

EP SAKHAROV PRIZE NETWORK
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Human Rights Medal of Honour for Vice-President McMillan-Scott

Edward McMillan-Scott MEP, Vice-President of the European Parliament for Democracy & Human Rights, was presented on 22 September with the Medal of Honour by the President of the Venice-based European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation, Professor Horst Fischer, "in recognition of lasting efforts in the promotion and protection of human rights". Speaking after the awards ceremony at the opening of the academic year at the Scuola Grande, Venice on 22 September, **McMillan-Scott** said, "This is a great honour, not only for me but for the European Parliament. I have always admired the Institute and its work, because human rights and democracy are an essential part of EU foreign policy."

Previous winners are Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland and United Nations High Commissioner on Human Rights, and Manfred Nowak, human rights lawyer and former United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture. The EU-funded institute offers a Master's degree and is based in a former monastery near Venice. It has 41 participating universities.

<http://www.eiuc.org/news-detail/items/id-2292013-signature-of-letter-of-exchange-with-council-of-europe-and-awarding-of-eiuc-medal-of-honour-to-ep-vice-president-copi.html>

Nasrin Sotoudeh, Iranian 2012 Sakharov Prize Laureate, released from prison

Nasrin Sotoudeh, the Iranian human rights lawyer and the 2012 Sakharov Laureate, was released from prison on 18 September, along with at least 11 other political prisoners. **Sotoudeh** had been imprisoned since September 2010, having been sentenced to 11 years for "acting against national security, collusion and propaganda against the regime, and membership in the Defenders of Human Rights Center". Her sentence included a travel ban and a ban on practising law, both of which remain in force.

The continuation of **Sotoudeh's** punishment has strengthened suspicions that her release was above all a political stunt by the Iranian government, ahead of President Rouhani's address to the United Nations General Assembly on 24 September. Since her release, **Sotoudeh** has stated her determination to continue fighting for human rights in Iran.

<http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2013/09/nasrin-sotoudeh-3/>

<http://edition.cnn.com/2013/09/18/world/meast/iran-activist-freed/>

Tarja Cronberg MEP on the release of Sakharov Prize Laureate Nasrin Sotoudeh

In a press release on 19 September, **Tarja Cronberg** (Greens/EFA, FI), Chair of EP delegation for relations with Iran, welcomed the release by Iran of six political prisoners, including the 2012 Laureate of EP Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought **Nasrin Sotoudeh**:

"I regard the decision to release these political prisoners as a positive signal from the new president of Iran to Europe and particularly to the European parliament. The newly elected president Rouhani has stated that promotion of the ties with the European Parliament and creation of an atmosphere of interaction based on mutual respect are among his foreign policy priorities. The release of the prisoners provides an opening for a start of a frank and eye-to-eye dialogue with Iran on human rights and other important issues. Such dialogue is long overdue."

<http://www.tarjacronberg.fi/in-english.php?id=13061810272481F8>

Statement by Vice-President/EU High Representative on the liberation of Nasrin Sotoudeh

On the liberation of **Nasrin Sotoudeh** and other prisoners of conscience in Iran, Vice-President of the European Commission and European Union High Representative **Catherine Ashton** issued the following statement:

*"I warmly welcome the release of a group of Iranian prisoners of conscience, including the prominent Human Rights Lawyer **Nasrin Sotoudeh**, Laureate of the 2012 European Parliament's Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought, arrested in 2010. I hope that this positive step will mark a new departure, in line with the commitments announced by the new leadership, and will pave the way for an improvement of the human rights situation in Iran."*

Aung San Suu Kyi, Sakharov Prize Laureate 1990, will finally receive the award from the European Parliament

The Sakharov Prize award ceremony dedicated to the 1990 Sakharov Prize Laureate, **Aung San Suu Kyi** of Myanmar, will take place in Strasbourg on 22 October 2013. On this occasion, the President of the European Parliament, **Mr Martin Schulz**, will present her with the Sakharov Prize Diploma. On 21 October 2013, a joint meeting of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Committee on Development and Sub-Committee on Human Rights, in association with the Delegation for relations with the countries of South-east Asia will provide the Sakharov Prize Laureate and the MEPs with an opportunity to meet and discuss the current overall situation in Myanmar, with a particular emphasis on human rights.

Aung San Suu Kyi: No guarantee Myanmar will not return to military rule

"I cannot guarantee that there will not be backslides," **Suu Kyi** said at Singapore Management University last September, referring to the steady, but still fragile transition to a fully democratic regime in Myanmar. The opposition leader reiterated the need "to change the constitution, which provides the military with a privileged space in national politics" - a necessary step towards a legitimate civilian government with which the military will not interfere. According to the current military-drafted constitution, **Suu Kyi** cannot stand in the 2015 presidential election, because her two sons hold foreign citizenship.

Regarding the sectarian violence that erupted last June between Rakhine Buddhists and the Muslim Rohingya minority, **Suu Kyi** stated that it is the government's responsibility to enforce just laws that will diminish the fear of attacks by minority ethnic groups.

Suu Kyi appealed to young people in the country to be more active in Myanmar society, to "help in transition", and not to "wait for the situation inside the country to improve," in a separate speech organised by the Myanmar Club in Singapore.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-09-22/there-is-no-guarantee-myanmar-won-t-backslide-suu-kyi-says-1-.html>

Vice-President McMillan-Scott criticises the house arrest of Hu Jia

Mr. Edward McMillan-Scott, the European Parliament Vice-President, expressed his disapproval regarding the house arrest of the Chinese dissident **Hu Jia**, after publicly criticising the Chinese Communist Party in an interview with Sky News:

@emcmillanscott: Shocked but not surprised my friend & Sakharov Prize winner @hu_jia has been put under house arrest following his criticism of #China regime

Zeng Jinyan, at European Parliament event, denounces repression in China

Zeng Jinyan, Sakharov Prize nominee 2007 and wife of 2008 Laureate **Hu Jia**, was the keynote speaker in a human rights awareness-raising event in Finland on 8 October 2013 organised jointly by the Human Rights Actions Unit and the EP Information Office in Helsinki.

Zeng Jinyan's message: severe repression of human rights defenders in China continues unabated despite occasional periods of less severe repression. **Hu Jia, Ms. Zeng** said, is not currently in prison or detained, but his freedom is limited, and he lives under a constant threat of detention or house arrest and continuous surveillance. The significance of international support and recognition of human rights defenders was highlighted many times by **Ms. Zeng**, as well as the significance of the Sakharov Prize received by **Hu Jia**.

Ms Zeng was speaking at a public event held at the EU House in Helsinki that included the screening of **Hu Jia's** and **Zeng Jinyan's** documentary *Prisoners in Freedom City*, information on the Sakharov Prize by the Head of Office Pekka Nurminen and a video message from MEP **Tarja Cronberg**. Author of the film, Sami Sillanpää moderated an animated debate between **Zeng Jinyan** and the audience.

Zeng Jinyan's visit to Helsinki included meetings at the University of Helsinki and with Amnesty International. She was the guest speaker at the launch of a book by Finnish author Sami Sillanpää entitled *Chinese Love Story* about her and **Hu Jia**. The book launch event, organised by the publishers, included a Skype link with **Hu Jia** from Beijing. **Zeng Jinyan's** visit and the book about her and **Hu Jia** received a lot of media coverage in Finland.

Spanish court dismisses Oswaldo Payá case related to the unclear circumstances of his death

The Spanish National Court has dismissed a complaint raised by **Oswaldo Payá's** family, related to the allegedly unclear circumstances of the death of the 2002 Sakharov Prize Laureate. According to **Mr. Payá's** family, evidence from a credible and independent investigation has demonstrated that the car in which **Mr. Payá** was a passenger was intentionally hit from behind and forced off the road, killing **Mr. Payá** and Harold Cepedo, a Cuban youth activist. At the wheel, was the Spanish politician Mr. Ángel Carromero, who had come to Cuba to support **Mr. Payá** in his quest for democracy. Mr. Carromero was tried and convicted in Cuba on a charge of vehicular homicide, sentenced to four years in prison and later released to Spain to serve out the remainder of his term. He later told a *Washington Post* reporter that the car he was driving was rammed by a vehicle bearing Cuban state licence plates.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/spanish-court-turns-a-blind-eye-on-oswaldo-paya-case/2013/09/27/0b7ad8ca-2554-11e3-b3e9-d97fb087acd6_story.html

Guillermo Fariñas and members of Damas de Blanco arrested and beaten in Cuba

2010 Sakharov Laureate **Guillermo Fariñas** was arrested and beaten by Cuban security forces on 6 October. Numerous members of 2005 Laureates the **Damas de Blanco**, including their leader **Berta Soler**, were also detained and suffered similar violence. **Fariñas, Soler** and the **Damas** were released the next day. Both laureates have been in contact with the European Parliament denouncing recent persecution of the Cuban opposition.

<http://babalublog.com/2013/10/07/violent-repression-in-cuba-sunday-bloody-sunday-part-13/>

<http://www.martinoticias.com/content/cuba-guillermo-farinas-golpeado-detenido-santa-clara/28162.html> (Spanish)

http://www.diariodecuba.com/derechos-humanos/1381093222_5388.html (Spanish)

Guillermo Fariñas criticises increased violence by Cuban security forces

Guillermo Fariñas has denounced a recent upsurge in the violence of repressive tactics employed by Cuban security forces. In a video released on 10 October, **Fariñas** strongly criticised Cuban President Raúl Castro for his forces' brutal treatment of peaceful opponents of the regime.

<http://www.martinoticias.com/content/cuba-farinas-putinismo-raul-castro/28315.html> (Spanish)

Cuban court to seek 10-year prison sentence for Damas de Blanco member Sonia Garro

It was announced on 17 September that Cuban state prosecutors will seek a 10-year prison sentence for **Sonia Garro**, a member of the **Damas de Blanco**. **Garro**, along with her husband Ramón Alejandro Muñoz and fellow activist Eugenio Hernández, had previously been detained without charge for over a year. They now face charges of assault, disorderly conduct and attempted murder. In addition to 10 years for **Garro**, the state is seeking 14 years for Muñoz and 12 for Hernández.

<http://globalvoicesonline.org/2013/10/12/why-is-cuban-dissident-sonia-garro-in-prison/>

<http://babalublog.com/2013/09/17/cubas-castro-dictatorship-seeks-10-year-prison-sentence-for-imprisoned-black-dissident-sonia-garro-and-her-husband/>

Cuban police attempt to block tribute to Laura Pollán, former Damas de Blanco leader

On 14 October, Cuban authorities attempted to block efforts by the **Damas de Blanco** to commemorate the anniversary of the death of their former leader, **Laura Pollán**. Police shut off the area around the former home of **Pollán**, where around 50 **Damas** had gathered. According to **Berta Soler**, the current leader of the **Damas**, the police arranged for a mob of pro-government demonstrators to assemble outside the home. In addition, 22 **Damas** were detained by police in order to prevent them from travelling to the event.

<http://www.miamiherald.com/2013/10/14/3689684/cuban-government-supporters-repudiate.html>

Asmaa Mahfouz asked to leave Kuwait for security reasons

Asmaa Mahfouz, Sakharov Prize Laureate 2011, was asked to leave Kuwait by security authorities of the country. The 2011 Laureate told the Human Rights Actions Unit on 30 September that she was informed by Kuwaiti state security that she is not welcome in Kuwait.

Ms. Mahfouz says that Kuwaiti security authorities called her to say her visa will not be extended following comments in the media accusing her of being a spy and escaping from Egypt. She is now back in Egypt.

"Kuwait told me that due to their State security I must go Egypt," **Ms. Mahfouz** told the Human Rights Actions Unit. **Ms. Mahfouz** says that due to a media campaign against her, people are questioning why "this person is free till now and she have (sic) to be in jail because she destroyed the country". She declared that she feels "in danger in my country because of these lies".

In August, the state-run newspaper *Al Ahram* informed that **Ms. Mahfouz** and fellow founding member of the 6 April Youth movement are being investigated by the Supreme State Security Prosecution on charges of espionage. An investigation was initiated by top prosecutor Hesham Barakat after a complaint was filed by General Manager of Youth and Sports in Gharbiya governorate, accusing her of taking funds from foreign countries. However, according to **Ms. Mahfouz** the Ministry of Interior informed her that no charges will be brought against her.

Currently, **Ms. Mahfouz** is still waiting for a visa to be granted in order to return to Kuwait.

<http://www.arabtimesonline.com/NewsDetails/tabid/96/smld/414/ArticleID/200180/reftab/36/t/Kuwait-deports-Egypt-activist-Mahfouz/Default.aspx>

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/82689/Egypt/Politics-/Egyptian-activist-Asmaa-Mahfouz-deported-from-Kuwa.aspx>

<http://www.dailynewsegypt.com/2013/08/25/activists-investigated-on-claims-of-espionage/>

Memorial

In April 2013 the **regional organisation Memorial in Ryazan** received a warning from the local Prosecutor's Office about the activities of the organization to be included in the register of non-profit organizations acting as a foreign agent. On Wednesday, 16 October, the court upheld the Prosecutor's Office conclusions as presented in the warning. Andrei Blinushov, chairman of Ryazan "Memorial " said after the trial that they will challenge this decision.

<http://www.memo.ru/d/175464.html>

http://www.amnesty.org.uk/news_details.asp?NewsID=21034

Memorial Human Rights Centre is contesting the request of the city prosecutor to register the organisation as a "foreign agent". The preliminary hearing was held on the 28 June, whereas the examination on the merits was postponed from 31 July until 13 September. The court hearing on the case of the HRC **Memorial** is now scheduled for 18 November.

Additionally, in St. Petersburg two court cases that were demanded by the public prosecutor are underway against **Memorial Anti-Discrimination Centre**. Another hearing was held on 23 September.

<http://www.memo.ru/d/173771.html>

Pussy Riot member's nine-day hunger strike over prison conditions

From 23 September, **Nadezhda Tolokonnikova**, one of the jailed members of the band **Pussy Riot**, staged a nine-day hunger strike in protest at the slave-like living environment and alleged death threats from the deputy head of the prison in which she is serving her two-year sentence.

Tolokonnikova said she would refuse food until her concerns were addressed, stating, "This is an extreme method, but I am absolutely certain that it is the only way out of this situation for me. The prison colony's administration refuses to listen to me."

Tolokonnikova ended her nine-day hunger strike on 1 October. Russia's Federal Penitentiary Service stated that she began receiving food two days after being moved to a prison hospital. However, she vowed to resume her protest if prison authorities continued to ignore her demands.

As of 18 October, **Tolokonnikova** had resumed her hunger strike as prison authorities ordered that she be discharged from hospital and returned to prison.

Meanwhile, members of the Russian Presidential Human Rights Council have published a report confirming several of **Tolokonnikova's** claims about conditions at Penal Colony No. 14.

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/sep/23/pussy-riot-hunger-strike-prison>

<http://edition.cnn.com/2013/10/03/world/europe/russia-pussy-riot-hunger-strike/>

<http://www.themoscowtimes.com/news/article/pussy-riots-tolokonnikova-resumes-hunger-strike-alyokhina-drops-appeal/488117.html>

Irish students debate and vote on 2013 Sakharov Prize nominees

In the lead-up to the announcement of the 2013 Sakharov Prize Laureate, university students across Ireland met to debate and vote on their preferred nominees. The events, which were organised in conjunction with the European Parliament Office in Ireland, took place at Trinity College Dublin, University College Dublin (UCD), University College Cork (UCC) and National University of Ireland, Galway (NUIG).

The events began with individual presentations on the seven nominees put forward by MEPs. Each nominee was represented by a team of students, who sought to demonstrate that they would be a deserving recipient of this year's award. This was followed by lively open debate on the merits of the nominees, before a vote was taken to decide on each university's recommendation for the 2013 Laureate.

At three of the four participating universities, students' opinions reflected those of MEPs, as **Malala Yousafzai** received majorities at UCD, UCC and NUIG. Trinity College broke the trend by returning a large majority in favour of the Ethiopian journalists **Reeyot Alemu** and **Eskinder Nega**. However, the combined results from the four events put **Ms. Yousafzai** narrowly ahead of **Ms. Alemu** and **Mr. Nega**. The overall results were as follows:

Malala Yousafzai	26 votes	Mikhail Khodorkovsky	13 votes
Reeyot Alemu and Eskinder Nega	25 votes	Ales Bialiatski (on behalf of all political prisoners in Belarus)	8 votes
Edward Snowden	14 votes	The "Standing Man"	6 votes

Francis Jacobs, Head of the European Parliament Office in Ireland talked to students about **Andrei Sakharov**, his courageous fight for human rights in the former Soviet Union, and why the award bears his name.

Europe's human rights and equality bodies committed to ensuring fundamental rights for all becomes a daily reality

On 7-8 October in Vienna, for the first time, representatives from national, European and international human rights and equality bodies reiterated their commitment to work together to reinforce rights protection in Europe.

This ground-breaking meeting has set the scene for closer collaboration among national bodies and between national and international organisations.

They acknowledged that greater efforts are needed to protect people's rights and equality in Europe under the current economic crisis.

The meeting was an important stage in consolidating the European human rights and equality architecture and supporting concerted action for individuals' human rights throughout the region. It will also help guarantee that Europe's decision makers receive harmonised input to help outline the legal framework for fundamental rights in Europe.

<http://fra.europa.eu/en/news/2013/europes-human-rights-and-equality-bodies-committed-ensuring-fundamental-rights-all-becomes>

Zhanna Litvina of the Belarusian Association of Journalists congratulates Malala Yousafzai

Zhanna Litvina, the Chairperson of the **Belarusian Association of Journalists** (Sakharov Laureate 2004), has congratulated **Malala Yousafzai** on being named as the 2013 Sakharov Laureate.

Ms. Litvina said, "I join all congratulations in **Malala's** regard; she is a courageous girl, and her outstanding life deserves sincere admiration."

Statement by the President of the European Parliament

President Martin Schulz on the release of Sakharov Prize Laureate Nasrin Sotoudeh and other political prisoners in Iran

Commenting on the release of a number of political prisoners in Iran, including **Nasrin Sotoudeh**, winner of the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought 2012, the President of the

European Parliament **Martin Schulz** stated:

*"I welcome the news of the release of **Nasrin Sotoudeh** and other political prisoners in Iran.*

***Nasrin Sotoudeh** has been fighting for the respect of individual rights and freedoms and for a more democratic Iran. We are eagerly waiting to welcome her in Strasbourg together with her Sakharov Prize co-winner, film director **Jafar Panahi**, who is still under house arrest.*

I commend this important positive signal by the Iranian authorities, one that the European Parliament and I have been asking for a long time, most recently in my congratulatory letter to the newly elected President Rouhani."

* * *

President Martin Schulz on the announcement of Malala Yousafzai as the 2013 Sakharov laureate

On the Conference of Presidents' decision to award the 2013 Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought to **Malala Yousafzai**, the President made the following comment:

*"By awarding the Sakharov Prize to **Malala Yousafzai**, the European Parliament acknowledges the incredible strength of this young woman. **Malala** bravely stands for the right of all children to be granted a fair education. This right for girls is far too commonly neglected. As tomorrow 11 October is the International Day of the Girl Child, I would like to recall that some 250 million young girls around the world cannot freely go to school. **Malala**'s example reminds us of our duty and responsibility to the right to education for children. This is the best investment for the future."*

See link below for **President Schulz's** full statement.

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20131009IPR21810/html/Malala-Yousafzai-winner-of-the-Sakharov-Prize-2013>

Upcoming Sakharov Prize Network events

Invitation to the 25th Anniversary of the Sakharov Prize celebration

An invitation letter to the 25th Anniversary celebration from the President of the European Parliament **Martin Schulz** has been sent to the Laureates. The celebration will be held in Strasbourg, France between 17 and 21 November 2013.

Laureates are also invited to attend the award ceremony of the 2013 Sakharov Prize and take part in working sessions on future actions of the Sakharov Prize Network.

The Sakharov Prize impact study - information for Sakharov Prize Laureates

Researchers from the academic institution FRIDE are conducting a study on the impact of the Sakharov Prize to be presented at the Conference to mark the 25th Anniversary of the Sakharov Prize. For this end, they are contacting Sakharov Prize Laureates to interview you about your personal experience with the Prize. We warmly encourage you to give your views and we look forward to them.

Presentation of the 2013 Sakharov Prize to Malala Yousafzai

The 2013 Sakharov Prize will be presented to **Malala Yousafzai** on Wednesday 20 November at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, as part of the 25th Anniversary Conference of the Sakharov Prize. **Ms. Yousafzai** will receive the award from President of the European Parliament **Martin Schulz**. The presentation will take place from 12pm in the hemicycle, during a plenary session of the Parliament.

European Parliament Human Rights Resolutions September 2013

Situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo

Since last July the violence in the eastern DRC has been escalating and the humanitarian situation remains critical. Parliament has expressed its strong concern about the recent escalation of violence in the eastern DRC, strongly condemns it and demands an immediate end to all human rights abuses.

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-%2f%2fEP%2f%2fTEXT%2bTA%2bP7-TA-2013-0388%2b0%2bDOC%2bXML%2bV0%2f%2fEN&language=EN>

Situation in the Central African Republic

Since the military victory of the Séléka coalition on 24 March 2013 and its seizure of power, elements of that coalition have committed many atrocities, not being subject to any control. Parliament has condemned the unconstitutional seizure of power and called on the CAR authorities to take concrete measures to restore security and public order.

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-%2f%2fEP%2f%2fTEXT%2bTA%2bP7-TA-2013-0389%2b0%2bDOC%2bXML%2bV0%2f%2fEN&language=EN>

Human rights situation in Bahrain

The European Parliament urged the Bahraini authorities to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms, following a number of recent actions by the Bahraini authorities violating and restricting the rights and freedoms of segments of the Bahraini people. Parliament called for the respect of the right of individuals to peaceful protest, freedom of expression and digital freedom and for the right of juveniles to be observed.

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-%2f%2fEP%2f%2fTEXT%2bTA%2bP7-TA-2013-0390%2b0%2bDOC%2bXML%2bV0%2f%2fEN&language=EN>

Situation in Egypt

Parliament has condemned the disproportionate use of force by Egyptian security forces and calls on the Egyptian authorities to establish a judicial committee to independently investigate all killings. Hundreds of people have died in Egypt since the head of the armed forces, General Abdul Fattah al-Sisi, led a military takeover which deposed President Morsi and his government.

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-%2f%2fEP%2f%2fTEXT%2bTA%2bP7-TA-2013-0379%2b0%2bDOC%2bXML%2bV0%2f%2fEN&language=EN>

Situation in Syria

Parliament has strongly condemned the mass killing of civilians and calls on the UN to quickly complete its thorough investigation on the large-scale chemical attack that was perpetrated on the outskirts of Damascus, killing hundreds of people.

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-%2f%2fEP%2f%2fTEXT%2bTA%2bP7-TA-2013-0378%2b0%2bDOC%2bXML%2bV0%2f%2fEN&language=EN>

European Parliament Human Rights Resolutions October (session 1) 2013

Recent cases of violence and persecution against Christians, notably in Maaloula (Syria) and Peshawar (Pakistan) and the case of Pastor Saeed Abedini (Iran)

Parliament has strongly condemned the recent attacks against Christians and urges governments to ensure that the perpetrators of these crimes are brought to justice and tried by due process. During the month of September, assaults against Christians were launched on the Syrian village of Maaloula, symbol of Christian presence in Syria, and on the All Saints Church in Kohati Gate, a suburb of Peshawar. Moreover, Pastor Saeed Abedini was sentenced to an 8 year prison term for creating a network of Christian churches.

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P7-TA-2013-0422+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN>

Recent violence in Iraq

Parliament has strongly condemned the recent acts of terrorism and heightened sectarian violence and expresses its grave concern over the new surge of instability, calling on all Iraqi political leaders to work together to put an end to sectarian violence and distrust. According to casualty figures released by the UNAMI, a total of 979 Iraqis were killed, and another 2 133 wounded, in acts of terrorism and violence in September 2013.

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P7-TA-2013-0424+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN>

Clashes in Sudan and subsequent media censorship

Parliament has condemned the killings, the violence against demonstrators, the media censorship, the political intimidation and the harassment and arbitrary arrest of human rights and political activists and journalists and calls on the Government of Sudan to end the harassment and release all people arrested while exercising their fundamental rights. Sudan is experiencing increasing waves of popular protests and the political situation in the country is fragile. According to reports, at least 800 activists have been arrested amid ongoing demonstrations, in which up to 100 people were reportedly killed by security forces.

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P7-TA-2013-0423+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN>