

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF SUPPORTING HUMAN RIGHTS




EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

SAKHAROV PRIZE

FOR FREEDOM OF THOUGHT

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF SUPPORTING HUMAN RIGHTS





*"People should always follow their consciences.
Human rights are the basis of civilisation."*

Elena Bonner

Foreword

Twenty five years of defending and promoting human rights through the award of the Sakharov Prize are being celebrated in 2013.

Over the years we have recognised and supported the struggle of individuals and organisations of individuals who have bravely stood up against racism and repression, war and terrorism, imprisonment and torture for their rights and the rights of others.

This year, I am particularly pleased to welcome among the Sakharov Laureates Malala Yousafzai, a brave young girl from Pakistan whose determination to fight for children's right to education is so motivating. Malala has taken her fight beyond Pakistan to the world, fighting

to empower girls and women in their struggle for self-determination. Malala is an inspiration to children and adults everywhere and we aim to follow the path she has trod with concrete support. In fact, the European Union has dedicated its 2012 Nobel Prize money to a Children of Peace initiative helping children around the world, including girls in Pakistan, to realise their right to education.

As the representatives of more than 500 million European citizens, the European Parliament is fully committed to the cause of human rights. The European Parliament puts its weight behind our common values in very concrete terms through adopting human rights resolutions, visits on the ground, intervention at diplomatic levels and electoral observation missions.

The European Parliament is a strong voice defending political prisoners, dissidents and human rights defenders.

Through the European Parliament's "Sakharov Prize Network", which includes all Laureates and representatives of the European Parliament, we aim to provide a strong platform for all those who cherish freedom of thought, to strengthen the message of peace, tolerance, freedom, human rights and the rule of law worldwide. I'm very proud that in 2013, the European Parliament has received and held award ceremonies for three Laureates who had been politically impeded from coming to the European Parliament at the time of their award: the Damas de Blanco and Guillermo Fariñas

from Cuba and former Myanmar/Burma political prisoner Aung San Suu Kyi.

To mark this special 25th anniversary of the Sakharov Prize which we are celebrating this year, I have invited Laureates from all over the world to come together with the European Parliament to strengthen our mutual struggle for human rights and fundamental liberties worldwide, and the ideals our Laureates strive for in their everyday lives.

Together, with the courageous men and women, and now this young girl - Malala, whom we have recognised with the Sakharov Prize, will continue to work together to make the universal human rights we believe in a reality for all.

Martin Schulz
President of the European Parliament

The Sakharov Prize

Established in 1988 in honour of Russian nuclear scientist and human rights activist Andrei Sakharov, the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought is the highest tribute to human rights endeavours the European Union accords. It gives recognition and moral support to the Laureates, who are strengthened and empowered in their fight for their causes.

The Prize has been awarded to individuals and to associations: dissidents, political leaders, journalists, lawyers, civil society activists, writers, mothers and wives, minority leaders, an anti-terrorist group, peace activists, an anti-torture activist, a cartoonist, a long-serving prisoner of conscience, a film maker and even the UN as a body. It rewards in particular freedom of expression, safeguarding the rights of minorities, respect for international law, development of democracy and implementation of the rule of law.

The EP awards the Sakharov Prize with its €50 000 endowment at a formal plenary sitting in Strasbourg towards the end of each year. Political groups or at least 40 Members of the European Parliament can nominate candidates. These are presented at a joint sitting of the Foreign Affairs and Development Committees and the Human Rights Sub-committee and their voting Members decide on a short-list of three.

The final Laureate or Laureates for each year are chosen by the Conference of Presidents, an EP body led by the President and encompassing the leaders of all the different groups represented in Parliament, making the choice of the Laureate a truly European choice.

"What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made in the lives of others".

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela



Andrei Sakharov

Inspiration for the Prize

Andrei Sakharov (1921-1989), the renowned physicist, member of the Academy of Sciences, dissident and 1975 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate was living in exile in Gorky (today's Nizhny Novgorod) when he learnt that the European Parliament intended to create a prize for freedom of thought which would bear his name. From his exile he sent a message to the European Parliament, in 1987, giving his permission for his name to be given to the Prize and saying how moved he was. He rightly saw the Prize as an encouragement to all those who, like him, had committed themselves to championing human rights.

A pioneer in nuclear physics in the USSR, Andrei Sakharov became concerned at the onset of an arms race that heightened the threat of a nuclear world war hanging over the world of the Cold War era. After publishing, first in samizdat form (self-printed, type-written copies) then in the Western press, an essay containing *Reflections on Progress, Peaceful Coexistence, and Intellectual Freedom*, Sakharov was

banned from all military-related research. In 1970 he became one of the co-founders of the Committee on Human Rights in the USSR and married fellow human rights activist Elena Bonner in 1972. Despite increasing pressure from the government, Sakharov not only sought the release of dissidents in his country but became one of the regime's most courageous critics, embodying the crusade against the denial of fundamental rights. He was, in the words of the Nobel Peace Committee, "a spokesman for the conscience of mankind". Neither intimidation nor exile could break his resistance.

Andrei Sakharov was exiled to Gorky by the Soviet authorities in order to limit his contacts with foreigners. The Prize that bears his name goes far beyond borders, even those of oppressive regimes, to reward human rights activists and dissidents all over the world. The human rights defenders recognised by it pay dearly for their commitment to defending human dignity: many have faced

persecution, loss of personal freedom, beatings or exile. In a number of cases the winners have not been free to receive their prize in person.

One such winner is 2012 Laureate Nasrin Sotoudeh, who, from prison in Iran, has written letters addressed to the late Andrei Sakharov, exploring philosophically the meaning of dissidence and comparing her cause to his.

"Reading your memoirs was exciting for me in many ways. The similarities in our methods and the existence of lots of points in common, were all very encouraging to me and of course your reluctance to surrender to the authoritarian methods of the government in your country was admirable.

"Your daily renewal of life and resistance was amazing. You of course were reflecting the spirit of Goethe when he said "he alone deserves liberty and life who daily must win them anew".

"What you managed to achieve was a great victory for all freedom fighters all over the world. May those who come in future realise your unrealised dreams. They will definitely struggle to realise their dreams and will guard them".

Like Andrei Sakharov, all the winners of the prize which bears his name have demonstrated just how much courage, patience and inner strength is needed to defend human rights and campaign for their universal recognition.



The Sakharov Prize Network

The Sakharov Prize Network was created in 2008, when the Sakharov Prize celebrated its 20th anniversary.

To mark this event the European Parliament had held a conference entitled: *20 years of active support to human rights: Sakharov Laureates tell their story*. Many of the Laureates participated in this conference and shared their views on global human rights, and the impact of the Sakharov Prize. Hauwa Ibrahim, a 2005 Laureate, used her prize money to send over 100 children to school. Las Madres de la Plaza de Mayo, the 1992 Laureates, used the prize to open a bookshop, a political cafe and a university for over 2400 students. Elena Bonner, Andrei Sakharov's widow and herself a renowned human rights and democracy

campaigner, reaffirmed at the conference, her husband's belief that "people should always follow their consciences" and her own belief that "human rights are the basis of civilisation".

The Network was officially launched by the President of the European Parliament at the time, Hans-Gert Pöttering, as a platform for Laureates to connect with one another's activities and show solidarity.

The Laureates signed a joint declaration in which they "agreed to enhance joint efforts in support of human rights defenders around the world through common actions by the Sakharov Prize winners jointly and in cooperation with the European Parliament".

The Network then enhanced its activities with the High Level Conference of November 2011, to which all the Laureates were invited by then President of the European Parliament Jerzy Buzek to discuss problems of transitional democracies, the role of women and the impact of new technologies. As Mr Buzek underlined at the Conference "it is not Facebook or Twitter that brought down oppressive regimes, ultimately it is the human spirit and the desire for freedom and changing things for the better".

At the Sakharov Prize Network Annual Event in 2012, the then current co-chairpersons of the Network, European Parliament President Martin Schulz and 2011 Laureates Ali Ferzat, Asmaa Mahfouz

and Ahmed El Senussi, debated publicly their views on democracy in the making in the wake of the Arab Spring. These laureates were also speakers at the first World Forum for Democracy in Strasbourg, held with the patronage of the European Parliament.

2013 marks the 25th anniversary of the Sakharov Prize. The year saw a number of Sakharov Prize Network debates and a high-level Conference in which Laureates from all over the world congregated with the European Parliament to discuss their struggles and strengthen and enrich each other within the Sakharov Prize Network.

The prize winners

1988 Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela; Anatoli Marchenko (posthumously)
1989 Alexander Dubček
1990 Aung San Suu Kyi
1991 Adem Demaçi
1992 Las Madres de Plaza de Mayo
1993 Oslobodjenje
1994 Taslima Nasreen
1995 Leyla Zana
1996 Wei Jingsheng
1997 Salima Ghezali
1998 Ibrahim Rugova
1999 Xanana Gusmão
2000 ¡Basta Ya!
2001 Izzat Ghazzawi; Nurit Peled-Elhanan; Dom Zacarias Kamwenho

2002 Oswaldo José Payá Sardiñas
2003 UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and all the staff of the United Nations
2004 Belarusian Association of Journalists
2005 Ladies in White; Hauwa Ibrahim; Reporters without Borders
2006 Aliaksandr Milinkevich
2007 Salih Mahmoud Mohamed Osman
2008 Hu Jia
2009 Memorial (Oleg Orlov, Sergei Kovalev and Lyudmila Alexeyeva on behalf of Memorial and all other human rights defenders in Russia)
2010 Guillermo Fariñas
2011 Arab Spring (Mohamed Bouazizi, Asmaa Mahfouz, Ahmed El Senussi, Razan Zaitouneh and Ali Ferzat)
2012 Nasrin Sotoudeh and Jafar Panahi
2013 Malala Yousafzai

2013

Malala Yousafzai

Malala Yousafzai is a 16-year old girl from Pakistan who was shot in the face by the Taliban to stop her and other girls from going to school.

"They shot her at point blank range in the head, and made her stronger," Angelina Jolie, Hollywood actress, said at the launch of a first project to help 40 girls in Pakistan's Swat district go to school.

Malala recovered from her injuries after extensive treatment in the United Kingdom, where she is now living, and has declared she wants "every girl, every child, to be educated".

Her fight began at age 11 when she wrote an anonymous diary about a schoolgirl's life under the Taliban in Pakistan's Swat Valley for BBC Urdu online.

On Wednesday 14 January 2009, her entry read "I may not go to school again". Her school principal had announced the start of the winter holidays but not the school reopening date. On 15 January 2009, the Taliban decreed that all girls' schools in Swat be closed. Over 150 schools had already been blown up.

Shortly after, Malala and her family had to flee their besieged town of Mingora as the Taliban and the Pakistani army fought for control. Malala's school was devastated.

Returning home after the security situation improved, Malala and her father Ziauddin,

a liberal Jirga member who ran a girls' school, were subjected to threats. But Malala continued her advocacy for girls' education in outspoken interviews and TV appearances, volunteering for two documentaries about girls' education in the Swat valley called *Class dismissed in Swat Valley* and *A school girl's odyssey*. She used a donation to buy a school bus, and it was on her way home on the same school bus that Malala was shot, and two other girls were also injured, in an attack claimed by the Tehrik-e-Taleban Party.

The attack aimed to kill Malala and to "teach a lesson" to anyone associated with her and her fight for the right to education, freedom and self-determination of young girls and women in Pakistan. But Malala fights on. On her sixteenth birthday on 12 July 2013, she addressed the United Nations in an event at headquarters organised by the UN Special Envoy for Global Education Gordon Brown.

"The terrorists thought that they would change my aims and stop my ambitions," she said, "but nothing changed in my life, except this: weakness, fear and hopelessness died. Strength, power and courage was born".

The UN has chosen 10 November as Malala day to focus attention on girls' right to go to school, and Pakistan and Unesco have formed the Malala Fund for girls' education.



1988

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela

Six years after receiving the first Sakharov Prize, Nelson Mandela was elected the first black President and Head of Government of the Republic of South Africa in the country's first free elections. He had spent 27 years behind bars under racial apartheid and become the symbol of resistance to racism. When he was awarded the Sakharov Prize in 1988, Mandela was still under house arrest, but just four months after his release, in June 1990, he addressed the European Parliament.

He was adamant on the need of a just and lasting solution to transform South Africa into a "united, democratic and non-racial country". Anything less would be "an insult to the memory of the countless patriots in South Africa and the rest of our region, who have sacrificed their very lives, to bring us to the moment today when we can confidently say that the end of the apartheid system is in sight".

In bidding farewell to the South African Parliament - 10 years to the day after he

was sworn in as President - he noted that "historical enemies succeeded in negotiating a peaceful transition from apartheid to democracy exactly because we were prepared to accept the inherent capacity for goodness in the other".

Nelson Mandela, who was also awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993, is retired from public life, but remains committed to his ideals through his charities, the Nelson Mandela Foundation and the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund.

In June 2013 Mr Mandela, 94, was hospitalised with a serious lung infection, initially contracted during his imprisonment. Thousands of people from around the world sent messages of love and support.

As Mandela himself once said, "what counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made in the lives of others".



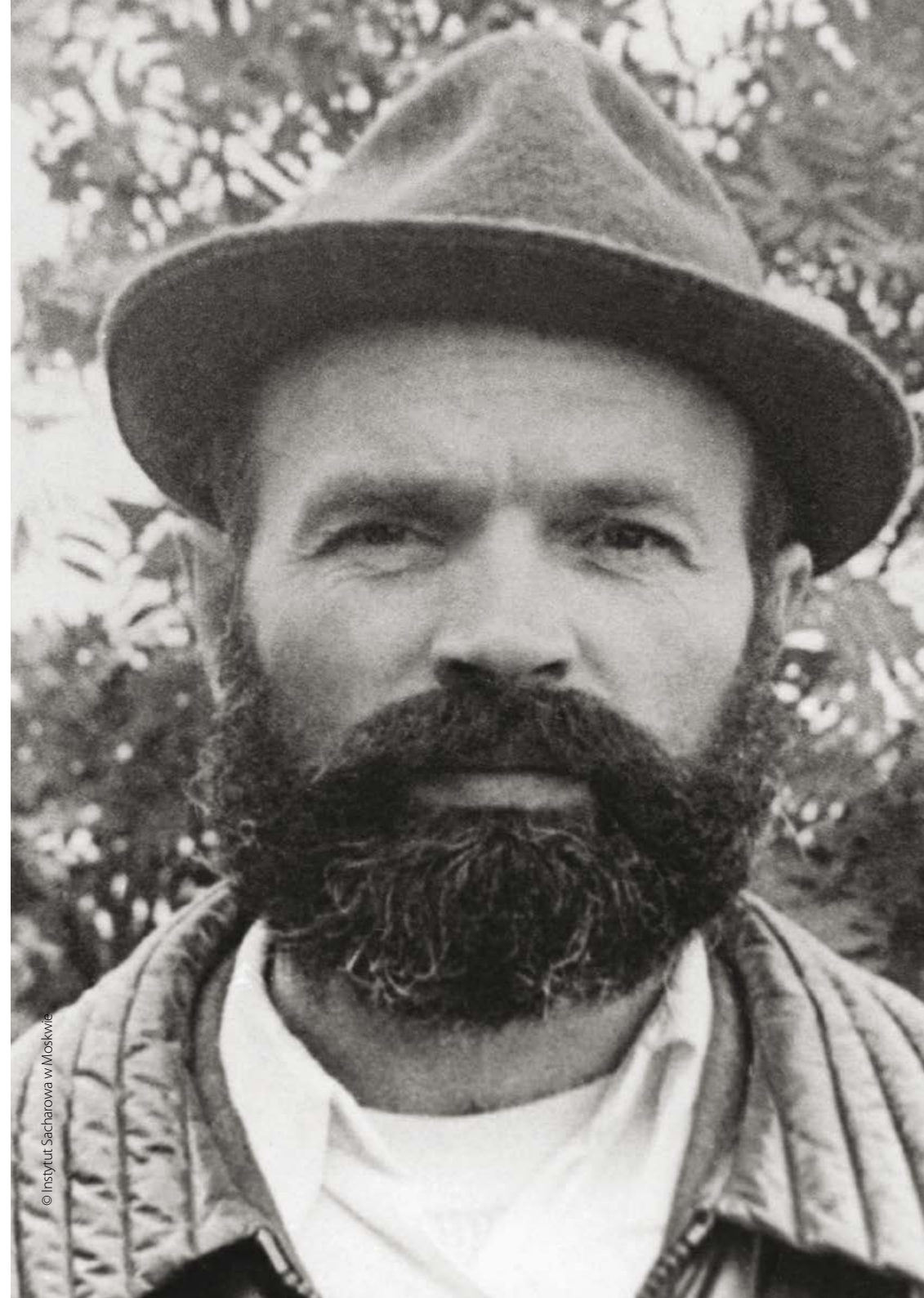
1988

Anatoli Marchenko

Anatoli Marchenko, one of the former Soviet Union's best-known dissidents, died in Chistopol prison in 1986 of a three-month-long hunger strike for the release of all Soviet prisoners of conscience. He was only 48 but had spent over 20 years in prison and internal exile. The international outcry following his death was a major factor in finally pushing Mikhail Gorbachev, then Secretary General of the Communist Party, to authorize the large-scale release of political prisoners in 1987.

Marchenko became widely known through *My Testimony*, an autobiographical book on his time in Soviet labour camps and prison. Having left school at age 8, Marchenko educated himself whilst imprisoned. After his release in 1966, he not only wrote this seminal book, but also joined the Soviet human rights movement, becoming one of the founding members of the influential Moscow Helsinki Group in 1975, organizing protests and appeals and authoring a number of open letters, several of which landed him in prison repeatedly.

On the award of the Sakharov Prize to his widow, Larissa Bogoraz, in 1988, Andrei Sakharov himself paid tribute to Anatoli Marchenko, saying, in a message to the EP: "in *My Testimony* Marchenko was the first to tell the truth about the post-Stalin labour camps and prisons. His book became one of the foundation stones of the human rights movement in our country. With its spirit of morality through non-violent struggle for justice, with its aspiration towards unconcealed and complete truth, the book aroused the hatred of the organs of repression towards its author. The whole of his subsequent life and his tragic death on Chistopol prison was their way of repaying him for this truth, this steadfastness, for his high moral principle. The achievement of Marchenko's life and work is an enormous contribution to the cause of democracy, of humanity and of justice."



1989

Alexander Dubček

Alexander Dubček (1921-1992), was one of the catalysts behind the process of renewal and change in the former Eastern Bloc and the leading figure in the reform movement known as the Prague Spring in 1968 Czechoslovakia.

He grew up in a family committed to helping build socialism in the Soviet Union. In 1939, Dubček secretly joined the Communist Party and after the occupation of Czechoslovakia in the Second World War, also joined the underground resistance against the pro-German Slovak state.

When in 1968 Dubček, a devoted communist, became the new First Secretary of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia he sought to liberalize the Communist regime.

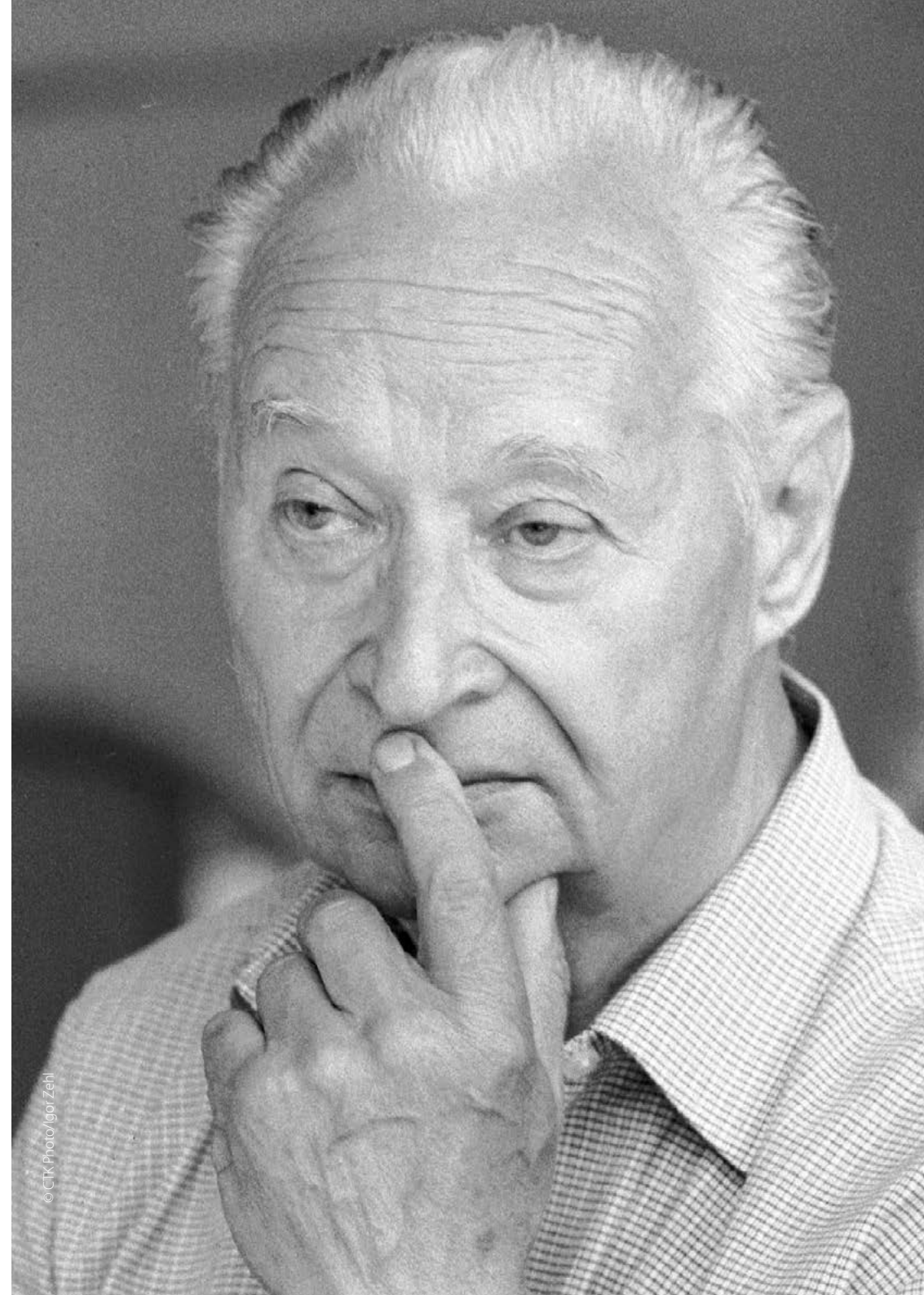
He began a series of liberal reforms, granting the press greater freedom of expression, rehabilitating victims of the Stalin era political purges, and initiating a reform programme envisaging economic reforms and a wide-ranging democratization of Czechoslovak political life. His reforms aroused concern in Moscow and his endeavours to give

Socialism a "human face" were shattered on 21 August 1968 by Warsaw Pact tanks entering Czechoslovakia and seizing control of Prague. Dubček was kidnapped by the KGB, taken to the Kremlin and briefly detained.

In 1970, he was accused of treason, stripped of office and expelled from the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia. For fifteen years he lived as an ordinary worker and only returned to political life as a civil rights activist in 1988.

After the 1989 revolution in Czechoslovakia, Dubček was elected Chairman of the Federal Assembly from 1989 to 1992. As one of the figures who kept hope alive for the Soviet dissidents in their long struggle for glasnost, as Andrei Sakharov described him in a message read out during the Sakharov Prize award ceremony, Dubček expressed the wish that "as a result of the Prague Spring the great symphony of the European community spirit will continue to resound in 1990 and in all the years to come".

He died in a car crash in 1992.



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1990

Aung San Suu Kyi

Aung San Suu Kyi's leadership of Burma/ Myanmar's pro-democracy struggle was recognised by the Sakharov Prize in 1990. A year later she was also awarded the Nobel Peace prize.

Daughter of Aung San, a national hero of independent Burma, who was assassinated when she was two, and Khin Kyi, a prominent Burmese diplomat, Suu Kyi had returned to Burma, after living abroad, to nurse her dying mother in 1988.

That was when she witnessed the brutal massacres of protesters against U Ne Win's military regime, leading her to begin her non-violent struggle for democracy and human rights.

She spent most of the two decades after 1990 under house arrest or in prison after the ruling military junta cracked down with arrests and bloody reprisals on her National League for Democracy, refusing to hand over power to it despite its overwhelming victory in that year's

election. Whilst she was under house arrest the authorities refused her husband, who had been diagnosed with cancer, a visa to visit her in Myanmar, urging her to leave the country instead. Anticipating that she would not be allowed to return, she refused, and did not see her husband again to his death in 1999.

She was still under house arrest during Myanmar's first elections in two decades in 2010, but was released six days later. As the country began democratic reforms, she stood for a parliamentary by-election in April 2012, in which her party won 43 out of the 45 seats available. She is now the leader of parliamentary opposition.

On her electoral victory, the EP, which had repeatedly called for her unconditional release, applauded her as "an example of selfless courage and struggle for freedom and democracy in the face of tyranny". In 2013, Aung San Suu KYI declared her wish to run for the country's presidency.

1991

Adem Demaçi

A writer born in Priština, Kosovo, in 1936, Adem Demaçi spent a great part of his life, between 1958 and 1990, in prison for fighting for the fundamental rights of the Albanians in Kosovo, and making known the bitter truth about the Serbian oppression of the two million Albanians in Kosovo.

“In our time we can confirm that freedom of speech is the first, crucial step towards democracy. Without freedom of speech there is no dialogue, without dialogue the truth cannot be established, and without the truth progress is impossible”.

After his release, Demaçi took on the leadership of the Council for the Defence of Human Rights and Freedoms. In 1996, he embarked on a political career, joining the Parliamentary Party of Kosovo and becoming its chairman.

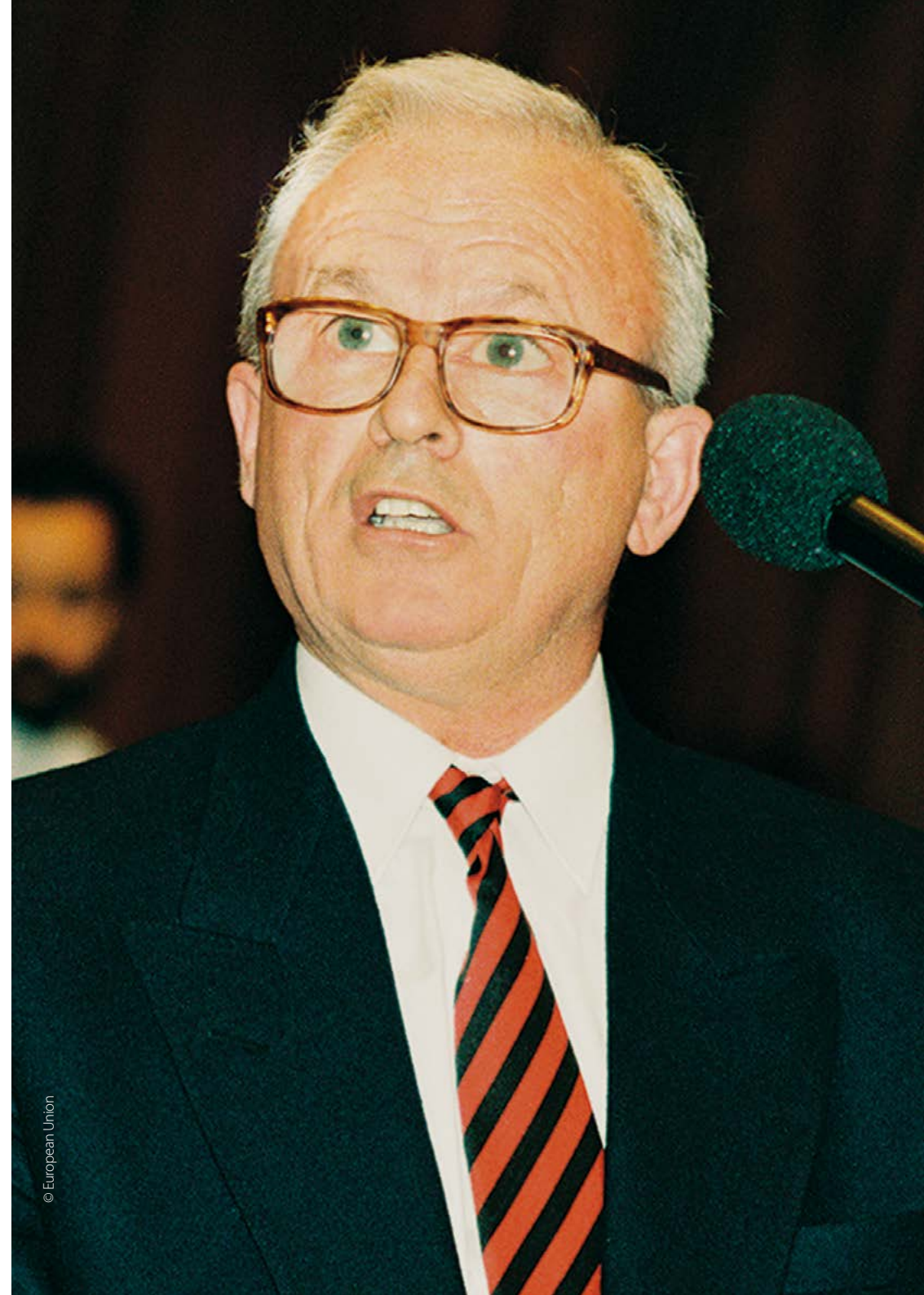
He called for open protests against the Serbian regime saying that non-violence does not necessarily mean passivity, and began a visible, yet non-violent protest campaign against Serbian rule.

This consisted of calling on Kosovars to turn off their lights for five minutes and to stand still in the street for one minute at precisely the same time.

From 1998 to 1999, during the Kosovo war, he was the political representative of the Kosovo Liberation Army (UCK), remaining in Kosovo whilst other leaders left the country.

After the war, he devoted himself mainly to ethnic reconciliation and the return of refugees. He became chairman of the Committee for Mutual Understanding, Tolerance and Coexistence, representing all ethnic groups in Kosovo, “because Kosovo belongs to everyone” and “we want a free, democratic and multi-ethnic society”.

Demaçi was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1996. He has written several books such as “Quantified love” and “Mother Shega and her five daughters”. His trilogy “Ashes 99” represents a spiritual image of the Albanian drama, his own drama.





"Without freedom of speech there is no dialogue, without dialogue the truth cannot be established, and without the truth progress is impossible!"

Adem Demaçi

1992

Las Madres de Plaza de Mayo

For many years, the Madres de Plaza de Mayo remained united in the struggle and sorrow of never having found their lost children. This movement, born of the mothers' search for their disappeared children during Argentina's "Dirty War" (1976-1983), helped bring down the country's military regime, and to try and imprison some of those responsible for crimes against humanity.

Being a Madre de Plaza de Mayo meant facing fear and, enduring threats, violence and random arrests in a country where women were expected to suffer injustice in silence.

They used their bodies as "walking billboards" for the pictures, the names of their disappeared children and pleas to have them back. At a time when it was forbidden even to stand together in a group, the mothers staged their first protest by walking slowly in a counter clockwise circle in the Plaza de Mayo. Fourteen women held the first protest, but hundreds joined them later and their passive resistance held even when some of them were "disappeared".

In the light of democratic changes in Argentina in 2006, the Madres held their final annual March of Resistance, saying "the enemy isn't in the government house anymore". Due to internal disagreements the movement split up. The Founding Line, however, have continued their weekly Thursday marches to commemorate their long struggle, joined by a new group, Los Hijos des los Desaparecidos (the Sons of the Disappeared).

On the 36th anniversary, Hebe de Bonafini, leader of the movement, in an open letter, asked the Supreme Court of Justice of Argentina, "to think of its own image and, from time to time, defend the people of Argentina, not only the large corporations".

What the Madres de Plaza de Mayo started as a personal search for their abducted children has now evolved into a political struggle for an independent judiciary.



1993

Oslobodjenje

During the war in former Yugoslavia, the popular daily newspaper *Oslobodjenje* (*Liberation*) employed Bosnians, Bosnian Serbs and Bosnian Croats. Despite deaths and injuries among their colleagues and the destruction of the newspaper's offices by Serbian artillery, some 70 journalists continued to work in a nuclear shelter in the cellar of their building in Sarajevo, risking their lives so that *Oslobodjenje* could continue in print.

Zlatko Dizdarević, one of the editors at the time, and later an ambassador for Bosnia, said that *Oslobodjenje's* aim was to preserve and defend Bosnia and Herzegovina as a multiethnic state.

"Our efforts were directed against death and against the partition or even complete eradication of Bosnia and Herzegovina from the map. The people of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina will continue to fight against the partition which has its roots in the Europe that existed before the Great War".

The editors of *Oslobodjenje* were named International Editors of the Year for 1993 by the World Press Review for their "bravery, tenacity, and dedication to the principles of journalism". For their outstanding work and efforts, *Oslobodjenje's* journalists received several other awards: Paper of the Year in 1992, the Freedom Award in 1993, the Oscar Romero Award in 1993, the Nieman Foundation's Louis M. Lyons Award for conscience and integrity in journalism in 1993, and the Achievements in Journalism Award in 1993. In 1995, editor-in-chief, Mehmed Halilovic accepted the University of Missouri Honour Medal from the School of Journalism in Columbia for continuous publication of the daily newspaper throughout the 1992-1995 siege of Sarajevo.

Oslobodjenje was founded in 1943 and is still based in Sarajevo. In 2006, the paper was acquired by two of the city's largest businesses, the Sarajevo Tobacco Factory and the Sarajevo Brewery.

OSLOBODENJE

HERZEGOVINA NA DRAMATIČNOM ISKUŠENJU

NE MRTVIH I RANJENIH NA MIROVNU POVORKU U PUCANO NA DEMONSTRANTE U GRADU ● U MOSTARU ISPO

napad terorista na školu MUP-a na Vracama ● i izbjeglica po cijeloj Republici



Danilo KRSTANDVIĆ zabilježio je dramatične trenutke oko vrbanje mosta u centru Sarajeva u kojima su naruženi teroristi (na slici desno) pucali u učesnike mirovne



oloruke

ne, ipak, oko do i Hercegovine. ne. Kod Vroćanja mosta ostala je grupa građana na koju je ponovo otvorena vatra. Po tu veliku grupu ljudi vratili su se oni koji su već bili pred Skupštinom, a meci su prvo praštali iznad glava. Ljudi su posjedali na most, pljeskali i skandirali »Ubice, ubice«. U ovoj bezočnoj pucnjava u gorluki narod pogođena su dva mladića, jedna djevojka i jedan stariji čovjek.

Oko 17 sati narod je probio barikadu.

Rat je zahvatio bezmalo sve krajeve Bosne i Hercegovine, teroristi polako preuzimaju dio po dio gradova, sela i vitalnih objekata, a političko rukovodstvo pokušuje je šokirati, doš jedinice Armije i dalje ne preduzimaju ništa. Prema veoma sturim i teško provjerljivim informacijama, najteže je, ipak, na Kupreškoj visoravni. U otvorenim sukobima tzv. »dobrovoljačkih snaga«, Hrvata i Srba, upotrebljava se najteže oružje, a ima indicija da su danas na ovom području djelovale i vazduhoplovne jedinice Armije. Potmule detonacije odatle čuju se čak do Bugojna. I pored toga

nažalost, ponovo pucali teroristi koji su blokirali Grbavicu i, prema saopštenju iz stanice hitne pomoći, ima najmanje dvojice mrtvih i šest ranjenih građana među kojima je i dvoje djece.

U toku prijedpodneva, inače, u Sarajevu je propao pokušaj održavanja sastanka lidera nacionalnih stranaka, jer na zakazano mjesto i u zakazano vrijeme nije došao lider SDS-a Radovan Karadžić. Obnovljeni pokušaj sazivanja ovakvog sastanka, ovaj put u organizaciji evropskih posmatrača

DOGOVOR STRANAČKIH Č

Nalog za p

Na zahtjev Televizije Sarajevo da vode nacionalnih stranaka dođu u studio i obraće se javnosti u zgradi TVSA danas kasno poslije podne sastali su se predsjednik Predsjedništva BiH i lider SDA Alija Izetbegović, predsjednik SDS Radovan Karadžić i član

1994

Taslima Nasreen

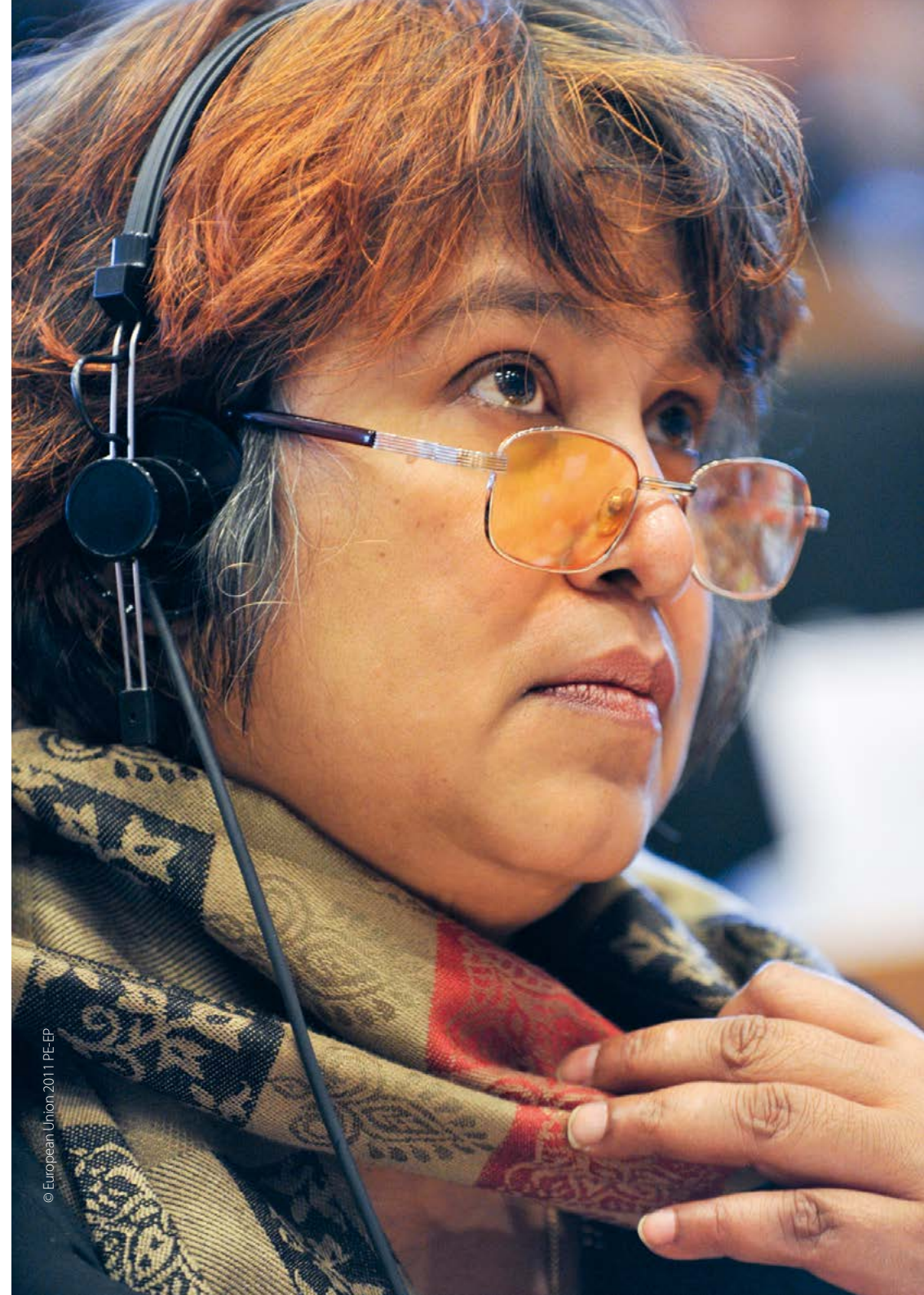
Born in Bangladesh in 1962, Taslima Nasreen started writing when she was 13, and is known for her powerful writings on the oppression of women and her unflinching criticism of religion, despite her forced exile and multiple fatwas calling for her death. She is an award-winning writer and her works have been translated in thirty different languages.

Also a physician, secular humanist and human rights activist, Nasreen feels her Bengali identity strongly. However, because of her thoughts and ideas some of her books are banned in Bangladesh, and she has been banned from Bengal, both from Bangladesh and the West Bengal part of India.

When she won the 1994 Sakharov Prize, she had already sought refuge in Europe, living in exile in France and Sweden. In her acceptance speech, she said she came from a part of the world where social tensions and human difficulties were unbearable: as a writer, she could not close her eyes to the daily suffering and starvation.

A few years later, in September 1998, Taslima Nasreen returned to Bangladesh to her dying mother. As soon as this news came out, religious fundamentalists once again called for the writer to be put to death. A court issued a warrant for her arrest and threatened to confiscate her assets. The EP answered Taslima Nasreen's appeal for help and, in a resolution, called on the government of Bangladesh to protect her life and ensure her safety. In January 1999, in the face of continuing threats, Nasreen had to leave her homeland once again. She is now living in New Delhi.

In a visit to the European Parliament in June 2013, Nasreen urged support for the secular movements in Bangladesh to counteract the rise of Islamic fundamentalism, arguing that the latter is especially detrimental to women's rights. She took a stand against fundamentalism in all religions.





1995

Leyla Zana

Leyla Zana in 1991 became the first Kurdish woman to win a seat in the Turkish parliament. She was also in prison for 10 years for her political activism, deemed to be against the unity of the country by Turkish courts.

At 15 she married the former mayor of Diyarbakir, Mehdi Zana, who was jailed during military rule in the 1980s for "separatism". Starting school at 23, she earned primary and secondary diplomas in three years, and eventually took on an unsolicited leadership role as her personal development was seen as virtually synonymous with the realisation of fundamental rights for the Kurdish population. Overwhelmingly elected to Parliament, she caused scandal in her swearing-in ceremony by saying in Kurdish "I take this oath for the brotherhood between the Turkish people and the Kurdish people". Speaking Kurdish in the public arena was then a criminal offense.

In 1994 she was stripped of her parliamentary immunity and sentenced to 15 years incarceration for "treason and membership in the armed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK)", a charge which she denied.

The EP awarded her the Sakharov Prize in 1995 for her courageous defence of human rights and commitment to forging a peaceful, democratic resolution to conflicts between the Turkish Government and its Kurdish population.

In 2004 after the European Court of Human Rights ruled that she had not received a fair and independent trial, Zana was finally able to address the EP in person at her Prize-award ceremony.

In 2012, she was sentenced to another 10 years jail for "spreading terrorist propaganda". As an MP, re-elected in 2011, she has parliamentary immunity until 2015. In June 2012, Zana met Prime Minister Erdoğan after saying publicly that she hoped he would solve the Kurdish issue. Her initiative served as the groundwork of the negotiation process thanks to which PKK leader Abdullah Öcalan, in March 2013, made his historic call for the PKK to move from armed resistance to democratic political struggle.

1996

Wei Jingsheng

The “father of the Chinese democracy movement” lives in exile but remains an active leader of the opposition to the Communist dictatorship in China.

He is the author of *The Courage to Stand Alone: letters from Prison and Other Writings*, articles he initially wrote on toilet paper in jail, and now published in more than a dozen languages.

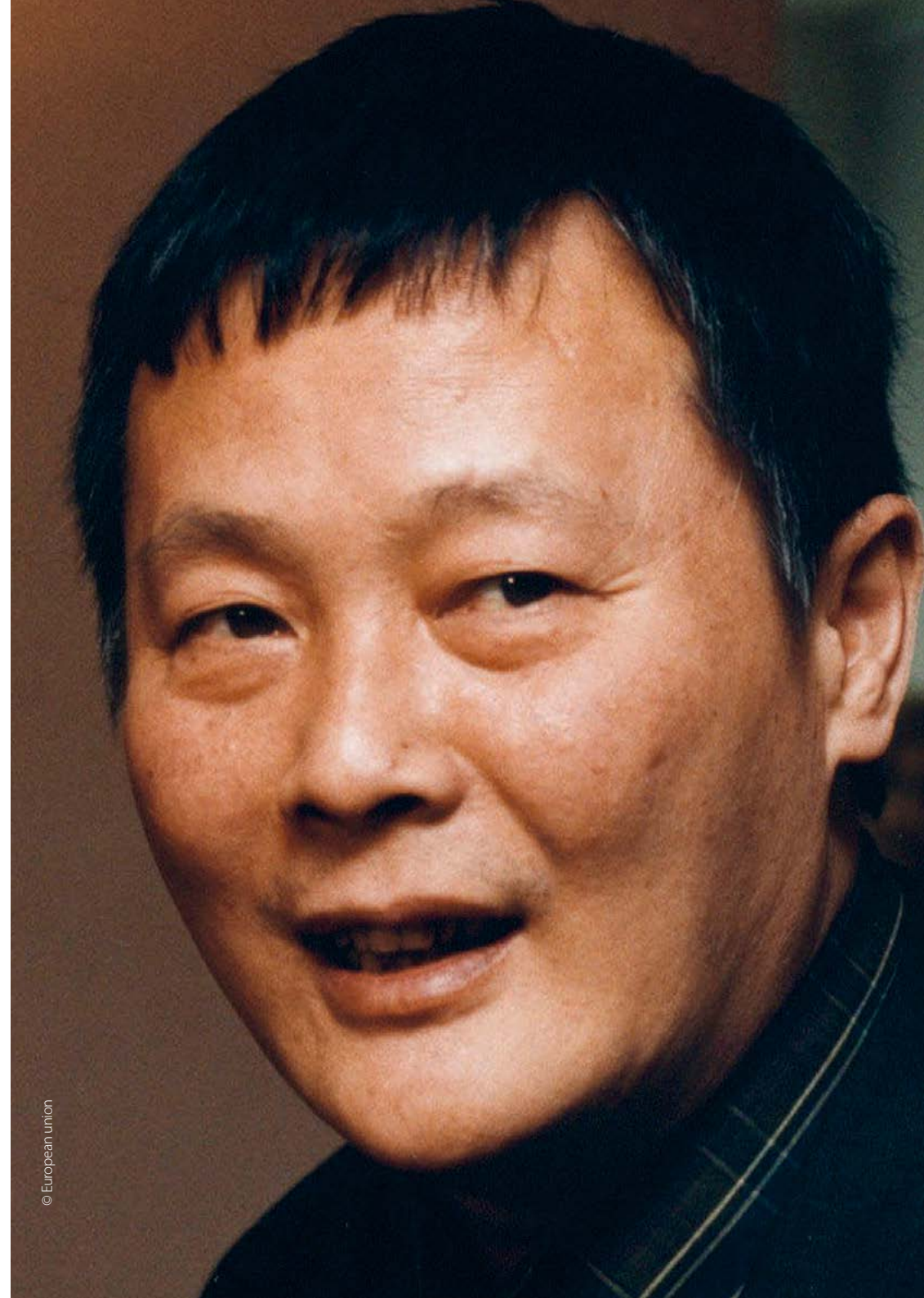
He was sentenced to jail twice for 29 years in total and served more than 18 years for his activities and writings in support of democracy, including his ground breaking 1978 essay *The Fifth Modernization: Democracy*. This began as a signed wall poster on the Democracy Wall in Beijing, on which workers, artists and intellectuals exercised their freedom of expression. It caused a sensation, not only because it openly assaulted the “people’s democratic dictatorship” of the Communists, but also because he dared to sign it with both his real name and contact information.

In the *Exploration*, an underground magazine Wei founded and edited, he

wrote *Democracy or a New Dictatorship?* in which he identified Deng Xiaoping, then Communist leader, as the new dictator. Arrested three days later, Wei was convicted of “counter-revolution” and jailed for 15 years in 1979. He was on death row, then in solitary confinement, then in forced labour camps under strict supervision till 1993, when he was released due to China’s decision to apply for the 2000 Olympic Games. Within six months he was arrested a second time, tried again, convicted of “counter-revolution” and sentenced to another 14 years.

At the time of his Sakharov Prize award in 1996 he was still in prison. In 1997, after overwhelming international pressure, Wei was taken from his cell and put on a plane to the United States. He maintains that he was not freed, but that his exile is further punishment.

From Washington, Wei leads the Wei Jingsheng Foundation, the Overseas Chinese Democracy Coalition and the Asia Democracy Alliance.





1997

Salima Ghezali

Salima Ghezali is an Algerian journalist, writer and women's rights activist. In the 1980s she became involved in the Algerian women's movement, amongst other things as a founder member of Women of Europe and the Maghreb and as editor-in-chief of *NYSSA*, the women's publication she herself founded.

A teacher turned journalist, she edited the French-language Algerian weekly *La Nation* from 1994, the most widely-read weekly in Algeria. As the 11-year civil war between the government and Islamist rebel groups, which began in 1991 raged, *La Nation* advocated political dialogue for all sides in the war, human rights and freedom of expression for all, and criticized both government and Islamic groups - the only paper to do so.

For this, the paper was seized and suspended many times, and finally banned in 1996, after the appearance in *Le Monde Diplomatique* of Ghezali's report on the human rights situation in Algeria.

The publication of *La Nation* resumed in 2011 on the Internet. In a Letter from the editor, Ghezali explained the reasons motivating her: "we cannot be indifferent to the dynamics of the young people in the Arab world who are fighting for their dignity and freedom. We cannot be indifferent to what is happening in our country. We want the Algerian people to be happy, because they deserve it. We want strong institutions, better human resources in a real democracy and the rule of law". She concluded with a wish "for a better Algeria, where good governance is the rule".

Salima Ghezali has won a range of human rights awards such as the World Press Review Award, Olof Palm Prize and Rothko Chapel Oscar Romero Award. She continues her activism on women's rights, human rights and democracy in Algeria.

1998

Ibrahim Rugova

In 1998, as the armed conflict between Serbian units and the Kosovo Liberation Army escalated, the European Parliament honoured a man committed to the principle of peaceful resistance to violence.

Accepting the award Rugova said “this prize represents for me and for all the people of Kosovo, recognition of our peaceful struggle and our sacrifices”.

Rugova, who was born on 2 December 1944 in Cerrca (Istog), Kosovo, taught literature at the University of Priština before being elected leader of the Kosovo Democratic Alliance (LDK) in 1989. That year, Belgrade abolished the autonomous status of the province of Kosovo and the Albanians found themselves subject to oppression, with opposition leaders arrested. In 1990 the two million Kosovo Albanians adopted their own constitution. In a 1991 referendum, 97% of them voted for an independent Kosovo, and in 1998 they confirmed Rugova as President of their self-proclaimed Republic of Kosovo.

Rugova stuck to his approach based on non-violent opposition to the Serbian regime, constantly reiterating his willingness to enter into dialogue with Belgrade. His position in negotiations was criticised by Adem Demaçi, who was favouring a more nationalistic approach. At the same time, he endeavoured to win over world opinion to his people’s cause.

He never faltered in urging the international community to step up its pressure and offer Kosovo protection.

Convinced that his people could achieve self-determination only through peace, on 18 March 1999 Rugova signed the Rambouillet peace agreement as the chief negotiator for the Kosovo Albanians. Belgrade’s refusal to endorse the agreement led on 24 March to the launch of NATO attacks on Yugoslavia and the withdrawal of Yugoslav forces from Kosovo. Rugova was forced to go underground. In March 2002 Ibrahim Rugova was elected as the first President of Kosovo. He died of cancer on 21 January 2006.



1999

Xanana Gusmão

Xanana Gusmão is known as the “Mandela of Timor”. Recognised as a leader and symbol of the Timorese resistance who aimed to bring an end to the armed conflict for independence from Indonesia, he had just been released from prison, where he had served seven years of a 20-year jail term on charges of separatism, when the EP awarded him the Sakharov Prize in December 1999.

When the Portuguese withdrew from East Timor, Indonesia began a policy of destabilising its neighbour. On 7 December 1975, Indonesia invaded. Gusmão went underground and in 1978 became leader of the military wing of the Revolutionary Front for the Independence of East Timor (FRETILIN).

The violence which accompanied the invasion cost an estimated 200 000 lives, but failed to break the people’s determination to resist.

Xanana Gusmão sought to secure a peaceful solution to the conflict by proposing a peace plan and talks under UN supervision to the Indonesian Government.

In 1986 he managed to bring together the various political and social groupings to form the Timorese National Resistance Council (TNRC).

However, on 20 November 1992 Xanana Gusmão was arrested and sentenced to life imprisonment, subsequently reduced to 20 years. But the Timorese resistance held and massive international pressure was brought to bear on Indonesia for his release. When freed in September 1999 - shortly after the referendum of 30 August, in which 80% of the population of East Timor had voted for independence - Gusmão promised “to do everything in my power to bring peace to East Timor and my people”.

In April 2002, in the first free presidential elections held in East Timor, Gusmão was elected with almost 83% of the votes. On 20 May 2002 UN Secretary General Kofi Annan officially declared the Democratic Republic of East Timor an independent state and Gusmão served as President until May 2007. In 2008 he survived an assassination attempt. He currently serves as Prime Minister.



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2000

¡BASTA YA!

The members of Basta Ya risked their lives while fighting terrorism. The only “weapon” they had was the peaceful mobilisation of the people to protect their basic freedoms. During many years, fundamental freedoms and human rights had been under threat in the Basque country from terrorism by ETA and related groups. Thousands of people had been victims of intimidation, extortion, blackmail and attacks, with families and property also targeted. They were unable to express themselves freely or exercise their rights without taking great risks.

Basta Ya was created because basic civil liberties and human rights were under threat in the Basque Country, especially for “non-nationalist” citizens, due to ETA’s terrorism and the activities of groups related to it. Its creation was also due to the increase of ethnic and xenophobic nationalism among the more moderate nationalist parties, and groups who sought to come to an agreement with ETA.

The civic initiative whose name translates to

Enough is Enough, and which was granted consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council in July 2004, consisted of people who worked for basic human rights, democracy and tolerance in the Basque country.

The organisation carried out several activities amongst which stand out the two large demonstrations in San Sebastian, in February and October of 2000. They demanded the dissolution of ETA, supported the victims of terrorism and defended the Constitution and the Statute as the basis for the dignified coexistence of all Basque citizens.

Basta Ya dissolved itself in 2007. Its leaders, Carlos Martínez Gorriarán, Juan Luis Fabo, Rosa Díez and Fernando Savater created a political party (UPyD), which is currently active on the political stage in Spain. Fernando Savater was the intellectual leader of the movement and represented Basta Ya at the Sakharov Prize award at the EP in 2000.



2001

Izzat Ghazzawi

Izzat Ghazzawi (1952-2003) was Palestinian writer and professor whose writings focused on the troubles and sufferings imposed by Israeli occupation on the Palestinian territories and his personal suffering which he thought could be transformed into a power to heal.

His life was marked by the killing, by the Israeli Army, of his 16-year-old son Ramy, in 1993. Ramy was killed in the courtyard of his school as he went to help a wounded friend.

Despite this tragedy, Izzat Ghazzawi always continued to seek cultural and political dialogue with the Israeli people.

Born of refugee parents, he gained an MA in American-British literature and worked as a professor at Birzeit University. He chaired the Union of Palestinian Writers, wrote novels and short stories, was a literary critic and organised and chaired the first International Writers' Conference in Palestine (1997).

He was also a member of the Executive Bureau of the Palestinian Council for Justice and Peace and was awarded the International Prize for Freedom of Expression in Stavanger in 1995. He was imprisoned and punished on a number of occasions by the Israeli authorities as a result of his political activities.

On presenting his Sakharov Prize award in 2001, then EP President Nicole Fontaine, paid him homage for having "untiringly promoted the cause of peace and dialogue between the Israeli and Palestinian peoples. Your ardour has never slackened, despite imprisonment and censorship and, worse than all else, the irreplaceable loss of your sixteen-year-old son Ramy".

Shortly after his son's death, together with the Israeli writer Abraham B. Yehoshua and the photographer Oliviero Toscani, he published *Enemies* on relations between Palestinians and Israelis which became hugely successful.

Izzat Ghazzawi died on 4 April 2003.



2001

Nurit Peled-Elhanan

An Israeli born in 1949, Nurit Peled-Elhanan is a university lecturer and author. In 1997 her 13-year-old daughter Smadar was killed in a suicide attack carried out by a Palestinian in West Jerusalem.

“My little girl was killed just because she was an Israeli by a young man who was oppressed and exasperated to the point of suicide and murder just because he was a Palestinian. Both are the victims of the Israeli occupation of Palestine. Now their bloods are mixed on the stones of Jerusalem that have always been indifferent to blood”. She did not allow Israeli authorities, including the prime minister to come to the funeral ceremony.

Herself the daughter of the famous General Matti Peled, renowned for his pacifist and progressive campaigning, Nurit Peled has become a symbol of those in Israel who fight against the occupation and for the freedom of Palestine.

She is also very committed to changing the mentality of the Israeli society, in particular the young generation. Her latest publication, entitled *Palestine in Israeli school books. Ideology and propaganda in education*, draws attention to an education in Israeli schools that appears to lean towards racism rather than tolerance and diversity. She has been strong in her criticism of world leaders including George Bush, Tony Blair and Ariel Sharon for “infecting their respective citizens with blind fear of the Muslims”.

Nurit Peled Elhanan is a co-initiator of the Russell tribunal, an International People’s Tribunal established in 2009 to examine the role and complicity of third parties, such as governments, institutions and corporations, in violations of international law committed by Israel against the Palestinian people.



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2001

Dom Zacarias Kamwenho

In 1999, renewed awareness of the need to fight for peace and human rights began to increase among the Angolan people, encouraged by the efforts of church leaders and various civil society bodies to foster "inclusive national reconciliation". Archbishop Zacarias Kamwenho was in the vanguard of this peace movement.

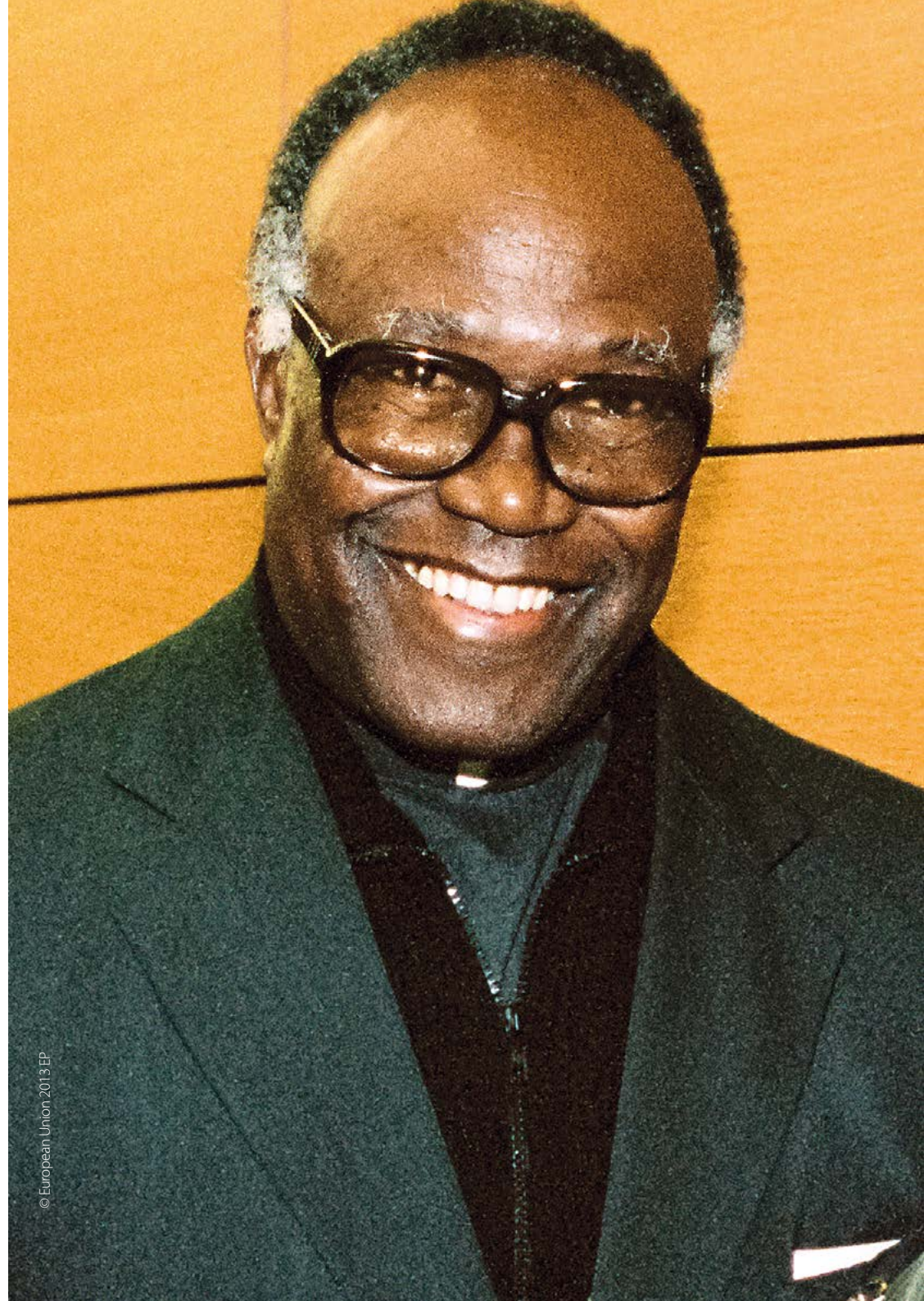
Born in Chimbundo (Huambo, Angola) in 1934, and ordained in 1961, he was made Archbishop of Lubango in 1995. Dom Zacarias Kamwenho expressed his firm, impartial and determined views to all parties of the conflict in an effort to achieve lasting peace through political dialogue after 26 years of civil war.

He was awarded the Sakharov Prize in 2001 in recognition of his untiring efforts for peace.

The ceasefire which came about in 2002 after the killing of guerilla leader Jonas Savimbi, the peace talks and the general

climate of support for democratisation can largely be attributed to the campaign conducted by Kamwenho and other religious and civil leaders. In 2003 Archbishop Kamwenho resigned as chair of the Bishops' Conference of Angola and São Tomé but continued to work actively through his diocese and the Ecumenical Committee for Peace in Angola for the realisation of democracy, respect for fundamental freedoms and human rights, the implementation of the rule of law and lasting national reconciliation. In 2007, he declared that, "over the last two years in particular, a new awareness of the need to fight for peace and human rights has been growing among the Angolan people, encouraged and represented by the efforts of Church leaders and various civil society bodies, the ultimate aim being inclusive national reconciliation".

In 2012, the now-retired archbishop called on Angolans to exercise their right to vote.





2002

Oswaldo José Payá Sardiñas

Oswaldo José Payá Sardiñas (1952-2012) is best known as the founder of the Varela Project, a campaign in support of a referendum on laws guaranteeing civil rights, free pluralist elections, the release of all political prisoners, and economic and social reforms in Cuba.

An active reformer since youth, he was persecuted and condemned on several occasions for his criticism of Fidel Castro's policies and injustices, but that did not stop him from founding, in 1988, the Christian Liberation Movement, now one of the largest opposition movements in Cuba. In 1990, Oswaldo Payá launched a call for national dialogue and started to gather 10,000 signatures in order to convert a civic proposal into law. As a result, the secret police detained him.

In 1997 he drew up the ambitious Varela Project. Despite the backlash from the authorities against this popular project, with campaigners in its favour imprisoned, Payá did not give up and in 2008, presented a draft law on amnesty for political prisoners to the National

Assembly. He also launched the Foro Todos Cubanos in 2010.

In 2012, he was nominated for the sixth time for the Nobel Peace prize. The same year, on 22 July 2012, he lost his life in a car crash in Cuba. EP President Martin Schulz, in homage, stated his belief that "Oswaldo Payá's ideas will survive as his work and commitment have inspired a generation of Cuban activists who were following his example in promoting political freedom and human rights".

The Christian Liberation Movement continues to call for a clarification of the circumstances of his death. His family have rejected the official version of a car accident. His daughter, Rosa Maria, has pled for an impartial international inquiry into her father's death before the UN Human Rights Council and other international organisations and denounced the persecution and threats inflicted on the family by State Security agents. In June 2013, Payá's family moved to the USA, where they plan to live temporarily as political refugees.



2003

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and all the staff of the United Nations

In awarding the 2003 Sakharov Prize to the United Nations, the European Parliament gave recognition to the UN's endeavours for peace, human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The Sakharov Prize honoured particularly the United Nations' members of staff who work tirelessly for world peace, often under difficult conditions.

The Prize was awarded in special memory of Sergio Vieira de Mello, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and one of the worthiest representatives of the UN who, whilst serving as Kofi Annan's special representative in Iraq, was amongst those killed in 2003 in an attack on the UN Headquarters in Baghdad.

Kofi Annan was the seventh Secretary-General of the United Nations. He served from 1997 to 2006 and was the first to emerge from the ranks of United Nations staff. He was a constant advocate for human rights, the rule of law, the Millennium

Development Goals and Africa, and sought to bring the UN closer to the global public by forging ties with civil society, the private sector and other partners.

In 2005, Kofi Annan presented to the UN General Assembly the report entitled *In larger freedom* where he outlined his vision for a comprehensive and extensive reform of the UN. Among other things, this resulted in the creation, in March 2006, of a new Human Rights Council, to replace the old Commission on Human Rights, with the aim of strengthening the world body's machinery to promote and protect fundamental rights, and deal with major human rights offenders.

After completing two terms as the UN Secretary General in 2007, Annan became involved in several organizations focusing on global and African issues. In 2012, he served as Joint Special Envoy of the UN and the Arab League to Syria with the goal of finding a solution to the conflict. In 2013, he was appointed Chair of The Elders.

2004

The Belarusian Association of Journalists

The Association represents over 1,000 professionals, who work under extremely difficult conditions to protect the rights of journalists and often fall victim to intimidation, harassment, criminal prosecution and expatriation.

The commitment of the Belarusian Association of Journalists (BAJ) to the cause of freedom of speech and the promotion of independent and professional journalism in Belarus is inspirational. BAJ works to increase public awareness of the constitutional right to freedom of information and of how people can exercise their rights.

It defends journalists' rights, especially in times of crisis, such as violent aftermath of the contested presidential elections in 2010.

BAJ aims to liberalize media legal regulations and encourages high quality and ethical journalism. Since it was set up, BAJ has been the major association for the independent press in Belarus with the main aim of providing the public with the most objective, truthful, comprehensive and timely information.

In spite of big efforts to improve the media situation in Belarus, it is still far from favourable. The 2009 Belarusian media law leaves room for the authorities to shut down media they consider too critical. Foreign media must obtain a licence to operate in Belarus, and working for them without accreditation is an obstacle for local journalists, who get warnings from the KGB and the Prosecutor's Office when caught.

The penal code still contains articles penalising defamation of higher officials. In 2011 BAJ member Andrzej Paczobut, a correspondent for the Polish daily *Gazeta Wyborcza*, was sentenced to a three-year suspended sentence. He was repeatedly charged under the same article in 2012, but then the case was closed.

Independent media suffer from economic discrimination: the biggest distribution, postal and typography businesses are state-run, and may refuse to cater services to some sharp-tongued media, as it is the case with the regional newspapers *Novy Chas*, *Gazeta Slonimskaya*, *Intex-Press*.



2005

Ladies in White

In 2013, Cuba's Damas de Blanco, also known as the Ladies in White, were finally able to address the EP and accept in person the Sakharov Prize they had been awarded in 2005.

President Berta Soler, and representatives Belkis Cantillo Ramirez and Laura Maria Labrada Pollán, daughter of the beloved Damas co-founder Laura Pollán who died in 2011, were allowed to exit Cuba after the Cuban authorities eased travel restrictions on citizens in January.

Berta Soler compared the Sakharov Prize to "a shield" which would protect the Damas on their return to Cuba.

In 2005 the EP had recognised their courage and commitment to the cause of human rights in Cuba and drew attention to the detention of the 75 political dissidents imprisoned in March 2003, Cuba's Black Spring, most for simply criticising the lack of political freedom in the country.

The Damas' movement formed spontaneously in reaction to the imprisonment of their husbands and relatives in the Black Spring crackdown.

They marched in the streets and wrote many letters to the Cuban authorities, asking for the prisoners' release, to which they did not get a single reply. But their persistent protests got results: the last two of the Black Spring prisoners were released in March 2011. Most accepted exile to Spain. A small number remain in Cuba, continuing their fight in difficult conditions at great personal cost.

Even after the release from prison of their loved ones, the Damas de Blanco continue to walk down Havana's streets carrying flowers, every Sunday, fighting for social justice in Cuba. More and more women have joined the group despite the difficulties in communication and the beatings, detentions and psychological harassment inflicted on the Damas.

In April 2013, shortly after the Sakharov Award ceremony, the Damas and other dissidents, including 2010 Laureate Guillermo Fariñas, set up the International Platform for Human Rights in Cuba.



2005

Hauwa Ibrahim

A human rights lawyer from Nigeria, and a mother of two sons, Hauwa Ibrahim was born in 1967 in a small, impoverished village, the daughter of a mullah. A career as a lawyer was not supposed to figure in her destiny. What she was supposed to do was get married at the age of 10 and end her studies at primary school level. She refused this destiny.

As one of a handful of women lawyers practising in northern Nigeria, her work took her into the rural hinterland, sometimes travelling by camel or donkey. She describes this time as among the best of her life, in touch with the grassroots she came from.

Hauwa Ibrahim has built up what can only be described as an extraordinary practice: defending people who are condemned under the Islamic Sharia law applied in 12 northern states of Nigeria.

Death sentences, although not carried out for the moment, continue to be handed down. Since 1999, Hauwa Ibrahim has worked free-of-charge as defence counsel in over 150 cases, many of which have

involved women accused of adultery and condemned to death by stoning and children sentenced to have limbs amputated. Her professional skill in court, support from Lawyers without Borders, and the focused attention of international and national media and public opinion, have saved the lives of Amina Lawal, Safiya Hussaini, Hafsatu Abukabar and many others.

She is acutely aware of the importance of education in the empowerment of women: poverty and illiteracy go hand in hand, and fundamentalism feeds on ignorance. Hauwa Ibrahim, brought up a Muslim herself, works tirelessly to fight religious fundamentalism.

In 2012, she published *Practicing Shariah Law: Seven Strategies for Achieving Justice in Shariah Courts*, providing real-world insights into the intricacies of Sharia law and written whilst she was a Visiting Lecturer at the Harvard Divinity School (2010-2013).

Hauwa's cause now resonates beyond Nigeria's borders, but she has yet to make her voice heard in her own country.





"My only objective is to have the fundamental rights of each and every human being respected, like the rule of law and the right to a fair trial."

Hauwa Ibrahim

2005

Reporters without Borders

According to Reporters without Borders, more than a third of the world's population live in countries where they do not enjoy press freedom. In 2012, the Reporters without Borders' Press Freedom Barometer recorded 50 journalists killed and 147 imprisoned whilst doing their job or for motives related to their profession.

Reporters without Borders continuously monitors and denounces attacks on freedom of information worldwide, fights censorship and laws aimed at restricting freedom of information, assists morally and financially persecuted journalists and their families and offers material assistance to war correspondents in order to enhance their safety. In order to ensure that the murderers and torturers of journalists are brought to trial, since 2002 its Network provides victims with legal services and represents them in court.

Reporters without Borders' multilingual website keeps a daily record of attacks on press freedom worldwide and offers the opportunity of signing online petitions in support of imprisoned journalists.

To circumvent censorship, it occasionally publishes articles which have been banned in their country of origin, hosts newspapers that have been closed down in their homeland and serves as a forum for journalists who have been "silenced" by the authorities of their country.

As a Sakharov Prize Laureate, Reporters without Borders has brought together other Laureates and coordinated activities.

**REPORTERS
SANS FRONTIERES**
POUR LA LIBERTE DE L'INFORMATION

2006

Aliaksandr Milinkevich

Aliaksandr Milinkevich, leader of the democratic opposition in Belarus, was chosen to be the joint presidential candidate of the United Democratic Opposition in October 2005. He collected more than 100 000 supporting signatures throughout the presidential election campaign of 19 March 2006.

Milinkevich called for a truly democratic future for Belarus and presented himself as a real alternative to the authoritarianism of President Lukashenka.

President Lukashenka's victory was heavily criticised by the opposition in Belarus and abroad for vote-rigging. After contesting, Milinkevich was arrested under various pretexts, but no charges were brought against him.

Asked whether receiving the Sakharov Prize had helped his political activity, Milinkevich stated that "only we can change things from within to make our country democratic and free. But, the solidarity shown by European leaders is very important. The more support we get from the EP and EU leaders the less easy it is for a dictator to continue his repression".

Aliaksandr Milinkevich did not stand in the Presidential elections in 2010, as he considered that no changes had been made to national electoral regulations to ensure fair, free and open elections.

As a Sakharov Prize Laureate, Milinkevich has participated in several conferences on human rights organised by the European Parliament, think-tanks and civil society organisations. In his presentations, he has expressed concern about the repressive policies implemented by the dictatorial regime in power, pointing to a critical economic situation in Belarus with an increasing budgetary deficit leading to a real dependence, notably on Russia. He has called for the democratic development and the strengthening of his country's relations with the European Union and the USA.

The human rights situation in Belarus has further deteriorated after the 2010 elections. The authorities have enacted a law criminalizing behaviour deemed critical to the state. The silencing and imprisonment of journalists, activists, and other critics of current regime continues.





2007

Salih Mahmoud Mohamed Osman

Salih Mahmoud Osman had been providing free legal representation to people arbitrarily detained, tortured, and subjected to serious human rights abuses in Sudan for over two decades when the EP unanimously awarded him the Sakharov Prize in 2007.

"In the name of human dignity, Salih Osman reassures those destitute, defenceless and intimidated men and women who have sunk into oblivion that the world is aware of their suffering," Hans-Gert Pöttering, then EP President, said on presenting Osman his award.

"In the name of justice, Salih Osman strives, day after day, to ensure that those responsible for war crimes are held to account both nationally and internationally".

"I am a native of Darfur, born in Jebel Marra, which is a mountainous region located in the centre of Darfur State. I have worked as a lawyer in Darfur in Sudan

for many years. I have been a victim of detention and torture because of my work. Members of my own family have been tortured and displaced by the militia in Darfur. For many years, in my work, I have represented thousands of people who needed my help in front of the Courts. I have seen thousands of people who have been tortured, I have seen hundreds of women and young girls who have been victims of sexual abuse", Salih Osman said in his acceptance speech.

Osman is actively involved in the protection of the millions of Sudanese who were displaced from their homes. He has catalogued crimes that have taken place, particularly in Darfur, and engaged in a campaign to have rape prosecuted as a war crime.

He served as a Member of the Sudanese Parliament for the opposition between 2005 and 2010.

2008

Hu Jia

Chinese dissident Hu Jia has been imprisoned and released since the EP awarded him on the 20th Anniversary of the Prize for his calls for an official inquiry into the Tiananmen Square massacre and compensation for the victims' families, his environmental activism and his work against Aids. Hu Jia tackled Aids issues when HIV/Aids was still a prohibited topic in China and the number of suspected cases was treated as a "state secret".

Hu Jia is also one of the coordinators of the "barefoot lawyers", an informal group of legal advisers who defend human rights activists in China.

In 2007, he bravely testified via a conference call before the EP's Sub-Committee on Human Rights, calling attention to one million people persecuted by the Chinese national security department for fighting for human rights, with many detained in prison, in labour camps or mental hospitals.

As a direct result of this, Hu Jia was arrested on 27 December 2007, charged with "inciting subversion of state power", and sentenced on 3 April 2008 to three-

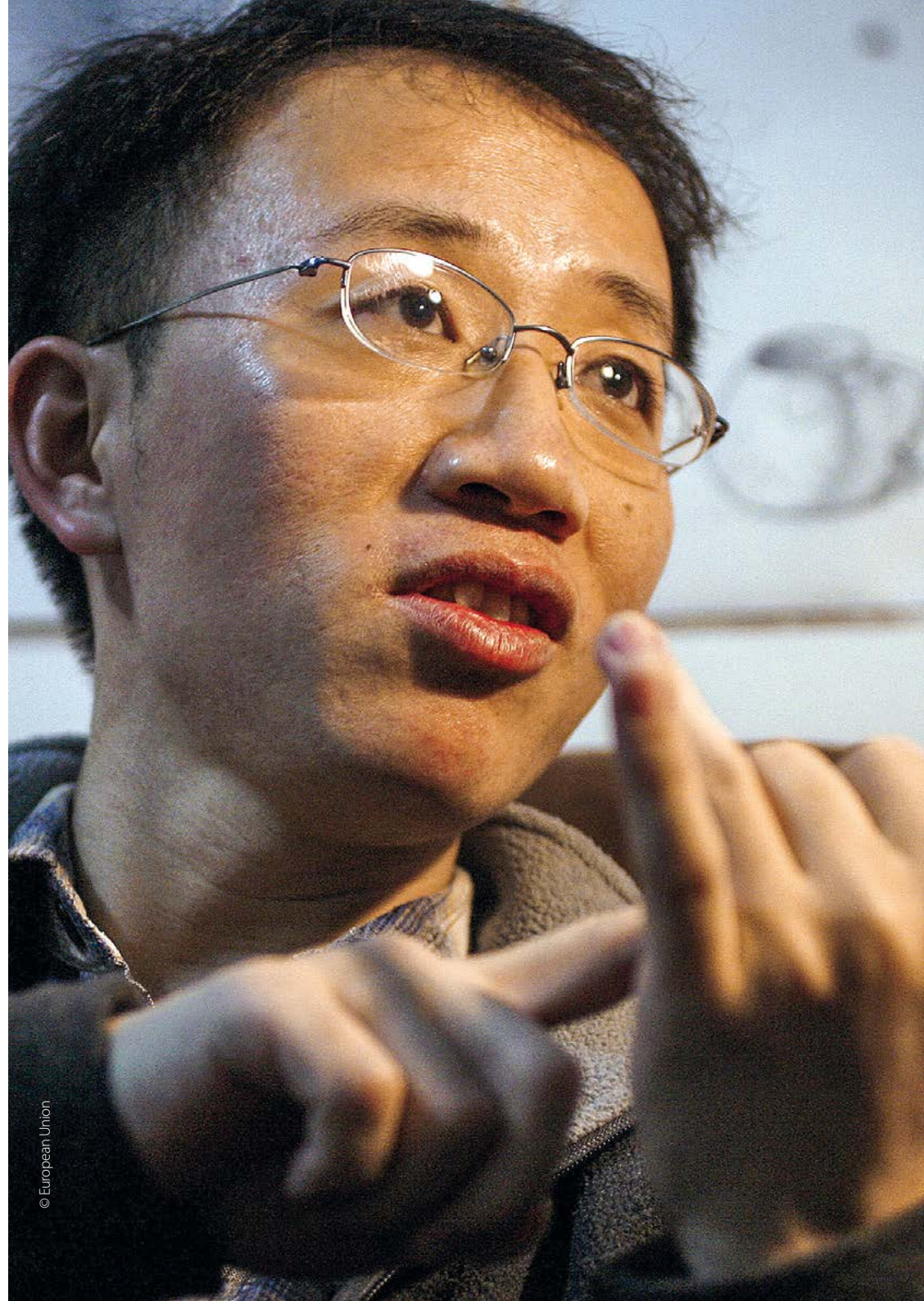
and-a-half years' in jail and denied his political rights for a year.

When he was awarded the Sakharov Prize, he was pressured by state security police, even through his parents, to renounce it.

Hu Jia bravely accepted it, calling it "an important prize for China". Zeng Jinyan, his wife and co-nominee for the Prize in 2007, in a video message on his behalf, declared it an affirmation to Chinese human rights defenders' on the long and hard road of the defence of human rights for which they and their relatives pay an extremely high price.

In a letter to the EP President in July 2012, Hu Jia said he considered the Prize a "truly a great honour" which "provided me with encouragement and greatly improved the way I was treated in prison".

He was released in June 2011, and continues to be an outspoken dissident and advocate for change in China, despite frequent harassment, beatings and arbitrary detention.





2009

Memorial

Oleg Orlov, Sergei Kovalev and Lyudmila Alexeyeva were awarded the Sakharov Prize in 2009 on behalf of Memorial and all other human rights defenders in Russia.

Memorial was established as an informal group of citizens in 1988, with Andrei Sakharov amongst its founders.

It focuses on the hot spots of armed conflicts, monitoring and making public systematic violations of human rights in former USSR states.

Memorial is constantly under pressure from the Russian authorities, with members and close associates threatened, abducted and even assassinated.

In 2013, following a November 2012 law requiring NGOs receiving funding from outside the country to register as "foreign agents", Memorial's offices were searched by the Public Prosecutor's office. Memorial resisted the coercion to register as a foreign agent and challenged the Prosecutor's action in court but the first instance ruling upheld the legality of the search.

Oleg Orlov, a member of the Council of Memorial and one of Memorial's leaders since 1994, worked in Chechnya in dangerous conditions of war. In 2007 Orlov was kidnapped, beaten and threatened with death by government employees in Ingushetia.

Sergei Kovalev is the current chair of the Russian Memorial. He spent 10 years (1974-1984) in a labour camp and in exile for the editing of the surreptitious dissident magazine *Chronicle of current events*. He headed the Committee, that Orlov was also part of, that in 1995 negotiated the release of around 2000 people held hostage in the Chechen rebel seizure of the hospital in Budennovsk. The attack led to the end of the first Chechen war and was the only time that a terrorist attack in Russia did not result in mass hostage deaths.

Lyudmila Alexeyeva, is the head and co-founder of the Moscow Helsinki Group. Born in 1927, she is one of the few Soviet-era dissidents still active in modern Russia. She is renowned for campaigning for fair trials of arrested dissidents and for their objective coverage in the media.

2010

Guillermo Fariñas

A doctor of psychology, independent journalist and political dissident in Cuba, Guillermo Fariñas has over the years conducted 23 hunger strikes to protest against the Cuban regime, with the aim of achieving peaceful political change, freedom of speech and freedom of expression in his country.

As a journalist, he founded the independent press agency Cubanacán Press with the aim of informing the rest of the world of the destiny of political prisoners in Cuba, but was eventually forced by the authorities to close it down.


In February 2010, after the controversial death of Orlando Zapata, Fariñas began a hunger strike that he only ended in July 2010, after the Cuban government announced it was in the process of freeing 52 political prisoners. By then, Fariñas, who was calling for the liberation of political prisoners who had been taken ill after many years of imprisonment, had been refusing food and liquids for more than 130 days.

Guillermo Fariñas could not participate in the 2010 Sakharov Prize award ceremony at the EP because he was not allowed to leave Cuba. In July 2012, he was arrested at the funeral of another Sakharov Prize Laureate and Cuban dissident, Oswaldo Payá, and briefly detained.

After the Cuban government eased travel restrictions on Cubans, and upon the return of the Damas de Blanco to Cuba, after visiting the EP in April 2013, a belated Sakharov Prize Award ceremony honouring Guillermo Fariñas also took place at the EP, on 3 July 2013.

"Today, I am here not because the situation has essentially changed, but because of the realities of the modern world, and above all, because of the growing civic defiance of Cubans, which has forced the regime to - like the legendary prince Don Fabrizio from *Il Gattopardo* said - "change something so that nothing changes"" Fariñas stated in his acceptance speech.



A night scene of a street protest. In the foreground, the silhouettes of several protesters are visible, with their arms raised in the air. In the middle ground, a line of riot police is positioned, wearing helmets and carrying large, reflective shields. The scene is illuminated by a street lamp and a fire burning on the ground in the lower right. The background shows a stone building with an arched doorway.

"We cannot be indifferent to the dynamics of the young people in the Arab world who are fighting for their dignity and freedom."

Salima Ghezali

2011

Mohamed Bouazizi

Mohamed Bouazizi, a vegetable seller from Sidi Bouzid, has become a legend in Tunisia and the Arab world and a symbol for Tunisians fighting for democracy and freedom. He died on 4th January 2011, at the age of 26, after setting himself on fire in protest against a system that kept him from making a decent living for himself and his family. Mohamed had been a victim of the Tunisian law enforcement agents on several occasions. He sought justice, which he never found. Instead, he was humiliated and dejected. In desperation, he set himself on fire.

His death helped incite an uprising that toppled the government of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

Mohamed Bouazizi's action spurred the so-called "people's revolution" and shook despotic governments even elsewhere in the Arab world. It spread awareness amongst the Arab youth that they no longer had to remain silent before injustice, corruption and autocratic rule: they could voice their frustrations and fight for their dignity. However, nowadays, in Tunisia and other Arab countries, the optimism sparked by Mohamed Bouazizi's self-immolation and the subsequent popular uprising has been tempered by the cruel reality that life in Tunisia and elsewhere has not improved overnight after the Arab Spring.



2011

Ali Ferzat

Ali Ferzat is a renowned Syrian political satirist and one of the Arab world's most famous cultural figures. Born in Hama in 1941, he has published more than 15,000 cartoons in Syrian and international newspapers: drawings that have pushed the boundaries of freedom of expression in Syria.

In 2011, as the wave of Arab Spring rebellions erupted and Syrians began to protest the regime of Bashar al-Assad, his cartoons were waved in the streets.

His criticism of the regime led to his being badly beaten by masked men in public in Damascus, and left on the streets as dead. Both his hands were broken, in what the masked men called a warning to him against dishonouring his masters.

Ali Ferzat not only recovered the use of hands, but broke the barrier of fear to become one of the regime's most outspoken critics through his words and his art.

He objects to the idea that there is a civil war in Syria. Rather, as he told the Oslo Freedom Forum in 2013, there are on one side the regime and its foreign allies, Russia, Iran, Hezbollah, and on the other side the Syrian people.

Unable to attend the Sakharov Prize ceremony in 2011 as he underwent treatment in Kuwait for his injuries, he received the award at the Sakharov Prize Network public debate held at the European Parliament in October 2012, where discussed with the EP President and other Laureates the revolution in Syria and the future of democracy following the Arab awakenings. As a Sakharov Laureate, he addressed the first edition of the Council of Europe's World Democracy Forum. Ferzat said then that while the revolution in Syria was ongoing, it had already been won: there was no going back.

Ali Ferzat was voted as one of Time Magazine's 100 most influential people in the world in 2012 and has won various human rights awards.



2011

Asmaa Mahfouz

Asmaa Mahfouz is an Egyptian human rights activist born in 1985 who braved the Mubarak regime's crackdown on online activists to post a call on various social media outlets on the internet for Egyptians to claim their freedom, dignity and human rights by protesting peacefully in Tahrir Square on 25th January 2011.

The video went viral and inspired a wave of similar videos, resulting in hundreds of thousands occupying Tahrir Square clamouring for Hosni Mubarak to end his 30-year rule of Egypt, which he did on 11th February 2012. In her second video, Asmaa Mahfouz broadcast the following message: "if you think yourself a man, come with me on 25 January. Whoever says women shouldn't go to protests because they will get beaten, let him have some honour and manhood and come with me on 25 January. Whoever says it is not worth it because there will only be a handful of

people, I want to tell him, "You are the reason behind this, and you are a traitor, just like the president or any security cop who beats us in the streets!"

Later in 2011, Asmaa Mahfouz, one of the co-founders of the April 6 youth movement, was arrested and charged with defamation of the Egyptian military rulers by calling them "a council of dogs". As a result, she was referred to a military court, but later released on bail. On October 23 2011, Mahfouz held a teach-in at Liberty Plaza, in a show of support for the Occupy Wall Street movement.

She was a main speaker at the Sakharov Prize Network debate held in Brussels at the European Parliament, in October 2012, discussing the post-revolution evolution of the situation in Egypt and the future of democracy in Arab countries following the Arab Spring.



2011

Ahmed El Zuber El Senussi

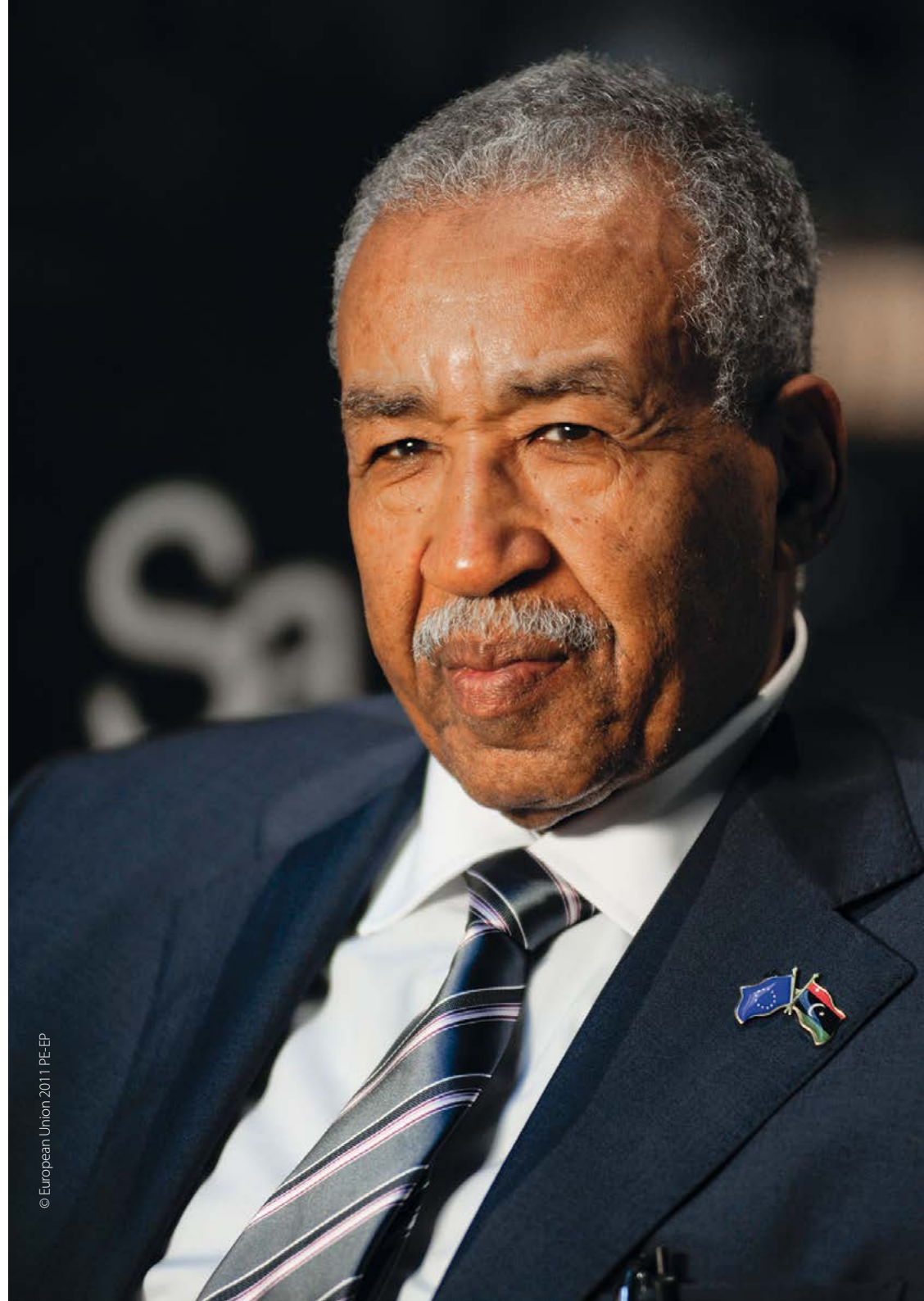
Ahmed El Senussi, born in 1934, is Libya's longest-serving prisoner of conscience. He was accused of conspiracy in an attempted coup against the Gaddafi regime in 1970 and spent 31 years in prison. He was released in August 2010, alongside dozens of other political prisoners. As a member of the National Transitional Council set up in 2011 as the Libyan revolution toppled the Gaddafi regime, he was in charge of political prisoners.

He now continues his courageous work to improve human rights and the rule of law in Libya and considers the Sakharov Prize he received to be an award to the Libyan people.

"This prize has huge symbolic and moral value," he said on accepting it. "It also provides further stimulus for the consolidation of the values we have always been in favour of, the creation of a democratic, constitutional state based upon the equality of all, a state where women

enjoy the freedom to vote and stand in elections, to make their voices heard".

In October 2012, at the Sakharov Prize Network debate held at the EP, he discussed the aftermath of the revolution and armed conflict in Libya and the future of democracy in Arab countries following the Arab Spring. At the first edition of the World Democracy Forum at the Council of Europe, to which he was invited as a Sakharov Laureate, El Senussi denounced the lack of an effective government in Libya and drew attention to the kidnappings, torture, permanent surveillance and blackmailing of the population that plague the Libyan society. He said that his call for a federal system in Libya was met with accusations of treason, in particular by imams. These accusations, El Senussi said, were a clear operation to misread his proposal and tarnish the reputation of those who want to improve the situation.



2011

Razan Zaitouneh

Razan Zaitouneh is a Syrian journalist and human rights lawyer who, two years after being awarded the Sakharov Prize, was still in hiding in Syria as the war raged on.

Announcing her as the winner of the 2011 Sakharov Prize with her Arab Spring co-Laureates, including Asmaa Mahfouz, then EP President Jerzy Buzek said the “two young ladies deserve not only our admiration and respect, but better prospects for their future. Their nomination represents a tribute to the decisive role played by women during the Arab Spring”.

Born in 1977, Razan Zaitouneh started to practice law in 2001 and became a defence lawyer for political prisoners.

She co-founded the Human Rights Association in Syria, in which she remained active till 2004.

In 2005, she set up the Syrian Human Rights Information Link, an internet platform which functions as a database for human right violations committed by the Syrian regime, and through which

she warns of human rights defenders at risk. She is also an active member of the Committee to Support Families of Political Prisoners in Syria and a co-founding member of the local coordinating committees of the revolution in Syria, founded in April 2011.

In May 2011 agents of the air force intelligence service burst into her house in Damascus and not only took many of her documents and personal belongings, but also her husband's brother, Aburrahman Hammada, who was visiting, as a hostage in exchange for the fugitive couple. After that Razan Zaitouneh's husband Wa'il Hammada was also arrested and the brothers spent three months in solitary confinement before they were released.

She dedicated her Sakharov Prize to little Ghiyat, the new-born child of a friend and fellow activist, 26-year-old Ghiyath Matar, who had been tortured to death before his son was born.

Razan refuses to leave Syria until the fighting in the country is over and the regime has been toppled.



2012

Nasrin Sotoudeh

Nasrin Sotoudeh was serving the second year of a six-year jail sentence in Iran's notorious Evin prison when she was awarded the Sakharov Prize.

Jailed for fearlessly defending dissenters arrested in the 2009 mass protests against the presidential election they believed was fraudulent, Nasrin was at the time in solitary confinement and on a seven-week hunger strike, in protest of pressure on her family, including a travel ban imposed on her 12-year-old daughter. The ban was subsequently lifted and she stopped hunger-striking, saying she would resume if her husband, who is still banned from travel, is put on trial.

In a very weak and frail state, she found the strength and courage to write a memorable message to the EP, read for her at the award ceremony by Nobel Laureate, friend and colleague Shirin Ebadi.

"The story of human rights, and the mechanisms for guaranteeing them, has come a long way, yet its realization still largely depends on the intentions of governments: which are the biggest

violators of human rights", Nasrin Sotoudeh said.

Calling for the realization of human rights everywhere, she identified their violation as the basic cause of the wave of revolutions sweeping the Middle East. To human rights defenders and political prisoners she said, "just like you, I also know that democracy has a long and difficult road ahead". "We only need to remember that during the same years that Martin Luther King's struggles against racial discrimination were to bear fruit, in another part of the world, Nelson Mandela started three decades of imprisonment for his fight against racial discrimination and in the same year of his release, a fighting woman in another continent in Burma spent around two decades under house arrest for seeking freedom.

"Now that Aung San Suu Kyi is released, Iranians who seek freedom and using totally peaceful methods are sentenced to long-term imprisonments for wanting freedom. These are all signs of a truth. The freedom torch is moving from one hand to another but it shall never be extinguished".



2012

Jafar Panahi

Jafar Panahi is a film-maker who has been banned from making films for 20 years. An outspoken supporter of the Iranian opposition, Green movement and a critic of the then President Ahmedinajad, he was sentenced to six years jail for “propaganda against the Islamic Republic”. He now effectively lives in a state of limbo, banned from leaving the country or talking to the media and with the shadow of imprisonment looming over him.

In his work, inspired by realism and a humanistic perspective on life, Jafar Panahi, has focused his lens on the hardship of life in Iran for children, the impoverished and especially women since the Islamic revolution, incurring the wrath and censorship of the Iranian authorities.

His award-winning films are banned in Iran and have landed him in jail more than once.

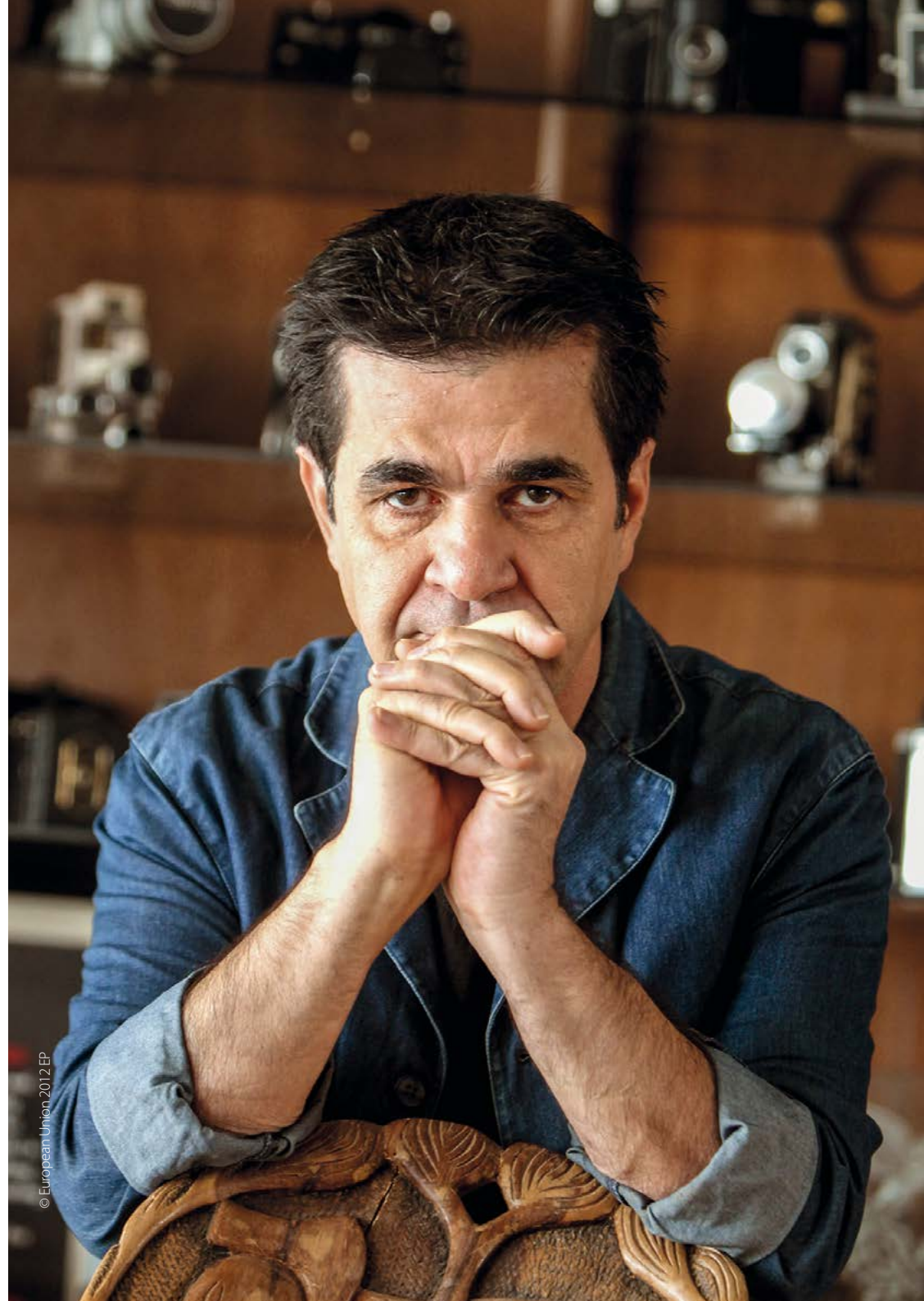
In 2010 he was arrested together with his wife, daughter and 15 friends, all later released. In 2011 he shot *This is not a Film* showing him sitting at his kitchen table, talking to his lawyer, waiting to be jailed.

“The awarding of the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought 2012 to Nasrin Sotoudeh and Jafar Panahi is a message of solidarity and admiration to a woman and a man who have not been bowed by fear and intimidation and who have decided to put the fate of their country before their own,” EP President Martin Schulz said.

Panahi’s daughter Solmaz and French Cinémathèque director Serge Toubiana represented him at the Sakharov Prize award ceremony at the EP, and his friend and acclaimed film director Costa Gavras read his acceptance speech.

“Two years ago, upon receiving my sentence, a friend asked me what the exact meaning of the sentence was,” Panahi said. “According to this friend, the message carried in the sentence was for me to run from my country and never come back.

“Evidently I chose to stay, even though I could no longer take my camera into the heart of society and do the only thing I know how to do: film-making. Not making films is a slow death for a filmmaker”.



"The freedom torch is moving from one hand to another but it shall never be extinguished".

Nasrin Sotoudeh



European Union: the role of the European Parliament in human rights

EU citizens, according to the latest opinion polls, believe that human rights are the value the European Parliament should defend as a matter of priority. The European Parliament often takes specific initiatives such as preventing torture, the protection of human rights' defenders, conflict prevention, promoting women's and children's rights, the protection of minorities, the rights of indigenous peoples and people with disabilities. It actively supports the campaign for a UN moratorium on executions and the worldwide abolition of the death penalty, and also supports the International Criminal Court in its fight against impunity for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. Within the EU the Agency for Fundamental Rights aims to ensure that the basic rights of people are protected and people are treated with dignity.

Respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights are principles enshrined in the Treaty on European Union and are legally binding. Member States found in serious breach of these values may, with the European Parliament's consent, face the suspension of rights deriving from the Treaties of the EU.

Human rights are set out in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union,

which came into force in 2009 with the Lisbon Treaty. This Treaty also provided the legal basis for the EU as a whole to become a party to the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). All 28 Member States of the EU have ratified the ECHR. The EU's accession to the ECHR, which is underway, will close a gap in human rights protection and enhance consistency between the Council of Europe's and the EU's human rights systems.

In the common foreign and security policy, and the development cooperation policy, EU law states as its objective to "develop and consolidate democracy and rule of law, and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms". These objectives have been explicitly incorporated largely thanks to the European Parliament. In its relations with the third countries, the Union is bound to work for democracy, the rule of law, the universality and indivisibility of human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for human dignity, the principles of equality and solidarity, and respect for the principles of the United Nations Charter and international law.

The Subcommittee on Human Rights, in the Committee of Foreign Affairs, is the body responsible for parliamentary work in human rights. Its reports and resolutions are adopted by the Foreign Affairs committee.

The Development Committee also holds regular discussions about human rights in developing countries.

In the plenary session, Parliament debates every month urgent cases of human rights violations in non-member states, in particular, individual cases. The European Parliament's resolutions often serve as the basis for action by the Union's Council of Ministers, the European Commission and the European External Action Service, and sometimes could have an immediate impact on the concerned governments' actions.

Parliament's legislative powers allow it to block the conclusion of agreements with non-member states if there are serious breaches of human rights and democratic principles. Parliament insists on strict compliance with the human rights clauses that are systematically included in such agreements. In April 2011, Parliament called for the EU to suspend negotiations for an Association Agreement between the EU and Syria. In September 2011, the EU Cooperation Agreement with Syria was partially suspended "until the Syrian authorities put an end to the systematic violations of human rights".

Every year the EU issues an annual report on human rights and democracy in the

world, which is examined by Parliament. Parliament has also strengthened its role in the defence of human rights by supporting parliamentary democracy and parliamentary political dialogue, holding hearings with civil society representatives from non-member states and sending ad hoc delegations to assess the human rights situation on the ground. The main forums for political dialogue between the European Parliament and Members of non-EU countries are: the EU-ACP Joint Parliamentary Assembly, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean, the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly called EuroLat, and the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly with Eastern European partners.

The European Parliament has already used its budgetary powers to substantially increase the resources earmarked for programmes dealing with democracy and human rights and it successfully fought to keep functioning the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR). The EIDHR is a key financial and policy instrument through which the EU contributes to the development and consolidation of democracy and the rule of law, the respect of all human rights and fundamental freedoms all over the world, and the support and protection of human rights defenders worldwide.

**Contact Addresses
of the European Parliament**

PARLEMENT EUROPÉEN | EUROPEES PARLEMENT
Rue Wiertz, 60, B-1047 BRUXELLES
Wiertzstraat, 60, B-1047 BRUSSEL
Tel: +32/2.284 2111
Fax: +32/2.230 6933

PARLEMENT EUROPÉEN
Plateau du Kirchberg
BP 1601 | L-2929 LUXEMBOURG
Tel: +352/4300 1
Fax: +352/4300 24842

PARLEMENT EUROPÉEN
1, avenue du Président Robert Schuman
BP 1024F | F-67070 STRASBOURG CEDEX
Tel: +33/388.17 4001
Fax: +33/388.17 4860

For more information visit:

www.europarl.europa.eu
www.europarl.europa.eu/sakharov

