

The capture of the Council of Europe



Gerald Knaus
Oslo May 2014



A very good deal – January 2013



**Another victory
(Strasbourg, January 2013)**

125 : 79

They defeated a resolution on political prisoners in Azerbaijan

review old cases

ensure there are no new cases of political prisoners

**refraining from prosecuting participants in peaceful
demonstrations;**

**refraining from criminalising the expression of
political and religious views in the media...**

Who defeated this resolution?

All 18 Russian members

All 10 Turks

All 9 Spaniards

All 9 Italians

a majority from Ukraine (7), UK (7) France (7)

Those who lost:

All 11 German members

All 6 Swedes

All Baltic members

Most Swiss, Finns, Norwegians

Why? Caviar Diplomacy (2012)



Reaction



„The rapporteur has to accept that the Council of Europe belongs to Azerbaijan, not to him“

(24 January 2013, ANS Press)

Some votes have consequences ...



**Ilgar
Mammadov**

**Anar
Mammadli**

... a wave of arrests ...



Rashadat

and many more N!DA activists

May 2014: a hunger strike ...



... while he presented the program of the new chair of the Council of Europe (14 May, 2014): youth, rule of law, human rights education



“Beyond Shame”

“Human Rights Watch began in 1978 with the creation of Helsinki Watch, designed to **support the citizens groups** formed throughout the Soviet bloc to monitor government **compliance** with the 1975 Helsinki Accords. Helsinki Watch adopted a methodology of **publicly "naming and shaming"** abusive governments ...”

HRW, *Our History*

Oceania in 2050: Newspeak



Autocracy = Democracy

„Stolen elections“ = „free and fair elections“

Autocratic consolidation = democratic progress

Political prisoner = criminal

Dissident = hooligan

Counter-revolution in Strasbourg



Election monitoring 2010 and 2013 –
political prisoners resolution – monitoring
accession criteria

What to do? Take the “good words” back

democracy

free and fair elections

moving towards democracy

political prisoner / dissident

Take the institutions seriously!

Action from Committee of Ministers

Next secretary general: what platform?



Look back to the founders: against forgetting prisoners

THE OBSERVER  WEEKEND REVIEW

London, Sunday, May 28, 1961

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MR. PETER ALFORD (left), Mr. Adam Smith, the philosopher, now in a Government post; centre, the Rev. Adam Smith, Bishop of the Western Districts in the United States; right, Sir James G. Thompson, former U.S. Ambassador in London. Their names are described in the article below.



Left, Sir John G. Parsons, held in custody by the United States; next, Sir John G. Parsons, held in custody by the United States; right, Sir John G. Parsons, held in custody by the United States; right, Sir John G. Parsons, held in custody by the United States; right, Sir John G. Parsons, held in custody by the United States.

ON BOTH SIDES of the Iron Curtain, thousands of men and women are being held in goal without trial because their political or religious views differ from those of their Governments. Peter Berenson, a London lawyer, conceived the idea of a world campaign, APPEAL FOR AMNESTY, 1961, to urge Governments to release these people or at least give them a fair trial. The campaign opens to-day, and "The Observer" is glad to offer it a platform.

The Forgotten Prisoners

OPEN your newspaper any day of the week and you will find a report from somewhere in the world of someone being imprisoned, tortured or executed because his opinions or religion are unacceptable to his Government. There are several million such people in prison, by the name of them behind the Iron and Russian Curtains.

There is a growing anxiety all over the world to demand the end of prison camps which "non-combatants" are imprisoned. In Britain, members who develop a dislike for the right to hold someone in a prison camp are, however, still in the minority. It is the duty of the British Government to take all the steps necessary to ensure that the right to hold someone in a prison camp is not abused.

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It is not possible to count the millions of people who are held in prison camps without trial. In some cases there has been a systematic effort to make it impossible to count them. In other cases the number of prisoners is so large that it is difficult to count them. In still other cases the prisoners are held in secret camps where they are not known to the outside world. In all these cases the prisoners are forgotten.

The Appeal for Amnesty, 1961, is a world campaign to urge Governments to release these people or at least give them a fair trial. The campaign opens to-day, and "The Observer" is glad to offer it a platform.

The members of the Council of Europe have agreed a Declaration of Amnesty Rights, and set up a Commission to examine the situation in those countries which have refused to accept the Declaration of the Council of Europe. It is the duty of the British Government to take all the steps necessary to ensure that the right to hold someone in a prison camp is not abused.

Institutionalise concern



**Elect NEW
Rapporteur for political
prisoners**





**Set up Independent
Commission for political
prisoners**

Focus on “surrogate villains”

www.pacewatch.org

Focus on violators: EU visa ban commission

Apartheid is enough to turn any civilized human being into a political prisoner.

 Billie Natir 20 years	 Herman Ja Toiro 20 years	 John Hyatt Phekela 13 years	 Brian Fischer life
 A. Kathrada life	 Indris Naidoo 10 years	 Dorothy Nyembe 13 years	 Nelson Mandela life
 Walter Sisulu life	 Denis Goldberg life	<p>The crime of these people was to protest. To protest that it is wrong for a country to violently discriminate against 81% of its people. They were put behind bars. Along with hundreds of other like-minded South Africans. This is the police state that South Africa has become. A state without justice. Yes, how could it be otherwise, in a state without equality?</p>	

If you wish to protest, you can do so without fear. You only have to join the Anti-Apartheid Movement, 89 Charlotte Street, London, W.1. Telephone 01-580 5311.



Inspiration for change - N!DA's court speech - 5 May 2014



Why people join N!DA

“The clarity of our fundamental principles, and our loyalty to them, our complete rejection of radicalism, immorality and violence are the reasons why hundreds of people with a similar ideology joined our cause in the course of the past year.”



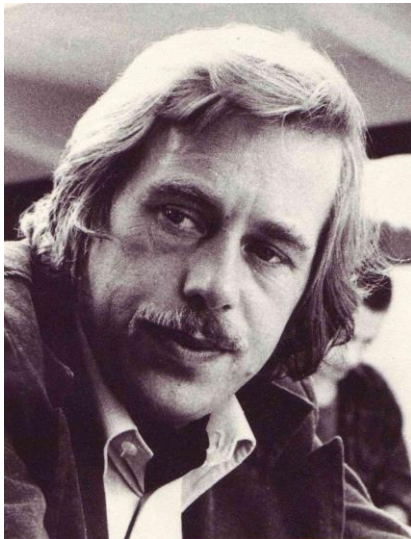
Live not by lies

“Solshenitsyn in his “Live Not By Lies” wrote about despotic regimes’ dependence on **everyone’s participation in the lies**. He wrote that the simplest and most accessible key to our self-neglected liberation lies right here: Personal non-participation in lies. This is what NIDA does.”



**BHAG:
2015 Europe without political prisoners**

Launch this this summer



www.esiweb.org

