

# Memorial International

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**In news-** Recently, **Russia's Supreme Court ordered the closure of Memorial International**, which is one of the country's most prominent and oldest human rights organizations.

## **About Memorial International-**

- It is a **non-commercial organization studying political repressions in the USSR and in present-day Russia** and promoting moral and legal rehabilitation of persons subjected to political repressions.
- It **was founded in 1992 in Moscow**.
- Its predecessor, Moscow initiative group Memorial, emerged in 1987 and gave rise to a number of regional organizations and groups.
  - **One of the founders of the memorial is the 1975 Nobel peace prize winner Andrei Sakharov**, father of the Soviet Hydrogen bomb, who later became an opponent of nuclear tests.
  - **Its purpose is the recording of the crimes against humanity committed in the Soviet Union, particularly during the Stalinist era.**
  - **Memorial's creation was a response to growing public awareness of historic abuses within the Soviet Union during the 1980s**, as well concern about contemporary human rights, especially in certain "hotspots" around the USSR.
  - **This took place within the context of *perestroika* (reconstruction) and *glasnost* (openness), policies pursued by president Mikhail Gorbachev** which led to increased government transparency and tolerance of civil society.
- **Aims and objectives of Memorial International are:**
  - Promoting development of civil society and democratic state with the rule of law excluding the possibility of

return to totalitarianism.

- Participating in forming public consciousness on the basis of values of democracy and law, overcoming totalitarian stereotypes and asserting the rights of individuals in political practice and social life.
- Participating in restoring historical truth and perpetuation of memory of victims of political repressions of totalitarian regimes.