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[Press release](#) | 10.10.2017

## **Greens/EFA nominee Aura Lolita Chávez on shortlist**

### **Sakharov Prize**

The European Parliament's foreign affairs and development committees have today agreed on the shortlist for the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought for 2017. The three shortlisted candidates are: the Democratic Opposition in Venezuela, the Eritrean journalist Davit Isaak and Aura Lolita Chávez Ixcaquic, a Guatemalan environmental and human rights defender from the Maya Quiché people. Aura Lolita Chávez was nominated by the Greens/EFA group.

Commenting on the shortlist, Greens/EFA MEP and Vice-Chair of the Human Rights committee **Barbara Lochbihler** said:

*"We are delighted that Aura Lolita Chávez's outstanding and fearless work has been recognised by the European Parliament. She has been a powerful voice for the protection of women and indigenous rights against the threats posed by corporate interests. At a time when a horrifying number of environmental rights campaigners across the world have found themselves intimidated and even killed, this nomination sends an important message of support and solidarity."*

### **Background**

You can learn more about the work of Aura Lolita Chávez on our website: <https://www.greens-efa.eu/en/article/news/challenges-faced-by-environmental-rights-defenders-in-the-world/>

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## **Responsible MEPs**



Barbara Lochbihler

Member

## **Contact person**



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