



Embassy of the Czech Republic
Washington, DC



**The Václav Havel Journalism Fellowship
Panel Discussion and Inaugural Reception**

March 21, 6:30 pm

**Embassy of the Czech Republic
3900 Spring of Freedom Street, NW, Washington, DC 20008**

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Program Overview:

Announcement of the Václav Havel Journalism Fellowship
Excerpts of the documentary: *Lesson of Belarusian*
Panel Discussion: *What Can Be Done for Freedom in Belarus?*

Featuring:

Pavel Fischer, Political Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic
Carl Gershman, President, National Endowment for Democracy
Damon Wilson, Vice President and Director of the International Security Program, Atlantic Council
Franak Viachorka, Belarusian journalist and first Václav Havel Fellow

Moderator:

Irena Chalupa, Senior Correspondent, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL)

A reception will follow the discussion.

H.E. Petr Gandalovič, Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the United States, will open the event. Political Director **Pavel Fischer** and **Martins Zvarens** of the RFE/RL will introduce the Václav Havel Journalism Fellowship. The first Václav Havel Fellow, Belarusian journalist **Franak Viachorka**, will present the documentary *Lesson of Belarusian* (2006). Excerpts of the film will be screened at the event.

The Václav Havel Journalism Fellowship is a joint program between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic and RFE/RL). Inspired by the former president's belief in the power of words and recognizing the transformational role of journalism in challenging tyranny, it provides training and development opportunities at RFE/RL's Prague headquarters to journalists from countries where media freedom is stifled and independent journalists are at risk.

The event is part of the Embassy's project: Freedom of Expression in the Contemporary World, dedicated to Miloš Forman and Václav Havel, running from February-May 2012.

During the reception, guests may view a special exhibition celebrating the life of former President of the Czech Republic Václav Havel by leading Czech photographer Tomki Němec.