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Since the fall of the Iron Curtain, the path to democracy might seem open and unobstructed. It is true that in many countries nowadays elections are held, there is a parliament and a government proceeding from it, as well as a plurality of political parties and media. That mask, however, often hides merely formal democracy, manipulated from behind the scenes by a small group of power brokers. The demand for freedom of speech and free dissemination of opinions is a fundamental civic demand, not only because it is enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights, but particularly because without it democracy cannot truly be democracy. I consider the demands of the Freedom of Speech and Expression Forum to be justified and I give them my support.

Václav Havel 