OCTOBER 30 COALITION

NED NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR DEMOCRACY

# Joint Statement for the International Day of Political Prisoners on October 30

On this International Day of Political Prisoners, we stand together to affirm a simple truth: no one should be imprisoned for speaking freely, standing up for their beliefs, or exercising their fundamental rights.

Yet more than one million people around the world are imprisoned for political reasons. They are journalists, human rights defenders, writers, democratic opposition leaders, religious leaders, artists, and ordinary citizens. They are people who spoke, wrote, protested, prayed, created, or simply refused to remain silent in the face of injustice.

Political imprisonment is meant to do more than punish one person. It is meant to frighten everyone around them. Every unjust sentence sends a message to neighbors, colleagues, congregations, newsrooms, and families: stay silent, do not ask questions, do not challenge those in power.

On 30 October 1974, Soviet dissidents Kronid Lyubarsky and Oleksii Murzhenko, who were serving time in a Mordovia prison camp, sent a message back. They and other prisoners joined together in a one-day hunger strike to defy their captors and call for recognition of their status as political prisoners. In the years since, October 30 has become an international day of solidarity with political prisoners marked by remembrances around the world.

It is in this spirit that we call on democracies and all free people to make the freedom of political prisoners a global priority. Raise their cases. Ask for answers. Demand their immediate and unconditional release. Support accountability. Stand behind the organizations providing legal and humanitarian assistance to prisoners and their families.

Keep their names in public view until the prison doors open.

We stand with the families, lawyers, advocates, and civic groups who refuse to let political prisoners disappear from public view. Their persistence reminds us that solidarity is not a single act. It is a commitment. It must be sustained, coordinated, and visible.

On the evening of October 30, we will renew our commitment to this cause at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., and in commemorations around the world, and shine a light on those whose memory dictators would keep dark.

On October 30, we will say their names.

Every name belongs to a person. Every person has a family, a story, and a claim to freedom. Every name we speak is a declaration that imprisonment will not erase them from the world's conscience.

Freedom starts with a name.
We will remember their names.
We will stand with their families.
We will keep pressing for their freedom.

Free them all.

**Organizational Signatories as of October 19, 2026:**

1. 30 October Foundation *
2. Advocates for Faith and Justice in Vietnam
3. Advocates for Political Prisoners
4. African Middle Eastern Leadership Project
5. American Russian-speaking Association for Civil & Human Rights (ARA)
6. Asociación Memoria y Justicia
7. Assistance Association For Political Prisoners
8. Associação WANDAN - Observatório pela Justiça e Direitos Humanos na Guiné-Bissau
9. Azadi Berlin e. V.
10. Azda.tv – Tajik Language Media in Exile
11. Batani Foundation
12. Canada-Hong Kong Link
13. Center for a Free Cuba
14. Centro de Asistencia Legal Interamericano en Derechos Humanos (CALIDH)
15. Centro de Información y Servicios de Asesoría en Salud - CISAS
16. Colectivo de Derechos Humanos Nicaragua Nunca Más.
17. Committee to Protect Journalists
18. COMPTE À REBOURS RDC
19. Democracy Without Borders
20. Democratic Spaces
21. Egyptian Front for Human Rights
22. End Arbitrary Detention
23. European Belarus Foundation
24. Filimbi
25. Forum des droits humains
26. Foundation for development and social innovation
27. Free Russia Foundation *
28. Free Them One by One *
29. Free Women Journalists Initiative (Freewomenjournalists.com) Azerbaijan
30. FreeAytaj Campaign
31. Freedom Bridge
32. Freedom Collective (Yale University)

33. Freedom House *
34. Freedom Now
35. Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom
36. Genuine Greek Orthodox Church
37. George W Bush Presidential Center (sic)
38. Hong Kong Watch
39. Houses NGO
40. Human Rights Azerbaijan (HRA)
41. Human Rights First
42. Human Rights Foundation *
43. Institute for Peace & Development IPADES
44. International Campaign for Tibet
45. International Indigenous Fund for development and solidarity Batani (Batani Foundation)
46. International MEMORIAL Association
47. International Press Institute
48. Iran Human Rights (IHRNGO)
49. Iran Human Rights Documentation Center
50. James W. Foley Legacy Foundation
51. Jammu Kashmir Human Rights Observatory
52. Khmer Movement for Democracy
53. Lantos Foundation for Human Rights and Justice *
54. Liberal International
55. Luke Alliance
56. McCain Institute, John McCain Freedom for Political Prisoners Initiative *
57. "Memorial" Human Rights Defence Centre
58. MEMORIAL Deutschland e. V.
59. Memorial HRDC
60. Mereja Television
61. Myanmar Peace Museum
62. National Endowment for Democracy *
63. Nicaraguan Freedom Foundation
64. NORVEN Alliance (The Norwegian Venezuelan Justice Alliance)
65. Open Azerrbaijan Initiative (sic)
66. OVD-Info
67. Partido Ruta del Cambio
68. Peace And Justice Alliance
69. PEN America
70. PEN Canada
71. Policy and Statecraft Brief (Formally Democracy Discussions)
72. Political prisoner support team - world liberty congress (sic)
73. Political Prisoners Support. Memorial' Project (sic)
74. Public Initiative Center (Azerbaijan)
75. RADDE, prodémocracy non-violent mouvement (sic)
76. Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights *
77. RCDA Russian Canadian Democratic Alliance
78. Red Liberal de América Latina
79. Regional Empowerment for Democracy
80. Reporters Without Borders (RSF)
81. Russians Against War - Minnesota

82. Russians Against War Vienna
83. Students for a Free Tibet -India
84. Students for Global Democracy Uganda
85. Syria Justice and Accountability Centre (SJAC)
86. TEAMNAVALNY_NY INC.
87. The Committee for Freedom in Hong Kong Foundation
88. The Global Accountability Network
89. The Remembrance Society
90. Transitional Justice Working Group (TJWG)
91. Transparency International- Georgia
92. Union of Democratic Forces of Guinea (UFDG)
93. URAP
94. Uyghur Center for Democracy and Human Rights
95. Uyghur Human Rights Project
96. UZDM
97. Vancouver Society in Support of Democratic Movement (VSSDM)
98. Via Serica Foundation
99. VietTan
100. Women's Justice movement
101. World Liberty Congress *
102. Yekmal e.V.

**Members of the October 30 Coalition*

*To sign this statement, please fill out the following form:*
*https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1TCRMrSf3CbTmOw4vkjOfrezLZJ725ZN7hMUqi_B6sJI*