

**SAKHAROV PRIZE NETWORK**  
**NEWSLETTER**  
**No. 3/2019**

**Salih Osman in the European Parliament**

24-06-2019: **2007 Sakharov Prize laureate Salih Osman** visited the EP soon after his liberation and briefed policy advisors on the [situation](#) in Sudan. He was accompanied by Sara Abdelgalil, a representative of Sudan Doctors Union UK and Jibril Abdelbagi, the Executive Director of Darfur Relief and Documentation Centre. Visitors criticised the Transitional Military Council and denounced the violent repression of the sit-in in Khartoum by the Rapid Support Forces which led to many casualties. Visitors stressed that the blockage of internet by the authorities is hindering freedom of expression and is a barrier to the provision of services, including medical care. **Salih Osman** was very grateful for EP efforts to ensure his liberation: “The voice of the Parliament made a difference. Thank you!”, he stated.

**Time to release Raif Badawi**

21-06-2019: **2015 Sakharov Prize laureate Raif Badawi** has been imprisoned for 7 years now. EP Vice-President Heidi Hautala [urged](#) the Saudi authorities to release him, as the sentence against him is unjust, disproportionate and arbitrary. Badawi was convicted to 10 years of imprisonment and 1000 lashes.

**Oyub Titiev, from 2009 Sakharov Prize laureate Memorial, on conditional release**

21-06-2019: **Oyub Titiev**, the Director of the “Memorial” Human Rights Centre in Chechnia was [released](#) on parole. The Shali City Court approved the conditional release of the human rights defender after one year and five months in jail. Titiev was sentenced to 4 years of imprisonment on fabricated charges of drug possession. The [EP](#), together with [Amnesty International](#) and many other organisations, have been calling for Oyub Titiev’s immediate and unconditional release since his arrest in January 2018.

**2008 Sakharov Prize laureate Hu Jia silenced for the 30 Tiananmen Anniversary**

04-06-2019: **2008 Sakharov Prize laureate Hu Jia** was obliged to travel to the north-eastern coastal city of Qinghuangdao escorted by security agents. To ensure calm in the capital during politically sensitive periods, Chinese authorities routinely force human rights activists, who they view as potential trouble-makers, to go on police-supervised trips to the provinces for several weeks. “This is a reflection of their fears, their terror, not ours,” Hu [said](#). In a [statement](#), **EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini** recalled the importance for future generations and for the collective memory of acknowledging the Tiananmen events from 30 years ago.

**2017 Sakharov Prize nominee Asia Bibi leaves Pakistan**

08-05-2019: **2017 Sakharov Prize nominee Asia Bibi** [left](#) Pakistan after she was acquitted from charges of blasphemy. Her lawyer Saif Ul Malook revealed that she arrived in Canada, where she has reunited with her family. Bibi’s safe arrival in Canada was the result of hard work by activists and foreign diplomats. The [EP](#) followed developments of Asia Bibi’s situation

closely and on several occasions spoke up in her defence and against the blasphemy laws in Pakistan.

### **Sakharov fellows sensitising parliamentarians in Montenegro**

19-06-2019: Mr Ilcho Cvetanovski, Media Freedom Expert (Sakharov Fellow 2018) and Mr Jovan Džoli Ulićević, Executive director, Association Spectra (Sakharov Fellow 2019) participated in a seminar in Montenegro for Pre-Accession Fellows from the region. The theme of the seminar was "Modern and Efficient Parliament – Anchor of Democracy" and it was organised by the EP in cooperation with the Parliament of Montenegro. The participation of Ulićević and Cvetanovski helped sensitize parliamentary staff on the issues of minorities, human rights and how parliaments can team up with civil society.

### **EP urgency resolutions on Hong Kong, the situation at the USA-Mexican border, Russia and Venezuela**

18-07-2019: In its second plenary session in July 2019, the EP adopted Urgency resolutions on: the Situation in **Hong Kong**; on the Situation at the **USA-Mexican border**; on **Russia**, notably the situation of environmental activists and Ukrainian political prisoners; and on the Situation in **Venezuela**. The EP calls on the authorities in [Hong Kong](#) to immediately release all those detained for the peaceful exercise of their freedom of expression and urges the authorities in Hong Kong and China to ensure the protection of human rights and freedoms enshrined in the Basic Law for all citizens. The EP is deeply concerned about the situation of migrants and asylum seekers at the [USA-Mexico](#) border, especially that of migrant children separated from their families. The EP urges the US Government to ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The EP calls on the [Russian](#) authorities to release without further delay all illegally and arbitrarily detained Ukrainian citizens, including **2018 Sakharov Prize laureate Oleg Sentsov**, and to immediately end any act of harassment against all human rights defenders and environmental activists in the country. The EP urges the de facto [Venezuelan](#) authorities to ensure the protection of indigenous people and to take all necessary measures to protect their individual and collective rights, including their right to land. The EP condemns the use of arbitrary detentions, torture and the indiscriminate use of violence to repress the process of democratic transition and the restoration of the rule of law in Venezuela.