

## SAKHAROV PRIZE NETWORK NEWSLETTER 07-08/2016

### GUILLERMO FARIÑAS REJECTS CALLS TO END HUNGER AND THIRST STRIKE

29-08-2016: **2010 Sakharov Prize Laureate Guillermo Fariñas** is continuing a hunger and thirst strike. Fariñas is refusing food and water until the Cuban government meets his demands, including an end to violence against political detainees and a statement in the national newspaper that people should not be tortured for their political beliefs. Guillermo Fariñas's health is in a critical situation and members of the international community, including fellow activists in Cuba, are calling on him to end his hunger and thirst strike, including **Berta Soler**, leader of **2005 Sakharov Prize Laureate Damas de Blanco**. **Ulrike Lunacek** Vice-President of the European Parliament responsible for the Sakharov Prize Network and Chair of the European Parliament Human Rights Sub-Committee **Elena Valenciano** have called on the Cuban authorities to end repression and to ensure the health of Guillermo Fariñas.

Links: [EuroParl](#); [Twitter](#); [ObservaCuba](#); [Fox](#); [Martí](#); [Breitbart](#); [Breitbart](#)

### Aung San Suu Kyi appoints Kofi Annan to head panel on the conflict in Rakhine State

24-08-2016: **1990 Sakharov Prize Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi** has set up a panel to consider the human rights and security of people in Rakhine state, the area of the country that has seen clashes with the Rohingya people. **2003 Sakharov Prize Laureate Kofi Annan**, former Secretary-General of the United Nations, has agreed to head the panel. Although the government's announcement of the panel did not name the Rohingya community, the panel is being seen as an effort to address the rights of this community, following criticism that the new government of Myanmar has not considered the Rohingya community's rights. The panel will comprise of six Myanmar nationals and three foreign experts. Links: [Mail](#); [SWI](#)

### Hu Jia and other Chinese dissidents arrested

05-09-2016: **2008 Sakharov Prize Laureate Hu Jia** and other Chinese dissidents were arrested or forced to travel by the authorities in several parts of China to prevent protests during the G20 summit in Hangzhou. The police increased controls to reinforce safety, but also limited the movement of citizens they suspect could try to denounce human rights violations before foreign leaders arriving in China. "The government wants the G20 to be a resounding success and will not allow for any mistake," Hu Jia told EFE agency, speaking from the southern city of Zhongshan, where he was forced to travel a few days ago. Link: [LAHT](#)

### Ten members of Damas de Blanco detained at funeral for activist

06-08-2016: Cuban police arrested ten members of **2005 Sakharov Prize Laureate Damas de Blanco** at the funeral of former member Gisela Sánchez. They also arrested her son. The police arrested the activists after they refused to remove the Cuban flag from Gisela Sánchez's coffin. They detained them before the funeral procession started, only releasing them later so they could attend the burial. The Cuban police continues to harass the Damas de Blanco. Link: [Martí](#)

### Rosa María Payá interviewed in Libération

12-08-2016: **Rosa María Payá**, daughter of **2002 Sakharov Prize Laureate Oswaldo José Payá Sardiñas**, spoke in French newspaper La Libération about the situation in Cuba and her campaign for democratic reform. She reflected on the death of her father, for which she blames the Cuban state, and highlighted how many families discuss the Cuban regime at home but will not speak in public for fear of the regime. While noting that institutional change might take time in Cuba, she argued that

issues like freedom of movement and expression and labour rights could be addressed quickly, and called for a referendum on the Cuban constitution. She also noted that she continues to be monitored and harassed by the Cuban state, even when she is abroad. Link: [Libération](#)

#### **German filmmaker buys the film rights to Ensaf Haidar's book**

10-08-2016: German filmmaker Tom Streuber is writing a script based on the lives of **2015 Sakharov Prize Laureate Raif Badawi** and his wife **Ensaf Haidar's** lives. Inspired by Ensaf Haidar's book *Mon combat pour sauver Raif Badawi* (in English, *Raif Badawi: The Voice of Freedom: My Husband, Our Story*), a film telling their story from a very personal angle could also help bringing the situation of the imprisoned Sakharov Prize Laureate to a broader audience. Link: [RC](#)

#### **Dr Denis Mukwege awarded 13th Seoul Peace Prize**

01-09-2016: **2014 Sakharov Prize Laureate Dr Denis Mukwege** has been awarded the 13th Seoul Peace Prize for his continued work treating victims of sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The Seoul Peace Prize Cultural Foundation recognised his continued efforts to treat and provide support to female victims of war, and highlighted that Dr Mukwege has "demonstrated bravery by devoting himself to raising international awareness about the situation to end the civil war." Links: [KT](#); [Yonhap](#)

#### **Malala Yousafzai forgives the men who shot her**

26-08-2016: **2013 Sakharov Prize Laureate Malala Yousafzai** gave a wide-ranging speech in Oregon where she focused on her mission to ensure all girls receive at least twelve years of education. She also discussed the issues of child marriage, the plight of women in Gaza and difficulties for women in the workplace. On forgiving the men who shot her, Malala said that "I have forgiven those guys, and I forgive them because this is the best event. There's no best event other than forgiveness". Links: [KGW](#); [Oregon](#)

#### **EP URGENCY RESOLUTIONS ON ROHINGYA IN MYANMAR, ALBINOS IN MALAWI AND ACTIVISTS IN BAHRAIN**

07-07-2016: In its July Plenary sitting the Parliament condemned practices that discriminate against [Myanmar's Muslim minority](#), in particular the Rohingya, recent crimes and widespread discrimination against [albinos in Malawi](#), and ongoing restrictions of fundamental democratic rights in [Bahrain](#). Link: [EP Press Release Urgency Resolutions July 2016](#)