persecute citizens amidst the July 2024 Presidential elections; and

Transnational Repression, which details how the Venezuelan regime is persecuting people in Colombia and how the Nicaraguan regime is persecuting and assassinating dissidents that have escaped to Costa Rica.

We also presented research on the poor state of labor rights in Venezuela at the 352nd Session of the Governing Body of the International Labor Organization and supported partners' efforts to participate in and monitor the Venezuela elections, financing training, media, and election transparency efforts in solidarity with the Venezuelan people before and after the stolen elections on July 18, 2024.



VOC hosted an exhibit on Venezuela in 2024.

Remembering Tiananmen Square Massacre Victims



Hundreds gathered at the Victims of Communism Memorial for the 35th annual vigil.

On June 4, 1989, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) violently suppressed a massive pro-democracy movement in Tiananmen Square. Beijing has since erased from its history books all mention of this uprising for democracy and the CCP's brutal violence towards its citizens. The death toll remains unknown. VOC honored the bravery of those who stood for freedom at our annual Tiananmen Square Massacre Candlelight Vigil. Our 2024 commemoration featured Chinese dissidents and leaders of the Hong Kong, Uyghur, and Tibetan communities. Speakers emphasized the need to educate about the ongoing horrors of CCP totalitarianism, and to memorialize those who persist in advocating for freedom.



Chinese civil rights activist and 2015 recipient of VOC's Truman-Reagan Medal of Freedom Chen Guangcheng speaks at the vigil.

“On the 35th Anniversary of the Tiananmen Massacre, we should not only remember the victims, we should also seek justice from the violent CCP regime.”

—Chen Guangcheng, Distinguished Fellow, Center for Human Rights at Catholic University

Standing with Captive Nations

As NATO concluded its July meeting in Washington, D.C., focusing on Russia's war in Ukraine, Western security, and defense spending, VOC hosted our annual Captive Nations Summit. The event is rooted in National Captive Nations Week, which was spearheaded in the 1950s by VOC co-founder Amb. Lev Dobriansky, authorized in law by the U.S. Congress, and proclaimed annually by every president since Dwight Eisenhower. VOC was honored to welcome Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, Belarusian opposition leader and human rights advocate, as well as other distinguished speakers.



Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, interviewed by VOC's Dr. Eric Patterson.

**“The fight for democracy is paved with pain and tears and suffering and victims.”
—Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, 2020 Belarusian presidential opposition candidate**



VOC Trustees The Hon. Bruce Weinrod, Amb. Paula Dobriansky, and Amb. Aldona Woś, with Czech diplomat Jan Havránek, discuss the new Iron Curtain emerging as formerly captive nations defy the Kremlin.

Honoring Captive Nations



VOC hosts many events throughout the year to honor current and former captive nations. Since the 1950s, the term “captive nations” has been used, to quote President Eisenhower, to recognize those “made captive by the imperialistic and aggressive policies of ... communism” and support their “just aspirations for freedom and national independence.”

On August 23, VOC marked Black Ribbon Day with a re-creation of the Baltic Way in front of the museum. That powerful, peaceful demonstration—a human chain linking one-fourth of the population across the capitals of Tallinn, Rīga, and Vilnius—was formed in 1989, on the 50th anniversary of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, to protest the Soviet occupation of Eastern Europe. In 2024, VOC members linked hands with representatives from the Joint Baltic American National Committee, along with the Embassies of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, to commemorate and celebrate 35 years since the Baltic Way protestors made their stand for freedom.

In December 2024, VOC hosted the inaugural lighting of the Captive Nations Christmas Tree, a symbol of hope with each ornament representing our solidarity with nations who have faced oppression.

A solemn reminder of those persecuted by communist regimes for their faith, the tree stood as a meaningful testament to the need for constant vigilance in the pursuit of freedom and justice around the world.



On “Family Day at the Museum” children learn about the importance of freedom.

VOC HONORS



Truman-Reagan Medal of Freedom

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.



VOC was proud to present the 2024 Truman-Reagan Medal of Freedom to Professor Stéphane Courtois, renowned historian and co-author of *The Black Book of Communism*.

“It is a true honor to award Professor Courtois the Truman-Reagan Medal of Freedom, our institute’s highest accolade,” said Dr. Eric Patterson, President and CEO of VOC. “Professor Courtois’ lifelong scholarly commitment to exposing the crimes of Marxism has fundamentally shaped the free world’s understanding of communism not just as abhorrent and oppressive, but as the deadliest ideology the world has ever known.”

Born in France in 1947, Courtois was indoctrinated as a young man into the Maoist Marxist–Leninist movement, working with the Vive Communism organization at an early age. Upon realizing the false promise of Marxism, however, Courtois quickly became one of the preeminent scholars of communism, even as the ideology continued to spread across the world.

His magnum opus, *The Black Book of Communism*, is the authoritative scholarly publication on the crimes of communism. Working with a team of scholars after the collapse of the Soviet Union and the Eastern Bloc regimes, Courtois spent thousands of hours scouring the recently opened archives to reveal the “actual, practical accomplishments of communism around the world: terror, torture, famine, mass deportations, and massacres.” Based on the regime’s own evidence, the book became an international bestseller, the first peer-reviewed attempt to catalog and analyze the crimes of communism. Courtois’ research exposed an astonishing and harrowing discovery—100 million people killed by communist regimes around the world.

Today, Professor Courtois continues tirelessly to shed light on the crimes of communism through his work as the Director of Research at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique. He remains a steadfast advocate for the victims of communism.

Dissident Human Rights Award

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.

VOC was proud to present the Dissident Human Rights Award to Dr. Katrina Lantos Swett for her outstanding work in human rights advocacy, religious freedom, education, and the fight against antisemitism.

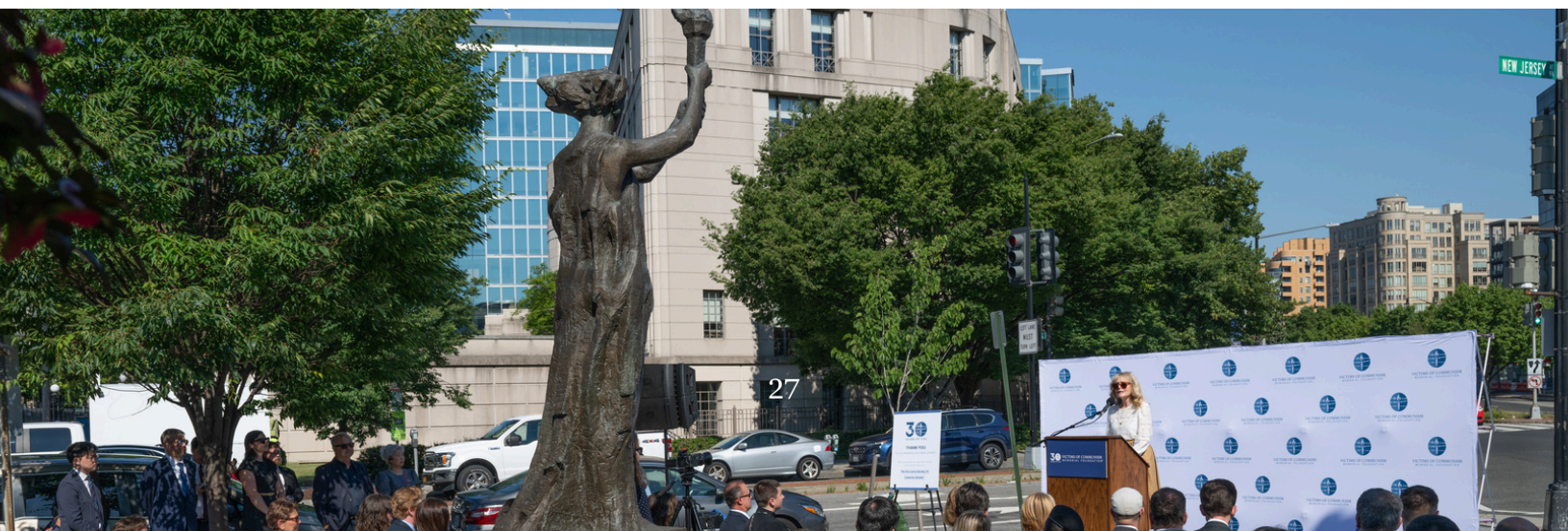
Dr. Swett serves as President of the Lantos Foundation for Human Rights and Justice. The organization was established in 2008 to continue the legacy of her father, the late Congressman Tom Lantos, who escaped communism in Hungary, served as Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and was the only Holocaust survivor ever elected to the US Congress. Under her leadership, the Lantos Foundation has become a distinguished and respected voice on key human rights concerns.



VOC Chairman Dr. Elizabeth Spalding presented the award.

“...from the genocide of the Uyghurs to the brutal suppression of Tibet, the persecution of Falun Gong and the Christian House Church movement, the open and credible and really looming threats against Taiwan which threaten to bring the whole world to the brink of war, all of these examples remind us of a very important lesson that I hope we do not forget: namely that the nature and the danger of communism remains unchanged and the need for vigilance and for moral courage remains urgent.”

—Dr. Katrina Lantos Swett, acceptance remarks at VOC’s 17th Annual Roll Call of Nations Ceremony



Lee Edwards Award for Scholarship

The Lee Edwards Award for Scholarship is VOC's signature honor recognizing outstanding academic achievement.



Award recipient Dr. Paul Kengor, with VOC's Dr. Eric Patterson, Dr. Lee Edwards, and Dr. Elizabeth Spalding.

VOC was proud to award its inaugural Lee Edwards Award for Scholarship to Dr. Paul Kengor. Dr. Kengor is a member of VOC's Academic Council, professor of political science at Grove City College, and senior director at Grove City's Institute for Faith and Freedom. Dr. Kengor has served as a visiting fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University and has provided research expertise for the Center for Strategic and International Studies, The Heritage Foundation, and the Allegheny Foundation.

The award is named for VOC co-founder and Chairman Emeritus, the late Dr. Lee Edwards, a preeminent historian of contemporary American history and political thought. Dr. Edwards was adjunct professor of politics emeritus and inaugural Distinguished Lecturer in the School of Arts and Sciences at the Catholic University of America. A prolific writer, Dr. Edwards authored 25 books and hundreds of articles and essays.

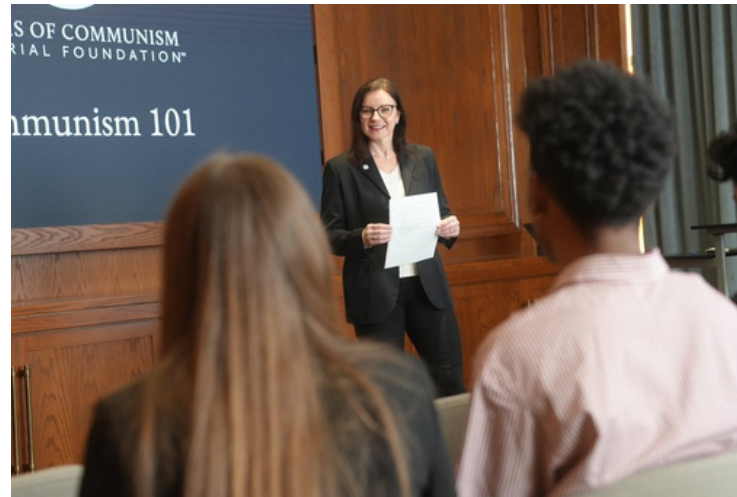
“Paul Kengor is a master educator, superb writer, and excellent communicator. His work blends first-rate research with brilliant storytelling,” said Dr. Eric Patterson, VOC's President and CEO. “We are proud to honor him with the inaugural Lee Edwards Award for Scholarship.”

Our Team

The VOC team is comprised of dozens of accomplished professionals, all who have a heart for VOC's mission and contribute in many ways to the success of the Foundation. Many staff have personal or family history living under and fighting against communist regimes—from China, Hungary, Lithuania, Ukraine, and Venezuela—and share their testimonies with museum visitors, students, and partners. Our entire team is committed to ensuring the next generation—our children and grandchildren—are taught the horrors of communism and the values of liberty.



Karina Lipsman, Director of Government Relations, shares her personal story growing up in Soviet-occupied Ukraine.



Milda Mataciunaite-Boyce, Director of Fellowships and Coalitions, speaks with students about growing up in Soviet-occupied Lithuania.



Ken Pope, Senior Fellow, has educated thousands of students and teachers through educational lectures.



Amb. Andrew Bremberg, President Emeritus, gives a guided tour to Former Polish President Lech Wałęsa.



VICTIMS OF COMMUNISM MUSEUM

REMEMBRANCE SOCIETY

VOC founded the Victims of Communism Museum Remembrance Society in 2021. Members are devoted to supporting liberty everywhere. Thank you to our Members for their generous support!

Pillars of Memory

Mr. Maximo Alvarez
Amb. Aldona Z. Woś, M.D. and Mr. Louis DeJoy

Flames of Liberty

Mr. George Goodman
Ms. Edith K. Lauer

Ms. Linda F. Noyes
Mr. Thomas L. Throop

Voices For Freedom

Mr. Garrett Bartholomew Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Alex and Pamela Dubitsky
Dr. and Mrs. Edwin J. and Linda Feulner
Gay Libertarian Fund
Mr. and Mrs. Doug and Heather Hayden
Ms. Deborah Knapp

Mr. and Mrs. Henry and Peggy Miyares
Mr. and Mrs. George and Alyssa Petrie
Mr. Ted Ross
Mr. Donald V. Smith
Drs. Matthew and Elizabeth Spalding

Teaching Truth

Mr. and Mrs. Luis and Ana Mola
Mrs. Constance Bierkan
Mr. J. Bayard Boyle, Jr. and Mrs. Huddy Boyle
The Hon. James Burnley IV
Mr. and Mrs. George and Beth Drost

The Hon. Tidal W. McCoy
Mr. and Mrs. Birch and Catherine Mullins
Mr. Duane Schlegel
Drs. A. Omar and Josefina Vento
Ms. Catherine Windels

Founders

Amb. and Dr. Ken and Carol Adelman
Mr. Mitchell Alexander

Mr. and Mrs. Tom and Karen Armstrong
Mr. Brent H. Baker

The Hon. Morton C. Blackwell
 Mr. and Mrs. Michael and Natasha Bleyzer
 Col. and Mrs. Michael and Kathleen Boldrick
 Dr. and Mrs. Terrell B. and Beverly F. Bounds
 Mr. Paul T.J. Boyle
 Mr. Dale Brott
 The Hon. and Mrs. Frank and Frances Bullock
 Mr. and Mrs. Merle and Kathy Countryman
 Mr. and Mrs. Ed and Lindsay Craig
 Mr. and Mrs. Stephen and Maygene Daniels
 Mr. Neil K. Deboer
 Ms. Renell Carter Dubay
 Mr. Tom N. Edmonds
 Dr. Lee Edwards
 Mr. Thomas R. and Mary Fair
 Mr. and Mrs. Stan and Rita Fisher
 Mr. Joseph Gatwood
 Mr. and Mrs. Andy and Lora Geer
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert O. and Karin Kristin Glenn
 Dr. Edward Gonzalez
 Dr. Ingrid A. Gregg
 Mr. and Mrs. John and Jean Hartwell
 Mr. David Hecht
 Mr. and Mrs. Jack and Morgan Horner
 Mr. Matthew Kelly
 Dr. George Kipel
 Ms. Melanie M. Kirkpatrick
 Mr. Mark Lasswell
 Dr. and Mrs. John and Susan Lenczowski
 Ms. Kathleen C. Lowrance
 Mr. Michael Maibach
 Mr. and Mrs. Dan and Julene Martindale
 Mr. and Mrs. Les and Kathy Megyeri
 Mr. Adam Meyerson and Mrs. Nina Shea
 Mr. Jacob Miller
 Mr. John Miller
 Ms. Mary Mochary
 Mr. and Mrs. Leon and Lisa Moody
 Dr. Barry Mowell
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert and Kriszta Lauer Nagy
 Mr. John Nielsen
 Mr. Adam Nodzinski
 Dr. David G. Ondich

Mr. Andrew Parker Jr.
 Mr. Jarrett B. Perlow
 Mr. and Mrs. Paul and Andrea Polasek
 Mr. Al Regnery
 Dr. Larissa Rodgers
 Mr. Andrew R. Rokita Jr.
 Ms. Ingrid Rose
 Lady Blanka Rosenstiel
 Mr. and Mrs. Mark and Tara Schilling
 Ms. Janet M. Sater and Mr. Kurt A. Schuler
 Mr. John Sitolides
 Mr. Ningke Song
 Dr. Antanas Suziedelis
 Amb. Carlos Trujillo
 Mr. Wayne Valis
 Mr. Daniel Walker

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

By joining our Victims of Communism Museum Remembrance Society, you would enjoy a host of sponsorship levels and recognition.

Levels starting at:

Founder.....	\$1,000
Teaching Truth.....	\$5,000
Voices for Freedom.....	\$10,000
Flames of Liberty.....	\$25,000
Pillars of Memory.....	\$150,000

For details on the benefits attached to each level, please call (202) 629-9500 or visit victimsofcommunism.org/donate.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Elizabeth Spalding, Ph.D., Chairman
Randal C. Teague, Vice Chairman
The Hon. James Burnley IV, Treasurer
Ingrid A. Gregg, Ph.D., Secretary
Amb. Paula J. Dobriansky, Ph.D.
Lee Edwards, Ph.D., Founding Chairman

Edwin J. Feulner, Ph.D., Chairman Emeritus
Edith K. Lauer
The Hon. Tidal W. McCoy
Amb. Carlos Trujillo
The Hon. Bruce Weinrod
Amb. Aldona Z. Woś, M.D.

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

F. Flagg Taylor IV, Ph.D., Chair
Marek Jan Chodakiewicz, Ph.D.
Paul A. Goble
Paul R. Gregory, Ph.D.
Jakub Grygiel, Ph.D.
John Earl Haynes, Ph.D.
Paul Kengor, Ph.D.

Harvey Klehr, Ph.D.
Mark Kramer
A. James McAdams, Ph.D.
Sean McMeekin, Ph.D.
Tara O, Ph.D.
William L. Saunders, J.D.
George Weigel

ADVISORY COUNCIL

H.E. Sali Berisha
Elida Dakoli, D.M.A.
The Hon. Dennis DeConcini
The Hon. Carl Gershman
H.E. Mart Laar, Ph.D.
H.E. Vytautas Landsbergis, Ph.D.

The Hon. Dan Lipinski
The Rev. Canon Charles H. Nalls, CH (COL.) (Ret.)
Kevin L. Rochford
Katrina Lantos Swett, Ph.D.
H.E. Guntis Ulmanis
The Hon. Armando Valladares

Will you join the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation to keep the flame of liberty alive?

Contact

If you would like to learn more about how you can support VOC, please contact Ashlee Davis at:



202-629-9500



ashlee.davis@victimsofcommunism.org



900 15th St. NW, Washington, DC 20005

Donate

VOC relies on the generous support of our donors to carry out our mission. Will you consider partnering with us to educate people about the crimes of communism and the blessings of liberty?

Scan this code with your phone to donate securely online, or visit our website:

www.victimsofcommunism.org/donate



TEACHING TRUTH
SEEKING JUSTICE
KEEPING MEMORY™



VICTIMS OF COMMUNISM
MEMORIAL FOUNDATION™

900 15th Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20005

202-629-9500

victimsofcommunism.org