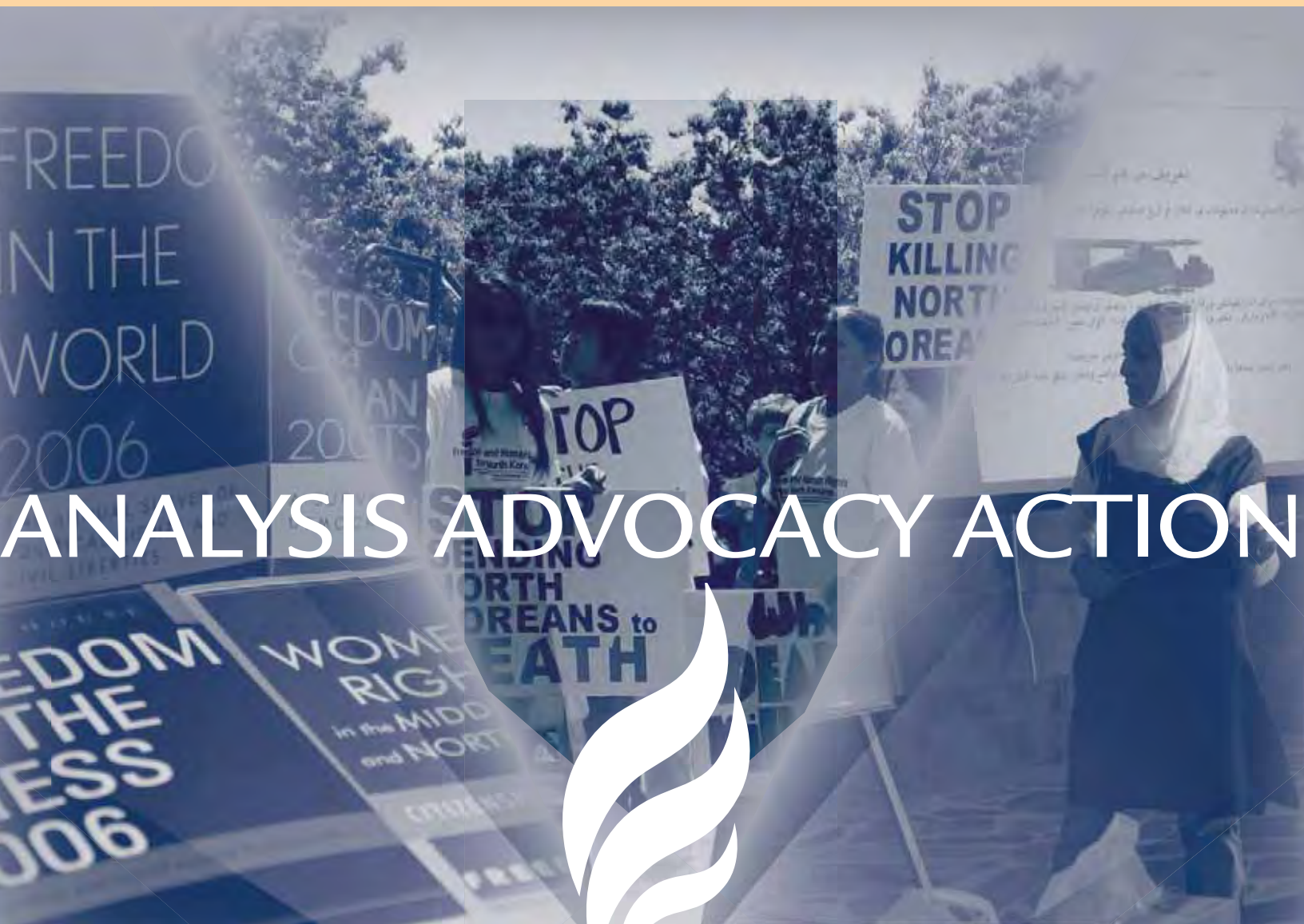




2006 Annual Report



ANALYSIS ADVOCACY ACTION



Reinvigorating the
Advance of Freedom

MISSION STATEMENT



Freedom House is an independent nongovernmental organization that supports the expansion of freedom in the world. Freedom is possible only in democratic political systems in which governments are accountable to their own people; the rule of law prevails; and freedoms of expression, association, belief and respect for the rights of minorities and women are guaranteed.

Freedom ultimately depends on the actions of committed and courageous men and women. We support nonviolent civic initiatives in societies where freedom is denied or under threat and we stand in opposition to ideas and forces that challenge the right of all people to be free. Freedom House functions as a catalyst for freedom, democracy and the rule of law through its analysis, advocacy and action.

HOW WE WORK

Guided by a nonpartisan, diverse board of trustees, Freedom House takes the intangible values of freedom and translates them into a strong tangible impact through combining analysis, advocacy and action.

ANALYSIS

Freedom House is widely recognized as the definitive source of information on the state of freedom around the globe for its array of publications and reports on global democratic trends.

ADVOCACY

Freedom House helps focus the world's attention on core issues of freedom and democracy and encourages policymakers to adopt strategies that advance the spread of freedom around the world.

ACTION

By providing training and support to democracy advocates, Freedom House assists in advancing indigenous reform efforts around the world.

Bicycle ride organized by the National Forum for Youth and Culture presenting a petition to Jordanian members of parliament demanding more laws to protect women

Message from Our Leadership	2
Analysis	4
Advocacy	8
Action	12
Map of Freedom	14
Financial Statements	24
Donors	26
Office Locations	27
Board and Staff	28

FREEDOM HOUSE



Over 65 years ago, Freedom House was launched by a small group of distinguished men and women to advocate for American policies supporting the defense of freedom and the promotion of democratic values and human rights, at home and abroad. In the years since, Freedom House has earned a reputation as a clear voice for the universal right of individuals to be free, a center for independent analysis and critical writing about the nature of freedom, and a source of support for those seeking to advance freedom in their own societies.

Since Freedom House's founding, the right of individuals to enjoy essential freedoms has been enshrined in international covenants, embraced by regional and multilateral institutions, reiterated by government policy, and most importantly, advanced by courageous individuals around the world.

In the 35 years since Freedom House first began publishing its findings from *Freedom in the World*, the expansion of freedom has been impressive. Just a quarter century ago, in 1981, Freedom House found only 54 countries, or 33 percent of the world's total at the time, to be Free. In 2006, 90 countries, or 47 percent of the world's countries, were categorized as Free.

Yet, this year's findings also raise concerns about whether the global expansion of freedom will continue. Much of the dramatic gains occurred in

Through a multi-pronged approach of analysis, advocacy, and action, Freedom House can provide meaningful and effective support to people around the world in their struggle for greater freedom.

the 1980s and 1990s as countries in Latin America, Eastern Europe, and the former Soviet Union cast off military dictatorships and communist autocracies for democratically elected leaders. Since then, the global scorecard has remained essentially the same, with the gains registered in the past ten years in countries like Mexico, Indonesia and Ukraine being offset by backsliding in other countries like Russia, Venezuela, Thailand and Pakistan. Meanwhile, almost two thirds of the world's population living in Not Free societies live in China, a country that has taken economic strides forward not yet matched by gains in political freedom and human rights.

A particularly worrisome trend is the growing "backlash" against democracy—triggered by the revolutions in Serbia, Georgia and Ukraine—and spearheaded by resource-rich authoritarian regimes. These countries—including China, Russia, Venezuela, Iran and others—appear to be committed to a well-coordinated campaign with the aim of suppressing freedom at home and abroad.

To date, that growing threat has not been countered effectively by a strategic and coordinated approach by the world's democracies. Instead, the issue of freedom and its promotion has become



PRINCETON UNIVERSITY



dangerously polarized and caught up in a wave of anti-Americanism. The Bush Administration is distracted by a messy and internationally and domestically unpopular war in Iraq. In Europe, which as a region boasts the largest percentage of free countries in the world, EU members spend more energy on distinguishing their approach from that of the U.S. and trying to achieve internal consensus than acting on critical opportunities to provide support to those struggling for freedom. In Latin America, Africa, and the Middle East, those who are committed to the ideals of freedom and democracy are similarly loath to ally themselves with a supposedly U.S.-centric agenda.

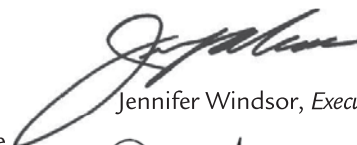
To continue this current state of affairs is dangerous. Democratically elected governments must renew—and reinvigorate—their efforts to work together to encourage and support freedom’s advance. Moreover, it is the responsibility of individuals—and civic groups—within those societies to also recommit themselves to the promotion of fundamental human rights. While discussions and even disputes over tactics and methods of supporting freedom can and should take place, we who live in freedom must not remain paralyzed over whether and how to fight back against those whose interests lie in denying freedom to others. Increasing private

While discussions and even disputes over tactics and methods of supporting freedom can and should take place, we who live in freedom must not remain paralyzed over whether and how to fight back against those whose interests lie in denying freedom to others.

funding—from individuals, corporations, and foundations—is critical to gaining and not losing ground in securing rights and freedoms around the world.

Through a multi-pronged approach of analysis, advocacy, and action, Freedom House can provide meaningful and effective support to people around the world in their struggle for greater freedom. From highly-regarded analytic surveys, to our support to human rights defenders in Uzbekistan and Venezuela and a new generation of civic leaders in the Middle East, to facilitating the free flow of information in Kyrgyzstan and Iran, to speaking out against the democratic deterioration in Russia and Thailand and for an effective United Nations effort to support human rights, we believe that Freedom House has made a difference.

We hope that this report will give you a sense of what we have done in the past year and inspires you to lend your support in our continued efforts to reinvigorate the advance of freedom around the world.


Jennifer Windsor, *Executive Director*


Peter Ackerman, *Chairman*

ANALYSIS



FREEDOM HOUSE



Freedom House's rigorous methodology in monitoring global freedom has earned the organization a reputation as the leading source of information on the state of freedom around the world. Through its standard-setting publications, Freedom House calls attention to global trends in democracy and shines a public light on dictatorships and abuse.

Freedom in the World

For 34 years, *Freedom in the World* has set the standard for the measurement of political rights and civil liberties around the world. The *Wall Street Journal* has described it as “the Michelin Guide to democracy’s development.”

First published in 1973, *Freedom in the World* enables policymakers, scholars, and other interested observers to assess the progress of freedom from the Cold War era to the post-9/11 period. The importance of *Freedom in the World* as a tool for policymakers has grown significantly since the events of 9/11. Through its time series analysis and comprehensive set of indicators, *Freedom in the World* illuminates those regions which suffer from a “freedom deficit” and those issues which pose the greatest obstacles to democracy. The Millennium Challenge Account, a new performance-based, multi-billion dollar assistance program, uses Freedom House’s political rights and civil liberties ratings as key criteria for determining country eligibility.

“Russia’s slide from ‘Partly Free’ to ‘Not Free’ in Freedom House’s well-known rating system reflected the grim reality many of us have watched first hand from the inside. Freedom House’s reports have helped stir much needed and overdue policy debates both in Russia and abroad.”

—ANDREI ILLARIONOV, FORMER
CHIEF ECONOMIC ADVISOR TO
PRESIDENT PUTIN



FREEDOM HOUSE

Freedom of the Press

Published since 1980, *Freedom of the Press: A Global Survey of Media Independence* covers trends in media freedom in 194 countries and territories around the world. The survey assesses the level of press freedom in each country and provides a summary of the legal environment for the press, political influences on content, violations against journalists, and economic pressures which restrict the operation of independent media. The press survey also focuses on state efforts to censor or control the internet, a growing problem that is especially acute in repressive states like China, Iran, Cuba, and Zimbabwe.

Nations in Transit

Nations in Transit measures progress and setbacks in democratization in 29 countries and administrative areas from Central Europe to the Eurasian region of the former Soviet Union. Published annually since 1995, *Nations in Transit* provides in-depth analysis and ratings in seven categories essential to a democratic society: electoral process; civil society;

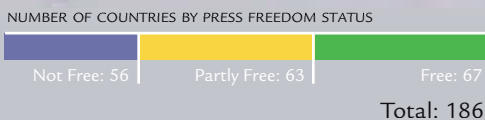
media; national governance; local governance; judicial framework; and corruption.

“Nations in Transit is the only truly comprehensive annual study of the state of democracy in the post-Communist world. Its accurate analysis and wealth of information make it an essential resource for anyone who cares about freedom in Central and Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union.”

—JANOS KIS, CENTRAL EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY, BUDAPEST

Global Press Freedom

1994



1999



New Web-Based Resource for Press Freedom Launched

In an effort to highlight the role that a free press plays in sustaining and monitoring a healthy democracy, Freedom House recently launched an expanded section of its website dedicated to press freedom. This new web-based resource provides comprehensive information about press freedom around the world and includes an interactive map, global and regional pages highlighting major trends for each year, and detailed historical data since 1980 from the *Freedom of the Press* survey.

Countries at the Crossroads

Countries at the Crossroads is a survey of government performance in 60 strategically important countries worldwide (30 reviewed annually) that are at a critical crossroads in determining their political future. The in-depth, comparative analyses and quantitative ratings—examining government accountability, civil liberties, rule of law, and anticorruption and transparency—are designed to help international

policymakers identify areas of progress, as well as to highlight areas of concern that could be addressed in diplomatic efforts and reform assistance. In addition to serving as a tool used by the Millennium Challenge Corporation, USAID, and the U.S. Department of State in their policy discussions and programmatic decisions, many scholars, intergovernmental bodies, think-thanks, and non-governmental organizations cite *Crossroads* as an important basis for their analysis.

“Countries at the Crossroads is an outstanding collection of in-depth, yet concise and accessible assessments of the state of democratic governance in countries that are politically fluid or strategically important. An invaluable supplement to Freedom in the World and an indispensable handbook for scholars and policy makers.”

—LARRY DIAMOND,
SENIOR FELLOW, HOOVER
INSTITUTION, STANFORD
UNIVERSITY

2004



NUMBER OF COUNTRIES BY PRESS FREEDOM STATUS



Total: 193

ADVOCACY



Freedom House North Korea project director and daughter attend rally to promote human rights in North Korea

FREEDOM HOUSE



Freedom House is a leading advocate for freedom. In a time when the very concept of freedom is under attack by those whose power and wealth is based on the suppression of freedom, Freedom House works to amplify the voices of the oppressed and to galvanize the resolve of those who already enjoy freedom to take action.

Addressing the Global Crackdown on Freedom of Association

In an effort to stifle opposition voices, a number of governments—most recently Russia, Venezuela, Zimbabwe, and Peru—have taken new steps to limit the actions of domestic civil society activists and restrict citizens' freedom of association. Often accomplished through legalistic means, such as requiring lengthy registration processes for all NGOs, the restrictions also cut down on the ability of international organizations and governments to assist civil society within these countries. Throughout 2006 Freedom House convened meetings, conferences, and working groups in the U.S. and abroad to bring greater public awareness to this disturbing trend.

cal not only for the advancement of human rights around the world, but also for the overall credibility and effectiveness of the UN as an international institution.

Freedom House has been actively advocating for a strong and effective Council that lives up to its mandate. On September 6, Freedom House Executive Director Jennifer Windsor testified before a subcommittee of the House International Relations Committee on existing and potential areas for concern at the Council, as well as the body's few positive developments. She concluded by urging the U.S. government to be more engaged in shaping the Council's first year.

Just prior to the start of the Council's third session in late November, Freedom House issued a report assessing the Council's performance during its first six months of existence. The report highlighted the Council's inability to address the world's most egregious human rights abuses in its first two sessions and called upon members of the UN Democracy Caucus to counter those on the Council who would prefer that the Council protect the rights of abusers over the rights of those they abuse.



Freedom House co-sponsors a panel event during the 3rd Session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva featuring civic activists from Venezuela, Tunisia, and Vietnam, as well as government representatives from the U.S., Italy, and South Korea

New UN Human Rights Council —For Better or Worse?

The new UN Human Rights Council, which held its first session in May 2006, was created to replace the disgraced UN Commission on Human Rights. The success of the new Human Rights Council is criti-



Freedom House Executive Director Jennifer Windsor presents testimony to the Congress



FREEDOM HOUSE

“We who have the privilege of living and speaking out in freedom should never let our own comforts cause us to seek the status quo while others are denied those freedoms.”

—FREEDOM HOUSE’S PAULA SCHRIEFER SPEAKING AT CANDLE LIGHT VIGIL
FOR MURDERED RUSSIAN JOURNALIST, ANNA POLITKOVSKAYA

Spotlight on Russia’s Beleaguered Democrats

Since Russia’s rankings slid from the Partly Free to the Not Free category in 2005, Freedom House has stepped up its efforts to help Russia’s democrats draw international support. Through press releases, op-eds, visits to the region and other activities, the organization has actively raised concerns about increasing repression and the loss of freedoms in Russia. Prior to the G-8 meeting in St. Petersburg, Freedom House held an outreach visit in Moscow to disseminate the results of its reports and discuss democracy with leaders of the human rights community, journalists and civil society. After the trip, Freedom House Deputy Executive Director Thomas Melia presented testimony on the democracy decline in Russia before the U.S. Helsinki Commission. Freedom House has continued to vigilantly monitor the implementation of the Russian NGO law that was signed by President Putin in January and convened a roundtable discussion in Washington with the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law on the registration process. Following the murder of journalist Anna Politkovskaya, Freedom House

participated in a candlelight vigil outside the Russian embassy to express its sadness and outrage over the killing of one of the few courageous independent voices in Russian journalism and to highlight the continuing decline of Russia’s press freedom.

Religious Intolerance in Saudi Textbooks Highlighted

Freedom House’s Center for Religious Freedom, which raises awareness of restrictions on religious freedom around the world, issued a major report, “Saudi Arabia’s Curriculum of Intolerance,” highlighting language in current Saudi textbooks that demonizes Jews, Christians and Muslims who do not subscribe to the Wahhabi sect of Islam. The report contradicts repeated claims by senior Saudi officials that their educational materials have been thoroughly revised, and was key in generating a discussion with the Saudi government on its role in propagating religious intolerance. In addition to the report, the Center continued to draw attention to the countries in which serious infringements on religious freedom occur, including China, Cuba, Egypt, India, Iraq, North Korea, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, and Vietnam.

Campaign to Highlight Plight of North Koreans Continues

Throughout 2006, Freedom House continued its work of drawing attention to the plight of North Koreans, who bear the burden of living in one of the world's most repressive and brutal regimes. North Korea is the sole country to have received the lowest possible ratings in Freedom House's annual *Freedom in the World* survey for all 34 years the data has been collected. The ratings are a reflection of life in a regime that includes public executions, an extensive gulag system containing tens of thousands of political prisoners, forced labor, and frequent periods of hunger and even starvation.

Freedom House partnered with European and Asian NGOs to bring together international leaders from Europe, the United States, Korea, and Japan for conferences in Brussels, Rome, and Washington. In Brussels, Freedom House facilitated the first public hearing on the North Korean human rights problem at the European Parliament in March. On September 7, 2006, Italian MEP Marco Pannella and his colleague Szent-Ivanyi successfully guided through a second European Parliament resolution on North Korea.

Freedom House also helped bring an important musical about life in a North Korean prison camp to the U.S. *Yoduk Story*, a musical directed by Jung Sung San and based on real events that took place at the Yoduk prison camp in North Korea, premiered in the

US in October. Freedom House helped publicize the event as part of its wider efforts to educate the public about the situation in North Korea. The musical and Freedom House's role in supporting it were covered in an October 6 *Washington Post* article, "N. Korea Gulag Play Draws Standing Ovation."

Freedom House Promotes Leadership and Rule of Law in Africa

Africa in 2006 remained one of the least free regions in the world and is home to some of the world's worst human rights abuses, including the ongoing genocide in Sudan. As part of an effort to draw increased attention to the promotion of democracy in Africa, Freedom House took steps to open a small office in Johannesburg, South Africa. This followed on the footsteps of the "Africa at a Crossroads" conference held earlier in the year in Washington, DC to address the challenges of promoting democracy on the continent. In December 2006 Freedom House premiered a two-week pilot training for 25 young leaders in Anglophone Sub-Saharan Africa on leadership, ethics, and the rule of law. Freedom House envisions the training as the first of a four-part series that will be offered as a long-term, permanent leadership program on the continent, providing real-life skills to those in government, civil society, and the private sector who are seen as emerging leaders and agents of change in their communities.

"The leadership project was a great leap to taking responsibility in our respective areas. It gives us something to work for; we got support and validation on issues which we could possibly have not achieved on our own. Young people like me have hope in our future leadership at all levels."

—PARTICIPANT AT FREEDOM HOUSE LEADERSHIP TRAINING IN KENYA

FREEDOM HOUSE



ACTION



A woman presents case studies on youth activism for a University awareness program in Jordan

FREEDOM HOUSE



Working directly with democratic reformers on the front lines of the struggle for democracy in their own countries, Freedom House acts as a catalyst for freedom by strengthening civil society, defending human rights and facilitating the free flow of information and ideas.

Jordanians Overcome Taboos to Address Family Violence

While the promotion of women's rights is high on the Jordanian government's agenda, strong legal and cultural obstacles, including popular support for "honor killings," remain engrained in Jordanian society. Freedom House support to Jordanian civil society organizations for awareness-building activities such as radio programs, interactive theatrical performances, and university bike rides are changing people's attitudes and putting pressure on law-makers to diminish family violence in Jordan. Freedom House's unique approach combines the cross-fertilization of people and programs to create interactive partnerships and innovative programming tools that build the capacity of civil society and enhance the links between rural and urban communities as well as governmental and nongovernmental sectors and the media. Such opportunities have inspired non-traditional ways for these groups to work together and address the sensitive issue of violence against women and women's rights in both open and closed environments, from universities to tribal communities to national media and Parliament.

The Performing Arts Center presents an interactive play on family violence.

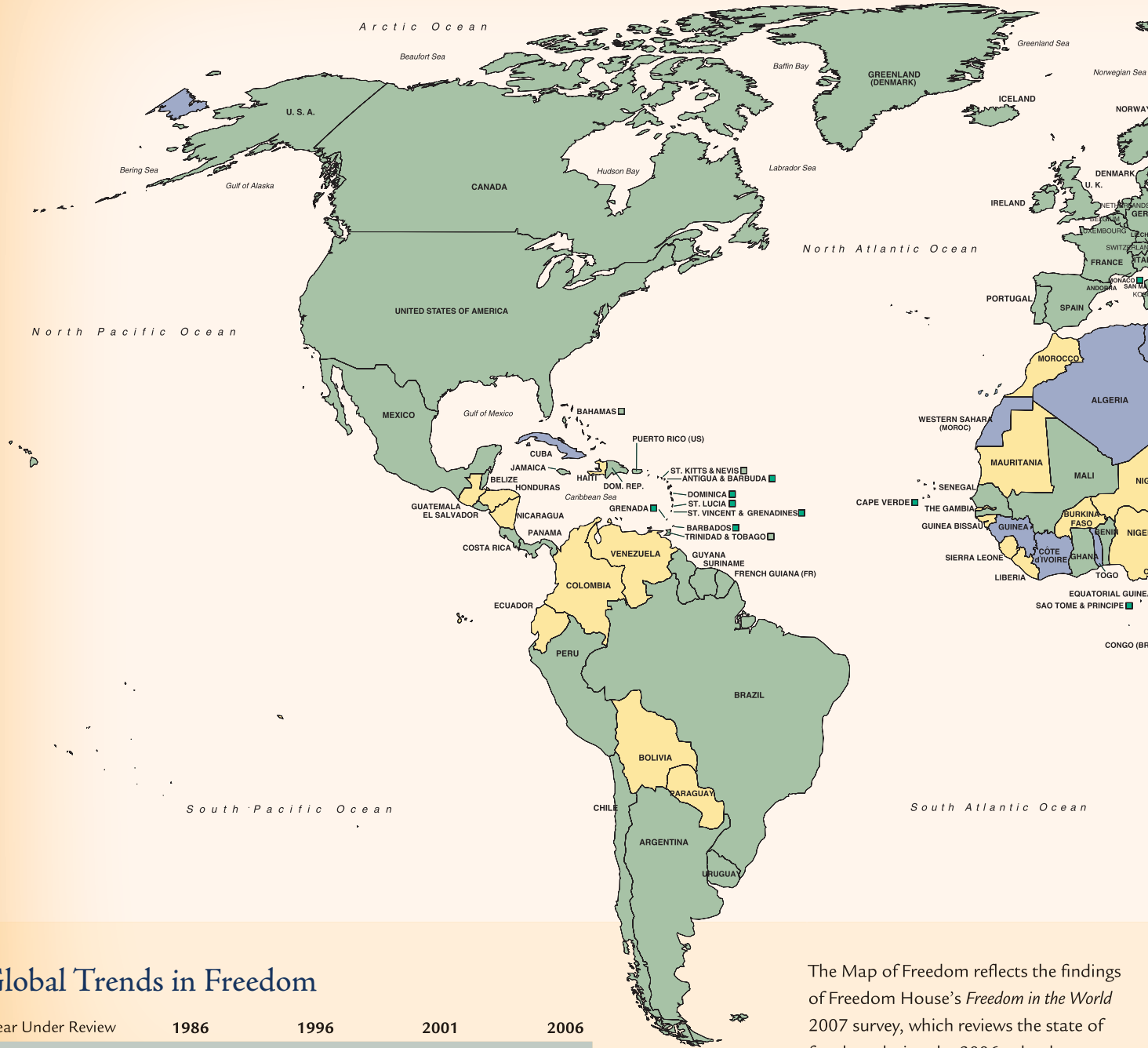


FREEDOM HOUSE

“Memoirs of a Woman’ is the story of hundreds if not thousands of women. Stopping my husband’s violence occupied my thinking while I was watching the play. Seeing the harmful violent acts of the husband in the story and how dreadful these acts could be on me and my children made me start thinking of doing something.”

—JORDANIAN WOMAN

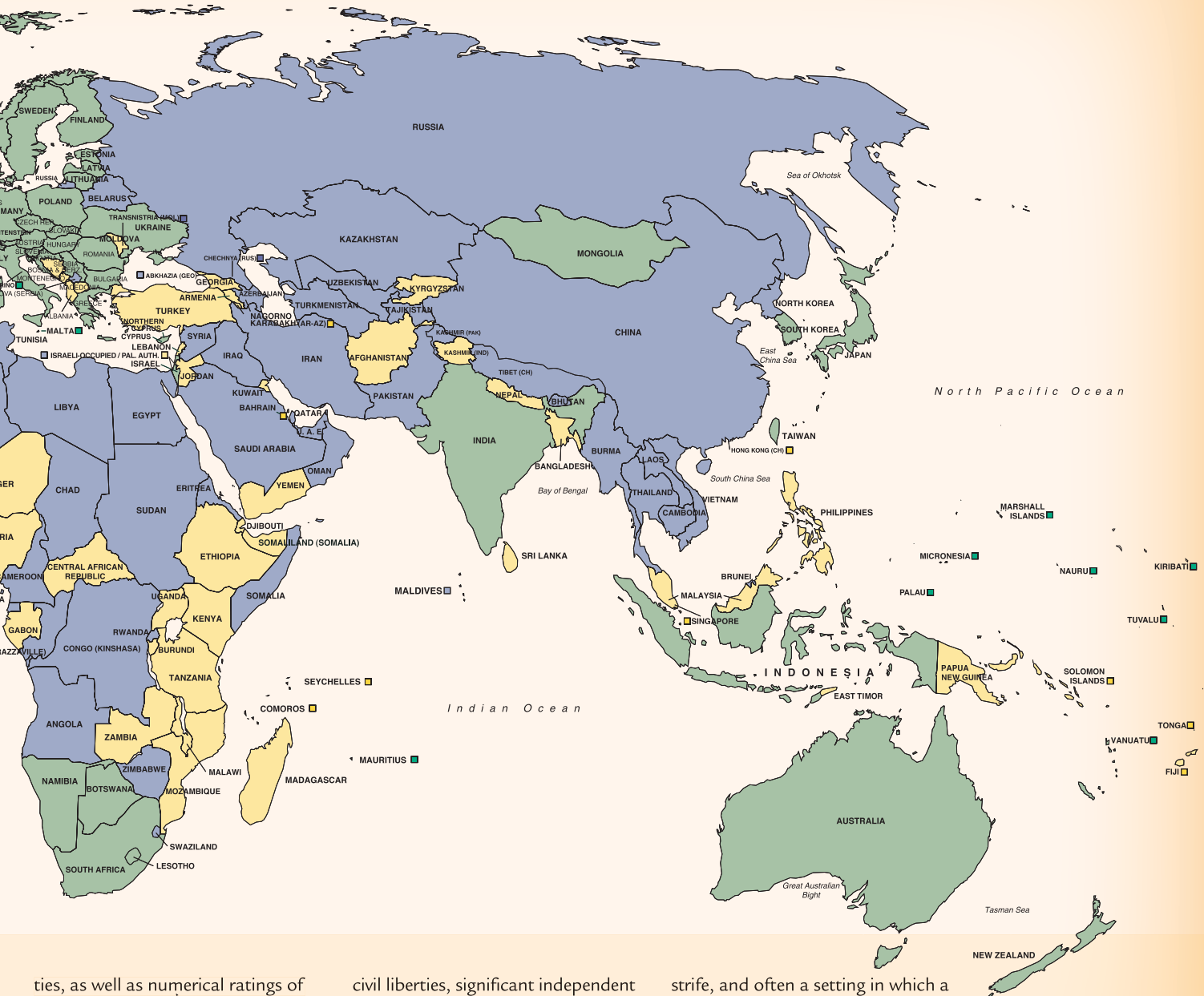
MAP OF FREEDOM 2007



Global Trends in Freedom

Year Under Review	1986	1996	2001	2006
Free	57 (34%)	79 (41%)	85 (44%)	90 (47%)
Partly Free	57 (34%)	59 (31%)	59 (31%)	58 (30%)
Not Free	53 (32%)	53 (28%)	48 (25%)	45 (23%)
Total	167 (100%)	191 (100%)	192 (100%)	193 (100%)

The Map of Freedom reflects the findings of Freedom House's *Freedom in the World* 2007 survey, which reviews the state of freedom during the 2006 calendar year. For each of the world's 193 countries and 14 related and disputed territories, the survey provides a concise report on the state of political rights and civil liber-



ties, as well as numerical ratings of a country's performance. Based on these ratings, countries are divided into three categories: **Free, Partly Free, and Not Free.**

A **Free country** is one where there is broad scope for open political competition, a climate of respect for

civil liberties, significant independent civic life, and independent media.

A **Partly Free** country is one in which there is limited respect for political rights and civil liberties. Partly Free states frequently suffer from an environment of corruption, weak rule of law, ethnic and religious

strife, and often a setting in which a single political party enjoys dominance despite the façade of limited pluralism.

A **Not Free** country is one where basic political rights are absent and basic civil liberties are widely and systematically denied.

PROMOTING ACCESS TO INFORMATION

New Webzine Lets Iranians Speak Out on Freedom

In September 2006 Freedom House launched Gozaar, a monthly Persian- and English-language journal devoted to the discussion of democracy and human rights issues in Iran. In response to the Iranian government’s ongoing attempts to stifle the free flow of information in Iran, Gozaar provides an inclusive and provocative space for the discussion of a myriad of issues related to freedom. From the

outset, Gozaar has provided a unique outlet for a range of highly reputable journalists, political analysts, human rights proponents, bloggers, commentators, and satirists to express their views on politics, international affairs, education, culture, and the arts. Interest in the “webzine” has grown steadily since its inaugural edition with the website recording one million hits by mid-November.



“I am grateful that your site is focusing on defending human rights. I hope you will continue your efforts on this important issue. This is a step forward in achieving human rights in Iran.” —A READER IN IRAN

“I came across Gozaar ... and was most impressed by it. My compliments on the superb and much-needed efforts ...” —MEHRAN IN CALIFORNIA

“I study human rights at a university in Tehran. I am thankful for your high-quality magazine. I look forward to reading more articles on human rights.”

—ROJA IN IRAN

“... this site is a much-needed vehicle for freedom of expression for Iranians.”

—NAMI FROM IRAN

“A fantastic site and a great resource...”

—STEVEN IN WASHINGTON, D.C.



KEITH MELNICK

Kyrgyz Printing Press

November 2006 marked the third anniversary of Kyrgyzstan's only independent printing press. The press, which is run by the Media Support Center Foundation, a Kyrgyz NGO established with the assistance of Freedom House, nearly doubled its customer base from the previous year despite numerous challenges including the rising costs of consumables, declining spending power of the Kyrgyz population and competition by the state-owned press. Beyond printing newspapers, the Foundation strives to improve the overall quality of Kyrgyz print media by working with production directors of participating newspapers on technical issues such as layout, readability and design.

Voice of Freedom Pushes for Better Media Laws in Kyrgyzstan

Through the campaign "Criminal Prosecution for Speech is Inadmissible," the Voice of Freedom network has taken a leading role in pushing to decriminalize existing defamation and insult laws in Kyrgyzstan's legislation. Voice of Freedom was initiated with the support of Freedom House and has grown to a network of nearly forty human rights defenders, NGO and youth activists, lawyers, and journalists.

Anti-Defamation Campaign Poster



DEFENDING HUMAN RIGHTS AND SAFEGUARDING JUSTICE

Kazakhs Strive to Strengthen Fundamental Human Rights

Kazakhstan's democratic processes and human rights record have not paralleled the country's economic success. In 2006, Freedom House supported local partners who have been conducting national advocacy campaigns in three areas—freedom of association, freedom of expression and judicial reform. Freedom House provides funding, technical assistance and targeted skills training, which will culminate later this year in the development of a productive dialogue between these reformists and the Kazakh government.

National Reconciliation Remains Priority for Algerian Human Rights Defenders

Nearly a decade after a brutal civil conflict, national reconciliation remains a top priority in Algeria. In the year following the September 29, 2005 referendum on General Amnesty in Algeria, Freedom House supports the efforts of human rights organizations, victims' rights organizations, women's associations and the media to continue to pursue an inclusive, democratic and legitimate national reconciliation process.

Participants at a national reconciliation training in Algeria. Some mothers of missing persons carry photos of their loved ones.



FREEDOM HOUSE

Amplifying the Voices of Uzbek Human Rights Defenders

Effectively assisting human rights defenders in Uzbekistan is both a critical need and a challenge in post-Andijan Uzbekistan. Since its office and resource centers were closed down by the government in January 2006 (along with those of most other international and many local NGOs), Freedom House has continued its work of amplifying the voices of Uzbek human rights defenders through training and networking. The creation of a Central Asian network of human rights defenders has helped to increase reporting to international media outlets and the submission of complaints to the UN and other intergovernmental bodies overseeing human rights and torture issues.

“We lost a battle when the Uzbek government kicked Freedom House out of Uzbekistan, but we will lose the war, if Freedom House is no longer interested in Uzbekistan.”

—UZBEK HUMAN
RIGHTS
DEFENDER





Mexican human rights defenders from Oaxaca and Chihuahua attend training on human rights documentation software

Mexican Activists Combat Ongoing Human Rights Abuses

While Mexico is a Free country according to Freedom House's rankings, human rights violations—including discrimination, lack of due process, violence against women (e.g. Ciudad Juárez) and the marginalization of indigenous peoples—remain a serious problem at the state level. Throughout the course of its work in Mexico, Freedom House has assisted Mexican human rights defenders in systematically documenting violations of both existing Mexican laws and of international treaties and covenants to which Mexico is a signatory party.

Venezuelans Seek Regional Support in Struggle for Human Rights

With the space to operate closing in almost all sectors of Venezuelan society, Venezuelan human rights defenders are reaching out to their counterparts elsewhere in Latin America to share experiences, strategies and skills in their struggle to defend against human rights abuses. Freedom House facilitates these linkages by strengthening lawyers' networks within the country that provide legal defense, as well as by building the capacity of human rights defenders to monitor and document human rights abuses.

SUPPORTING DEMOCRATIC CIVIL SOCIETY

Freedom House Celebrates Ten-Year Anniversary of Civil Society Support in East Europe —Steps up European Advocacy

In fall 1995, Freedom House opened up its first formal field office, located in Budapest, Hungary. The new project based out of that office linked civil society activists throughout Central and Eastern

Europe who faced a myriad of similar challenges as their countries struggled to transition to democracy. Freedom House provided early support to think tanks and policy-oriented NGOs in the region that contributed not only to a thriving civil society sector but also to many of the substantial democratic reforms that have since taken hold. As democracies solidified in Central Europe and the Baltic States,

Freedom House's support for civil society turned to the south and east where the transition experiences could be shared.

“Under this program [supported by Freedom House], for the first time in the history of Romania, the civil society has a direct impact in the selection of candidates running for Parliament, establishing a mechanism of civic control and a dialogue with the political parties on what they considered to be their sole responsibility.”

—CENTER FOR
INDEPENDENT
JOURNALISM

Freedom House's Budapest office is now the headquarters of Freedom House Europe, an affiliate organization that takes a leading role in promoting democratization in the greater European neighborhood. Freedom House Europe advocates for democracy and human rights to European states and supports the transfer of experience from Central Europe to the Balkans, the former Soviet Union and other parts of the world embarking on democratic reform.

Ukrainians Keep an Eye on Local Governments

In the aftermath of the Orange Revolution, Ukrainians struggle to consolidate democratic reform at both the national and local levels. Freedom House has provided training and mentoring to Ukrainian NGOs so they can monitor and influence the functioning of municipal and regional governments, which have the most immediate impact on people's everyday lives. In Sevastopol, a citizens' group used their training to first identify issues of greatest concern to residents and then organize a successful initiative with the local government that dramatically improved the provision of communal services through the support of condominium owner associations.

Ukrainians organize a training workshop for citizens of Sevastopol on monitoring their local government

ALEXANDER SEMENOV



SUPPORTING DEMOCRATIC CHANGE

Serbian NGOs Continue to Push for Reform

Serbia’s civil society, which was a powerful force for bringing democratic transition to Serbia, has continued its efforts to help Serbia consolidate as a democracy. Freedom House supports efforts by Serbian nongovernmental organizations to get citizens involved in resolving local and national-level problems; in reestablishing economic, social, and cultural ties with its neighboring countries; and in promoting national reconciliation.

Bridging the Multi-Ethnic Divide in Kosovo

As the final status of Kosovo remains under deliberation by the international community and the government of Serbia and Montenegro, Freedom House is supporting civic initiatives among multi-ethnic communities designed to alleviate ethnic tensions in the province. This timely program addresses critical everyday issues for Kosovars of all ethnicities, such as freedom of movement, youth engagement, religious freedom, local government cooperation, objective media reporting, and cultural events.

European Exhibit Generates Awareness of Cuba’s Human Rights Struggle

With support from Freedom House, a European NGO has developed a traveling photo exhibition entitled “Prohibido Pensar” (Forbidden to Think), the artistic renderings of 75 imprisoned Cuban dissidents from the March 2003 crackdown on the nation’s democracy movement. Based on the pho-



Serbian activists design materials for “Until Violence Stops” campaign

“With support from Freedom House, our “Until Violence Stops!” campaign to promote awareness of domestic abuse attracted the kind of attention and support that is practically unheard of in Serbia. Civic groups came together with media and even government agencies to promote and support the campaign.”

—SANDRA LUBINKOVIC,
ANTI-TRAFFICKING CENTER

tosgraphs of renowned Italian artist Oliviero Toscani, the exhibit is a powerful testimony to the continued struggle for political liberties in Cuba. Over the past year, the exhibit has been a unique cornerstone of Freedom House’s advocacy initiatives throughout the European Union, including recent showcases in Stockholm, Warsaw, and Zagreb.

Reforming Family Law in Bahrain and Kuwait

With Freedom House's support, experts in family law and women's rights are working with local stakeholders in Bahrain and Kuwait to develop strategies for improving laws that impact the status of women. In June 2006, on the eve of the first elections in which Kuwaiti women were able to vote and stand as candidates for parliament, Freedom House conducted the only national pre-election survey measuring the impact of women's suffrage and political participation on Kuwaiti voting patterns and views on women's leadership. Although no women were elected to office, the election marked an important first step and forced male candidates for the first time to emphasize their qualifications over personal relationships in order to gain the votes of first-time women voters.

Supporting a New Generation of Reform Advocates in the Middle East

Emerging civil society leaders in the Middle East are in great need of opportunities to network with supporters, build skills, and form bonds with like-minded activists. Freedom House is providing support to young civil society advocates for peaceful political change from Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, and Libya through professional fellowships in the U.S. and Central and Eastern Europe, as well as through networking opportunities in the region. Additionally, by working with prominent human rights proponents in politics, media and civil society in both the U.S. and Europe, Freedom House is creating a solidarity committee that will serve as one component of a larger protection strategy, labeled the "Blue Umbrella."

Andras F. Toth shares his experience in starting up Hungary's first volunteer center with Egyptian activist, Mohamed Omran.



FREEDOM HOUSE

FISCAL YEAR 2006 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Freedom House FY2006 Income Statement

Combining Statements of Activities and Changes in Net Assets for Freedom House, Inc. and its Affiliates

Period Ending June 30, 2006

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Combined
Support and Revenue:			
Federal Grants	\$20,998,613	\$ —	\$20,998,613
In-kind contributions	2,060,653	—	2,060,653
Private Grants	1,664,042	116,913	1,664,042
Contributions	1,054,812	—	1,054,812
Investment income (loss)	110,188	—	110,188
Other Income	165,557	—	165,557
Net assets released from restrictions	341,667	(341,667)	—
Total Revenue and support	26,395,532	(341,667)	26,053,865
Expenses:			
Program services	22,563,970	—	22,563,970
Supporting services:			
Management and general	3,166,120	—	3,166,120
Fund-raising	277,166	—	277,166
Total expenses	26,007,256	—	26,007,256
Change in net assets	388,276	(341,667)	46,609
Net Assets:			
Beginning	5,350,878	341,667	5,692,545
Ending	\$5,739,154	—	\$5,739,154

Freedom House FY2006 Balance Sheet

Combining Balance Sheets for Freedom House, Inc. and its Affiliates

Period Ending June 30, 2006

	Freedom House, Inc.	Willkie Memorial of Freedom House, Inc.	Freedom House of Ukraine	Freedom House of Romania	Combined
ASSETS					
Current Assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$3,616,318	—	\$7,370	\$66,715	\$3,690,403
Investments	222,537	3,757,888	—	—	3,867,946
Receivables	2,841,901	—	—	—	2,841,901
Prepaid expenses	39,100	—	—	—	39,100
Furniture and equipment, net	217,988	—	—	—	217,988
Security Deposits	94,284	—	—	—	94,284
	<u>\$7,032,128</u>	<u>\$3,645,409</u>	<u>\$7,370</u>	<u>\$66,715</u>	<u>\$10,751,622</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS					
Current Liabilities					
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$1,947,967	—	—	—	\$1,947,967
Refundable advances	2,964,396	—	—	—	2,964,396
Deposits payable	26,981	—	—	—	26,981
Deferred rent	73,124	—	—	—	73,124
	<u>5,012,468</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>5,012,468</u>
Net Assets					
Unrestricted	2,019,660	3,645,409	7,370	66,715	5,739,154
	<u>\$7,032,128</u>	<u>\$3,645,409</u>	<u>\$7,370</u>	<u>\$66,715</u>	<u>\$10,751,622</u>

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