

**SAKHAROV PRIZE COMMUNITY
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Temporary relief: Nasrin Sotoudeh allowed healing at home

07-11-2020: Prominent Iranian lawyer and **2012 Sakharov Prize Laureate Nasrin Sotoudeh** was granted medical leave from Qarchak prison. This followed a serious deterioration of her health condition. She was allowed to reunite with her family and undergo appropriate medical treatment. In a brief appearance in the Human Rights Sub-committee (DROI) meeting on 16 November, Nasrin expressed her gratitude for the EP's continuous support. In a [tweet](#), EP President David Sassoli welcomed her release and expressed hope that this will be made permanent.

Strong EP mobilisation for Nasrin Sotoudeh continues

28-10-2020: Extracts of recently premiered documentary film "NASRIN" were screened during the [Human Rights Subcommittee \(DROI\) meeting](#). Secretly filmed in Iran by men and women who remain anonymous for security reasons, "NASRIN" is narrated by Oscar winner Olivia Colman, the Emmy-nominated producer, director and writer Jeff Kaufman and Emmy-nominated producer Marcia S. Ross. After the screening of selected scenes of the film, MEPs stressed that the EU needs to step up its efforts to secure the release of Ms Sotoudeh and other prisoners of conscience in Iran.

Brave women of Belarus centre stage in EP Committee hearing

12-11-2020: The Women's Rights and Gender Equality Committee, in association with the EP Delegation for relations with Belarus, organised an [exchange of views](#) on "Women in Belarus". Svjatlana Tikhanovskaja and Veronika Tsepka, leaders of **the Belarusian Democratic Opposition (2020 Sakharov Prize Laureate)**, took part in the discussion. This was an occasion to highlight the courage and the determination of Belarusian women who have been protesting peacefully against the Loukashenko regime and to understand how Europe could support the struggle for democracy in Belarus.

Sakharov finalists discuss the plight of environmental defenders in Latin America

5-11-2020: In an online conference organised with the Global Campus of Human Rights, Sakharov Prize Finalist **Claudelize Silva dos Santos (2019)** and **Berta Zuniga Caceres (daughter of 2020 Sakharov Prize finalist Berta Caceres)** discussed with MEP Isabel Santos (S&D), social media influencer Natalia Mazzei and International Law professor Viviana Krstitevic the risks of being environmental defenders in Latin America and explored ways to protect them. Watch the conference [here](#).

International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

25-11-2020: To mark this day on 25 November, the EP screened "SEMA" ("Speak out" in Suaheli), a film co-sponsored by Parliament with the **Dr Denis Mukwege Foundation**. Opened by an address of Vice President Heidi Hautala, a debate with MEP Assita Kanko, Dr Mukwege's communication director Maud-Salomé Ekila, coordinator of the National Survivors Movement in DRC Tatiana Mukanire, and 2020 Sakharov fellow Esperande Bigirimana addressed sexual violence against women in armed conflicts. Watch SEMA [here](#).

Reporters Without Borders brings crime against humanity case against Eritrean president

21-10-2020: **2005 Sakharov Prize Laureate Reporters Without Borders (RSF)** filed a complaint with the office of the Swedish prosecutor for international crimes against Eritrea's President Isaias Afwerki and seven other Eritrean officials. They are accused for keeping **2017 Sakharov Prize finalist Dawit Isaak** incommunicado since 2001.

[Source](#)

Russia plans to tighten “foreign agents” legislation further

9-11-2020: A new draft law is about to strengthen the Russian State's control over NGOs labelled as foreign agents. Changes will empower the authorities to dissolve such organisations and hinder their work. If approved, the law will require NGOs to inform the Ministry of Justice of all programs and events they are planning to hold. The Ministry could request courts to dissolve NGOs, which ignore the ban. This law will apply to [all NGOs listed in the foreign agent registry](#), including **2009 Sakharov Prize Laureate Memorial**. Memorial's lawyer Tatyana Glushkova explains [here](#) how this threatens NGOs in Russia.

Leopoldo López flees Venezuela for exile in Spain

25-10-2020: Venezuelan opposition leader and **2017 Sakharov Prize laureate Leopoldo López** arrived in Madrid after fleeing the Spanish ambassador's residence in Caracas. López had been a political prisoner since 2014. In April 2019, he had taken refuge in the Spanish embassy. López is among of the most vocal opponents of Venezuela's authoritarian President Nicolas Maduro.

Watch López' interview for BBC [here](#).

New investigation results on Boris Nemstov's murder

02-11-2020: A new [joint investigation](#) by the news outlet “Mediazona” and the anticorruption website “Scanner Project” has revealed several important witnesses and possible accomplices to the murder of **2015 Sakharov Prize finalist Boris Nemstov**. A July 2020 [report](#) from the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe includes witness testimony ignored by Russian investigators, alleging that Putin gave the order for the killing. The former Deputy Prime Minister was assassinated on the Bolshoy Moskvoretsky Bridge in Moscow in 2015. The person who ordered Nemstov's assassination has never been identified.

Urgency resolutions

25-11-2020: In its November plenary session, the EP adopted urgency resolutions condemning the crackdown on freedom of expression in **Belarus** in the context of the presidential elections of 9 August 2020, expressing concern on the thousands of persons arrested, intimidated and harassed arbitrarily. The EP urged Belarussian authorities to conduct an investigation into the gravest human rights violations, including the killing of Roman Bondarenko. Members also called on the EU and its Member States to increase assistance to Belarusian civil society, human rights defenders and independent journalists. The EP strongly condemned and deplored the loss of lives in attacks carried out by belligerent parties in **Ethiopia** and called on these parties to desist immediately from acts of violence and disinformation campaigns. The EP strongly condemned the arbitrary and unlawful arrests, detention and judicial harassment of journalists, human rights defenders, civil society and other peaceful activists in **Algeria**, including journalist Khaled Drareni, correspondent for Reporters Without Borders and TV5Monde. The Algerian authorities should release immediately all individuals detained for protesting peacefully and expressing their views.