

# The Nobel Peace Prize

## Watch

Lay down your arms

[nobelwill.org](http://nobelwill.org)<sup>1</sup>

Gothenburg/Oslo, Oct. 12, 2015

The Norwegian Nobel Committee,

Oslo

### **Norwegian Nobel Committee apologia**

In an 18-page letter directed to the Nobel Peace Prize Watch and published today on the Norwegian Nobel Committee website, the peace prize custodians claim their award policy to be defensible and prizes within the will of Alfred Nobel. Our peace prize watch group had to wait for 8 months for the reply and it only came after we recently took initial legal steps in a lawsuit against the Oslo committee's principal, the Nobel Foundation in Stockholm. Our only goal is to ensure that the Foundation in Stockholm complies with the March 2012 advice and demands of the Swedish Foundations Authority, commits to supervising its Norwegian subsidiary, and refuses to pay out prizes that are not within the testament of Alfred Nobel. The lawsuit by Mairead Maguire, Jan Oberg, David Swanson, and NPPW, followed when we did not get a satisfactory confirmation that the Foundation will protect the ideas of Nobel.

In 2012 the Nobel Foundation gave a solemn promise to the authorities to control the peace prize selections, but, regrettably, we have neither in Oslo nor Stockholm seen signs of a serious will to ensure that all prizes respect the purpose laid down in Nobel's will.

We regret the Norwegian committee's response. For decades it had, indisputably, forgotten the will entirely, and now they claim to always have followed it. After confirming the obvious, that the intention of Nobel must be respected and the will read on the basis of the ideas and language at the time it was written, the committee then uses the rest of the 18 pages to argue that Nobel had no specific intention. In our view the committee has produced a shabby defense where line by line, the committee only manages to show itself as an opponent of Nobel and the visionary peace idea that they have a legal obligation to promote.

The Nobel Peace Prize Watch had warned its lawyers to be prepared for attempts to derail

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and confuse the central legal issue – what Nobel really wanted – but the letter is worse than we could imagine. The committee’s letter does not even mention the pivotal word in the will; that Nobel called the recipients “the champions of peace.” The three other expressions in the will only serve to confirm that the prize was intended for Bertha von Suttner and her political ideas. The NPPW in its Feb. 20 letter expressly said the prize was for the peace movement “and others.” Since the NPPW did not claim the prize exclusively for the “peace movement” the committee’s discussion of the peace movement is irrelevant. If you peel away the pages addressing this position that we never held there is not much left of the defense letter. Your letter even attempts to claim that the purpose is not antimilitarist - despite explicit language in the will on “disarmament.” We also have shown unmistakable evidence that Nobel when he wrote his will wished to “end armaments and other remnants from Medieval times.”

The NPPW notes that the committee once again shows neither the least interest in the innovative vision of Nobel of how to achieve global peace nor in the NPPW short list of qualified candidates for 2015, posted at <http://www.nobelwill.org/index.html?tab=7#list>.

It is our hope that the letter now published by the Norwegian committee will not mislead the members of the board in Stockholm into believing they have a strong case. The need for a demilitarization of international affairs is greater than ever and we are sorry to see the Nobel custodians misusing their resources to fight the ideas that Nobel expected them to support.

#### THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WATCH

Fredrik S. Heffermehl

Tomas Magnusson

cc/ The Stortinget, the Parliament of Norway, by the presidency, Oslo

cc/ The Nobel Foundation, Stockholm

cc/ Advokat Kenneth Lewis, Advokatbyrå Kenneth Lewis

cc/ Länsstyrelsen i Stockholm

cc/ Torgny Håstad, ordförande i Nobelfullmäktige, Stockholm