



Wednesday, April 11 Edmonton Opera hosted an evening of discussion surrounding human rights, criminal law and forensics at the Art Gallery of Alberta. Experts from these fields joined together alongside Edmonton Journal's Award-Winning Columnist Paula Simons in discussing contemporary issues surrounding wrongful imprisonment.

It may at first seem an unusual topic for an opera event; however Edmonton Opera's season will close this month with the triumphant love story of *Fidelio*. Although written over 200 years ago, *Fidelio*'s themes of unjust political imprisonment and tyranny are as relevant as ever. Criminal defence lawyer Bob Aloneissi, PEN Canada Writer-in-Exile Jalal Barzanji, University of Alberta Political Science Professor Julián Castro-Rea and Forensic Consultant Joseph Slemko were led by Paula Simons in discussing the factors leading to and implications of wrongful imprisonment in society today. Each member provided valuable insight into their respective fields and the challenges facing our judicial, security, and political systems in Canada today.

Members of the audience were thoroughly engaged and presented thought provoking questions to panelists to conclude the evening.

Special thank you to our mediator **Paula Simons**, and panelists **Bob Aloneissi**, **Jalal Barzanji**, **Julián Castro-Rea** and **Joseph Slemko** for making this event a great success.

