

DEMOCRACY PROGRAMS

The Democracy Programs safeguard freedom by providing outreach and aid to those on the frontlines of democracy worldwide.

AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

The McCain Institute launched the American Democracy Project with the aim of fostering a vibrant and flourishing society, where respectful debate and civility are not just upheld, but embraced and normalized. John McCain envisioned a nation where every citizen, regardless of their differences, felt empowered to contribute to our democratic process. While democracy is often messy, it remains the most effective system for safeguarding freedom and liberty. However, the United States finds itself at a pivotal juncture, with the outcome of this election cycle potentially determining the fate of our democratic institutions—whether they will be fortified or weakened. The institute is committed to fortifying our democracy by countering misinformation and prioritizing support for those Americans who tirelessly uphold our fundamental democratic principles.

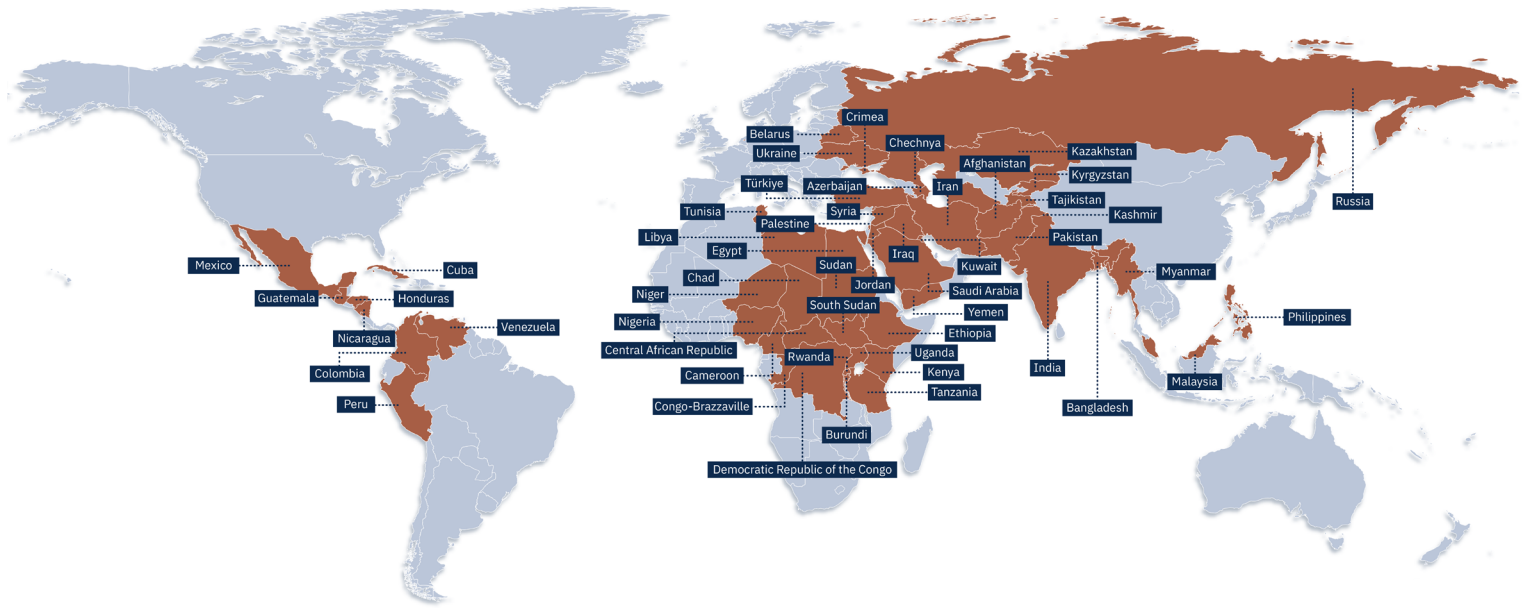
- **THE TASK FORCE ON DEFEATING MISINFORMATION ATTACKS ON THE UNITED STATES**
- **DEMOCRACY DIALOGUES ON THE FUTURE OF U.S. DEMOCRACY**
- **AMERICAN DEMOCRACY AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY FELLOWSHIP**

FRONTLINE DEMOCRACIES

Frontline democracies are nations where democratic principles face dire threats—whether they are in their nascent stages, fragile, or at risk of regression—and where the repercussions of democratic deterioration extend globally. In pursuit of safeguarding these values, the McCain Institute is dedicated to providing policymakers with crucial insights into the challenges faced by such nations and facilitating the connections necessary for effecting meaningful change. The recent full-scale invasion of Ukraine by Russia and the pervasive autocratic influence wielded by China on a global scale underscore the urgent need for these initiatives.

- **Connecting private/public entities to support Ukraine through the McCain Institute's UKRAINE BUSINESS ALLIANCE**
- **Supporting Democracy in the Republic of GEORGIA**
- **Advocating for the release of Russian prisoner VLADIMIR KARA-MURZA**
- **WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY PROGRAM**
- **REAFFIRMING AMERICA'S TRANSATLANTIC ALLIANCES**
- **Hosting Frontline Democracy WORKING GROUPS, including the UKRAINE WORKING GROUP & the RUSSIAN WORKING GROUP**





- ## HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

“What began as a small group of activists has grown into a team of nearly 30 specialists working to prevent human rights abuses and create greater accountability for the perpetrators of international crimes. Russia’s full invasion of Ukraine has only intensified the need for this critical work and has increased the pressure felt by our team members in the field. This funding from the McCain Institute will help support our work and bring justice for more Ukrainians and victims around the world.”

**Scan here to see
more about the
program.**



JAMILA AFGHANI
Human Rights Defender
Afghanistan

Jamila Afghani, a women's rights and education activist from Afghanistan, was forced to flee Afghanistan in 2017 after narrowly surviving a targeted Taliban bombing attack. The McCain Institute provided her with funds for medical treatment in Lithuania until she decided to return to Kabul three months later, becoming the first human rights defender the McCain Institute supported. The Taliban struck again, killing her niece and several family members. Knowing she was the target, Jamila fled but ultimately returned to her mission in Afghanistan. When the Taliban came to power in 2021, Jamila escaped one more time, with the support of the McCain Institute, as she continued her advocacy work from abroad. Now living in Canada, she received the prestigious global humanitarian award, the Aurora Prize – which came with a one-million-dollar award to continue her activism. She has taken that \$1M and equipped other activists in Afghanistan to fight repression.

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