
Warsaw, August 10, 2016

The Open Dialog Foundation's top achievements

1. Successful **international advocacy campaign** – including dozens of advocacy meetings, side-events and conferences with the Members of the European Parliament and Members of the national EU parliaments, leading to parliamentary questions, written questions, interrogations and individual interventions, press-points, consultative submissions to the UN bodies and mechanisms (UPR, CAT, CCPR, WGAD), international monitoring missions to Kazakhstan and happenings in a number of EU member states, as well as at the international organisations and institutions - **to protect the rights and release from prison, oil workers and civil society activists from Kazakhstan**, persecuted and imprisoned by the Kazakhstani authorities due to a mass industrial action in the Zhanaozen refinery in 2011 and its further developments: <https://www.hrw.org/report/2012/09/10/striking-oil-striking-workers/violations-labor-rights-kazakhstans-oil-sector>
<https://euobserver.com/foreign/132858>
http://mymedia.org.ua/en/articles/sij2/trampling_of_basic_rights_tolerated_in_kazakhstan.html
2. Organising an **observation and support mission to Maidan**, Kyiv, from the very beginning of the revolution of 2013/2014 (involving more than 50 volunteers from Poland, incl. 15-20 on a permanent basis with the participation of MPs, civil society leaders, students, journalists; the fact-finding mission was further **extended to Ukraine's southern and eastern** regions, due to the Russian aggression and increasing instability): <http://en.odfoundation.eu/i/fmfiles/pdf/eng-presentation-summary-of-odf-s-support-measures-for-ukraine.pdf>
3. Delivering **humanitarian aid** from Poland to civil society on Maidan as well as Ukrainian volunteer battalions, armed forces and IDPs (Internally Displaced Persons) in 2014-2015 (donation of more than 1 mln PLN which is approx. 250 000 EUR, from public fundraising/crowd funding campaign); purchase of 400 body armours for Ukrainian soldiers and bringing about liberalisation of Polish law concerning the rendering of defensive equipment as humanitarian aid: <http://en.odfoundation.eu/i/fmfiles/pdf/odf-prezentacja-dzialalnosc-en.pdf>
4. Establishing and running **the Ukrainian World Centre in Warsaw** in early 2014 with the aim to integrate Ukrainian migrants with Polish society, promote culture and dialogue of both nations; rendering assistance to more than 30,000 Ukrainians in Poland:
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/may/13/ukraines-refugees-find-solace-in-poland-europes-most-homogenous-society>
http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/31/world/europe/ukrainian-migrants-fleeing-conflict-get-a-cool-reception-in-europe.html?_r=0



5. **Initiation of the INTERPOL reform** - preventing the misuse of Red Notice mechanisms by authoritarian states (such as Russia and Kazakhstan) in order to persecute political opponents worldwide ended up in strengthening supervision over the Commission for the Control of INTERPOL's Files and rights of political asylum keepers. **ODF's recommendations have become part of the process of the preparation of INTERPOL's internal reform.** ODF played an important role in initiating the work of **Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe's** Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights on the issue. The Committee is currently drafting a report on **"Abusive use of the Interpol system: the need for more stringent legal safeguards"**. ODF is consulted regularly on the issue and has participated twice as guest speaker in the official hearings organised by the Committee in the process of drafting of the report.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Interpol#Controversy>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Interpol#The_reform_of_Interpol_mechanisms

6. **Successful struggle to defend Nadiya Savchenko and other Kremlin's hostages** (N. Savchenko, Y. Yatsenko, Y. Soloshenko, G. Afansyev have already been released). Hiring independent legal counsels in Russia, organizing observatory missions to courts and prisons, producing reports on human and international rights violations, international advocacy campaign Let My People Go - calling for sanctions against Russian officials, **creation of the so-called Savchenko List**, cooperation with European MPs and MEPs); 37 persons still remain in prison:

<http://en.odfoundation.eu/ifmfiles/pdf/28hostages-eng-ccl-mf-web-final.pdf>

<http://en.odfoundation.eu/a/7594,report-37-hostages-of-the-kremlin-update>

<http://en.odfoundation.eu/savchenko-list>

7. **Successful struggle against politically motivated extradition cases of Kazakh and Russian oppositions members, civil society activists and independent journalists** in the years 2013-2016, prosecuted by Kazakhstan and Russia in the EU countries (linked, among others, to the cases of Yukos/Mikhail Khodorkovsky and BTA Bank/Mukhtar Ablyazov):

<http://www.rferl.org/content/kazakhstan-ketebaev-exiled-activist/25431090.html>

<http://www.radio.cz/en/section/in-focus/czech-detention-of-russian-citizen-fuels-campaign-for-reform-of-interpol> http://www.eldiario.es/desalambre/Supremo-reconoce-derecho-guardaespaldas-opositor_0_360464603.html

8. **Initiating and coordinating the international support for Ukrainian civil society and lawmakers in the field of post-Maidan lustration legislation** by providing expertise and advice from relevant experts and institutions in post-communist Central European countries ended up in the adoption of the lustration law in Ukraine and obtaining a positive evaluation of the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe:

<http://euromaidanpress.com/2014/12/12/open-dialogue-foundation-told-about-the-prospects-of-ukraines-lustration-law/> <http://www.euractiv.com/section/europe-s-east/news/ukraine-brings-its-lustration-controversy-to-brussels/>



9. **Blocking Mistral warships delivery by France to Russia** in Autumn 2014 by convincing the Polish Ministry of Defence to state that the French government would drastically reduce the chances of French companies to win military tenders in Poland:

<http://www.defensenews.com/story/defense/international/europe/2014/11/28/with-mistral-suspension-france-seeks-to-boost-ties-with-poland/19615895/>

<http://en.odfoundation.eu/a/5299,demonstration-at-the-ministry-of-national-defence>

10. **Releasing of Aleksandr Orlov**, Polish journalist dealing with corruption cases (involving **V. Yanukovich's allies; still prominent officials in Ukraine**) from prolonged pre-sentence detention (4 years) in Odessa in 2016:

http://www.polityka.pl/tygodnikpolityka/spoleczenstwo/1567747,1,_aleksander-orlow-zwolniony-z-aresztu-w-odessie-byl-najdluzej-przetrzymywanym-polakiem-za-granica.read

<http://en.odfoundation.eu/a/6788,the-case-of-aleksander-orlow>

Representatives of the Foundation follow and attend the most important sessions and meetings of the international organizations and institutions in Brussels/Strasbourg (European Parliament), Strasbourg (Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe), Vienna (Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Parliamentary Assembly) and Geneva (United Nations). They actively contribute to the public consultations launched by these organisations and proactively communicate with key stakeholders both on the level of international organisations mentioned above, as well as in a number of EU member states, i.a. France, UK, Italy, Poland, Spain, Czech Republic, Germany, Austria, Portugal, Belgium, Netherlands.