

Statement from Rep. James McGovern (MA-2)

“I am pleased to congratulate Freedom Now on your 25th anniversary. Founded with a mission to advocate for individuals and communities seeking to exercise their universal human rights denied by their governments, you are a small team that has an outsized impact on helping free prisoners of conscience. One recent success is Dr. Gubad Ibadoghlu from Azerbaijan, recently released from arbitrary detention and allowed to travel to Germany to seek medical care.

“If the United States stands for anything, we need to stand out loud and foursquare for human rights. Our values are our strength. This is why I serve as Co-Chair of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission of the House of Representatives. I am proud that Freedom Now is a partner in the Commission’s Defending Freedom Project, which provides tools to Members of Congress to advocate for prisoners of conscience in many countries.

“The work that Freedom Now does is essential in making a real difference in the lives of people who are deprived of their liberty and their dignity. One of the worst fears a political prisoner can experience is the feeling that they have been forgotten. It must be our calling to ensure that every unjustly detained person hears that there remain many who are fighting for their fundamental rights.

“Again, my thanks to Freedom Now for all that you have done for 25 years. Let us continue to advocate together.”

Statement from Congressman Jamie Raskin (MD-08):

“Greetings, everyone. I’m sorry I can’t be with you in person, but I want to send you my heartiest congratulations as Freedom Now celebrates its 25th anniversary.

Across the world, tyrants and dictators are threatening human rights, including free speech and thought, but they tremble when they see Freedom Now coming. May your tyrant enemies in state power continue to cower and recoil when you decide to mobilize the attention and pressure of the world to free political prisoners and prisoners of conscience. In Congress, I remain your partner in this campaign against terror, torture and tyranny as we champion democracy and freedom for the people of the world.

“Together we fought for and secured the release of Mubarak Bala, a brave Nigerian man who was jailed by his own government for his secular and atheist beliefs. Your organization has represented Mr. Bala and 200 other people who were wrongfully detained. I wish Andrea Prasow and the entire team all best as we celebrate around the world this exciting milestone. Please don’t hesitate to reach out when I can be of assistance in the future. Hang tough, stay close and congratulations.”

—Rep. Jamie Raskin