From its very beginning in 1892 Alfred Nobel supported IPB’s work for general disarmament. Thanks to IPB Vice president Bertha von Suttner he also included the work for peace in his wills. A formidable lump sum to her Austrian Society of Friends of Peace in the 1893 will was, in the final will in 1895, transformed into a “prize for the champions of peace”.

This expression—“prize for the champions of peace”—is the key to understanding the purpose. Nobel’s intention was to support Suttner, IPB, and the movement for peace through cooperation on a disarmed “brotherhood of nations”, as promoted by the peace congresses. Nobel’s letters to Suttner leave no doubt that this was his specific intention and the—for eternity—legally binding, purpose of the prize.

Even if today we know a lot more about the work and the ways to peace, Nobel’s prize, is still far ahead of the times. With its antimilitarist purpose it hits the war system at its roots. If it does not work and cannot work, don’t mend it—scrap it! To keep the Norwegian awarders to the original purpose we have established the Lay Down Your Arms Association and its Nobel Peace Prize Watch campaign. To be concrete: Should the 2014 prize have gone to Malala demanding education for girls, or to the antiwar Malala advising Obama to drop drone warfare? The committee lost a great chance to honor Nobel’s idea and mobilize youth for peace and disarmament.

NPPW has achieved major results:

Thanks to the NPPW:

- The Swedish Foundations authority has prescribed that the awarders must respect the purpose of Nobel,
- The Nobel Foundation has promised to Swedish authorities to instruct, supervise and control its Oslo subcommittee for the peace prize
- Mairead Maguire, David Swanson, NPPW, and Jan Oberg, have gone to court in Sweden to test the legality of the 2012 peace prize to the EU
- NPPW has compiled, published and submitted to the Nobel Committee a list of all properly nominated and qualified candidates we have been able to identify. One in the NPPW shortlist (nobelwill.org, tag: Candidates 2016) will win if Nobel’s intention be respected in 2016.

Time is ripe for IPB to support Nobel and the NPPW campaign to reclaim Nobel’s peace prize!

More on NPPW: nobelwill.org
Our email: mail@nobelwill.org

Why did Alfred Nobel support IPB?

(Alfred Nobel in letter 18.3. 1896 to Bertha von Suttner, one of several transfers of money for her and IPB).
FUNDING FOR DISARMAMENT— WHAT STRATEGY TO PREFER?

The profit-driven military-industrial complex having daunting political power, opponents face a difficult choice of strategy. «General and complete disarmament» is a recognized official goal (NTP Art. 6), but officials no longer like to discuss it. Must one, to be heard at all, muffle criticism? Must one—should one—concede the military’s utility and right to exist?

The general public, on the other hand, may be able to see how much armaments endanger our welfare, security and survival and wish to support the alternative, full disarmament—a position easy to communicate and understand—all the compromise positions do not generate much hope, enthusiasm and popular support. Has the peace movement lost sight of its original ambition?

IPB got much support when, in 2012, it protested against the Peace Prize for the European Union, a clear violation of Nobel’s will. Since then also IPB has chosen to be silent.

The Nobel Peace Prize Watch

The NPPW was formed by former IPB president Tomas Magnusson and Fredrik S. Heffermehl, see more at the NPPW website, www.nobelwill.org.

The NPPW’s work to resuscitate the peace prize Nobel had in mind is based on thorough documentation in «The Nobel Peace Prize. What Nobel Really Wanted». Written by Norwegian lawyer and former IPB Vice President Fredrik S. Heffermehl, the book is the first legal study of the true purpose of the Nobel Peace Prize (published in Chinese, Finnish, English, Spanish, and Swedish—buy at nobelwill.org (tag: Resources).

The last things official Norway wishes to discuss is Nobel’s model for peace and the legal obligation to respect his will and intention.

To read more on the NPPW, our work, our results, our appeal and our materials, see the NPPW website—nobelwill.org

The 2016 Nobel Peace Prize:

Will the Nobel award for 2016 (to be announced Oct. 7) again be addressing climate, democracy, poverty, child labor, women’s political participation etc. etc.?

Or will it—respecting Nobel and the law—go to the antimilitarist peace work of Medea Benjamin, Kathryn Bolkovac, Dan Ellsberg, Richard Falk, Johan Galtung, Nihon Hidankyo, IALANA, ICAN, Rebecca Johnson, Kathy Kelly, David Krieger, Federico Mayor, PNND, Arundhati Roy, Edward Snowden, David Swanson, Alyn Ware, or Peter Weiss… or WILPF? The Nobel awarders wish full secrecy, we don’t. You can read the valid nominations in full, on nobelwill.org (tag: Candidates 2016).

The Lay Down Your Arms Association needs your support to succeed, make a financial contribution to our Swedish account: SWIFT/ BIC: HANDSESS, IBAN: SE0760 000 000 000 864 653 468 (ten zeros in the middle) or by PayPal to: payments@nobelwill.org. Discuss and spread our information, read up and sign our appeal.

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