

Your Majesties
Your Royal Highness
Excellencies,
Esteemed Laureates
Members of the Roosevelt family
Ladies and Gentlemen

I consider it a great honor to present the Freedom Medal of Speech today to Mazen Darwish.

Mazen Darwish is a very brave man.
To him human rights, and especially Freedom of Speech, are not just fundamental and essential rights in a society.
They are rights you have to fight for every day.

And so he did.

Mazen played a crucial role in getting information out about Syria, before and during the devastating war, that`s still going on in his home country.

He spent years in prison because he doesn`t just believe in the Freedom of Speech.
But because he stood up for journalism.
And a society that`s really free.

Mazen Darwish.
Would you please step up to the podium / come forward.
So I can present you the Medal.