Freedom Now is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that works to free prisoners of conscience through legal, political, and public relations advocacy. Based in Washington D.C., Freedom Now serves individuals who have been wrongly imprisoned all over the world, seeking their freedom from detention and justice for the violation of their most sacred human rights.
**Who We Are**

*Freedom Now Staff*

Maran Turner, Executive Director
Patrick Griffith, Program Lawyer
Mirakmal Niyazmatov, Program Lawyer
Kelly Gaberlavage, Program Assistant

*Freedom Now Board of Directors*

Desmond Tutu, Honorary Chair

Jeremy Zucker, Chair
Dechert LLP

Jared Genser, Founder
Perseus Strategies LLC

Peter Magyar
Magyar & Co. UK

Thomas Dohrmann
McKinsey & Company

Teresita Alvarez-Bjelland
Former President of Harvard Alumni Association

Joseph J. McCarthy
Former Associate Dean at the JFK School of Government, Harvard University

**Law Firm Partners**

Freedom Now continues to be grateful for the support we receive from our law firm partners. It is because of this generous assistance from law firms we are able to help so many individuals.
Freedom Now in 2013

For more than twelve years, Freedom Now has come to the aid of prisoners of conscience. In 2013, we continued this effort and supported individuals all over the globe. Partnering with foundations, such as Open Society Foundation and law firms, such as Hogan Lovells, we helped free SIX individuals wrongly imprisoned in Iran, Rwanda, and Turkmenistan. A lawyer imprisoned for fighting for the human rights of Iranian citizens. A journalist imprisoned for reporting critically about the Rwandan President. Popular musicians detained because of their nonconformist style in Turkmenistan. And two journalists who spent nearly seven years in prison for helping European journalists expose human rights violations in Turkmenistan. All of these individuals are now free.

For others who remain wrongfully imprisoned, and on whose behalf we work, we provided international legal representation, transmitted emergency funds, and mobilized political and public awareness campaigns. We ensured our clients—who are journalists, human rights defenders, civic and labor activists, and community leaders—were not ignored; the injustice they suffer was recognized; and the governments who are illegally imprisoning them are held to account under international law.

Throughout 2013, international organizations and media reported a global decline in respect for fundamental human rights and democratic freedoms. Governments around the world took measures to attack press and internet freedom, restrict civil society organizations, limit political activism, and stifle religious freedom. Governments adopted legislation aimed at limiting rights guaranteed under international law—often inspired by the heavy-handed regimes of China, Russia, and Iran—and outrageously applied overly broad national security laws to punish peaceful critics with arrest and imprisonment.

Freedom Now is committed to working on behalf of prisoners of conscience, those crusaders who are detained for peacefully exercising fundamental freedoms, such as freedom of speech, belief, and association.

In 2013, Freedom Now worked on 22 cases from eleven countries, representing more than 25 individuals.
**Freedom Now Recognized by the American Bar Association**

As a testament to our work, Freedom Now’s founder Jared Genser was named “Human Rights Lawyer of the Year” by the American Bar Association. “The Award is being presented for Jared’s extraordinary contributions to the rule of law, access to justice, and human rights,” said William R. Bay, Chairman of the ABA Section of Litigation. “His work on behalf of human rights has been a beacon of light in some of the world’s darkest places.”

**Where Freedom Now worked in 2013**

![Map of Freedom Now work locations in 2013](image)

**SIX Freedom Now Clients Released in 2013**

Freedom Now is thrilled that we helped to secure the release of SIX clients in 2013:

**Nasrin Sotoudeh (Iran)** was released early by the Iranian government on September 18, 2013 after serving three years in prison on charges including “propaganda against the state.” Prior to her arrest, the renowned human rights lawyer worked closely with the banned human rights organization, Center for the Defense of Human Rights, defending those persecuted by the Iranian government. Freedom Now worked with Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Shirin Ebadi to release an [opinion](#) by the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention finding Ms. Sotoudeh’s detention in violation of international law and calling for her immediate release.
Saidati Mukakibibi (Rwanda) was released on June 25, 2013 after serving three years (a term reduced by the Supreme Court) in prison on charges of endangering national security. Ms. Mukakibibi was a journalist for the independent, Kinyarwanda-language newspaper, Umurabyo. Rwandan authorities arrested her after she wrote articles critical of Rwandan President Paul Kagame. Her colleague, Agnes Uwimana Nkusi, remains imprisoned and along with Hogan Lovells, Freedom Now continues to advocate for her release.

Annakurban Amanklychev and Sapardurdy Khadzhiev (Turkmenistan) were released early in February 2013 after serving nearly seven years in prison on fabricated charges for illegal possession of munitions. Messrs. Amanklychev and Khadzhiev were human rights journalists who at the time of their arrests were working on a documentary about then-President Niyazov’s cult of personality. Freedom Now, with pro bono support from Hogan Lovells LLC, submitted a petition to the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention on their behalf and the Working Group found their detention illegal under international law in 2010. Freedom Now mobilized substantial political pressure on their behalf, marshaling action from the United States and European Union. Through the Prisoner of Conscience (POC) Fund, we were able to secure much-needed financial support to the two journalists and their families.

Maksat Kakabaev (aka MARO) and Murad Ovezov (Turkmenistan) were released early from prison in February 2013 after serving approximately two years of their seven and five-year prison sentences, respectively. Prior to their arrests, they were popular singers in Turkmenistan. International observers believe that they were imprisoned for ideological overtones in their songs. Mr. Kakabaev and Mr. Ovezov were released as part of an amnesty celebrating National Flag Day just days after Freedom Now helped coordinate a letter signed by 24 Members of the European Parliament calling for their release. Through the support of the POC Fund, we were able to help provide MARO and Murad with financial assistance.
Freedom Now represents wrongly imprisoned individuals in Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, and we recently initiated efforts to help imprisoned journalist Hilal Mammadov in Azerbaijan.

In 2013, we renewed our successful program with the Open Society Foundation to free prisoners of conscience in Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan after welcoming the release of four Turkmen prisoners of conscience in February. As part of this campaign, Freedom Now adopted the cases of seven individuals in addition to the plight of nine Jehovah’s Witnesses imprisoned in Turkmenistan for conscientious objection to military service. Our clients in the region are journalists, human rights defenders, and religious freedom activists.

**Hilal Mammadov** is an Azerbaijani editor and minority rights activist who was arrested on June 21, 2012 and sentenced to five years in prison on fabricated charges.

**Gulgeldy Annaniyazov** is a Turkmen human rights activist who returned to Turkmenistan in 2008 after living in Norway and was arrested for illegal entry and sentenced to 11 years in prison following a closed trial.

**Salijon Abdurakhmanov** is an independent journalist in Uzbekistan who was convicted and sentenced to 10 years in prison in 2008 on fabricated drug charges.

**Azam Farmonov** is a prominent human rights defender in Uzbekistan who was arrested in 2006 on trumped-up extortion charges and is currently serving a nine-year prison sentence.
Gaybullo Jalilov is a prominent human rights defender in Uzbekistan who has been wrongfully detained since 2009 on security charges and is currently serving an 11-year prison sentence.

Dilmurod Saidov is a prominent Uzbek human rights activist and journalist, who was convicted on fabricated extortion charges and sentenced to 12 ½ years in prison in 2009.

Akzam Turgunov is a longtime human rights leader sentenced to ten years in prison in Uzbekistan as a result of his political and human rights activities, including anti-corruption advocacy.

Freedom Now has engaged in considerable legal and public advocacy on behalf of our Uzbek and Turkmen clients.

- We have published op-eds in the European Voice and Eurasianet to raise awareness.
- We have mobilized members of the US Senate and the European Parliament.
- Freedom Now drafted and submitted three legal briefs to UN complaint procedure bodies. And in 2013, we obtained two opinions on our project cases from the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, finding the detentions of Mr. Saidov and Mr. Jalilov to be in violation of international law.
- The UN Human Rights Council reviewed all three project Eurasian countries in 2013 as part of its Universal Periodic Review (UPR). Freedom Now participated in this process, providing a report to the Committee about human rights abuses in these three countries, making recommendations, and briefing Council member states.
- Freedom Now’s executive director addressed OSCE member states in October, which included representatives from Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan, during the 2013 Human Dimension Conference in Warsaw.
Going into 2014, Freedom Now is building a web-based catalog of political prisoners in Uzbekistan. There are estimated to be thousands of wrongfully imprisoned individuals, most of whom receive little or no international attention. To generate more effective advocacy, Freedom Now is developing a guide for international prisoner advocacy, which we hope will be utilized by human rights defenders at home in Central Asia and abroad.

Representing Prisoners of Conscience in China

The Government of the People’s Republic of China is one of the world’s most infamous violators of human rights. The exact number of individuals detained is unknown, as many of them disappear into “black jails.” The government imprisons lawyers, journalists, religious practitioners, and democracy activists.

Freedom Now undertook substantial advocacy in 2013, both publicly and privately, on behalf of Chinese prisoners of conscience. This year, Freedom Now became international pro bono counsel for Chen Kegui, the nephew of renowned Chinese legal activist Chen Guangcheng. Following Chen Guangcheng’s escape from illegal house arrest in April 2012, authorities charged Chen Kegui with “intentionally inflicting injuries” and sentenced him to over three years in prison after he attempted to defend himself from intruders who stormed his home without warrant and physically attacked his family.

In April 2013, Chen Guangcheng and Freedom Now Founder Jared Genser testified before the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Heath, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations about Chen Kegui’s arrest and the Chinese government’s continued persecution of human rights defenders and their families. In May 2013, Freedom Now helped to facilitate a letter to Secretary of State John Kerry from eight Members of Congress expressing concern about the ongoing persecution of the Chen family and Chen Kegui’s poor health and mistreatment while in detention. In addition to an urgent
appeal submitted to the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, Freedom Now and Chen Guangcheng submitted a petition to the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention on Chen Kegui’s behalf in September 2013, which they announced during a Newsmakers event at the National Press Club.

Freedom Now has also continued its work on behalf of imprisoned Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Liu Xiaobo and imprisoned human rights lawyer Gao Zhisheng.

Freedom Now worked closely with the International Committee for Liu Xiaobo—a coalition of six Nobel Peace Prize Laureates and 15 NGOs—to organize a letter from 134 Nobel Laureates to Chinese President Xi Jinping calling for Liu Xiaobo’s immediate release from prison and his wife’s freedom from house arrest. The initiative also included a Change.org petition sponsored by Desmond Tutu and signed by approximately 450,000 individuals from around the world. The same month, Freedom Now Program Lawyer Patrick Griffith testified before the Congressional-Executive Committee on China about Liu Xiaobo’s ongoing detention and his wife’s unlawful house arrest.

Geng He, the wife of imprisoned Chinese rights lawyer Gao Zhisheng testified during the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee hearing in April, and joined Mr. Genser in meetings with high-level government officials during her visit to Washington. In June 2013, Freedom Now joined 30 organizations in a letter urging President Obama to call for the release of prisoners of conscience in China, including Liu Xiaobo, Gao Zhisheng, and Chen Kegui, during his bi-lateral summit with President Xi.

Freedom Now submitted a report as part of China’s UPR before the UN Human Rights Council. The report describes the widespread harassment of Chinese human rights advocates, lawyers, and their families and urges the government to respect the fundamental right to freedom of expression and association. Mr. Genser has recently reiterated this message and called on the Obama administration to prioritize Chinese prisoners of conscience in a series of op-eds in the Wall Street Journal, the LA Times, and Washington Post.
In 2013, Freedom Now undertook a number of initiatives in our effort to free imprisoned Ethiopian journalist Eskinder Nega. The government arrested Mr. Nega in 2012 under the country’s much-criticized anti-terror laws after he wrote articles about the possibility of an Arab Spring-like movement in Ethiopia.

- Freedom Now submitted his case to the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention and won a ruling in April 2013 finding his imprisonment in violation of international law and calling for his immediate release.
- Freedom Now is partnering with other NGOs to focus international attention on Mr. Nega’s case. In September 2013, Freedom Now collaborated with PEN International and the Committee to Protect Journalists to submit a report on Ethiopia’s prosecution of journalists on terror charges as part of Ethiopia’s UPR.
- In October, we partnered with Media Legal Defense Initiative to file a petition on behalf of Mr. Nega and fellow imprisoned journalist Reeyot Alemu to the African Commission on Human and People’s Rights.
- Freedom Now has collaborated with former prisoners of conscience in an effort to raise awareness about arbitrary detention in the country through opinion pieces in AlJazeera English, the Wall Street Journal, and the University of Pretoria’s AfricLaw Blog.

The UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention’s ruling on Mr. Nega’s case received attention from the media, including New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristof who re-tweeted Freedom Now’s press release announcing the decision.
Advocating for Labor Rights Activists in Vietnam

Freedom Now has partnered with the law firm Woodley & McGillivary, who provide their time and expertise on a pro bono basis, to advocate on behalf of imprisoned Vietnamese labor organizers Doan Huy Chuong, Do Thi Minh Hanh, and Nguyen Doan Quoc Hung. In its first collaboration, the team submitted a petition to the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention on behalf of the activists in late 2011 and received an opinion in March of this year calling for their immediate release. The team filed an urgent action request with UN Special Rapporteur on Torture and submitted a UPR report on Vietnam to the United Nations.

Throughout the year, Freedom Now and Woodley & McGillivary have engaged with government officials to press for the release of Doan, Do, and Nguyen. At the end of last year, an Early Day Motion calling for their immediate and unconditional release was introduced by members of the UK Parliament and eventually secured the support of 28 parliamentarians. Our team continues to mobilize labor and human rights officials—as well as national and international labor organizations in the United States, Europe, and Asia—to ensure that the continued detention of Doan, Do, and Nguyen remains a priority for the international community.
To learn more about Freedom Now’s work and our clients, please visit our website at http://www.freedom-now.org or follow us on Twitter @freedomnoworg.
## Financial Report 2012-2013

### Public Support and Revenue

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Audited 2012</th>
<th>2013, Through 3rd Qtr</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>Restricted</td>
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<td>Investment Income</td>
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<td>Donated Legal Services</td>
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<td>Donated Property and Equipment</td>
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<td>Net Assets released from restrictions</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Public Support and Revenue</strong></td>
<td>953,563</td>
<td>(64,998)</td>
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### Expenses

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<td>Donated Legal Services</td>
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<td>Bank Charges</td>
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<td>Postage and delivery</td>
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<td>Licenses and Fees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>930,414</td>
<td>671,468</td>
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1 Our financial year runs January 1 - December 31. The amounts listed for 2013 are incomplete. Freedom Now receives the bulk of its funds during November and December, which is not included in the amounts provided.

2 Estimated value. Actual values for pro bono support received in 2013 will not be obtained until the end of the year.
2012 Expenses by Category

Program 91%

Fundraising 3%

Administrative 6%

Foundation Support

Oak Foundation
Open Society Institute

Bradley Foundation
Moriah Fund

Pro Bono Law Firm Support

The Chambers of David Fisher Q.C. and David Perry Q.C.
Dechert LLP
DLA Piper
Gibson Dunn

Hogan Lovells
Perseus Strategies LLC
Sidley Austin LLP
WilmerHale
Woodley & McGillivary