

Elena Georgievna Bonner

Soviet paediatrician, dissident, and human rights activist

One day in the late 1980s, Elena Bonner and her second husband, Andrei Sakharov, were on their way home when they saw a truck crash into a car. A man got out carrying a girl who had blood pouring from her head. Bonner grabbed a first aid kit and ran through eight or ten lanes of traffic. She poured iodine on a cotton wad and pressed it against the girl's head. The child stopped crying. "All she has to do is put her hand on someone, and that person will calm down," her husband told a journalist.

Sakharov was a nuclear physicist who later led the human rights movement in the former Soviet Union, winning the Nobel peace prize in 1975. Bonner compared herself with the moon, reflecting his light. After his death in 1989 she became president of the international non-governmental organisation named after him.

Bonner met Sakharov in 1970, and they married in 1972. Their Moscow apartment soon became the headquarters of the Soviet dissident movement; there they met with political rebels, persecuted Christians, Ukrainian nationalists, Crimean Tatars fighting for their right to return from exile in Uzbekistan, Soviet Jews eager to emigrate to Israel, foreign journalists, and more.

Tough critic

Until her death, Bonner remained an unbending critic of the Russian and Western establishments. This chain smoking, grey haired, bespectacled woman was known for her fiery temper, which she described as "Armenian." She was sincere and passionate and saw things in black and white. In her last interview to a Russian opposition newspaper, she said, "I believe the Western establishment has betrayed the ideology of protecting human rights . . . Perhaps it's just human nature: the higher a person gets, the worse he becomes. . . ."

"The woman who currently presides over Amnesty International . . . could possibly even become UN secretary general, therefore, she will do everything that Putin says. Amnesty International has become shit . . . all the well-known human rights organisations are just formalities: the UN International League of Human Rights, Freedom House, Amnesty, and the others have all become the same officials with high salaries" (<http://en.novayagazeta.ru/society/46865.html>).

In 1974 Bonner created a foundation to help the children of political prisoners in the Soviet

Union and was one of the founders of Moscow Helsinki group, to improve relations between the Communist bloc and the West. Unlike Sakharov she was allowed to travel abroad, and in 1975 she went to Oslo to deliver her husband's Nobel prize speech.

Sakharov's public criticism of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan resulted in his exile to Gorky (now Nizhny Novgorod) in 1980. Bonner voluntarily followed and served as a link between Sakharov and the outside world until 1984, when she was sentenced to exile in Gorky for five years. Sakharov repeatedly went on hunger strike, as Bonner describes in her book *Alone Together*. In 1986 they were allowed to return to Moscow after a phone call from Mikhail Gorbachev initiating *perestroika*. They resumed political activity.

Elena Bonner was born Lusik Alikhanova in Merv (now Mary), Turkmenistan, into an Armenian-Jewish family. Her stepfather, Gevork Alikhanov, led the Communist Party of Armenia, and her mother, Ruth Bonner, a Siberian Jew, was also a Communist functionary. The family moved to Leningrad and then to Moscow. Under Stalin, Alikhanov was shot dead in 1938, and his wife was sent to a concentration camp. Lusik and her younger brother, Igor, were taken to Leningrad by a grandmother to avoid being sent to an orphanage. Aged 16, Lusik took her mother's family name and changed her first name to Elena because of her admiration for Elena Insarova, a heroine of the 19th century novel *Nakanune (On the Eve)* by Turgenev. Nevertheless, she was always addressed by her friends and relatives, including Sakharov, as Lusya.

In 1940 Bonner graduated from high school and entered the philological faculty at the Herzen Pedagogical Institute in Leningrad. When the war with Germany began in 1941 she was mobilised into the Red Army and was severely injured during an air raid. After her discharge she worked as a nurse. Bonner was demobilised

in 1945, at the rank of medical lieutenant.

In 1947 Bonner joined the paediatric faculty of the First Leningrad I P Pavlov Medical Institute (now the St Petersburg State I P Pavlov Medical University). In 1953 many high ranking (mostly Jewish) doctors were accused of killing their patients on the orders of US and UK intelligence agencies. As an active member of the Young Communists' League, Bonner was asked to demand capital punishment for one of the institute's professors at a rally. "You want to execute our professor? Have you gone mad?" she asked instead. She was excluded from the institute but returned as a student after Stalin's death.

After she graduated she worked in Leningrad as a district physician and as a neonatologist at a maternity hospital.



DOMINIQUE FAGET/AFP/GETTY

"I believe the Western establishment has betrayed the ideology of protecting human rights . . . Perhaps it's just human nature: the higher a person gets, the worse he becomes"

Party member, but not for long
In 1959 Bonner was sent to Iraq to conduct smallpox vaccination. She published papers in *Meditynsky Rabotnik*, formerly the official newspaper of the Soviet health ministry. Her essay that claimed a mother's right to stay in hospital with her child provoked huge response, but it took almost half a century for this to be included in a new federal law. In 1965 Bonner divorced her first husband, Dr Ivan Semenov, and moved with her two children to Moscow. The same year she joined the Communist Party. Disillusioned by the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968 she officially severed herself from the party in 1972. Later Bonner called her membership "the biggest mistake of my life."

Predeceased by her husbands, Bonner leaves two children from her first marriage.

Boleslav Lichterman
Elena Georgievna Bonner, paediatrician (b 1923; q First Leningrad I P Pavlov Medical Institute, 1953), died from heart failure on 18 June 2011.

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Elizabeth Jocelyn Clements



General practitioner Silsden (b 1957; q Birmingham 1980; MMedSc, DCH, DRCOG, FRCGP), died from a glioblastoma on 6 July 2011. Elizabeth Jocelyn Clements ("Liz") completed her general practitioner training in Birmingham and moved to Cardiff before becoming a partner in Silsden in 1995. She developed her consultation skills and particular interest in palliative care, patient participation, and self efficacy. She became a GP appraiser, trainer, training programme director, and clinical skills assessment (CSA) examiner. She helped many with her empathy, compassion, and encouragement as she was consistently selfless, positive, and fun to work with. Liz's inoperable tumour was diagnosed only in March. She received her fellowship in recognition of her contributions. Liz leaves her husband, David, and three children.

David Clements

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Helen Margaret Connell

Former child psychiatrist Queensland, Australia (b 1922; q Royal Free Hospital, London, 1945; AM, BSc, DPM, FRANZCP), died from congestive heart failure on 28 December 2010. Helen Margaret Connell won a place at both the Slade School of Art and the Royal Free. In 1957 she emigrated with her husband and family to Australia. She became senior lecturer and then associate professor in child psychiatry at the University of Queensland before being appointed director of postgraduate studies in child and adolescent psychiatry. She published many articles and a textbook, *Essentials of Child Psychiatry*; helped to establish child psychiatry as a speciality in Queensland; and was appointed to the Family Law Council in 1983. She

worked with the Royal Flying Doctor Service till long after her retirement in 1995. Predeceased by her husband, Norman, in 2008, she leaves three children and six grandchildren.

Erika Hammond

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Michael John Thomson Dalton



Former general practitioner Stoke Newington (b 1941; q Royal Free Hospital, 1964), died from a thoracic aortic aneurysm on 7 June 2011. Michael John Thomson Dalton was the son of Dr Katharina Dalton (née Thompson) and Wilfred Thomson. His father was killed in action, and his mother remarried Thomas Dalton, who adopted Michael. He attended Highgate School and joined his mother's general practice after qualifying. In 1969 he joined a practice in Stoke Newington, staying for the next 30 years. On retirement he renovated a chateau in northern France, spending his time between France and Palmers Green, working as a GP locum. He was interested in research, initially into premenstrual syndrome and later into multiple sclerosis. He married Praveena Charitra in 1968. He leaves his wife, one daughter, and two grandchildren.

Michael Dalton

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Leslie Melvin Green

Former general practitioner Bayswater, London (b 1924; q Middlesex Hospital Medical School 1946), died from non small cell lung cancer and end stage renal failure on dialysis on 27 October 2010. Leslie Melvin Green joined his father in general practice in Bayswater in 1951 and vividly remembered the patients queuing to enrol in the new NHS, and his relief at not having to restrict services on the basis of patients' ability to pay. He led a practice with

great camaraderie and a sense of fun, and he gave patients the time that they needed. His family remember a loving husband, father and grandfather who was always interested in their school, work and lives. He is survived by his wife, Avril Mynheer, three children, and a grandchild.

Susan Wilson

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Reginald Seymour Lawrie



Former consultant surgeon Guy's Hospital, London (b 1917; q Middlesex Hospital, London, 1939; FRCS, MS, MRCP, MD), d 15 January 2011. Reginald Seymour Lawrie ("Rex") had a profound and lasting influence on the many surgeons he trained. A general surgeon, he also pioneered paediatric surgery and cowrote the *Textbook of Surgery*. His skill, intellect, and breadth of knowledge were combined with exceptional humour and humanity. Rex qualified with distinction and was one of only a few surgeons to also obtain the FRCP and MD. After distinguished war service in the Royal Army Medical Corps in a small pioneering maxillofacial unit in North Africa and Italy, he was consultant surgeon at Guy's Hospital from 1948 to 1977. He subsequently established a new hospital and medical school in Brunei. Predeceased by his wife, Jean, in 2009, he leaves four children and 11 grandchildren.

Richard Spicer

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Peter Mackenzie

Scotland's first lead clinician for pain (b 1963; q Glasgow University 1985), died from cancer on 11 July 2011. Peter Mackenzie initially trained in general practice but subsequently changed to anaesthesia. He developed an interest in pain medicine, undertaking a fellowship in Adelaide before obtaining a



consultant post. He helped set up a spinal cord stimulation service and established formal pain training in the west of Scotland. He became the first regional adviser for pain in Scotland and was also offered the post of lead regional adviser for pain training in the UK. He became president of the North British Pain Association and was appointed as Scotland's first lead clinician for pain. He is survived by his wife and three children.

Lars Williams, Mike Basler, Kenny McKinlay

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Judah Leon Morris



Former consultant neuroradiologist London Hospital, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, USA (b 1925 Johannesburg SA; q Witwatersrand 1947; FRCP, FRCP), died after treatment for metastatic melanoma on 25 January 2011. Judah Leon Morris qualified in South Africa. He moved to London in 1957 and took up consultant practice in Woolwich and then at The London Hospital to concentrate on neuroradiology. He pioneered and published his experiences of complex invasive techniques and was sought after as a teacher, mentor, and visiting professor throughout his career. In the mid 1970s he moved to Charlottesville, Virginia, as professor of radiology. After retiring in 1993, Leon returned to England. He leaves Valerie, his wife of 60 years, four children, and 12 grandchildren. **Doug Skehan, Marcelle Skehan**
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