



September 30, 2009

Press Section

American Embassy

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tel Aviv

Press Release

Announcing the Democracy Video Challenge 2009-2010: *Your Voice, Your Video*

The Democracy Video Challenge, a public-private partnership, engages youth in an online discussion/competition on democracy through the creation of short videos completing the phrase, "Democracy Is..." and with the help of social networking tools such as YouTube, Facebook, and Twitter.

The Department of State and its partners, including leading democracy and youth organizations, the film/entertainment industry, and academia, launched the second annual Democracy Video Challenge online and at the U.N. on International Democracy Day, September 15, 2009.

Challenge entrants will submit their videos to the Challenge's YouTube contest site:

<http://bit.ly/AGcJ0>. Israeli semifinalists will be selected by a local selection panel, designed to reflect a diverse cross-section of Israeli society and U.S. Embassy representatives. These semifinalists will then advance to regional level selections. Finally, public web-based voting will determine the global winners from each of the six regional groupings: Africa, East Asia Pacific, Europe, Near East and North Africa, South-Central Asia, and the Western Hemisphere.

The winning videos from each of the six geographic regions and an anonymous category will be screened at gala events in Washington, New York, and Hollywood in September 2010, while the six regional winners will receive an all-expense paid trip to the United States to visit Washington, D.C., New York, and Los Angeles. **In addition, the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv will award prizes to the top Israeli entries, as determined by a locally-based panel of judges – stay tuned for more information!**

For a complete list of contest rules please check out: <http://www.videochallenge.america.gov/>. For additional information, please contact the Public Affairs Section at U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv.

Public Affairs Section

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