

SAKHAROV PRIZE NETWORK  
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**SUDANESE AUTHORITIES RELEASE SALIH MAHMOUD OSMAN**

10-04-18: In an [attempt](#) to appease human rights critics, the Sudanese government has set free 2007 Sakharov Prize Laureate **Salih Mahmoud Osman**, as well as several political prisoners arrested during the January 2018 political protests. On 15 March 2018, the European Parliament had passed an urgency [resolution](#) demanding the immediate release of Mr. Salih Mahmoud Osman which has been supported personally by the EP President, **Antonio Tajani**. The Parliament's Human Rights Actions Unit has been following closely the situation and the VP **Heidi Hautala** contacted the Laureate just after his release.

**Coalition led by Xanana Gusmão wins legislative elections in Timor-Leste**

12-5-18. A coalition of political parties led by 1999 Sakharov Laureate **Xanana Gusmão**'s National Congress for Timorese Reconstruction secured more than 49.50% of the vote in the legislative elections recently held in Timor-Leste. As a result of this victory, Mr. Gusmão is widely [expected](#) to be appointed prime minister of Timor-Leste, a position he already held between 2007 and 2015.

**European Parliament will not observe the Presidential elections in Venezuela**

23-04-18: Members of the European Parliament [refused](#) to send an electoral observation mission to the Venezuelan presidential election scheduled for 20 May 2018. In an earlier [resolution](#), the Parliament made clear that it would only observe Venezuelan elections if they were held in fair and transparent conditions, and in a context of national dialogue with the opposition. In a [speech](#) before the Parliament's plenary on 2 May 2018, the EU High Representative/Vice-President **Federica Mogherini** called for a revision of the electoral calendar, based on an agreed and credible timeline.

**European Parliament hosts a screening of 'Women of the Venezuelan Chaos'**

26-04-18: For more than ten years, the European Parliament has been screening one of the films of the [One World](#) Festival, a human rights documentary festival organised by the **Czech NGO People in Need** in Prague and in Brussels. This year's film was '[Women of the Venezuelan Chaos](#)', an intimate portrait of five women facing scarcity and disorder in Venezuela. The screening, introduced by Member of Parliament **Beatriz Becerra**, was followed by a panel comprising the film director, a member of the Office of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and a representative of the 2017 Sakharov Prize Laureate, the **Venezuelan Opposition**.

**Reporters Without Borders launches the 2018 World Media Freedom Index**

25-04-18: 2005 Sakharov Prize Laureate **Reporters Without Borders** (RSF) [launched](#) the 2018 World Media Freedom Index, which tracks the state of press freedom across the world. This year's report portrays a global trend of aggression against the press and its role as a legitimate and independent actor, both in authoritarian and in liberal countries. "The unleashing of hatred towards journalists is one of the worst threats to democracies," [says](#) **Christophe Deloire**, secretary general of RSF.

**BAJ worried about the amendments to the media law against Internet freedom**

20-04-18: 2004 Sakharov Prize Laureate **Belarusian Association of Journalists** (BAJ) expressed its concern regarding several new [amendments](#) to the Belarusian media laws that aim to restrict online news outlets and social media. Among other restrictions, [news](#) outlets will have to register with the Information Ministry, and unregistered journalists will have to reveal their sources if required. BAJ representative **Andrey Bastunets** stated: "Internet remained the last free territory in Belarus. Authorities didn't tolerate it for long and decided to strengthen control." This legislative change will enter into force ahead of the presidential elections scheduled for November 2018.

**Remembering Razan Zaitouneh on her 41st birthday**

28-04-18: 2011 Sakharov Prize Laureate **Razan Zaitouneh** is remembered on her 41st birthday by Syrian activist **Suad Khabeia** in an [interview](#) for *Syria Direct*. "Razan was the first woman I worked

with who was a human rights defender in Syria at a time when women dared not wade into the dangers of that field. When I remember Razan, I remember a person who believed”.

### **As Cuban leader changes, harassment against the Ladies in White goes on**

14-04-18: Cuban authorities have continued their crackdown against 2005 Sakharov Prize Laureate **Ladies in White**. During the first half of April 2018, at least 45 Ladies were detained while attempting to attend Sunday mass. While detained, many of them suffered nausea and migraines that went on for days after their release. On 9 April, one member of the organization was condemned to six months in prison. This crackdown takes place against the backdrop of the Cuban leadership change. On 19 April, **Miguel Díaz-Canel** was [appointed](#) new President of Cuba.

### **Taslima Nasreen against death penalty for rapists, in favour of education on human rights**

24-04-18: 1994 Sakharov Prize Laureate **Taslima Nasreen** advocates for equality between men and women in the society at a [conference](#) in Kochi, India, to promote her book: “The violent masculinity along with victim blaming is the root cause of rape culture. Even though we keep on saying one should not blame the victim and praise violent masculinity, it continues. It is toxic. But at the same time death penalty isn’t the solution for rape culture. We must educate men to consider women equal to them”.

### **Will Jafar Panahi be authorized to leave Iran to attend Cannes film festival?**

25-04-18: 2012 Sakharov Prize Laureate **Jafar Panahi** has been [invited](#) to attend Cannes film festival in May as his new movie “Three Faces” has been selected for the international competition. So far it is unclear whether he will be able to leave the country because of the travel ban imposed on him by Iranian authorities. Several personalities, including film director **Oliver Stone**, have been [calling](#) on the Iranian government to let him attend the event in France.

### **Nasrin Sotoudeh supports the “Girls of Revolution Street” against the compulsory hijab**

27-04-18: 2012 Sakharov Prize Laureate **Nasrin Sotoudeh** is defending 32-year-old **Maryam Shariatmadari**, one of the “Girls of Revolution Street” that protested against mandatory hijab for women in Iran. In March 2018, Ms. Shariatmadari was sentenced to a year in prison for “encouraging corruption by removing her hijab”. On 25 April 2018, she was violently arrested, handcuffed, blindfolded, [taken](#) to an unknown location, and freed on bail on 27 April.

### **Malala’s first visit to Pakistan after being shot at, and her recent interviews**

02-04-18: 2013 Sakharov Prize Laureate **Malala Yousafzai** has [visited](#) her home [country](#) for the first time since 2012, accompanied by her parents and two brothers, as well as by federal minister **Maryam Aurangzeb**. She went to Islamabad and to her home village of [Mingora](#) with tight security [constraints](#).

### **Documentary movie “On her shoulders” on Nadia Murad Basee’s life**

30-04-18: 2016 Sakharov Prize Laureate **Nadia Murad Basee** is the star of the 94-minute documentary film shot by director **Alexandria Bombach** on her fight for the rights of the Yazidi people. The trailer is available [online](#) and the [movie](#) will be screened in international film festivals such as Sundance.

### **803 survivors are raising their voices against sexual violence in Congo**

18-05-18: A group of women established in April the first survivor network in Congo under the name of the “Mouvement des Survivant.e.s” and is mobilizing hundreds of other rape survivors in order to heal and to fight sexual violence together. They organized a peaceful demonstration in solidarity with the victims of recent attacks. The movement of survivors is part of the Global Survivor Network whose members around the world stand in solidarity with the women in Congo.

### **EP URGENCY RESOLUTIONS ON BELARUS, GAZA, AND THE PHILIPPINES**

06-04-18: The April plenary of the European Parliament passed three urgency resolutions on human rights issues. First, it [condemned](#) the crackdown against the 25 March protests in **Belarus**, and it called on the Belarusian government to release those detained during the protests. Secondly, it [expressed](#) its concern for the situation in the **Gaza-Israel border**, and it demanded that all parties involved in the crisis strictly respect human rights law. In third place, it [condemned](#) the police brutality that has plagued the anti-drug and anti-terrorism campaigns in the **Philippines**.

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