

**EP SAKHAROV PRIZE NETWORK
NEWSLETTER
July 2014**

MALALA AND HAUWA IBRAHIM HIGHLIGHT THE CHIBOK GIRLS' CASE IN NIGERIA

13-07-2014: Malala Yousafzai, 2013 Sakharov Laureate, wants to recapture the world's attention to the plight of the schoolgirls abducted by Boko Haram in April. "I want to highlight this issue so world leaders will keep their word to help bring back those girls," she told The Sunday Times. She is providing support through her foundation. In a statement to the US House of Representatives, which she also sent to the EP's Human Rights Actions Unit, Hauwa Ibrahim, the 2005 Sakharov Prize Laureate, requested that: "Future joint efforts by the international community should not only be focused on instability but on the country as a whole - they should insist on a holistic and impartial investigation on the deep roots of the insecurity" and invest to counter "the dire deficiency of manpower and appropriate counter terrorist training" which were both key issues during the Chibok kidnapping. She believes "civilian Joint Task Forces should be fully utilized in future pursuits of stability and peace, establishing a communal safety net that would focus on the correct upbringing and teaching of children to both mitigate current insurgency manpower and limit future influence of fundamentalist indoctrination."

Links: <http://bit.ly/1yfKYq5>; <http://bit.ly/1qDwX11>; <http://bit.ly/1z7IMBh>

Cuban authorities arrest 90 Ladies in White on 13 July

14-07-2014: 90 of the Ladies in White, Sakharov Prize Laureates 2005, were briefly arrested on 13 July. Guillermo Fariñas, 2010 Laureate, said: "I think the Cuban government is pulling out all the stops to keep the Ladies in White from growing". Link: <http://yhoo.it/WFqWba>

Hu Jia beaten by police officers

17-07-2014: Hu Jia, 2008 Sakharov Laureate, reported on Twitter that he has been attacked saying: "Today (July 16), just now at 20:12, I was attacked by a number of plain clothes cops near the east wing of Caofang subway station at Chaoyang district, Beijing. They drove away immediately. Now I feel sick and have to rest on the pavement". Links: <http://bit.ly/1mlutdK>; <http://bit.ly/1nXib1m>

Nurit Peled-Elhanan calls for ban and boycott against Israel

16-07-2014: Nurit Peled-Elhanan, 2001 Laureate, has written an open letter to "friends and peace militants" saying: "I am writing to you from the mouth of hell. Genocide in Gaza, pogroms and massacres in the West Bank and shell-panic in Israel". She argues that "To this day, the international community has not done enough to stop Israeli regime of occupation. As a result, Israel does not pay any price for seriously violating international law and human values". She pleads: "As a laureate of the European Parliament's Sakharov Prize for Human Rights, and as a mother and a human being, I call on the EU to use all the diplomatic and economic tools at its disposal to help save my country from this abyss of death and despair in which we live".

Links: <http://bit.ly/Uq4Xn3>; <http://bit.ly/1kXMLbf>

Taslima Nasreen asks India for help with Bangladesh and to act against those issuing Fatwas

16-07-2014: Taslima Nasreen, 1994 Laureate, has said to the BBC that she's asked India's government to persuade Bangladesh to issue her with a passport. Vowing to return to the country she said: "Only a small group of Islamic fundamentalists in Bangladesh are against my writings. But why is the government scared of these people? Shall I have to stay out of my country just because

they can't stand my opinions?". Following the ruling of India's Supreme Court on 7 July which said that Muslims cannot be legally forced to abide by Sharia court rulings, Ms Nasreen has called for the Indian government to act against those issuing fatwas. She was forced to leave Kolkata following a fatwa. Links: <http://bbc.in/Uv2FCH>; <http://bit.ly/Uv31cl>; <http://bit.ly/1nXizx1>

Aung Sang Suu Kyi criticises government on anti-Muslim violence

Anti-Muslim riots in Myanmar's second largest city Mandalay on 1 July have resulted in two deaths and dozens left wounded. Opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, 1990 Laureate, blamed the authorities for the worsening violence, saying prompt action should have been taken and argued that: "the authorities should properly handle those people who are spreading rumors. Without rule of law, more riots will come". Link: <http://bit.ly/1zalw6Q>

Jafar Panahi's latest film to be released in Iran

14-07-2014: 2012 Sakharov Prize Laureate Jafar Panahi's film "Closed Curtain" has been released on July 14 in Iran using VHX, the direct-to-consumer platform. VHX is also leading a social media campaign to support Panahi. In an interview with the Daily Beast, Panahi commenting on his legal status, said: "they freed me from a small jail", "only to throw me into a larger prison when they banned me from working. It's not fun to be free but feel like a prisoner. I have to just keep trying to find opportunities to break out from time to time". Commenting on his refusal to be fingerprinted before going to the USA he said: "I will react to injustice no matter what the circumstances are. I am not a political person, but as a socially committed filmmaker I have developed a natural tendency to expose injustice and to react to it anytime and anywhere I witness it".

Links: <http://thebea.st/1rcvlpI>; <http://bit.ly/1oh4Fun>

Human Rights Centre 'Memorial' registered on the 'Foreign Agents' list

21-07-2014: the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation registered five prominent Russian non-governmental organisations on the 'Foreign Agents' list. This list now includes Human Rights Centre 'Memorial', the 2009 Sakharov Laureate. HRC 'Memorial', together with thirteen other NGOs, has lodged a complaint before the European Court of Human Rights. Link: <http://bit.ly/1nEkWur>

UN Human Rights Commissioner says Edward Snowden should not face trial

16-07-2014: The UN high commissioner for human rights, Navi Pillay, suggested that the US should abandon its efforts to prosecute Edward Snowden, the 2013 Sakharov Prize nominee, saying his revelations of massive state surveillance had been in the public interest. "Those who disclose human rights violations should be protected: we need them," Pillay said. Link: <http://bit.ly/WdfTpg>

Members of Women in Black attacked while commemorating massacre of Srebrenica

08-07-2014: members of Women in Black, a global network of women opposing all forms of violence and Sakharov Prize nominees 2006, were attacked in Valjevo, Serbia during a commemoration of the genocide in Srebrenica by a group wearing t-shirts bearing the image of Bosnian Serb General Ratko Mladić. The attack comes after the spokesperson of the Anti-Terrorist Unit of the Ministry of Interior, Radomir Počuča, made a call on his Facebook profile for football hooligans to "deal" with Women in Black. Links: <http://bit.ly/1nvWo5b>; <http://bit.ly/1qCkE9F>

European Parliament resolutions at the last Plenary

17-07-2014: At the last plenary the EP adopted human rights urgency resolutions on Nigeria: recent attacks by Boko Haram (<http://bit.ly/1rcY2Is>), Freedom of expression and assembly in Egypt (<http://bit.ly/1pfyMyS>) and Sudan, the case of Meriam Yahia Ibrahim (<http://bit.ly/1kdVdsj>). It also adopted foreign policy resolutions on the Escalation of violence between Israel and Palestine (<http://bit.ly/1nXyyv1>); the Situation in Iraq (<http://bit.ly/1tFKxCl>) and in Ukraine (<http://bit.ly/1pLLy9Z>) and on the Crime of aggression (<http://bit.ly/1jXomaM>).