



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN HONOUR
OF PRIZEWINNER VÁCLAV HAVEL HUMAN RIGHTS PRIZE

CIVIC SOCIETY: FREEDOM IS NOT TO BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED

Prague, October 2nd, 2013 Prague Crossroads

Organizers: Vaclav Havel Library and Charta 77 Foundation



ALES BIALIATSKI (BELARUS)

THE HISTORIC FIRST LAUREATE OF THE VÁCLAV HAVEL AWARD FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

From the start of the 1980s, Ales Bialiatski, a young Belarusian writer and graduate of the Gomel University Faculty of History and Philology, joined the national democratic movement. While the world was still divided by the Iron Curtain, he became a founding member of the Belarusian Popular Front. Helping to create a young writers' association that he chaired for several years, Ales went on to join the Belarusian Writers' Union. Later, he organised the first demonstrations against totalitarianism. This commitment led to his imprisonment in 1988, marking the start of a long series of arrests and harassment.

In 1996, in the face of the increasing repression of the Lukachenko regime, Ales Bialiatski created the Human Rights Centre Viasna. In 2007, just three years after joining International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), Ales Bialiatski was elected its Vice-President, the first representative of the former Soviet countries to be elected to the FIDH International Board.

VÁCLAV HAVEL HUMAN RIGHTS PRIZE FINALISTS

A total of 27 individuals and organisations were nominated for the award. At a meeting in Prague on 26 August 2013, a selection committee headed by Jean-Claude Mignon, the president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), selected a short-list of three finalists: Ales Bialiatski (Belarus), the Georgia Young Lawyers' Association (Georgia) and the Rights Defence Network (China).

GEORGIAN YOUNG LAWYERS' ASSOCIATION (GEORGIA)

Georgian Young Lawyers' Association has been conducting human rights protection activities since 1994. Their activities are focused on the the following strategic fields:

Legal aid – Legal aid center of GYLA in Tbilisi and seven regions of Georgia provide legal assistance to tenth of thousands of citizens (consultation, preparation of legal documents and court representation in case of need). Special attention is paid to the facts, where human rights are violated by government, or administrative body. Vulnerable groups – GYLA pays special attention to protection of rights of religious, ethnic, sexual minorities, people with limited abilities, those, who live beyond the poverty line. Prisoners' rights– GYLA is actively involved in monitoring of penitentiary systems. Special attention is paid to facts of torture and mistreatment. Participation in legal drafting – GYLA conducts constant monitoring of legislative process and prepares its own legal opinions on every draft, which is important for human rights. Raising awareness – There are many people in Georgia, who have no information about their rights – GYLA's offices in the regions have been implementing campaigns for raising awareness throughout Georgia (trainings, seminars and field meetings to ensure awareness of local groups and support democratic involvement of them in the country's political and social life). Strategic litigation – first, denunciation of discriminative legal acts, or acts, which violate human rights through trial at constitutional court of Georgia, and the second, representation of Georgian citizens at European Court of Human Rights. Protection of Media Interests – on the base of GYLA has been established Media Legal Defense Center, which ensures protection of rights and interests of different media sources and journalists.

RIGHTS DEFENCE NETWORK (CHINA)

Launched in China in 2005, the Rights Defense Network (weiquan wang, WQW) has been the most active and effective human rights group to operate inside the country ever since. The group, which cannot be legally registered with the government because the government disapproves of it, is composed of activists, lawyers, journalists, writers, dissidents, and labor organizers who maintain loose association in physical space and use the Internet as their main tool for collecting, sharing, and disseminating information, organizing actions, and pursuing advocacy. The Network has played a vital role in monitoring, updating, and providing in-depth analyses of the rights situation inside China. It informs the public inside the country as well as the Chinese-language media overseas and the international community.

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Organizers: Vaclav Havel Library and Charta 77 Foundation

8:45 am – 9:30 am

REGISTRATION

9:30 am – 10:00 am

WELCOME SPEECH

MARTA SMOLÍKOVÁ – Václav Havel Library

FRANTIŠEK JANOUC – Charta 77 Foundation

10:00 am – 11:30 am

I. PANEL:

HUMAN RIGHTS: LEGACY OF PRESIDENT VÁCLAV HAVEL

Václav Havel and his perspective on human rights issues.
How is freedom defined and how we can protect it?

“Many times in the past, I have pondered on the question of why humanity has the prerogative to any rights at all. Inevitably, I have always come to the conclusion that human rights, human liberties and human dignity have their deepest roots outside of this earthly world. They become what they are only because, under certain circumstances, they can mean to humanity a value that people place - without being forced to - higher than even their own lives.”

Senate and House of Commons of the Parliament of Canada,
Ottawa, April 29, 1999

MODERATOR

JACQUES RUPNIK – Sciences PO / CERI, France

PANELISTS

LADAN BOROUHAND – Abdorrahman

Boroumand Foundation for the Promotion
of Human Rights and Democracy in Iran, France

SVETLANA GANNUSKINA – Memorial, Russia

ROSA MARÍA PAYÁ ACEVEDO – Christian Liberation
Movement, Cuba

BILL SHIPSEY – Art for Amnesty, Ireland

VINCUK VIACORKA – Supolnasc Civil Society Center,
Belarus

TENG BIAO – China University of Political Science and
Law, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, China Against
Death Penalty, China

11:30 am – 11:45 am

COFFEE BREAK

11:45 am – 1:15 pm

II. PANEL:

HUMAN RIGHTS NGOS UNDER THE STATE REPRESSION

Acknowledging the work of non-profit and non-governmental institutions in the authoritarian and semi-authoritarian regimes or in the states infringing the human rights; currently facing increased pressure and worsen legal conditions for their work and pure existence.

“Elections, a plurality of political parties, free elections, legislative power, executive power and judicial power may exist, but that still does not mean citizens enjoy genuine freedom and the certainty of that freedom.”

Forum 2000 Conference, Prague,
October 12, 2009

MODERATOR

IRINA LAGUNINA – Radio Free Europe/
Radio Liberty

PANELISTS

PAVOL DEMEŠ – European Endowment
for Democracy, Slovak Republic

RASUL JAFAROV – Human Rights Club,
Azerbaijan

ALEXANDER VERCHOVSKIJ – Center for Information
and Analysis SOVA, Russia

TAMARA MACKIEWICZ – Belarus

ADAM BODNAR – Helsinki Foundation for Human
Rights, Warsaw, Poland

1:15pm – 2:00 pm

LUNCH

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

INTERVIEW WITH LAUREATE OF VÁCLAV HAVEL HUMAN RIGHTS PRIZE

“The only lost cause is one we give up on before we enter the struggle.”

Summer Meditations, 1991

MODERATOR

MARTIN PALOÚŠ – Václav Havel Library, Czech Republic

LAUREATE

NATALIA PINCHUK - Ales Bialiatski's Wife

FINALISTS

TENG BIAO - Rights Defecce Network

KAKHA KOZHORIDZE - Georgian Young Lawyers' Association

3:00 pm – 4:30 pm

III. PANEL: LEVERAGING POWER: WHAT ARE THE TOOLS THAT HELP?

How can mature democracies effectively pursue human rights protection outside its territories? What are the tools that are efficient? Do economic sanctions really work? Do we have legal tools available or do we rely on soft measures of solidarity expressions? Evaluation of the sanctions by the receivers.

“Embargoes are always ambiguous and open up a big question as to whom we are helping more, the people or the regime.”

Czech weekly Respekt no.16, April 10, 2000

MODERATOR

JAN MACHÁČEK – Vaclav Havel Library, Czech Republic

PANELISTS

JEFFREY J. SCHOTT – Peterson Institute, United States

MIN KO NAING – Burma

NATALIA TAUBINA – Public Verdict Foundation, Russia

4:30 pm – 5:00 pm

CLOSING REMARKS: KAREL SCHWARZENBERG

“We cannot advocate freedom of the individual and at the same not express solidarity with the repressed. We cannot simply, because we are worried about some contracts, keep quiet over manifest breaches of human rights. If we regard human freedom and human rights as a mere superstructure above the material base, we are not in good shape as a society.”

**Jednou budem dál (We Shall Over Come),
Czech Television, November 14, 2009**

5:00 pm

RECEPTION/GLASS OF WINE

PARTICIPANTS BIOS

TENG BIAO

is a lecturer at the China University of Political Science and Law, visiting scholar at the Chinese University of Hong Kong and president of China Against the Death Penalty, an NGO focussed on the abolition of capital punishment. Dr. Teng has provided counsel in numerous human rights cases, including those of rural rights advocate Chen Guangcheng, human rights defender Hu Jia, the religious freedom case of Wang Bo and numerous death penalty cases. He has also co-founded two groups that have combined research with work on human rights cases: The Open Constitution Initiative (Gongmeng/Gongmin) and China Against the Death Penalty. Teng Biao is one of the 303 people who initiated Charter 08 in 2008.

ADAM BODNAR

is a graduate of Warsaw University (M.A., 2000) and the Central European University in Budapest, Department of Legal Studies (LL.M. in Comparative Constitutional Law, 2001). He became a doctor of law in 2006 (Warsaw University) with a Ph.D. thesis entitled Multilevel citizenship in the European constitutional space that received a special recognition in a competition organized by the Sejm Review (Przegląd Sejmowy). He works as an associate professor at the Human Rights Chair of Warsaw University's Faculty of Law and Administration.

In the period 1999–2004, Mr. Bodnar worked as an associate for Weil Gotshal & Manges, Warsaw office. In October 2004 he joined the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights in the Polish capital and started its Strategic Litigation Programme. Since 2009 he has been vice-president of this organization and the head of its legal division, comprising of 20 lawyers. He is also the Senior Legal Expert within the FRANET network of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights. In 2012 he became a member of the General Assembly of the World Organization Against Torture (OMCT).

Adam Bodnar is the author of several scholarly publications and press commentaries. He writes on the protection of fundamental rights (especially in the context of national security), the enforcement of European Court of Human Rights judgments, EU citizenship, the role of NGOs in pursuing public interest and LGBT rights.

LADAN BOROUMAND

is an Iranian historian and human rights advocate. A former visiting fellow at the International Forum for Democratic Studies in Washington, D.C., she has a Masters degree in political sociology and a PhD in the history of France. Ms. Boroumand authored *La Guerre des Principes* (EHESS 1999), an extensive work that highlights the relationship throughout the French Revolution between human rights and the sovereignty of the nation. She has also written and contributed several articles on the Iran's Islamic revolution and the nature of Islamic terrorism. She is currently the research director of the Abdorrahman Boroumand Foundation (ABF), a non-governmental organization that promotes human rights awareness through education and distribution of information with the goal of establishing

a stable democracy in Iran. At ABF Ms. Boroumand has initiated a translation project that includes work by among others Spinoza, Voltaire, Hannah Arendt and Vaclav Havel. ABF has already published the Persian version of Havel's Open Letter to Gustav Husak, and will in December 2013 electronically publish Vaclav Havel's *The Meaning of Charter 77*, and *The Power of the Powerless*.

PAVOL DEMEŠ

is an internationally recognized NGO leader based in Bratislava, Slovakia. Prior to the Velvet Revolution in November 1989, Mr. Demeš was a bio-medical researcher at Comenius University in Bratislava. He is a graduate of Charles University in Prague (1980). After the return of democracy in 1989, he served as executive director of the Slovak Academic Information Agency-Service Center for the Third Sector, a leading NGO in the country. He also served as foreign policy advisor to the president of the Slovak Republic (1993–1997), and in 1991–1992 was Slovakia's minister of international relations. In 1999 he was awarded a six-month public policy research fellowship at the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington D.C. From 2000 to September 2010 he was the director for Central and Eastern Europe of the German Marshall Fund of the United States, while at present he is non-resident senior fellow with the organisation. In addition, he is external advisor to the Slovak Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs and is a member of the executive committee of the European Endowment for Democracy.

Mr. Demeš has served on the boards of numerous domestic and international non-profit organizations, including the European Foundation Centre, the European Cultural Foundation and the European Council on Foreign Relations. He played a key role in the EU's civil society development program (PHARE) in Slovakia and democratization efforts in the Balkans and Eastern Partnership countries. In the last two years he has visited several Arab countries, where he has spoken on civil society issues.

Selected Awards:

EU-US Democracy and Civil Society Award (in 1998), USAID Democracy and Governance Award (1999), Royal Dutch decoration Knight of the Order of Orange Nassau (2005), Yugoslav Star, First Class (2005), South East Europe Media Organization Human Rights Award (2009) and Medal of Honor from the Friends of Slovakia (2011).

SVETLANA GANNUSHKINA

Svetlana Gannushkina was born in Moscow in 1942. In 1964, she graduated from the Faculty of Mechanics and Mathematics of the Moscow State University. For over 30 years, from 1970 to 2000, she taught mathematics at the Institute of History and Archives (which had become the Russian State University for the Humanities in the meantime). Svetlana Gannushkina got married in 1966. She has a daughter, a son, four grandsons and one granddaughter.

Svetlana Gannushkina has been involved in peacemaking since the beginning of the Karabakh conflict in 1988. She has seen records on hundreds of Azerbaijani and Armenian prisoners of war and many of them were returned home successfully. Svetlana

Gannushkina continued that work until 2005 (www.agkk.org). When the Azerbaijani authorities started calling the liberated captives to criminal liability, sentencing them to enormously long prison terms, the liberation talks had to be terminated.

In 1990, with the appearance of the first refugees in Moscow, Svetlana Gannushkina co-founded the Civic Assistance Committee, the first non-governmental organization for assistance to refugees and forcibly displaced people, and she has been chairing the Committee up to now (www.refugee.ru). There were flows of refugees, forcibly and internally displaced people and people without citizenship streaming through this organization. Since 2008, the Civic Assistance Committee has been rendering assistance also to labour migrants, due to the fact that a law introduced in 2002 had led to the formation of a monstrous system of exploitation.

In 1993, Svetlana Gannushkina took part in setting up the Memorial Human Rights Centre where, in 1966, she established the Migration Rights Network (refugee.memo.ru) to provide legal assistance to refugees and migrants. At present, the Migration Rights Network is comprised of about 50 sites in different regions of Russia, four of which are located in Chechnya. The Memorial Human Rights Centre was awarded the UNHCR's Nansen prize for the achievements in protecting refugees' rights. The award was presented to Svetlana Gannushkina in Barcelona on 20 July 2004, the International Day of Refugees.

Since 2002, Svetlana Gannushkina was a member of the Human Rights Committee which was transformed in 2004 into the Presidential Council for the Development of Civil Society and Human Rights. She resigned from the Council in 2012, after Vladimir Putin had been elected President.

In 2009 Svetlana Gannushkina joined the re-established Government Board for the Migration Policy where she had worked for three terms prior to 2004. The Board was renewed at the instruction of President Medvedev after Svetlana Gannushkina had approached him during his first meeting with the Human Rights Council.

Svetlana Gannushkina regularly participates and speaks at international as well as national conferences on migration, asylum and general problems of respecting human rights, and she is an author of several dozens of lectures and a number of articles on the same topic.

RASUL JAFAROV

Since graduating in 2006 from the Western University in Baku with a LLB and LLM in International Law, Rasul Jafarov has championed the defense of human rights and legal protections for the socially vulnerable in his country.

From 2007 to 2011, he reported for the Institute for Reporters' Freedom and Safety (IRFS). During this time he investigated numerous criminal cases against journalists, prepared reports on the cases and monitored trials and legal correspondence at the IRFS.

Mr. Jafarov is a founder and chairman of the Human Rights Club (HRC), which was created on 10 December – International Human Rights Day. As chairman of HRC, he was coordinator of the “Sing for Democracy” campaign, which was aimed at using the Eurovision Song Contest to improve the human rights situation in Azerbaijan. The campaign brought international attention to human rights violations in Azerbaijan on the eve of and during the pan-European song contest. Since the transformation of “Sing for Democracy” into “Art for Democracy” in December 2012 he has continued to coordinate the campaign.

Mr. Jafarov coordinated the Expression Online Initiative campaign, aimed at using the Internet Governance Forum held in

Baku in November 2012 as a platform to monitor, protect and impact the exercise of freedom in cyberspace. This campaign is continuing its activities aimed at boosting freedom of the Internet, protecting Internet and online activists, providing expertise on legislation and initiating new legislative and practical solutions to solving problems in this field.

FRANTIŠEK JANOUC

Founder and the Chairman of the Charta 77 Foundation, after the Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968 he lost his job and later was driven into exile in Sweden, where he founded the Charta 77 Foundation. The Foundation played a huge role in helping dissidents back home in Czechoslovakia. Mr. Janouch represented the European Union in Kyiv as Deputy Director of the Science and Technology Center in Ukraine (1996–2000). In the 1970s and 1980s, he was a Visiting Professor in Nuclear Physics at the Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm. He studied at the Faculty of Physics, University of Leningrad and received a graduate degree from Lomonosov University in Moscow.

IRINA LAGUNINA

is Managing Editor of RFE/RL's Russian Service (Radio Svoboda). She previously served as a Senior Broadcaster for Radio Svoboda and host of the daily analytical radio journal “Time & World,” covering international relations, world politics, security, economic and energy issues. Prior to joining RFE/RL in 1995, Irina worked as the foreign policy and diplomatic editor for the Russian magazine “New Times” (1986–1993), moving onto a similar position with the “Moscow News”, a Russian weekly newspaper. She was in the media pool of the Russian Foreign Ministry, covering the end of Soviet invasion in Afghanistan, wars in the former Yugoslavia, and ethnic conflicts in former Soviet Union. Her publication in “New Times” magazine was reprinted in “Perils of Perestroika: Viewpoints from the Soviet Press, 1989–1991”. She also contributed to the 1999 study “Kosovo News & Propaganda War” by The International Press Institute in Vienna, Austria.

JAN MACHÁČEK

Jan Macháček is a journalist and musician currently working as a commentator for both the daily newspaper *Hospodářské noviny* and the weekly *Respekt*, to which he contributes opinions, analysis and interviews. Mr. Macháček also has a daily blog, *Audit Jana Macháčka*, and provides analysis for Czech public radio and television. Previously, he lectured on Politics and the Economics of Transformation at the Anglo American University in Prague. During communism in the 1980s, he was involved in underground culture and samizdat publishing. He was a member of the famous underground band The Plastic People of the Universe as a guitar player and later joined the group Garage, with whom he still plays. In the 1980s, he signed Charter 77 and was involved in various dissident activities. He studied at the Prague School of Economics in the first half of the 1980s, but could not complete the degree for political reasons. After the revolution in 1989, he joined people from the underground publishing world to create the first independent media outlet in the country, *Respekt* (originally titled *Information Service*). His work for *Respekt* has frequently earned him awards for both his investigative and analytical writing. In 2000, he effectively became *Respekt's* deputy editor-in-chief. In addition, Mr. Macháček has been a fellow of the National Forum Foundation in Washington (1994) and the William Davidson Institute at the University of Michigan (1998); the same year he was also a Michigan journalism fel-

low. He is a member of the board of Transparency International Czech Republic, serves as chairman of the board of trustees of the Václav Havel Library and in 2010 again received an award for best journalist in the country (the Ferdinand Peroutka Prize). Mr. Macháček teaches journalism at NYU Prague. In 2009, he published the book "Mistři světa amoleta", primarily analyzing Czech attitudes towards the global financial crisis. He teaches a course on new developments in European integration at Palacký University in Olomouc. He organizes many conferences for the Václav Havel Library, mainly on European issues. He frequently lectures at conferences (such as the Krynica Economic Forum) and delivered a talk on European federalism and the institutional crises of the EU at Columbia University in October 2011. He has delivered a similar lecture in Tokyo, Brussels and several other places.

TAMARA MACKIEWICZ

Who is a trained physicist, worked as a researcher at the Institute of Electronics at Belarus's National Academy of Sciences. Since the 1990s she has helped organise many nationwide events aimed at the consolidation of emerging civil society (Assembly of Pro-Democratic NGOs, Congress of Intelligentsia, etc.).

Ms. Mackievič is experienced in electoral monitoring in non-democratic countries within the framework of the Human Rights Defenders for Free Elections campaign, as well as within the Centers for Pluralism network.

Since 1999 she has been fully engaged in independent educational activities, working as a methodologist and teacher at the independent Jakub Kolas Humanities' Lyceum (now officially closed by the authorities, it continues its activities underground). At present she co-ordinates the independent national program Teacher. School. Society and is an editor at the Nastaunik.info web portal. Tamara Mackievič is deputy chair of the Belarusian School Society.

MIN KO NAING

Paw Oo Tun ([pò ʔú tʰóʊn]; better known by his alias Min Ko Naing, [mín kò nàin], lit. „conqueror of kings“) is a leading democracy activist and dissident. In 1988 he was the president of the All Burma Federation of Student Unions and was regarded as the most charismatic leader of that year's student uprising against the Burmese military junta. He has spent most of the years since 1988 imprisoned by the state for his opposition activities. The New York Times has described him as Burma's „most influential opposition figure after Daw Aung San Suu Kyi“. Currently he is one of the leaders of the 88 Generation Peace and Open Society. Min Ko Naing was born in Yangon, the third son of Thet Nyunt and Hla Kyi, a Mon-Chinese couple from Mudon in Mon State. His interest in politics began in the mid-1980s at the Rangoon Arts and Science University, where he studied zoology. Despite a ban on forming student unions in Burma, Min Ko Naing and other students established clandestine study groups to discuss Burma's political situation, which grew into a secret student union.

In September 1987, Burma's dictator Ne Win voided most denominations of the kyat without warning, causing many people to lose their savings overnight. On 16 March 1988, Min Ko Naing organized a rally of 3,000 students on the Rangoon University campus at which he spoke about the role of student movements in Burmese history. When the students attempted to march to the Rangoon Institute of Technology, where another student has been recently killed, they encountered a barbed wire barricade at Inya Lake and were attacked by riot police, resulting in several deaths and many arrests.

Shortly after this, Ne Win's government closed the universities and the movement went underground. Min Ko Naing continued to organize protesters and circulate posters of the violence at Inya Lake. Ne Win soon agreed to step down from office and, on 7 July, many imprisoned student activists were released. The following day, Min Ko Naing and others released the first statement in the name of the new All Burma Federation of Student Unions (ABFSU), an organization that had previously been known for its struggle against British colonial rule: „We shouldn't be swayed by the release of our fellow students. We will continue to fight.“The ABSFU continued to release statements by Min Ko Naing urging protests against the military government, including one calling for a general strike on 8-8-88, a number that would later become synonymous with the movement itself.

The 8-8-88 general strike drew hundreds of thousands of people onto the streets of Yangon and is widely seen as a turning point in the Burmese democracy movement. Min Ko Naing continued to speak to crowds in front of the US Embassy and Rangoon General Hospital, the sites of previous killings of protesters by Burmese government forces. He also arranged for the daughter of independence hero Aung San, Aung San Suu Kyi, to make her first speech to a crowd at Shwedagon Pagoda. Aung San Suu Kyi would go on to be elected prime minister in the 1990 general election, only to be denied office and imprisoned by the State Law and Order Restoration Council, the new military government.

The protests lasted until 18 September, at which point soldiers opened fire on the crowds, resulting in at least 3,000 deaths.

MARTIN PALOUŠ

Martin Palouš (he studied first Natural Science, then Philosophy and Public International Law) is President of Václav Havel Presidential Library Foundation in New York and Senior Fellow at School of International and Public Affairs at Florida International University in Miami. In his previous diplomatic career he was Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the United Nations in New York (2006-2011) and to the United States in Washington (2001-2005). He is author of numerous publications, including the chapter on the Czech Republic in the European Commission publication Democratization in Central and Eastern Europe (1998); "Totalitarianism and Authoritarianism", in the Encyclopedia of Violence, Peace and Conflict (1999, 2nd ed. 2008); "Between Idealism and Realism: Reflections on the Political Landscape of Postcommunism", in *Between Past and Future: The Revolutions of 1989 and their Aftermath* (2000), „What Kind of God Does Human Rights Require?“, in *Does Human Rights Need God?* (2005); "Common Sense and the Rule of Law", in *Philosophy, Literature and Politics* (2005); Jan Patočka's Socratic Message for the 21st Century, in: eds. Ivan Chvatik and Erica Abrams, *Jan Patočka and the Heritage of Phenomenology* (2011); *Revolutions and Revolutionaries, Lessons of the Years of Crises*, in: ed. Vladimir Tismaneanu, *Promises of 1968. Crisis, Illusion, Utopia*, (2011)

ROSA MARÍA PAYÁ ACEVEDO

who has a bachelor's degree in physics from Cuba's University of Havana, devotes her energies to winning support from international organizations and individuals around the world for an independent investigation into the highly suspicious car crash that caused the death of her father, the renowned Cuban Roman Catholic dissident Oswaldo Paya Sardiñas, and his associate Harold Cepero in 2012. She herself is active in the op-

position in Cuba and is a vocal advocate of a plebiscite on the island. She is a member of the coordinating council of Cuba's Liberation Christian Movement and is on the editorial board of the official magazine of the Liberation Christian Movement: Somos Liberación. She is also co-author of the 2012 essay collection «Reasons for Hope, Reflections on Hope».

JACQUES RUPNIK

Director of Research at the Centre for International Studies and Research at Sciences-Po, Paris and Professor at the College of Europe in Bruges. He has been Visiting Professor at several European universities and at Harvard, and was Executive Director of the International Commission on the Balkans. He was consultant to the European Commission (2007–2010), member of the Independent International Commission on Kosovo (1999–2000) and is a Member of the Institute for Historical Justice and Reconciliation in The Hague since 2010. He has focused on democratization and European integration of East and Central European countries and nationalism and post-conflict reconciliation in the Balkans and has published several books on this topic. Dr. Rupnik completed his M.A. in Soviet studies at Harvard University (1974), and his Ph.D. at Université de Paris – Sorbonne (1978).

JEFFREY SCHOTT

joined the Institute for International Economics in 1983 and currently is a senior fellow working on international trade policy and economic sanctions. Mr. Schott has been a visiting lecturer at Princeton University (1994) and an adjunct professor at Georgetown University (1986–1988), a senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (1982–1983), and an official of the US Treasury Department (1974–1982). During his Treasury tenure, he was a negotiator of the Subsidies Code in the Tokyo Round of multilateral trade negotiations. At present, he is a member of the Trade and Environment Policy Advisory Committee for the US Trade Representative and Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Advisory Committee on International Economic Policy of the US Department of State.

Mr. Schott is the author, coauthor or editor of numerous books on trade, including *Understanding the Trans-Pacific Partnership* (2013), *NAFTA and Climate Change* (2011); *Figuring Out the Doha Round* (2010); *Reengaging Egypt: Options for US-Egypt Economic Relations* (2010); *Economic Sanctions Reconsidered* (3rd ed., 2007); *Trade Relations between Colombia and the United States* (2006); *NAFTA Revisited: Achievements and Challenges* (2005); *Free Trade Agreements: US Strategies and Priorities* (2004); *Prospects for Free Trade in the Americas* (2001); *Free Trade between Korea and the United States?* (2001); *The WTO After Seattle* (2000); *Western Hemisphere Economic Integration* (1994); *NAFTA: An Assessment* (1993); and *North American Free Trade: Issues and Recommendations* (1992). He holds a B.A. degree from Washington University in St. Louis and a M.A. degree from the School of Advanced International Studies of The Johns Hopkins University.

BILL SHIPSEY

is the founder of Art for Amnesty, Amnesty International's global artist engagement programme. In 2003 he established the Ambassador of Conscience Award, of which Vaclav Havel was the first recipient. He has been a human rights activist and a member of Amnesty International since 1977 and was greatly inspired by the Charter 77 movement. Mr. Shipsey is a barrister

(trial lawyer) by profession and lives in Dublin with his refugee lawyer wife and four children.

NATALIA TAUBINA

has been working in the human rights field since 1992. She was involved in the work of the Russian Research Center for Human Rights from the very beginning, while since 1997 she has been a director of the Foundation for Civil Society and since 2004 a director of the Public Verdict Foundation. Ms. Taubina's area of expertise is international human rights standards and mechanisms, human rights in the work of law enforcement bodies and NGO management and evaluation. She has participated in the development and conducting of more than 10 studies and contributed to dozens of publications on human rights issues and on different aspects of NGO activity. Various charitable foundations (Eurasia Foundation, International Fellowship Program of the Ford Foundation, Fulcrum Foundation, Charities Aid Foundation) have employed her expertise to elaborate and carry out analytical surveys, evaluations and research projects. She runs seminars for Russian NGOs as a trainer on international mechanisms of human rights protection and on strategic planning. Ms. Taubina is a member of the Expert Council under the Ombudsman in the Russian Federation. She graduated from the Faculty of Cybernetics at Moscow's Physics-Engineering Institute in 1993.

The Public Verdict Foundation was set up in February 2004 with the mission of creating an environment of intolerance toward any forms of arbitrariness in Russian society, ensuring civilian oversight of law enforcement bodies and facilitating comprehensive reform of the law enforcement system. The Foundation's work includes providing professional legal, informational and psychological support to the victims of human rights abuses; contributing to reform of the law enforcement system; carrying out analysis and research in the sphere of human rights and law enforcement bodies; promoting international standards of human rights in the practical work of the law enforcement system; contributing to the dissemination of the best Russian and international practices in the comprehensive rehabilitation of those whose rights have been violated by officials; and the professional growth of regional partner organisations.

ALEXANDER VERKHOVSKY

graduated from the Moscow Oil and Gas Institute with a degree in applied mathematics in 1984. In 1989 he became editor-in-chief of Moscow's samizdat independent newspaper Panorama. Between 1991 and 2002 he was vice president of the Panorama Information and Research Center, while since 2002 he has been director of the SOVA Center for Information and Analysis.

Since 1994, Mr. Verkhovsky's main area of research has been political extremism, nationalism and xenophobia in contemporary Russia, as well as religion and politics in the country today. He is the author or co-author of a number of books on these issues, including "Political Extremism in Russia" (1996), "Political Xenophobia" (1999), "State Policy Towards Ultra-Nationalist Organizations" (2002; 2013), "Political Orthodoxy: Russian Orthodox Nationalists and Fundamentalists, 1995-2001" (2003), and many articles.

He is a compiler, editor and in some cases co-author of books published by the SOVA Center. He is also the author or co-author of many SOVA analytical reports.

The SOVA Center conducts monitoring on ultra-nationalist

activities, hate crime, hate speech in the mass media, public actions and legal measures against them, the misuse of anti-extremism legislation and various issues related to religion in contemporary Russian society (see <http://sova-center.ru/>). The SOVA Center publishes current news on these issues on its website on a daily basis and also publishes thematic and annual reports.

The SOVA Center has also published more than 20 books, including "Limits of Secularity" (2005), "The Price of Hatred: Nationalism in Russia and Counteraction to Racist Crime" (2005), "The High and Low Strata of Russian Nationalism" (2007), "Radical Russian Nationalism: structures, ideas, faces" (2009), "Racism: Contemporary Western Approaches" (2010), "Ethnicity and Equality in Russia: specificity of approaches" (2012), "What ethnic discrimination is and What to do with it" (2012).

VINCUK VIACORKA

(b. 1961) was an anti-Communist and pro-independence activist in Belarus since early 1980s. He was a co-founder of the Belarus Popular Front (BPF) in 1988, which has been the mainstay organization in Belarus supporting democracy and independence. More recently, he was a chairman of the BPF, serving from 1999 to 2007. Mr. Viacorka co-chaired the wide coalition of the United Democratic Forces of Belarus.

Vincuk Viacorka, a scholar in the field of linguistics and editor of „Spadczyna“ (The Heritage) magazine, has been one of the pioneers in the development of Belarusian civil society. He co-formed the Supolnaść Civil Society Center in 1996 and helped spearhead programs for the development of new initiatives within Centers for Pluralism international network driven by the Institute for Democracy in Eastern Europe. In 1998, he initiated the formation of the Assembly of Pro-Democratic NGOs and later was the head of its Working Group. He is currently co-chair of the Belarusian Movement organizing committee, head of the Institute for Statehood and Democracy program of Supolnaść Center and a coordinator of „Civil Journalist“ national campaign. Vincuk Viacorka was arrested and imprisoned many times for his democratic activities.

KAREL SCHWARZENBERG

Former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the TOP 09 party. He has already served as Minister of Foreign Affairs (2007–2009) and was a member of the Senate of the Czech Parliament (2004–2010). During the first half of 2009, he also served as the President of the Council of the European Union. He was President of the International Helsinki Committee for Human Rights (1984–1991) and former Chancellor to President Václav Havel. Founder of Vaclav Havel Library. In 1991, he was awarded, together with Lech Walesa, the Council of Europe's Human Rights Award.

CONFERENCE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

VERONIKA BAJGAROVÁ

director of the Department of Human Rights and Transition Policy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, worked with Václav Havel

IGOR BLAŽEVIČ

head teacher at Burma Educational Initiatives, founder of the One World International Festival of Human Rights Documentaries and member of the steering committee of the World Movement for Democracy

MAREK HUDEMA

journalist focused on economics, European integration and the countries of Asia, occasional electoral monitor

VLADISLAV JANDJUK

member of the US-based Belarusian government in exile, spokesman for the Cultural Association of Belarusians in the Czech Republic and the European Democratic Forum of Belarusians

MONIKA LADMANOVÁ

lawyer focused on public interest law, the protection of human rights, philanthropy and equal opportunities for women and men, chairwoman of the executive board of the Open Society Fund in Prague

JAN MACHÁČEK

chairman of the executive board of the Václav Havel Library, journalist, economic analyst, musician, Charter 77 signatory

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manager for non-profit activities at the company BM Management, cooperates with the Václav Havel Library

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journalist and columnist focused on Poland and the countries of the former Soviet Union, Charter 77 signatory

MARTIN VIDLÁK

head of the Documentation Centre of the Václav Havel Library, worked with Václav Havel

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Human Rights Lawyer, President of the UN Human Rights Advisory Panel in Kosovo

MARTIN PALOUŠ

Former Ambassador of the Czech Republic, President of Václav Havel Library Foundation in New York and Board member of Václav Havel Library

CHRISTOS POURGOURIDES

Former Member of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Cyprus. Former Member of the Parliamentary Assembly



The Václav Havel Library serves as a centre for the documentation and research of modern Czech history, with an emphasis on promoting the ideas and works of Václav Havel: playwright, fighter against totalitarianism, leader of the 1989 Velvet Revolution, Czechoslovak and Czech president, and a symbol of vigilance against despotism. The Václav Havel Library runs an electronic archive containing over 24,000 entries, a library and a reading room, as well as issuing publications and organising conferences. It also operates premises at Prague's Galerie Montmartre, where alongside the permanent exhibition Havel in a Nutshell it organises debates and arts events for the public.

www.vaclavhavel-library.org



The Charta 77 Foundation, founded in Stockholm in 1978 by František Janouch, started out defending human rights in the broader sense and supporting persecuted dissidents and independent culture but has turned into an organisation supporting a very broad range of arts and humanitarian activities and become a civil society pioneer. For 20 years the foundation's key project has been BARRIERS Account, which provides grants to eligible applicants in the social and health spheres in particular and works to defend the human rights of the handicapped.

www.kontobariery.cz



The Prague Crossroads, an international spiritual centre, is one of the projects of Dagmar and Václav Havel Foundation VIZE 97, which is also intended to preserve and administer this unique space. Prague Crossroads is located in a long-deconsecrated church, founded by St Wenceslas in 927 A.D.

The main inspiration for the creation of the Prague Crossroads came from the former Czech President - the dissident, writer and dramatist Václav Havel. His concept was an evocative venue for all kinds of meetings, where lectures, discussions, concerts, performances, exhibitions, meditation and happenings can take place in a spirit of respect for the multicultural diversity of the modern world. Its main objective is to respond to the now widely felt need for open-minded and creative dialogue among people of different faiths, convictions and professions about the present state of our civilisation, the dangers threatening it, and the hopes for the future.

