

BIOGRAPHIES OF THE SPEAKERS



Issam Abu Issa

Issam Abu Issa is the Chairman of I.A.S. International Holding, a Qatar-based company engaged in mining, banking, real estate, energy and commodities trading, among other endeavours, in key cities around the world, with a special emphasis on the U.S., Africa and Chinese markets. He was also the Founding Chairman of the Palestine International Bank, which was confiscated by Yasser Arafat at the end of 1990. Chosen by the World Economic Forum as one of the 100 Global Leaders for Tomorrow in 2000, Abu Issa is an advocate of peace and democracy as essential tools in achieving global economic and social growth. He is Special Presidential Envoy of the Central African Republic, providing socio-economic expertise as the country embraces modern democracy.



Peter Ackerman

Peter Ackerman is the Managing Director of Rockport Capital Incorporated, a private investment firm. He holds a Ph.D. from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, where he serves on the Board of the Council on Foreign Relations, and is a member of the U.S. Advisory Council of the United States Institute of Peace. Mr. Ackerman was the executive producer of the Peabody award-winning documentary, *Bringing Down a Dictator*, which chronicled the fall of Slobodan Milosevic in Serbia.



Mudawi Ibrahim Adam

Mudawi Ibrahim Adam is the founder and Chairman of the Sudan Social Development Organization (SUDO). Under his leadership, SUDO has grown to be the largest Sudanese NGO, implementing projects include water and sanitation, education support, and health and nutrition projects. For exposing the Sudanese government's role in massive violations of human rights in Darfur, Dr. Mudawi was detained for seven months in 2004 and again in January 2005. During imprisonment, he went on a hunger strike to protest being held in solitary confinement without being charged or provided access to a lawyer, his family or medical attention.



Ludmilla Alexeeva

Ludmilla Alexeeva is the Chair of the Moscow Helsinki Group, Member of the Presidential Council on Assistance of Institutes of Civil Society and Human Rights, and Co-Chair of the All-Russia Civil Congress. She was among the organizers of assistance to political prisoners of the Soviet Union and actively participated in publishing the first human rights bulletin, *The Chronicles of Current Events*. She was forced to immigrate to the United States in 1977, but returned to Russia in 1993. The author of *The Soviet Dissent*, a classical book describing all of the independent public movements of the Soviet Union since the 1950s.



Zainab Al-Suwaij

Zainab Al-Suwaij is the co-founder and Executive Director of the American Islamic Congress. Al-Suwaij was born in Basra, Iraq, the granddaughter of Basra's leading cleric; she is a Hashemite, a direct descendant of the Prophet Muhammad. Since the toppling of Saddam Hussein, she has been working in Iraq to strengthen women's rights and help rebuild the Iraqi education system. Her latest initiative is HAMSA, an international civil rights initiative that unites Americans to support individual freedoms in the Middle East.



José María Aznar

Jose María Aznar was Prime Minister of Spain from 1996 to 2004. Throughout his two terms, he led an important process of economic and social reform. In 1990 he was elected Chairman of the Partido Popular and led the party in the elections of 1993, 1996 and the year 2000. Throughout these four legislatures, he served as a Member of Parliament for Madrid. Mr. Aznar is currently the Executive President of FAES (Foundation for Social Studies and Analysis), a member of the Board of Directors for the News Corporation, a member of the Global Advisory Board of the J.E. Robert Companies, and the Chairman of the Advisory Board for the Latin American division.



Anne Bayefsky

Anne Bayefsky is the Editor of *www.EYEontheUN.org*, a Senior Fellow of the Hudson Institute and Director of the Institute on Human Rights and the Holocaust at Touro College. She is on leave from York University in Toronto, Canada. Professor Bayefsky created and manages *www.bayefsky.com*, a leading human rights website dedicated to enhancing the implementation of international human rights legal standards in every state. She is the author or editor of 11 books and numerous articles in the field of human rights. She is a member of the International Law Association Committee on Human Rights Law and Practice, and Editor-in-Chief of the series *Refugees and Human Rights*. She holds a B.A., M.A. and LL.B. from the University of Toronto, an M.Litt. from Oxford University, and is a barrister and solicitor of the Ontario Bar.



David Jay Bercuson

David Bercuson is the Director of the Center for Military and Strategic Studies at the University of Calgary and is also the Director of Programs of the Canadian Defense and Foreign Affairs Institute. He has published articles on a wide range of topics, specializing in modern Canadian politics, Canadian defense and foreign policy and Canadian military history. He was appointed to the Order of Canada in 2004. Currently he is a member of the Advisory Council on National Security and the Board of Governors of the Royal Military College of Canada.



José Brechner

José Brechner is a former Bolivian Congressman and Ambassador (1985–1989), and a founding member of *Accion Democratica Nacionalista*. He was Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee at the Bolivian Congress, and represented the country at several international forums, including the Organization for American States (OAS). During his tenure, he was nominated by all Bolivian media as the “Best Congressman.” He is an Op-Ed writer and political analyst, with articles published in journals worldwide. Mr. Brechner is an active defendant of private property, free market economy, and individual freedom and rights.



Fraser Cameron

Fraser Cameron is a former European Commission advisor and well known policy analyst and commentator on EU and international affairs. He is the Director of the EU-Russia Center, Director of *EuroFocus-Brussels*, Adjunct Professor at the Hertie School of Governance in Berlin, and Senior Advisor to the European Policy Center (EPC) in Brussels. From 1999–2001, Mr. Cameron was a Political

Counselor at the EU delegation in Washington, DC. He was educated at the Universities of St Andrews (MA) and Cambridge (PhD).



Irwin Cotler

Irwin Cotler has been variously described as a law professor, constitutional and comparative law scholar, international human rights lawyer, counsel to prisoners of conscience, NGO head, public intellectual, community leader and peace activist, Member of Parliament (since 1999), Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, and current opposition critic for human rights. Professor Cotler is a distinguished academic and a prominent human rights lawyer, who has represented Andrei Sakharov and Anatoly Sharansky in the Soviet Union, Nelson Mandela in South Africa, Nigerian playwright and Nobel Laureate Wole Soyinka, and an Egyptian sociologist and democracy advocate Saad Edin Ibrahim, among others. *Macleans* Magazine has referred to Irwin Cotler as “Counsel for the Oppressed.”



Richard Billing Dearlove

Richard Billing Dearlove served as Chief of the British Secret Intelligence Service (SIS) from 1999 until his retirement in 2004. Prior to serving as Chief, he was the Director of Operations; Director of Finance, Administration, and Personnel; and Assistant Chief. He is a career intelligence officer of thirty-eight years standing and has served in Nairobi, Prague, Paris, Geneva, Washington, and in a number of key London-based posts. Richard Dearlove became Master of Pembroke College, Cambridge, in 2004.



Bassem Eid

Bassem Eid is the Founder and Director of Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group (PHRMG). The PHRMG is a non-partisan human rights organization dedicated to exposing human rights violations and supporting a democratic and pluralistic Palestine. From 1989–1996, Mr. Eid worked as a Senior Field Researcher for B’Tselem, the Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories. In 1999 he was awarded the International Activist Award by the Gleitsman Foundation in the USA. He currently lives in Shuafat Refugee Camp in East Jerusalem.



Mohamed Eljahmi

Mohamed Eljahmi is a Libyan-American democracy activist and a software engineer. He is the author of many articles about Libya, which have appeared in the *Middle East Quarterly*, *National Review Online*, *Wall Street Journal* and *Philadelphia Inquirer*. He is the brother of prominent Libyan dissident Fathi Eljahmi.



Amir Abbas Fakhraivar

Amir Abbas Fakhraivar is an Iranian writer, journalist and has been a student leader for more than a decade. He was a political prisoner who spent over five years in prison for his writings, interviews and role in the student movement. He suffered years of torture in jail, including the torture described by Amnesty International as "white torture." He is an honorary member of English PEN Club, PEN Club Canada, and International PEN Club. He is the founder of the Confederation of Iranian Students and the leader of Independent Student Movement.



Farid Ghadry

Farid Ghadry was born in Aleppo in northern Syria and grew up between Aleppo, Damascus, and Beirut. He worked for EG&G, Intertech, and the International TechGroup. He has testified in the United States Congress on extremism and freedom in his capacity as the President of the Reform Party of Syria. He also spoke at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, Johns Hopkins University (SAIS), Harvard University, the European Parliament, the French Parliament, and the Belgian Senate. He is a member of the Committee on Present Danger. He holds a B.A. from American University in finance and marketing.



Karl-Theodor von und zu Guttenberg

Karl Theodor von und zu Guttenberg was first elected to the German Bundestag (CSU) in 2002 in his constituency in Upper Franconia, Bavaria. Before his election he worked as head of the Guttenberg family's companies in Munich and Berlin and as Managing Director of both the Guttenberg GmbH in Munich and the KT-Kapitalverwaltung GbR.



Václav Havel

Václav Havel is a Czech writer and dramatist. He was one of the first spokesmen for Charter 77, a leading figure of the Velvet Revolution of 1989, the last President of Czechoslovakia, and the first President of the Czech Republic. In 1975, he wrote an open letter to President Husák, in which he warned of the accumulated antagonism in Czechoslovak society. The culmination of his activities resulted in Charter 77. On December 29th, 1989, Havel, as the candidate of the Civic Forum, was elected President by the Federal Assembly of Czechoslovakia. Mr. Havel became the first President of the Czech Republic in 1993 and was re-elected in 1998.



Chin-mo Cheng

Chin-mo Cheng is an assistant professor at the Graduate Institute of European Studies and Department of Global Politics and Economics, Tamkang University. His teaching focuses on democratization of Central and Eastern Europe, governments and politics of Central and Eastern Europe, and globalization theories. From 1999-2004, Chin-mo Cheng was a doctoral candidate at the Graduate Institute of International Relations and was granted a Ph.D. in Social Science from Warsaw University.



Saad Eddin Ibrahim

Saad Eddin Ibrahim is the founder and chairman of the Ibn Khaldun Center for Development Studies and a professor of political sociology at the American University in Cairo. He also serves as Secretary General of the Egyptian Independent Commission for Electoral Review, is a member of the Club of Rome, a trustee of the Arab Thought Forum, and the President of the Egyptian Sociologists Association. He was arrested in 2000 and sentenced to seven-years, but in 2003 Egypt's highest appeal court declared his trials improper and cleared him of all charges. Mr. Ibrahim has been one of the Arab world's most prominent spokesmen on behalf of democracy and human rights.



Toomas Henrik Ilves

Toomas Henrik Ilves is the 4th President of Estonia. He is a former diplomat, journalist, and was the leader of the Social Democratic Party in the 1990s and later a member of the European Parliament. During the 1980s, Mr. Ilves worked as a journalist for Radio Free Europe and became actively involved in politics prior to Estonia's independence in 1991. Mr. Ilves served as the Ambassador of Estonia to the United States, Canada, and Mexico. He was born in Stockholm, Sweden; his parents were Estonian refugees. He grew up in the United States and holds degrees in psychology from Columbia University and the University of Pennsylvania.



Bruce Jackson

Bruce Jackson is the founder and President of the Project on Transitional Democracies. In 2007, President Bush nominated Mr. Jackson to the Board of the U.S. Institute for Peace. Mr. Jackson was a U.S. military intelligence officer for 11 years and also served in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. Upon leaving the Department of Defense in 1990, Mr. Jackson joined Lehman Brothers, an investment bank,

where he was a strategist in the firm's proprietary trading operations. He was the President of the U.S. Committee on NATO from 1995 to 2003.



Josef Janning

Josef Janning is the Head of the International Relations Program at the Bertelsmann Foundation and Director of the Bertelsmann Policy Research Group, Center for Applied Policy Research (CAP) in Munich. He is a member of various study groups and expert commissions on foreign policy issues, European affairs, security, and defense policy. He has written numerous articles and books on European affairs, German foreign policy, transatlantic relations and security issues. Mr. Janning holds a B.A. from Elmira College, New York, and M.A. from the University of Bonn.



Josef Joffe

Josef Joffe is the Publisher – Editor of *Die Zeit*, Germany's largest-circulation weekly. He is also an Abramowitz Fellow at the Hoover Institution and a visiting professor at Stanford's Department of Political Science. He holds a B.A. from Swarthmore, a M.A. from John Hopkins, and a Ph.D. from Harvard. His areas of expertise are international politics, international security, U.S. foreign policy and European/German politics. His most recent book, *Überpower: The Imperial Temptation of America* was published in 2006.



Cheol-hwan Kang

Cheol-hwan Kang is the author of *The Aquariums of Pyongyang*, an account of the 10 years he spent as a child in the Yodok concentration camp in North Korea. Mr. Kang was taken to Yodok with his family at the age of nine. He was released in 1987. He lives and works as a journalist for the newspaper *Chosun Ilbo* in Seoul.



Garri Kasparov

Garri Kasparov came to fame as the youngest world chess champion in history in 1985 at the age of 22, wresting the title from Anatoly Karpov. From 1989–91 he played a prominent role in the nascent democratic opposition to the Soviet system. After twenty years as the world's top-ranked player, Mr. Kasparov retired from chess in 2005 to take up the struggle for Russian democracy. His organization, the United Civil Front, is a member of the Other Russia Alliance that is staging "Marches of Dissent" across Russia to protest President Putin's policies and to defend democracy and civil rights. Mr. Kasparov has been a contributing editor to *The Wall Street Journal* since 1991 and is a popular keynote speaker. His book *How Life Imitates Chess* will soon be available in 17 languages.



Eli Khoury

Eli Khoury is Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Quantum Communications and Saatchi and Saatchi in Beirut. He was born in Beirut in 1960 and started his career publishing political cartoons during the Lebanese war at the age of 17. His blunt criticism of Syrian and Palestinian interventions impelled him to leave Lebanon. In 1990, he returned and started Saatchi and Saatchi, which became part of a larger group, the Quantum Group. He was among the key planners and promoters of the Cedar Revolution, which drove the Syrian army out and restored Lebanon's sovereignty.



Martin Kramer

Martin Kramer is a Senior Fellow at the Adelson Institute for Strategic Studies and author of the best-selling monograph, *Ivory Towers on Sand: The Failure of Middle Eastern Studies in America*. An authority on contemporary Islam and Arab politics, Mr. Kramer earned his undergraduate and doctoral degrees in Near Eastern Studies from Princeton University, and another graduate degree from Columbia University. During the twenty-five-year career at Tel Aviv University, he directed the Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies; taught as a visiting professor at Brandeis University, the University of Chicago, Cornell University, and Georgetown University; and served twice as a fellow of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington. Mr. Kramer is also a fellow of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy and the Olin Institute at Harvard.



Irina Krasovskaya

Irina Krasovskaya is a Belarusian political activist. On September 16, 1999, she lost her husband Anatoly Krasovsky, when he went missing along with Viktor Gonchar, the Deputy Speaker of the then-dissolved Belarusian Parliament and a major political opponent of President Alyaksandr Lukashenka. Mrs. Krasovskaya has relentlessly lobbied governments and spoken at international bodies such as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to pressure the Belarusian government to investigate her husband's case.



Joseph Lieberman

Joseph Lieberman is a 4th term United States Senator from Connecticut. He is Chairman of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee; a member of the Environment and Public Works Committee and Senate Armed Services Committee, where he is Ranking Member

of the Subcommittee on AirLand Forces. He was a Connecticut State Senator from 1970-1980 and the state's 21st Attorney General from 1983-1988. He holds a B.A. and law degree from Yale College.



Tod Lindberg

Tod Lindberg is a Research Fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University. He is the Editor of Policy Review, Hoover's Washington, D.C.-based bi-monthly journal. He is also the author of The Political Teachings of Jesus, an analysis of Jesus's secular teaching about worldly affairs. He is a contributing editor to the Weekly Standard and can be heard as an analyst on National Public Radio. He is the Editor of Beyond Paradise and Power: Europe, America and the Future of a Troubled Partnership and Co-editor of Bridging the Foreign Policy Divide.



Junning Liu

Junning Liu is a Senior Fellow at the Institute of China Studies, Beijing. He is one of China's most important democratic intellectuals - he was selected as one of six of "China's Bright Young Stars" by the New York Times in 1999 and one of China's "Democracy's Vital Voices" by the Washington Post in 2004. He has published extensively on democracy, and translated into Chinese a number of major works on democracy. He is also the founder of the Cathay Institute for Public Affairs. He is interested in exploring effective ways to promote China's transition toward democracy.



Herbert I. London

Herbert London is the President of the Hudson Institute and is a Professor of Social Studies at New York University. He is the former John M. Olin Professor of Humanities at New York University and was responsible for creating the Gallatin School in 1972, where he served as dean until 1992. London holds a B.A. from Columbia University and a Ph.D. from New York University. He is the recipient of honorary degrees from the University of Aix-Marseille and Grove City College. In 1989, London was a Republican candidate for mayor of New York City and in 1990, he was the Conservative Party candidate for Governor of New York.



Kanan Makiya

Kanan Makiya is a Professor of Islamic and Middle East Studies at Brandeis University. He was born in Baghdad, but left to study architecture at M.I.T. and later joined Makiya Associates to design and build projects in the Middle East. In 1981, he left the practice of architecture and wrote a book, Republic of Fear: The Politics of Modern Iraq. It was published under the pseudonym Samir Al-Khalil in 1989, and became a bestseller after Saddam Hussain's invasion of Kuwait.



Aliaksandr Milinkevich

Aliaksandr Milinkevich is the leader of the "Movement for Freedom" in Belarus. After being elected in 2005 by the Congress of Democratic forces of Belarus, Mr. Milinkevich ran as the United Democratic Forces candidate in the 2006 presidential election in Belarus. Since 1996 he has been the Program Manager of the, "Foundation for Assistance to Local Development". He is the author of 65 scientific works on quantum electronics, laser technical equipment, education, and architecture. Mr. Milinkevich was awarded the "Order of Merits for Polish Culture" for the discovery of the burial place of Stanislaw Poniatowski, the last king of the Kingdom of Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.



Jorge Moragas

Jorge Moragas is a member of the Foreign Affairs Parliamentary Commission, the International Development Cooperation Parliamentary Commission, and Member of the UE Commission in Spain. In 2002, he was elected International Secretary of the Partido Popular and in 2003 he was appointed Director of the International Area at the FAES Foundation. In 2004 he was elected Member of the Spanish Parliament for Barcelona. His diplomatic career began in 1995 and he worked at the Prime Minister's Office until 2002. Jorge Moragas holds a law degree from the University of Barcelona.



Joshua Muravchik

Joshua Muravchik is a Resident Scholar at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) where he studies international affairs with a focus on human rights and democracy. He is currently working on a book of portraits of Middle Eastern democrats. He serves as an adjunct scholar at the Washington Institute

for Near East Policy and is an adjunct professor at the Institute of World Politics. In 2007, Secretary Condoleezza Rice appointed Dr. Muravchik as a member of the Advisory Committee on Democracy Promotion to the Secretary of State.



Richard Perle

Richard Perle is a Resident Fellow at the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research in Washington DC. He was the Chairman of the Defense Policy Board from 2001-2003. Under President Reagan, he served as Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Policy, a six-year term which was preceded by 20 years on the US Senate staff. He contributes to the Op-ed pages of the New York Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, The Daily Telegraph (London), Jerusalem Post, et al.



Walid Phares

Walid Phares is a Senior Fellow at the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies. He also leads the foundation's Future of Terrorism Project. Mr. Phares is the author of numerous books on terrorism and the Middle East. His latest book, War of Ideas: Jihadism against Democracy, was published in 2007 and his book, Future Jihad, Terrorist Strategies against America, has been listed on Foreign Policy magazine's best selling titles. Mr. Phares serves as a Fox News Channel Terrorism Analyst. He has also testified to the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on the Middle East and South East Asia.



Marc F. Plattner

Marc F. Plattner is the Co-editor of the Journal of Democracy, Vice-President for Research and Studies at the National Endowment for Democracy, and Co-director of the International Forum for Democratic Studies. Dr. Plattner received his Ph.D. in Government from Cornell University. He is the author of Rousseau's State of Nature (1979) and has coedited more than a dozen books on contemporary issues relating to democracy. His new book, Democracy without Borders? Global Challenges to Liberal Democracy will be published later this year.



Daniel Polisar

Daniel Polisar is the President of the Shalem Center. Before assuming that role in 2002, he served as the Center's Academic Director and Research Director and as editor-in-chief of its journal, Azure. In 1993, Polisar founded the Peace Watch organization, which monitored Israeli and Palestinian compliance with the Oslo Accords and the 1996 Palestinian elections. Mr. Polisar received his B.A. in politics summa cum

laude from Princeton University and his Ph.D. in government from Harvard University. His doctoral dissertation discussed the failure of democratization in the Palestinian Authority. He was the recipient of Truman and Fulbright scholarships and a Mellon Fellowship.



Rafael Rubio

Rafael Rubio is the President of the Asociación Cuba en Transición. He is a political consultant and a professor of constitutional law at the Universidad Complutense. He has published works on the political system in Spain, the situation in Cuba and articles on the promotion of and transition to democracy, political participation, and e-democracy.



Mohsen Sazegara

Mohsen Sazegara is a teacher, writer and leading proponent of reform against the current Iranian theocracy. His disillusionment with the system's power structure led him to initiate a campaign for a referendum to replace the existing Iranian constitution. In 2003, Mr. Sazegara was arrested by officers of the Ministry of Intelligence. He was charged with making propaganda against the regime. During his imprisonment, Mr. Sazegara endured two hunger strikes that totaled 79 days. In 2004, due to the extreme deterioration of his health he was permitted to go to London.



Natan Sharansky

Natan Sharansky is Chairman of the Adelson Institute for Strategic Studies at the Shalem Center in Jerusalem. He is a recipient of the US Presidential Medal of Freedom, a foremost proponent of democracy, and a human rights activist. His memoir, Fear No Evil, has been translated into nine languages. His recently published book, The Case for Democracy: The Power of Freedom to Overcome Tyranny and Terror has attracted widespread attention. Mr. Sharansky was born in the Ukraine, was arrested because of his Zionist and human rights activities, and served nine years in prison. After his release in 1986 he emigrated to Israel and served in four successive governments as a Minister and Deputy Prime Minister.



Jamie Shea

Jamie Shea is the Director of Policy Planning in the Private Office of the Secretary General, NATO. He was the Director of the Office of Information and Press of NATO from 2000-2003, and in May 2003 was appointed Deputy Assistant Secretary General for External Relations in the new Public Diplomacy Division. He was a NATO spokesman from 1993 to 2000. Mr. Shea also holds a number of academic

positions, most notably with the College of Europe, Bruges, and the Brussels School of International Studies of the University of Kent, Canterbury.



Christian Schmidt

Christian Schmidt is the German Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister of Defense. In 2002, Schmidt was the Defense Policy Spokesman of the CDU/CSU parliamentary group and served as a member of the Defense Committee and a deputy member of the Foreign Affairs Committee. In 1999 he was a member of the Coordination Council of the German-Czech Consultation Forum and Chairman of the German-British group of Parliamentarians. Mr. Schmidt, who was elected to the Federal German Parliament in 1990, studied law at Erlangen and Lausanne.



Karel Schwarzenberg

Karel Schwarzenberg is the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. In 2006 he was the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs, Defense and Security Committee of the Senate. In 2004, he became a Senator of the Parliament, member of the EU Affairs Committee, and member of the Permanent Delegation of the Parliament to the NATO Parliamentary assembly. From 1984-1991 he was President of the International Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, and was awarded, together with Lech Walesa, the Human Rights Award of the Council of Europe.



Stefano Silvestri

Stefano Silvestri is the President and head of Defense and Security Studies at the Institute of International Affairs in Rome. He is also a member of the European Security Research Advisory Board (ESRAB) of the European Commission. His varied career includes posts as a special assistant to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, consultant to the President of the Council of Ministers, the Minister of Internal Affairs, the Minister of Industry and Trade and the Minister of Defense.



Eugeniusz Smolar

Eugeniusz Smolar is the President of the Center for International Relations in Warsaw. In August of 1968 he was imprisoned for organizing pro-democracy protests and against the Warsaw Pact armies invasion of Czechoslovakia. Following his release from jail, in 1970 he emigrated to Sweden.

In 1975, he joined the BBC World Service as a journalist working in the Polish Section, then in 1982 became its Deputy Director, and its Director (1988-97). Following his return to Poland, in 1997 he became Deputy Chairman of Polskie Radio S.A. with responsibility for programming, and later its Program Director.



Mirek Topolánek

Mirek Topolánek is the Prime Minister of the Czech Republic. He has been the Chairman of the Civic Democratic Party since November 2002 and was a member of the Senate from 1996 to 2004. Since June 2006 he has been a member of the Chamber of Deputies. He was appointed Prime Minister by President Václav Klaus on August 16, 2006. He holds an engineering degree from Brno Institute of Technology.



Jan Urban

Jan Urban was among the founders of the Eastern European Information Agency, a dissident member network. He also worked with underground newspapers and as a reporter for Radio Free Europe and the British Broadcasting Company. In 1989, he helped found the Civic Forum, the movement that led to the eventual overthrow of the Communist regime in Czechoslovakia. Urban led the Civic Forum to its victory in the first free democratic elections. He also served as a war correspondent in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1993 through 1996. Recently, he has made two documentary films on the Kosovo conflict.



Alexandr Vondra

Alexandr Vondra was appointed the Czech Republic's Deputy Prime Minister for European Affairs in January 2007. Previously, he served as Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. From the mid-1980s, he participated in the activities of former Czechoslovakia's democratic opposition. In 1989, he became spokesperson for Charter 77 and from 1990-92, he served as foreign policy advisor to President Václav Havel. In 1994, he managed the Czech team responsible for the implementation of the Czech Republic's Partnership for Peace Program. From 1997-2003 Mr. Vondra served as the Czech Ambassador to the U.S.

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Michael Žantovský

Michael Žantovský was a founding member of the Civic Forum, the Press Secretary and Spokesman for President Vaclav Havel, and the Czech Ambassador to the United States from 1992-97. He was elected to the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic and served for six years as the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defense and Security. He is an author of a number of papers and essays on foreign policy, freedom of information and other public policy issues. Since January 2004, he has served as the Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the State of Israel.