

Nelson Mandela

Sakharov Prize 1988

An icon in the fight against racism,

Nelson Mandela led South Africa's historic transition from apartheid to a racially inclusive democracy and promoted equal opportunities and peace for all.

Anatoly Marchenko

Sakharov Prize 1988

A former Soviet Union dissident who brought to light the horrific jail conditions of political prisoners, Anatoly Marchenko was nominated by Andrei Sakharov himself.

Alexander Dubček

Sakharov Prize 1989

A leading figure in the Prague Spring, Alexander Dubček strove for democratic and economic reform. He continued to fight for freedom, sovereignty and social justice throughout his life.

Aung San Suu Kyi

Sakharov Prize 1990

Former political prisoner Aung San Suu Kyi spearheaded Myanmar's pro-democratic struggle against the country's military dictatorship.

Adem Demaçi

Sakharov Prize 1991

Standing up to the harsh repression of the Serbian regime, the ‘Mandela of the Balkans’ devoted himself to the promotion of tolerance and ethnic reconciliation in Kosovo.

Las Madres de Plaza de Mayo

Sakharov Prize 1992

The 'Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo' led a peaceful resistance movement against the military dictatorship and repression in Argentina in response to the forced disappearance and torture of political opponents.

Oslobodjenje

Sakharov Prize 1993

The journalists of Sarajevo's *Oslobodjenje* newspaper risked their lives fighting to maintain the unity and ethnic diversity of their country during the war in the former Yugoslavia.

Taslima Nasreen

Sakharov Prize 1994

Exiled from Bangladesh and Bengal for her secular views, the writer Taslima Nasreen fights against the oppression of women and opposes all forms of religious extremism.

Leyla Zana

Sakharov Prize 1995

The first Kurdish woman to be elected to the Turkish Parliament, Leyla Zana's fight for democracy symbolises her people's struggle for dignity and human rights.

Wei Jingsheng

Sakharov Prize 1996

A leader of the opposition to the Chinese regime, Wei Jingsheng denounces human rights violations and fights for democracy. He remains unsilenced by prison and exile.

Salima Ghezali

Sakharov Prize 1997

Editor-in-Chief of the critical newspaper *La Nation* and President of the Association for the Emancipation of Women, Salima Ghezali advocates women's rights, democracy and political dialogue in Algeria.

Ibrahim Rugova

Sakharov Prize 1998

Working tirelessly towards peaceful solutions and dialogue, the first President of Kosovo dedicated his life to the non-violent resistance of ethnic Albanians against Serbian oppression.

Xanana Gusmão

Sakharov Prize 1999

Leading Timor-Leste's struggle for freedom and self-determination, Xanana Gusmão became the nation's first president and later served as its prime minister.

¡BASTA YA!

Sakharov Prize 2000

¡BASTA YA! ('enough is enough') was a popular citizens' initiative against terrorism and political violence in Spain's Basque Country.

Dom Zacarias Kamwenho

Sakharov Prize 2001

Civil and religious leader

Dom Zacarias Kamwenho inspired the Angolan people to stand up for their rights and played a critical role in the peace process that led to the end of the country's civil war.

Nurit Peled-Elhanan

Sakharov Prize 2001

**A university lecturer and author,
Nurit Peled-Elhanan is committed to changing
the views of Israeli society towards Palestine.
Her writing promotes tolerance, diversity
and the right to education.**

Izzat Ghazzawi

Sakharov Prize 2001

Despite imprisonment, censorship and the loss of his son, Izzat Ghazzawi courageously promoted the cause of peaceful dialogue and partnership between Israelis and Palestinians.

Oswaldo José Payá Sardiñas

Sakharov Prize 2002

Founder of the Varela Project, Oswaldo Payá fought for civil rights, free pluralist elections, the release of political prisoners, and economic and social reform in Cuba.

Kofi Annan and the staff of the United Nations

Sakharov Prize 2003

**As Secretary-General, Kofi Annan led
the United Nations to forge stronger ties
with civil society in pursuit of its goals of peace,
justice and human rights.**

The Belarusian Association of Journalists

Sakharov Prize 2004

**The Belarusian Association of Journalists was
founded in 1995 to protect all journalists
working under the threat of harassment,
intimidation and persecution.**

Reporters Without Borders

Sakharov Prize 2005

The international NGO fights for freedom of information and freedom of expression, while also supporting persecuted journalists all over the world.

Hauwa Ibrahim

Sakharov Prize 2005

Human rights lawyer Hauwa Ibrahim defends women and children sentenced by Sharia courts in Nigeria. She advocates education for girls as the foundation of a peaceful society.

Damas de Blanco

Sakharov Prize 2005

**Despite constant repression,
the 'Ladies in White' stage weekly peaceful
protest marches, demanding democracy
and the release of political dissidents in Cuba.**

Aliaksandr Milinkevich

Sakharov Prize 2006

**As leader of the democratic opposition
Movement for Freedom in Belarus,
Aliaksandr Milinkevich denounced
the Belarusian regime's offences against
democracy and human rights.**

Salih Mahmoud Mohamed Osman

Sakharov Prize 2007

**Sudanese lawyer Salih Mahmoud Mohamed
Osman defends those who have been
arbitrarily detained, tortured and abused
by the authorities, despite having been
detained himself.**

Hu Jia

Sakharov Prize 2008

**Endangering his life through his activism,
Hu Jia brought the world's attention to
the Tiananmen Square massacre, AIDS issues
and human rights abuses in China.**

Memorial

Sakharov Prize 2009

Founded to preserve the memory of mass repression under Stalin, Memorial advocates respect for human rights and protects victims of human rights abuses in Russia and the former Soviet states.

Guillermo Fariñas

Sakharov Prize 2010

Doctor of psychology, journalist and political dissident, Guillermo Fariñas's series of hunger strikes sought to bring about peaceful political change and freedom of expression in Cuba.

Razan Zaitouneh

Sakharov Prize 2011

Journalist and lawyer Razan Zaitouneh denounced human rights violations in Syria. Her struggle for freedom and democracy led to her kidnapping in 2013.

Ahmed al-Senussi

Sakharov Prize 2011

An opponent of the oppression perpetrated by the military dictatorship, Ahmed al-Senussi advocates inclusive reconciliation as the only path to peace and democracy in Libya.

Asmaa Mahfouz

Sakharov Prize 2011

Asmaa Mahfouz's social media posts calling on Egyptians to protest peacefully for freedom, dignity and human rights helped to initiate the revolutionary movement in Egypt.

Ali Ferzat

Sakharov Prize 2011

As a political satirist and cartoonist, Ali Ferzat pushed the boundaries of freedom of expression in Syria through his work criticising the regime and the feared security forces.

Mohamed Bouazizi

Sakharov Prize 2011

Setting himself on fire in protest against government corruption and endemic unemployment, Mohamed Bouazizi inspired Tunisia's Jasmine Revolution.

Jafar Panahi

Sakharov Prize 2012

Award-winning Iranian filmmaker

Jafar Panahi exposes injustice and repression.

**He advocates artistic freedom and has
condemned the death penalty.**

Nasrin Sotoudeh

Sakharov Prize 2012

Iranian human rights lawyer and activist

Nasrin Sotoudeh defends religious minorities, women, minors and protesters against electoral fraud, the death penalty and torture on the part of the regime.

Malala Yousafzai

Sakharov Prize 2013

Only 11 when she started her fight for the right of girls to education and against Taliban extremism in Pakistan, Malala Yousafzai fought on even after an attempt on her life in 2012.

Denis Mukwege

Sakharov Prize 2014

Congolese doctor Denis Mukwege has devoted his life to the rehabilitation of tens of thousands of victims of rape and brutal sexual violence and many more who live under its threat.

Raif Badawi

Sakharov Prize 2015

**Saudi blogger Raif Badawi was flogged
and jailed for discussing liberal political ideas
and religious topics online.**

Nadia Murad Basee Taha and Lamyia Haji Bashar

Sakharov Prize 2016

**Survivors of sexual enslavement by Islamic State,
Nadia Murad and Lamyia Haji Bashar became
spokespersons for women whose lives have
been blighted by sexual violence, and act as
advocates for Iraq's Yazidi community.**

The Democratic Opposition in Venezuela

Sakharov Prize 2017

**Political opponents of the Venezuelan
Government, including the National Assembly
and all political prisoners, were awarded the
prize for their continuing bravery in the pursuit
of freedom and prosperity in Venezuela.**

Oleg Sentsov

Sakharov Prize 2018

A Ukrainian filmmaker imprisoned in Russia, Oleg Sentsov is a source of inspiration for those who face oppression, and a symbol of the struggle for the release of political prisoners held in Russia and around the world.

Ilham Tohti

Sakharov Prize 2019

Ilham Tohti is an economics professor and an advocate for China's Uyghur minority, more than a million of whom have been detained in internment camps.

The Democratic Opposition in Belarus

Sakharov Prize 2020

Led by brave women and other civil society and political figures, the Coordination Council has united the Belarussians fighting for democracy in Europe's last dictatorship.