

SAKHAROV PRIZE NETWORK NEWSLETTER 09/2016

SAKHAROV PRIZE 2016 NOMINATIONS ANNOUNCED BY THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

15-09-2016: The European Parliament has announced the five nominees for this year's Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought. Journalist **Can Dündar** and fellow defenders of freedom of thought and expression in Turkey was nominated by the political groups Greens/EFA, EFDD and GUE/NGL. The Crimean Tatar leader **Mustafa Dzemilev** was nominated by the EPP and ECR political groups. Yazidi survivor and public advocate **Nadia Murad Basee** was nominated by the ALDE group, while she was nominated again alongside fellow survivor and public advocate **Lamiya Aji Bashar** by the S&D group. Uyghur scholar **Ilham Tohti** was nominated by **Ilhan Kyuchyuk MEP** and 42 other MEPs. Link: [EuroParl](#)

Election of 2016 Sakharov Prize Laureate coming soon

The profiles of the candidates for the 2016 Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought will be presented at a joint meeting of the Foreign Affairs and Development Committees and Human Rights Subcommittee on Thursday 6 October before a vote for the shortlist of three finalists is held at a joint meeting of the Foreign Affairs and Development Committees. The Conference of Presidents, consisting of the President of the European Parliament and the political group leaders, will announce the 2016 Sakharov Prize Laureate or Laureates on 27 October. Link: [EuroParl](#)

Guillermo Fariñas ends his hunger strike

12-09-2016: **Sakharov Prize Laureate 2010 Guillermo Fariñas** ended the hunger strike which he had been pursuing for 54 days to demand that the Cuban government stop repressing dissidents. The European Parliament followed the case closely and was engaged with Fariñas's fellow activists throughout the hunger strike. The Parliament will later this year review the EU-Cuba bilateral agreement that was negotiated between the European External Action Service and the Cuban Government, and Guillermo Fariñas is planning to visit the Parliament in October to discuss this as well as other human rights issues related to Cuba. European Parliament **President Martin Schulz** welcomed the end of the hunger strike on Twitter. Links: [Fox](#); [DDC](#); [Schulz](#)

Salih Osman meets officials in Brussels and Geneva

23-09-2016: **Sakharov Prize Laureate 2007 Salih Osman** met officials of the European Parliament and EU Member States in Brussels, as well as officials at the UN in Geneva, alongside **Mossaad Mohammed Ali**, Executive Director of the African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies. Salih Osman called on the EU and UN to be more cautious in its cooperation with the Sudanese Government when supporting it and offering funds. He underlined that the root cause of migration of the Sudanese population is issues of Internally Displaced Peoples (IDPs) and that the government should be invited to take steps to end the persecution of the population and ensure security in the areas of origin of IDPs, and any efforts to tackle immigration without addressing this issue will prove ineffective. Somalia has one of the highest numbers of IDPs globally. The European Parliament is planning to approve an urgency resolution on Somalia in October.

Hu Jia attends events at German Embassy with fellow activists

23-09-2016: Several Chinese dissidents including **Sakharov Prize Laureate 2008 Hu Jia** attended festivities at the German Embassy in Beijing to mark October 3rd, the Day of German Unity, to show support amid an intensifying crackdown on lawyers, activists and bloggers. Hu Jia took the opportunity

to speak to European diplomats about the situation of jailed Uyghur scholar and Sakharov Prize 2016 candidate **Ilham Tohti** as well as the fate of **Xia Lin** and other lawyers caught in the crackdown. Tohti was sentenced to life in prison following his conviction for separatism on September 23rd 2014. Link: [RFA](#)

Malala Yousafzai calls on world leaders to guarantee education for refugee children

13-09-2016: **Sakharov Laureate 2013 Malala Yousafzai** has called on world leaders to guarantee both primary and secondary education to refugee children. The Malala Fund submitted a paper to the UN Security Council on the situation and called for an international commitment of 2.9 billion US dollars by 2019 to the Education Cannot Wait Fund, which would support more than 25 million children including refugees, with Malala arguing that “you give education to the children of these families and you guide them and you make their future”. Link: [Independent](#)

Nelson Mandela Foundation objects to misuse of Mandela’s legacy by Australian Liberal Party MPs

23-09-2016: The Foundation of **Sakharov Laureate 1988 Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela** has objected against the “misrepresentation” of Mr Mandela’s views by anti-gay marriage Australian MPs, who used Mandela’s image in leaflets calling on Australians to vote against gay marriage in a potential referendum. The organisation objected against “the misuse of the legacy of someone who worked precisely for the recognition of such rights”. Mr Mandela signed into law a constitution that forbids discrimination on the basis of sexuality and appointed South Africa’s first openly gay judge to the High Court. Link: [SMH](#); [ABC](#)

Nelson Mandela’s widow Graça Michal launches network to amplify women’s voices

29-09-2016: Graça Michal, widow of **Sakharov Laureate 1988 Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela**, has launched the Pan African Women in Media Network (WIMN). According to Michal, the WIMN, which will see female journalists working with the Graça Michal Trust, is part of the Trust’s efforts “to multiply the faces and amplify the voices of women, especially in areas where they are underrepresented”. Link: [Voice](#)

EP URGENCY RESOLUTIONS ON THE OPPOSITION IN PHILIPPINES, SOMALIA AND ZIMBABWE

15-09-2016: In its September Plenary sitting the Parliament condemned the current wave of extrajudicial executions and killings in the [Philippines](#), deteriorating security and widespread intimidation in [Somalia](#), and growing violence against demonstrators and breaches of human rights in [Zimbabwe](#). Link: [EP Press Release Urgency Resolutions September 2016](#)

SAKHAROV PRIZE NETWORK EVENTS IN OCTOBER

During October, the Sakharov Prize Network will participate in or host the following events:

10-14 October, European Parliament Brussels

Guillermo Fariñas will attend meetings with DROI Subcommittee, a meeting with the informal Friends of Free Cuba group of MEPs, and meeting with other MEPs in Brussels

13 October, European Parliament Brussels

Alexander Milinkevich will participate alongside other Belarusian activists in a meeting at the European Parliament in Brussels at the invitation of the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly.

13-14 October, Södertörn University Peace Conference, Sweden

Dr Denis Mukwege will speak at the Peace Conference at Södertörn University as well as speaking at an event on conflict minerals in the European Parliament Information Office in Stockholm.

27 October, Luxembourg

Dr Denis Mukwege will speak with dignitaries including the royal family and the Prime Minister of Luxembourg Xavier Bettel, as well as speaking about his work at a public event.