

# Sakharov Prize

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The **Sakharov Prize**, officially known as the **Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought** and named after Soviet scientist and dissident Andrei Sakharov, was established in December 1988 by the European Parliament as a means to honor individuals and groups of people who have dedicated their lives to the defense of human rights and freedom of thought.<sup>[2]</sup> A shortlist of nominees is drawn up by the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Development, with the winner announced in October.<sup>[1]</sup> As of 2010, the prize is accompanied by a monetary award of €50,000.<sup>[1]</sup>

The first prize was awarded jointly to South African Nelson Mandela and Russian Anatoly Marchenko. The 1990 award was given to Aung San Suu Kyi, but she could not collect it until 2013 as a result of her political imprisonment in Burma. The prize has also been awarded to organisations, the first being the Argentine Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo in 1992.

Some Sakharov laureates still face harsh political oppression. Laureates living under repressive regimes include the Belarusian Association of Journalists (2004), Damas de Blanco and Guillermo Fariñas (Cuba, 2005 and 2010), Alaksandar Milinkievič (Belarus, 2006), Hu Jia (2008), and Memorial (Russia, 2009). Razan Zaitouneh (2011) is still living in hiding in Syria. Nasrin Sotoudeh (2012) was released from prison in September 2013, and, along with fellow 2012 laureate Jafar Panahi, is still banned from leaving Iran.

## Laureates

### Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought



The awarding ceremony of the 1990 prize awarded to Aung San Suu Kyi inside the Parliament's Strasbourg hemicycle, in 2013.

<b>Location</b>	Strasbourg
<b>Country</b>	France
<b>Presented by</b>	European Parliament
<b>Reward</b>	€50,000 <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>First awarded</b>	1988
<b>Last awarded</b>	2014
<b>Currently held by</b>	Denis Mukwege
<b>Official website</b>	Website ( <a href="http://www.europarl.europa.eu/intcoop/sakharov/home_en.html">http://www.europarl.europa.eu/intcoop/sakharov/home_en.html</a> )

Year	Recipient	Nationality	Notes	Reference
1988	Nelson Mandela	South Africa	Anti-apartheid activist and later President of South Africa	[3]
1988	Anatoly Marchenko (posthumously)	Soviet Union	Soviet dissident, author and human rights activist	[3]
1989	Alexander Dubček	Czechoslovakia	Slovak politician, attempted to reform the communist regime during the Prague Spring	[3]
1990	Aung San Suu Kyi	Burma	Opposition politician and a former General Secretary of the National League for Democracy	[4]
1991	Adem Demaçi	Kosovo	Kosovo Albanian Politician and long-term political prisoner	[3]
1992	Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo	Argentina	Association of Argentine mothers whose children disappeared during the Dirty War	[4]
1993	<i>Oslobođenje</i>	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Popular newspaper, continued to publish after its office building was destroyed in Sarajevo	[4]
1994	Taslima Nasrin	Bangladesh	Ex-doctor, feminist author	[4]
1995	Leyla Zana	Kurdistan	A female politician of Kurdish descent from North Kurdistan, who was imprisoned for 10 years for speaking her	[3]



Nelson Mandela was the inaugural winner of the prize, together with Anatoly Marchenko.



The awarding ceremony of the 1990 prize awarded to Aung San Suu Kyi inside the Parliament's Strasbourg hemicycle, in 2013. Suu Kyi could not collect it before as she had been political prisoner for years.



Members of Ladies in White, a 2005 laureate, demonstrate in Havana, Cuba.

Year	Recipient	Nationality	Notes	Reference
			native language of Kurdish in the Turkish Parliament	
1996	Wei Jingsheng	China	An activist in the Chinese democracy movement	[4]
1997	Salima Ghezali	Algeria	Journalist and writer, an activist of women's rights, human rights and democracy in Algeria	[4]
1998	Ibrahim Rugova	Kosovo	Albanian politician, the first President of Kosovo	[3]
1999	Xanana Gusmão	East Timor	Former militant who was the first President of East Timor	[5]
2000	¡Basta Ya!	Spain	Organisation uniting individuals of various political positions against terrorism	[6]
2001	Nurit Peled-Elhanan	Israel	Peace activist	[3]
2001	Izzat Ghazzawi	Palestine	Writer, professor.	[3]
2001	Dom Zacarias Kamwenho	Angola	Archbishop and peace activist	[3]
2002	Oswaldo Payá	Cuba	Political activist and dissident	[7]
2003	Kofi Annan (& United Nations)	Ghana	Nobel Peace Prize recipient and seventh Secretary-General of the United Nations	[3]
2004	Belarusian Association of Journalists	Belarus	Non-governmental organisation "aiming to ensure freedom of speech and rights of receiving and	[8]



Doctor Denis Mukwege, recipient of the prize in 2014

Year	Recipient	Nationality	Notes	Reference
			distributing information and promoting professional standards of journalism"	
2005	Ladies in White	Cuba	Opposition movement, relatives of jailed dissidents	[9]
2005	Reporters Without Borders	International	France-based non-governmental organisation advocating freedom of the press	[9]
2005	Hauwa Ibrahim	Nigeria	Human rights lawyer	[9]
2006	Alaksandar Milinkievič	Belarus	Politician chosen by United Democratic Forces of Belarus as the joint candidate of the opposition in the presidential elections of 2006	[10]
2007	Salih Mahmoud Osman	Sudan	Human rights lawyer	[4]
2008	Hu Jia	China	Activist and dissident	[11]
2009	Memorial	Russia	International civil rights and historical society	[12]
2010	Guillermo Fariñas	Cuba	Doctor, journalist and political dissident	[13]
2011	Asmaa Mahfouz, Ahmed al-Senussi, Razan Zaitouneh, Ali Farzat, Mohamed	Egypt Libya Syria Syria Tunisia	Five representatives of the Arab people, in recognition and support of their drive for freedom and human rights.	[14]

Year	Recipient	Nationality	Notes	Reference
	Bouazizi (posthumously)			
2012	Jafar Panahi, Nasrin Sotoudeh	Iran	Iranian activists, Sotoudeh is a lawyer and Panahi is a film director.	[15][16]
2013	Malala Yousafzai	Pakistan	Campaigner for women's rights and education	[17]
2014	Denis Mukwege	DR Congo	Gynecologist treating victims of gang rape	[18]

## Notes and references

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## External links

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