

European Parliament



LONDON



## Annual Sakharov Debate on Human Rights Dissent in politics as the "art of the impossible"

Each year the announcement of the Sakharov Prize laureate provides the opportunity for a public discussion on freedom of thought, organized by the European Parliament's office in London in conjunction with University College London. This year, one year on from the death of Václav Havel, and in the light of a contemporary reinvention of dissident practice in the Arab Spring, the Occupy Movement, Charter 08 in China and the neo-dissidence of Pussy Riot and others in Russia, we have formulated topics for discussion that pick up on themes from Havel: dissent as the 'art of the impossible' and as a point of intersection between politics and aesthetics, both apparently present in the work of the two Iranian activists, lawyer Nasrin Sotoudeh and film director Jafar Panahi, joint winners of the Sakharov Prize in 2012

**RSVP** | Please email [Agnieszka.PIELA@ext.ec.europa.eu](mailto:Agnieszka.PIELA@ext.ec.europa.eu)

**Date** | Thursday, 06 December 2012

**Time** | 17:30 - 19:00

**Venue** | Europe House, 32 Smith Square, SW1P 3EU

**Twitter** | #SakharovDebate

**17:30** Welcome by the European Parliament

**17:35** Panel Discussion: Dissent in politics as the "art of the impossible"

Panel of experts:

**Revd Giles Fraser**

**Tom Moriarty** (Occupy)

**Edward McMillan-Scott** (Vice-President, European Parliament)

**Alena Ledeneva** (UCL academic)

**HE Michael Žantovský** (Czech Republic Ambassador)

Moderator: Tim Beasley-Murray

**18:30** Q&A Session

**18:50** Concluding remarks by Tim Beasley-Murray

**19:00** Reception