



Annual Report 2020

***Creating a world where
artistic expression and
human rights are
honored equally for all.***

IHRAF.ORG

**Beauty, Courage,
Integrity
and
Celebrating Diversity**

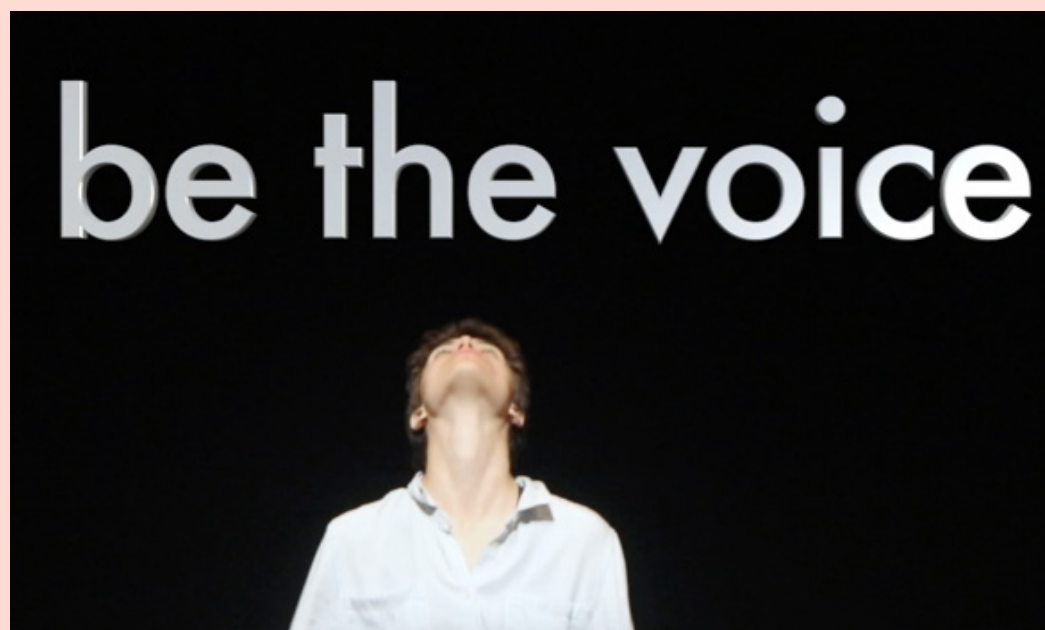
The *International Human Rights*

Art Festival (IHRAF) protects freedom of expression, safeguards artists at risk and uses creativity to highlight and impact human rights and social justice causes around the world.

We do this by:

- Providing direct support to artists at risk
- Providing transparency to expand their message, as well as safeguard them through celebrity
- Mobilizing artists to take an active role in discussions on social and political concerns
- Amplifying lesser-known voices around the world
- Engaging with and influencing decision makers in government and civil society
- Connecting change makers (activists and artists) with decision makers in the worlds of politics, government and society





Executive Director's Statement:

2020, *annus horribilis*, year of Covid-19, lock-downs, American political unrest and a whipsawing financial situation, presented unique challenges to the non-profit sector in general, and to the *International Human Rights Art Festival*, in particular. However, with the strong backing of our Board, the aid of a growing number of volunteers and advisors and a strong strategic plan, we were able to not only weather the challenge, but emerge in a much stronger position.

We not only solidified our financing and began long-range planning, but we were able to initiative a number of new partnerships, awards and international programming. Our Facebook followers ballooned from 3000+ to 23,000+; partnerships from Yahad-in Unum (France), Society of Young Nigerian Writers, Teatro Raizes (Italy), Gem Theater (Bethel, ME) and more; international literary awards drawing 250+ submissions from more than 30 countries around the globe; IHRAF Publishes presenting more than 50 activist-literary pieces and a strong plan of classes, workshops, presentations, performances, fellowships and other activities for 2021 has left us in a strong position.

Additionally, with our new Fundraising Committee, we solidified and expanded our fundraising base, with 46 new donors, including corporate partners such as Microsoft, Yahad-in Unum, Tree Riders and the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County, MD. We also received a US Government SBA loan, and immediately hired a professional grant writer.

All-in-all, we are looking for a very exciting and generative 2021, as we emerge from this amazing and challenging year, and power into the future, using the fuel of passion and creativity from artists and partners around the world!



The Festival



The week-long *International Human Rights Art Festival* was originally scheduled to take place from December 8-14, 2020, at our host, the Wild Project Theater in NYC's East Village. However, due to the Covid-19 situation this — and all other in-person activities — were cancelled after February 23, 2020.

We have our next full-week Festival planned for December 6-12, 2021, at the Wild Project.

We still strongly believe that this live celebration of diverse cultural voices is essential for keeping freedom of expression alive, and we look forward to revivifying it in the next year!



IHRAF Publishes

Our literary journal, IHRAF Publishes, showcases the power of storytelling.

We give voice to writers from around the world, many of whom are silenced by the repressive political structures in their home countries. In a number of cases, writers stated that the transparency and international reach we provide for their views safeguards them in their home countries.

Other writers have noted that by highlighting little-known social and political issues (political corruption in Uganda; Rohingyas' lack of Internet and healthcare access; caste and religious issues in India etc.), has raised the importance of these issues within their home communities and around the world.

Curated by a team of artists, activists and writers, in 2020 IHRAF publishes literary magazine presented 50+ poems, essays and stories from around the world that express the values of truth, beauty, justice and vulnerability in the face of oppression.

Additionally, we presented the 2020 Anthology of Youth Creativity on Human Rights & Social Justice, and three different literary awards, including the Creators of Justice Literary Award, Art of Unity Creative Award and #EndSars Poetry Award, in partnership with the Society of Young Nigerian Writers.

All told, in 2020, we featured nearly 100 works from 22 countries and 20 US states.

Interim Events

IHRAF produced fewer interim events, due to the Covid-19 situation. However, we were able to present three events, including two which were online.

Going forward, we are looking to produce many more online events in the first half of the year, driven by our Fellows, as well as new partnerships.

Even so, our events reached hundreds of audience members in NYC and around the world.

February 23: ***Diversity is Fun***
Playroom Theater, Times Square, NYC

August 15: ***IHRAF Live!***
Online, international performance and discussion event!

December 12: ***Celebration of Human Rights***
Online, international performance and discussion event!



IHRAF Direct Action

Our Direct Action program continued to provide monetary support, transparency for safety and general awareness of the Direct Action recipients' plight. We highlighted artists and activists whose freedom of expression is threatened. Our commitment to these Direct Action recipients remains as long as they are at risk.



In 2020, we supported the following artists and activists:

Mbizo Chirasha

Zimbabwean poet-in-exile
(currently in hiding in Mozambique)

Buwaso Ibrahim Razack

Ugandan poet-in-exile
(currently in hiding in Kenya)

Reality Leigh Winner

American whistleblower and visual artist
(currently in jail in Fort Worth, TX)

Wei Jingsheng

Chinese democracy activist who spent 18 years in jail after advocating for democratic reforms. He founded a literary movement called the "Democracy Wall Movement."

IHRAF Direct Action Case Study



Mbizo Chirasha
Zimbabwean Poet-in Exile

Mbizo first contacted us in late August 2017. His activist poetry has caused him to be pursued from Zimbabwe to South Africa, then to Zambia and Kenya. By the end of 2019, he found himself in Mozambique. Mbizo is now a strong member of the IHRAF Family, participating in our online events on August 15 and December 12, as well as joining our Advisory Council as African Outreach Coordinator.

Mbizo wrote us:

Thank you greatly Tom. I owe you a life. Thank you very much for the IHRAF DIRECT ACTION. IHRAF has stood with my welfare, communication, talent and artistic career development since 2017. I salute the amount of care, support and development. Thank you to the board, staff, artists and festival organizers for the trust. ALUTA CONTINUA!!!



IHRAF 2020 Budget

International Human Rights Art Festival

Statement of Activity

January - December 2020

	TOTAL
Revenue	
4010 Donations and Grants - Individuals	5,993.66
4020 Donations and Grants - Government	7,058.58
4030 Donations and Grants - Foundations	2,500.00
4040 Donations and Grants - Corporations	500.00
4130 Special Events - Ticket Sales	220.00
4200 Program Revenue	97.50
Total Revenue	\$16,369.74
GROSS PROFIT	\$16,369.74
Expenditures	
5100 Contractors	2,700.00
8100 Awards	1,350.00
8200 Event Expenses	225.00
8210 Venue Rental	400.00
8300 Marketing and Branding	679.71
8540 Office Supplies & Software	150.00
8810 Directors and Operators Insurance	800.00
Total Expenditures	\$6,304.71
NET REVENUE	\$10,065.03



The Future

Our goal is to sustain and grow our boundary-defying non-profit organization dedicated to keeping the uncensored vision, passion and imaginations of artists alive. We will expand in order to continue supporting those whose creativity is unjustly threatened, as well as highlight the ideals that make for a more just, free and healthy society and world.



Honorary Co-Sponsors

MS. BARBRA STREISAND

MR. NORMAN LEAR

SENATOR
BERNIE SANDERS

CONGRESSWOMAN
ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ

MS. AMY POEHLER

SENATOR
CHARLES E. SCHUMER

CONGRESSMAN
JOHN LEWIS
(deceased)

IHRAF Staff

TOM BLOCK

Founder & Executive Director

Tom is a playwright, visual artist and author of five books on social philosophy, activism and positive interfaith relationships.

SU YATES

Grant Writer

Su has written grants as part of her public health jobs for almost 25 years, after obtaining a Masters Degree in Public Health from the University of Hawaii where she studied international health with people from almost every culture in the world.

DANIELA JAYAKUMAR

Accountant/Bookkeeper

Daniela recently acquired her Master's in Accounting from Walsh in Michigan and has a passion for responsible taxation and marine conservation.

WOLE ADEDOYIN

President

IHRAF Nigerian National Secretariat

Adedoyin is currently the President of the Society of Young Nigerian Writers (SYNW) and the National Publicity Secretary (South) of the Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA).

KRISTEN TCHERNESHOFF

Strategic Advisor and Website Designer

Kristen Tcherneshoff is the Programs Director at Wikitongues, a non-profit creating the world's first public archive of every language in the world.

LAURE KANDLE

Strategic Planning Advisor

Laura is an experienced nonprofit professional with a passion for the arts and social justice. She is currently a Senior Administrator at The Metropolitan Museum of Art .

MBIZO CHIRASHA

Pan-Africa Outreach Coordinator

Mbizo is a Zimbabwean poet-in-exile with an international following and reach.

SUSAN BODIKER

Marketing Consultant & Membership Coordinator

Susan is the founder of Orion Advertising. With 30 years' experience as a copywriter, broadcast producer and account planner, she has developed branding, image and fund-raising campaigns for numerous clients.

JUDY GOLDBERG

Branding and Marketing

Judy is the founder of Wondershift LLC, a firm focused on results-driven transformation, helping leaders to shift their businesses and employees to be more successful, productive, strategic and present.

CHRIS JOHNSON

Legal Advisor

Chris is an accountant and attorney with more than ten years of experience in tax planning and entity structuring.



IHRAF Board of Directors

Jessie Lee (President): Jessie is a nonprofit strategic planning and fundraising strategy consultant helping organizations build capacity, diversify funding sources, develop communications/marketing plans and enhance impact data management.

James Baglanis (Treasurer): James is a finance professional with a passion for finding ways to use his experience to support impactful organizations with an emphasis on education and human rights.

Michelle Koch (Secretary): Founding Executive Director of the Muslim-Jewish Solidarity Committee, NYC.

Tom Block: Is the Founding Executive Director of the International Human Rights Art Festival.

Rabbi Abraham Ingber: Founder and Executive Director of the Center for Interfaith Community Engagement at Xavier University



Our Donors

\$2500+

Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County, MD
James Baglanis
Yahad-in Unum Mid America

\$1000 +

Victor Block
Microsoft Corporation
Mariam Naini

\$500 +

Tree Riders NYC

\$250 +

Isaac Shapiro

\$100 +

Tom Block
Melanie Chang
Judy Goldberg
Katharine Hammond
Forbes Huang
Christina Huynh
Don Keller
Reemberto Rodriguez
Cynthia Thorp
Sheila Tucker
Ju Young Yoon



Other

Geena Andrews
Heidi Arete
Andrew Bedell
Doug Canfield
Nathan Dinh
David Do
Curt Harrington
Shyamali Hauth
Fyllis Hockman
Laura Kandle
Linda Kuo
Jessie Lee
Alex Li
Mark Mattek
Rachida Mokhtari
Nicole Peyrefitte
Robert Read
Mark Reedy
Paula Rudnick
Robert Read
Hannah Spielberg
Kristen Tcherneshoff
Hannah Tomlin
Alexander Tracy
Hardarshan Valia
Marisa Wong
Su Yates



For further information contact
IHRAF Founding Producer
Tom Block:

humanrightsartfestival@gmail.com
or
1.240.305.6742

Website: ihraf.org
Facebook: [hrartfestival](https://www.facebook.com/hrartfestival)
Instagram: [hrartfestival](https://www.instagram.com/hrartfestival)

Click on the question-mark icons to display help windows.
 The information provided will enable you to file a more complete return and reduce the chances the IRS will need to contact you.

Form **990-EZ**

Short Form

Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax

Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code (except private foundations)

OMB No. 1545-0047

2020

Open to Public Inspection

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

▶ Do not enter social security numbers on this form, as it may be made public.

▶ Go to www.irs.gov/Form990EZ for instructions and the latest information.

A For the 2020 calendar year, or tax year beginning _____, **2020, and ending** _____, **20**

B Check if applicable:

Address change
 Name change
 Initial return
 Final return/terminated
 Amended return
 Application pending

C Name of organization _____

Number and street (or P.O. box if mail is not delivered to street address) _____ Room/suite _____

City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code _____

D Employer identification number _____

E Telephone number _____

F Group Exemption Number ▶ _____

G Accounting Method: Cash Accrual Other (specify) ▶ _____

H Check if the organization is not required to attach Schedule B (Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF).

I Website: ▶ _____

J Tax-exempt status (check only one) – 501(c)(3) 501(c) () ◀ (insert no.) 4947(a)(1) or 527

K Form of organization: Corporation Trust Association Other _____

L Add lines 5b, 6c, and 7b to line 9 to determine gross receipts. If gross receipts are \$200,000 or more, or if total assets (Part II, column (B)) are \$500,000 or more, file Form 990 instead of Form 990-EZ ▶ \$ _____

Part I Revenue, Expenses, and Changes in Net Assets or Fund Balances (see the instructions for Part I)
 Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part I

Revenue	1	Contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts received	1	
	2	Program service revenue including government fees and contracts	2	
	3	Membership dues and assessments	3	
	4	Investment income	4	
	5a	Gross amount from sale of assets other than inventory	5a	
	b	Less: cost or other basis and sales expenses	5b	
	c	Gain or (loss) from sale of assets other than inventory (subtract line 5b from line 5a)	5c	
	6	Gaming and fundraising events:		
	a	Gross income from gaming (attach Schedule G if greater than \$15,000)	6a	
b	Gross income from fundraising events (not including \$ _____ of contributions from fundraising events reported on line 1) (attach Schedule G if the sum of such gross income and contributions exceeds \$15,000)	6b		
c	Less: direct expenses from gaming and fundraising events	6c		
d	Net income or (loss) from gaming and fundraising events (add lines 6a and 6b and subtract line 6c)	6d		
7a	Gross sales of inventory, less returns and allowances	7a		
b	Less: cost of goods sold	7b		
c	Gross profit or (loss) from sales of inventory (subtract line 7b from line 7a)	7c		
8	Other revenue (describe in Schedule O)	8		
9	Total revenue. Add lines 1, 2, 3, 4, 5c, 6d, 7c, and 8 ▶	9		
Expenses	10	Grants and similar amounts paid (list in Schedule O)	10	
	11	Benefits paid to or for members	11	
	12	Salaries, other compensation, and employee benefits	12	
	13	Professional fees and other payments to independent contractors	13	
	14	Occupancy, rent, utilities, and maintenance	14	
	15	Printing, publications, postage, and shipping	15	
	16	Other expenses (describe in Schedule O)	16	
17	Total expenses. Add lines 10 through 16 ▶	17		
Net Assets	18	Excess or (deficit) for the year (subtract line 17 from line 9)	18	
	19	Net assets or fund balances at beginning of year (from line 27, column (A)) (must agree with end-of-year figure reported on prior year's return)	19	
	20	Other changes in net assets or fund balances (explain in Schedule O)	20	
	21	Net assets or fund balances at end of year. Combine lines 18 through 20 ▶	21	

Part II Balance Sheets (see the instructions for Part II)
 Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part II

		(A) Beginning of year	(B) End of year
22	Cash, savings, and investments		22
23	Land and buildings		23
24	Other assets (describe in Schedule O)		24
25	Total assets		25
26	Total liabilities (describe in Schedule O)		26
27	Net assets or fund balances (line 27 of column (B) must agree with line 21)		27

Part III Statement of Program Service Accomplishments (see the instructions for Part III)
 Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part III

What is the organization's primary exempt purpose? _____

Describe the organization's program service accomplishments for each of its three largest program services, as measured by expenses. In a clear and concise manner, describe the services provided, the number of persons benefited, and other relevant information for each program title.

		Expenses (Required for section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations; optional for others.)	
28	_____		
	(Grants \$ _____) If this amount includes foreign grants, check here <input type="checkbox"/>	28a	
29	_____		
	(Grants \$ _____) If this amount includes foreign grants, check here <input type="checkbox"/>	29a	
30	_____		
	(Grants \$ _____) If this amount includes foreign grants, check here <input type="checkbox"/>	30a	
31	Other program services (describe in Schedule O)		
	(Grants \$ _____) If this amount includes foreign grants, check here <input type="checkbox"/>	31a	
32	Total program service expenses (add lines 28a through 31a)		32

Part IV List of Officers, Directors, Trustees, and Key Employees (list each one even if not compensated—see the instructions for Part IV)
 Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part IV

(a) Name and title	(b) Average hours per week devoted to position	(c) Reportable compensation (Forms W-2/1099-MISC) (if not paid, enter -0-)	(d) Health benefits, contributions to employee benefit plans, and deferred compensation	(e) Estimated amount of other compensation

Part V Other Information (Note the Schedule A and personal benefit contract statement requirements in the instructions for Part V.) Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part V

		Yes	No
33	Did the organization engage in any significant activity not previously reported to the IRS? If "Yes," provide a detailed description of each activity in Schedule O	33	
34	Were any significant changes made to the organizing or governing documents? If "Yes," attach a conformed copy of the amended documents if they reflect a change to the organization's name. Otherwise, explain the change on Schedule O. See instructions	34	
35a	Did the organization have unrelated business gross income of \$1,000 or more during the year from business activities (such as those reported on lines 2, 6a, and 7a, among others)?	35a	
b	If "Yes" to line 35a, has the organization filed a Form 990-T for the year? If "No," provide an explanation in Schedule O	35b	
c	Was the organization a section 501(c)(4), 501(c)(5), or 501(c)(6) organization subject to section 6033(e) notice, reporting, and proxy tax requirements during the year? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part III	35c	
36	Did the organization undergo a liquidation, dissolution, termination, or significant disposition of net assets during the year? If "Yes," complete applicable parts of Schedule N	36	
37a	Enter amount of political expenditures, direct or indirect, as described in the instructions	37a	
b	Did the organization file Form 1120-POL for this year?	37b	
38a	Did the organization borrow from, or make any loans to, any officer, director, trustee, or key employee; or were any such loans made in a prior year and still outstanding at the end of the tax year covered by this return?	38a	
b	If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part II, and enter the total amount involved	38b	
39	Section 501(c)(7) organizations. Enter:		
a	Initiation fees and capital contributions included on line 9	39a	
b	Gross receipts, included on line 9, for public use of club facilities	39b	
40a	Section 501(c)(3) organizations. Enter amount of tax imposed on the organization during the year under: section 4911; section 4912; section 4955		
b	Section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations. Did the organization engage in any section 4958 excess benefit transaction during the year, or did it engage in an excess benefit transaction in a prior year that has not been reported on any of its prior Forms 990 or 990-EZ? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I	40b	
c	Section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations. Enter amount of tax imposed on organization managers or disqualified persons during the year under sections 4912, 4955, and 4958		
d	Section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations. Enter amount of tax on line 40c reimbursed by the organization		
e	All organizations. At any time during the tax year, was the organization a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction? If "Yes," complete Form 8886-T	40e	
41	List the states with which a copy of this return is filed		
42a	The organization's books are in care of _____ Telephone no. _____ Located at _____ ZIP + 4 _____		
b	At any time during the calendar year, did the organization have an interest in or a signature or other authority over a financial account in a foreign country (such as a bank account, securities account, or other financial account)? If "Yes," enter the name of the foreign country See the instructions for exceptions and filing requirements for FinCEN Form 114, Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts (FBAR).	42b	
c	At any time during the calendar year, did the organization maintain an office outside the United States? If "Yes," enter the name of the foreign country	42c	
43	Section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trusts filing Form 990-EZ in lieu of Form 1041—Check here and enter the amount of tax-exempt interest received or accrued during the tax year	43	<input type="checkbox"/>
44a	Did the organization maintain any donor advised funds during the year? If "Yes," Form 990 must be completed instead of Form 990-EZ	44a	
b	Did the organization operate one or more hospital facilities during the year? If "Yes," Form 990 must be completed instead of Form 990-EZ	44b	
c	Did the organization receive any payments for indoor tanning services during the year?	44c	
d	If "Yes" to line 44c, has the organization filed a Form 720 to report these payments? If "No," provide an explanation in Schedule O	44d	
45a	Did the organization have a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)?	45a	
b	Did the organization receive any payment from or engage in any transaction with a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)? If "Yes," Form 990 and Schedule R may need to be completed instead of Form 990-EZ. See instructions	45b	

		Yes	No
46 Did the organization engage, directly or indirectly, in political campaign activities on behalf of or in opposition to candidates for public office? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part I	46		

Part VI Section 501(c)(3) Organizations Only

All section 501(c)(3) organizations must answer questions 47-49b and 52, and complete the tables for lines 50 and 51.

Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part VI

		Yes	No
47 Did the organization engage in lobbying activities or have a section 501(h) election in effect during the tax year? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part II	47		
48 Is the organization a school as described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)? If "Yes," complete Schedule E	48		
49a Did the organization make any transfers to an exempt non-charitable related organization?	49a		
b If "Yes," was the related organization a section 527 organization?	49b		

50 Complete this table for the organization's five highest compensated employees (other than officers, directors, trustees, and key employees) who each received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization. If there is none, enter "None."

(a) Name and title of each employee	(b) Average hours per week devoted to position	(c) Reportable compensation (Forms W-2/1099-MISC)	(d) Health benefits, contributions to employee benefit plans, and deferred compensation	(e) Estimated amount of other compensation

f Total number of other employees paid over \$100,000 ▶ _____

51 Complete this table for the organization's five highest compensated independent contractors who each received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization. If there is none, enter "None."

(a) Name and business address of each independent contractor	(b) Type of service	(c) Compensation

d Total number of other independent contractors each receiving over \$100,000 ▶ _____

52 Did the organization complete Schedule A? **Note:** All section 501(c)(3) organizations must attach a completed Schedule A ▶ **Yes** **No**

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than officer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.

Sign Here		Date
	Type or print name and title	

Paid Preparer Use Only	Print/Type preparer's name	Preparer's signature	Date	Check <input type="checkbox"/> if self-employed	PTIN
	Firm's name ▶	Firm's EIN ▶			
	Firm's address ▶	Phone no.			

May the IRS discuss this return with the preparer shown above? See instructions ▶ **Yes** **No**