



PEN CANADA
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FREE
EXPRESSION
MATTERS

Giving Tuesday 2022

Why I support PEN

In this moment when authoritarians and fascists seem more emboldened than they have been in many decades, the work of protecting free speech and expression becomes even more immediate, even more vital. This is the work that PEN does, and has been doing for more than a century.

For years, I have been constantly astounded by and grateful for the scale and scope of PEN's efforts – from advocating on behalf of imprisoned authors and journalists to rallying the international literary community when so many forces around the globe are hell-bent on silencing dissent.

We are living through a deeply dangerous time, and it is the work of writers to chronicle, dissect and challenge the workings of moments such as these.

This Giving Tuesday, please join me in supporting PEN in its mission to stand up for the writers doing this work, and for free expression worldwide.



Omar El Akkad

Egyptian-Canadian novelist and journalist, whose novel What Strange Paradise was the winner of the 2021 Giller Prize.