

**SAKHAROV PRIZE NETWORK**  
**NEWSLETTER**  
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**DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION IN VENEZUELA WINS SAKHAROV PRIZE 2017! (news)**

26-10-2017: The European Parliament has just decided today to award this year's Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought to the **Democratic Opposition in Venezuela: National Assembly (President Julio Borges) and all Political Prisoners as listed by Foro Penal Venezolano represented by Leopoldo López, Antonio Ledezma, Daniel Ceballos, Yon Goicoechea, Lorent Saleh, Alfredo Ramos and Andrea González**. The Venezuelan Opposition was nominated by the European People's Party (EPP) and the Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE).

**The two other finalists** were **Aura Lolita Chavez Ixqaquic**, an educator, human rights defender and leader of the Council of K'iche' Peoples in Defense of Life, Mother Nature, Earth and Territory (CPK) from Guatemala and **Dawit Isaak**, an imprisoned Swedish-Eritrean playwright, journalist and writer, who was arrested in 2001 and has been held in incommunicado detention since without trial. Ms Chavez Ixqaquic and a representative of Mr Isaak will also be invited to attend the award ceremony, which will be held in Strasbourg on 13 December. The biographies of all nominees here: [EP website](#).

**More young people active in Russia - Kirill Koroteev in Tallinn**

17-10-2017: **Kirill Koroteev**, the Legal Director of 2009 Sakharov Prize Laureate **Memorial**, delivered a Sakharov Prize Lecture at the European Parliament Information Office in Tallinn. Invited in the framework of the SPN activity, he spoke about the work of Memorial and the human rights situation in general. 'It's important not to ignore measures governments undertake to restrict human rights', he underlined. Koroteev advised to human rights defenders to 'use the help of media, lawyers and parliamentarians to reach out.' In the interview for Radio 4, he added that 'more and more young people in Russia are active not only in the field of human rights but in the activities of society in general. Big role in this pays the new technology...' After the lecture, students from three high schools held a debate on the three shortlisted 2017 Sakharov Prize candidates to decide whom the prize should be awarded to.

**UN Security Council adopted a historic resolution to hold ISIS accountable**

21-09-17: The [resolution calls](#) to investigate and collect evidence on the war crimes committed by **ISIS** in Iraq. This evidence will support Iraq's efforts to hold ISIS accountable for acts that may amount to war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. **Amal Clooney**, a legal counsel to Yazidi victims of ISIS' crimes, and **Nadia Murad**, 2016 Sakharov Prize Laureate have been leading the advocacy campaign for the establishment of the UN investigation. "*Although ISIS is being defeated on the ground, victims need justice in order to allow healing and reconciliation and we hope this resolution will mark the beginning of that process*" - stated Murad. The landmark resolution is a key step in addressing the atrocities committed by ISIS and providing justice for marginalised groups in Iraq, including women and minority groups. [UN News](#), [Yazda](#)

**Hauwa Ibrahim launches new project to steer youth away from violent extremism**

03-10-17: **2005 Sakharov Prize Laureate Hauwa Ibrahim** set up **Mothers Without Borders**, a [project](#) seeking to develop strategies for connecting the power of mothers and wives in order to prevent youth radicalisation. Field research will be conducted in Nigeria, Kenya, Yemen, and Jordan and will produce essays/drama scripts/plays and songs, coupled with a book of policies that will promote mothers' role in resisting youth violent extremism. Mothers Without Borders aims at identifying and sharing best practices to help parents, and particularly mothers, prevent their children from being recruited into extremist organisations. To support this important initiative. You can **vote for Hauwa Ibrahim's project** by registering to [Shared Nation](#) website and paying a minimum of \$3. Link: [Shared Nation](#)

### **Dr Mukwege speaks at the European Parliament for the Global Diaspora Week 2017**

09-10-17: In collaboration with the African Union and the European Union, The Global Diaspora Week celebrated the contributions of Diaspora Communities to global development at the European Parliament. **Dr Denis Mukwege** 2014 Sakharov Prize Laureate and Founder of Panzi Hospital was amongst the speakers who highlighted the consequences of the lack of electricity in hospitals which limits the access of surgery operations causing loss of life for many women. Link: [ADNE](#)

### **Aung San Suu Kyi unveils relief plans for Rohingya Muslims in Rakhine state**

13-10-17: 1990 Sakharov Prize Laureate and Burmese leader **Aung San Suu Kyi** has proposed to set up a civilian-led body, with foreign assistance, to deliver aid and help resettle Rohingya Muslims in Rakhine state. An announcement was made after being criticised for failing to denounce an army crackdown on the Rohingya in Rakhine state which has forced hundreds of thousands Muslims to flee to neighbouring Bangladesh. According to Aung San Suu Kyi's close advisor, the proposed body had been long planned, and was part of an attempt to deliver humanitarian relief, resettlement and economic recovery in the area. **2003 Sakharov Laureate and former U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan** urged Myanmar's government to make sure that Rohingya Muslim refugees can go home and not go to camps. Links: [The Guardian](#), [Economic Times](#)

### **Tens of Ladies in White detained all over Cuba**

08-10-17: At least 61 **Ladies in White**, 2005 Sakharov Prize Laureate, were detained to prevent them from attending the Sunday Mass and participating in Todos Marchamos campaign ("We all march"). Detentions, carried out by the State Security, took place in the territory of Havana, Matanzas, Guantanamo, Holguin, Palma Soriano, Bayamo and Santa Clara. Similar wave of detentions took place a week later, with more than 40 detainees including **Berta Soler**, leader of the movement. In this month of October, Ladies in White also paid homage to the memory of their deceased leader, **Laura Pollan**, who died on the 14<sup>th</sup> of October 2011. Links: [Marti Noticias](#), [Marti Noticias](#), [Diario de Cuba](#), [Marti Noticias](#)

### **Malala's Magic Pencil - her first picture book**

17-10-17: **2013 Sakharov Prize Laureate Malala** has launched her debut picture book, an autobiographical tale inspired by her own childhood and how she became a global campaigner for educational rights. Ms Yousafzai [announced to her 1.03M followers on Twitter](#): "I hope this book inspires children to believe in themselves and follow their dreams." The book has already arrived to bookstores and could be ordered at [Hachette's website](#). Link: [The Guardian](#), [Twitter](#)

### **Wei Jingsheng Foundation new book**

15-10-17: **Wei Jingsheng** Foundation shared a touching piece by **Huang Ciping**, which has been published as a part of "Wandering and Singing for Freedom - Chinese Literature and Art from Exile Series". In the book Huang Ciping describes her farewell to poetry: "In 1989 (after the June 4 Massacre) I wrote my last poem in great pain (of the death of my classmate Hao Zhijing), and have not resumed writing poetry since. The harsh reality stifled my talent to write poems. After that, I no longer want to choose what I do because of the wayward path of being a gifted girl."

### **EP URGENT RESOLUTIONS ON ANTI-ALBINO ATTACKS IN MALAWI, PERSECUTIONS OF CRIMEAN TATARS AND REPRESSION IN MALDIVES**

05-10-17: In three resolutions adopted during its first October plenary session, the European Parliament called on the [Malawi](#) authorities to prevent albinism-related crimes. The EP also voiced concern on grave violations of the rights of [Crimean Tatars](#). Furthermore, MEPs deplored the crackdown on political opponents in the [Maldives](#) and concluded that political and human rights are deteriorating. Link: [EP Press release](#)

**On-line info:** [Sakharov Prize Network website](#)