

SAKHAROV PRIZE NETWORK
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Oleg Sentsov collects his Sakharov Prize in person

26-11-2019: 2018 Sakharov laureate **Oleg Sentsov** finally received the Sakharov Prize in person during a ceremony in Strasbourg. In his speech, Sentsov said: "It is a huge honour and a huge responsibility to receive this prize. I accept and take this prize not as a personal honour, but as a prize to all Ukrainian political prisoners that have been in Russian prisons and to all that are still there." During the ceremony, European Parliament President David Maria Sassoli praised Sentsov for standing by his principles and convictions, even when paying for them with his own freedom. In Strasbourg, Sentsov also met with MEPs, representatives from the political groups and with the Committees on Foreign Affairs, Development and the Subcommittee on Human Rights. The City of Strasbourg organised a reception in his honour.

Links: [European Parliament](#) , [European Parliament](#)

More Oleg Sentsov

18-11-2019: Oleg Sentsov attended a screening of "The Trial: The State of Russia Vs **Oleg Sentsov**" at the XVI Human Rights Film Festival in Barcelona. After the screening, the public had the opportunity to ask the 2018 Sakharov Prize laureate about his experience as a political prisoner in Russia. The event was organised by the European Parliament Office in Barcelona.

Link: [Human Rights Film Festival of Barcelona](#)

Hope for survivors of sexual violence

30-10-2019: Sakharov Prize laureates 2016 **Nadia Murad** and 2014 Dr **Denis Mukwege** launched the Global Survivors Fund in New York. The aim of the fund is to ensure that survivors of conflict-related sexual violence have access to reparations and other forms of redress. The initiators expect to attract funding from both the public and the private sector, with the goal of raising between \$50m and \$100m by 2022.

Links: [Global Survivor Fund](#), [The Guardian](#)

Mukwege reaches out to Pristina

11-11-2019: At a conference marking the 20th anniversary of the Kosovo Centre for the Rehabilitation of Torture Victims in Pristina, Dr **Mukwege** described sexual violence used in Kosovo and Bosnia Herzegovina during the war as a strategy for ethnic cleansing. Impunity and the silence that still surrounds sexual violence in conflicts are major problems. For the time being no one in Kosovo has been punished for the sexual violence committed during the war. Mukwege welcomed the steps taken by Kosovo authorities to acknowledge victims of sexual violence as victims of war, allowing them access to compensation.

Spotlight on Nasrin Sotoudeh

As 2012 Sakharov Prize laureate **Nasrin Sotoudeh** serves a 38-year prison sentence in Iran, Amnesty International appealed the international community to condemn the deterioration of Iran's human rights record during the forthcoming country review session at the UN Human Rights Council. French newspaper L'OBS conducted a written interview with Nasrin from jail and interviewed her husband Reza Khandan about their fight for rights and liberties in Iran. The city of Palermo/Italy launched the campaign "Woman's Freedom in Iran" and awarded Nasrin Sotoudeh honorary citizenship. Moreover, a theatre play *Nasrin Sotoudeh. Una vita per difendere* was performed in different Italian cities.

Links: [Amnesty International](#) [Iran News Update](#) [L'OBS-Nasrin](#) [L'OBS-Reza](#) [AdnKronos](#) [RadioFarda](#) [Il Messaggero](#) [Il Messaggero](#)

House arrests and surveillance for critics of the Chinese regime

28/31-10-2019: During a three-day meeting of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party in Beijing, regime critics reported being under surveillance or house arrest. 2008 Sakharov Prize laureate **Hu Jia** confirmed to Radio Free Asia that he was not allowed to leave his apartment. Jia recalled that these restrictions occur every year at the start of the plenary and continue until the end of the parliamentary sessions in March.

Links: [RadioFreeAsia](#)

Harassment of Russian Sakharov Prize laureate Memorial continues

22-10-2019: A court in Moscow fined 2009 Sakharov Prize laureate **Memorial** for not marking 'foreign agent' on all publications on the social media webpages of its Ingushetian branch. The human rights organisation has to pay a fine of 300,000 roubles (€4,250), while its chair received a fine of 100,000 roubles (€1,500). Memorial announced that it will appeal the fine. Moreover, the Perm branch of Memorial was fined for cleaning and restoring an abandoned cemetery commemorating the Lithuanians and Poles deported to the region during the 1940s. The official charge cited by the Russian authorities to justify the fine was illegal logging.

Links: [Deutsche Welle](#) , [Novaya Gazeta](#) , [ExoMoscow](#) , [Memorial](#) , [CurrentTime](#)

Stay mobilised for Sakharov Prize finalist Dawit Isaak

05-11-2019: MEP David Lega (EPP), in cooperation with the Swedish Free Dawit NGO, hosted a seminar in the European Parliament to discuss the human rights situation in Eritrea and the case of the 2009 and 2017 Sakharov Prize finalist **Dawit Isaak**. The Swedish-Eritrean journalist and playwright has been imprisoned without a trial in Eritrea since 2001. Isaak's book "Hope", which has been translated into French, English and German, was also distributed to Members of the European Parliament.

Links: [David Lega](#), [DagensMedia](#) , [RFI](#)

A reading tip from one of our Sakharov fellows

2018 Sakharov Fellow and Kosovar journalist **Arber Selmani** just published the book "Kosovo in fourteen cultural stories". Sponsored by the European Union in Kosovo and the Balkan Investigative Reporting Network, the book was published in Albanian. English versions of the stories collected in the book can be found [here](#).

Links: [BalkansInsight](#)

Urgency resolutions on Algeria, Cuba and Haiti

28-11-2019. During its November plenary, the EP adopted urgency resolutions on the situation of freedoms in **Algeria**, on the arbitrary detention of **José Daniel Ferrer in Cuba** and on the situation in **Haiti**. Members condemned the unlawful and arbitrary detention, intimidation and attacks against civil society and peaceful protesters in **Algeria**. They deplored the excessive use of force by security forces and called upon the Algerian government to release all those arrested for exercising their right to freedom of expression and to ensure the independence of the judiciary. The authorities should ensure freedom of religion and belief and create a peaceful and inclusive political process. The EP also called on the **Cuban** authorities for the immediate release of arbitrarily detained **José Daniel Ferrer**, for the release of all political prisoners and the end of the persecution of peaceful dissidents, independent journalists, human rights defenders and political opposition. The Cuban government should implement legal reforms to guarantee freedom of the press, association and demonstration, and fair and democratic elections. In **Haiti**, the EP strongly condemned the repression of peaceful protests and endorsed the demands of the people to end corruption and impunity in the country. The authorities must guarantee fundamental rights, such as freedom of expression and opinion and media freedom. MEPs stressed the need to combat violence against women, girls and the elderly and condemned the anti-LGBT bills passed in Haiti in 2017 and denounced the exploitation of children still taking place. It calls on all sides in the country to engage in an inclusive dialogue to be able to protect the basic needs and aspirations of the population.