



**PEN CANADA**  
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FREE  
EXPRESSION  
MATTERS

## Giving Tuesday 2022

### Why I support PEN

In the 1980s, when I lived in New York, I sat on the Executive Board of PEN America. Before German unification, I remember hosting a party for writers from East and West Germany—an opportunity for these separated writers to speak with one another.

PEN is about writers supporting writers and defending their right to work without fear of censorship or violence. Now that I am a Canadian citizen, living in Toronto, I'm proud to be a member of PEN Canada.

PEN's mission has never been more necessary. Almost 300 journalists were [imprisoned](#) for their work last year. Please join me this Giving Tuesday in supporting PEN—in defending and assisting writers.



### John Irving

*American-Canadian novelist, short story writer, and screenwriter.*

*Photo credit: Nina Cochran*