



PRESS RELEASE

The Wall against Walls: Global call to support freedom and reject walls

Berliners send a monumental letter to US President: a section of the Berlin Wall on the anniversary of its fall

Berlin, 7 November 2019 | On the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, the President of the United States will receive a letter that reflects the magnitude of the historic occasion: a 2.7-ton section of the Berlin Wall. Berliners have adorned the concrete segment with a letter to Donald Trump (see attachment for the full text) which reiterates the importance of freedom and appeals for walls to be overcome.

The project, called The Wall against Walls, was initiated by the people of Berlin and the non-profit Initiative Offene Gesellschaft, and is supported by the Falling Walls Foundation.

"The fall of the Berlin Wall is a global symbol of the struggle for freedom and for an open society. With this initiative, we want to remind the President that the US has always played an important role in this endeavour. And that this common history also obliges us to continue to overcome walls in the future," says Philip Husemann, Managing Director of Initiative Offene Gesellschaft.

The concrete section – probably the most monumental message the White House has ever received – left for Washington, DC, in October to ensure punctual delivery. Written on one of the last original segments of the Berlin Wall, the letter highlights the United States' important role in the fall of the Wall: US presidents John F. Kennedy, Ronald Reagan and George Bush Sr. all opposed the building of the Berlin Wall and called for it to be overcome – and for a world without walls. For the current president, the segment of the wall is a clear reminder not to build new walls in the world.

At www.thewallagainstawalls.com, people around the globe can show their support for the initiative's message by signing a digital section of the Wall. The hashtag #TheWallAgainstWalls is being used to spread the message about border-transcending free thought on social media.

More information is available at: www.thewallagainstawalls.com

Press notice:

The piece of wall will arrive in Washington on the evening of November 8 and will be handed over in front of the White House on November 9. For arrangements to accompany the action on site with photo and camera teams, please contact Marcos Cline-Marquez, your local press contact.



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Images & Text

The documentation of the transport and the contents of the letter can be found at

<https://we.tl/t-A9Ls55Lnsz>

About Initiative Offene Gesellschaft:

Initiative Offene Gesellschaft (Open Society Initiative) is an independent, non-profit and non-partisan initiative. It serves as a platform to generate ideas for an open society, organises campaigns and connects people who want to contribute to a vibrant democracy. The initiative is committed to promoting freedom, exchange and a strong civil society.

About the Falling Walls Foundation:

The Falling Walls Foundation is a Berlin-based non-profit organisation which hosts an annual science conference on the anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. Outstanding researchers from around the world present their answers to the question "Which are the next walls to fall?" and describe the breakthroughs that are still to come.

Social Media

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