

Van: Ken Roth, Human Rights Watch <news@hrw.org>
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Aan: Nieuwsarchief
Onderwerp: A glass curtain is falling

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Dear Friend,

[We need you to take action *now*.](#)

Nine months ago, the world was inspired by the Sochi Olympics. Today the armed conflict in Ukraine is in the global spotlight.

Though Russia's role in Ukraine has been widely covered in the news, we must remain focused on the crisis unfolding inside Russia's borders: the sweeping crackdown on free expression.

The Kremlin has recently instituted the most repressive series of laws since the fall of the Soviet Union.

[We must act, and we must act *today*.](#)

To dare to speak out is to risk your freedom. Participating in too many peaceful public protests that aren't approved by the authorities could land you in prison. State-controlled media labels protesters the pawns of Western schemes and demonizes independent rights groups as "foreign agents" and "traitors." You can receive up to five years if convicted for "extremist" calls by simply re-tweeting or sharing a post on Facebook.

These are the darkest days Russia has seen since the Soviet era.

We cannot look away from the Kremlin's aggressive silencing of government critics or ignore the shrinking public space for civic activism and independent media. We cannot let Russia roll back.

We must urge action from global leaders to end the Kremlin's sweeping crackdown on human rights.

[Sign our petition to Secretary of State Kerry right now.](#)

Thank you,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Roth".

Kenneth Roth
Executive Director

SIGN THE PETITION

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