

The Nobel Peace Prize

Watch

Lay down your arms

nobelwill.org¹

Oslo/Göteborg, Feb. 2, 2016

The Norwegian Nobel Committee

Dear Kaci Kullmann Five, Thorbjørn Jagland, Berit Reiss-Andersen, Henrik Syse, Inger-Marie Ytterhorn, members of the committee

QUALIFIED CANDIDATES - THE 2016 NOBEL FOR THE CHAMPIONS OF PEACE

The Nobel Peace Prize Watch has the pleasure of submitting to you our short list of candidates actually qualified for the 2016 Nobel “prize for the champions of peace.” The list is based on an analysis of the purpose Nobel actually had in mind and on actual nominations, published below, not mere speculations. The list has been prepared as part of the NPPW’s continuing effort to realize the specific peace idea Nobel had in mind, by 1) assisting the peace prize awarders and the nominators, 2) informing the general public, 3) encouraging all concerned to see and home in on the peace plan Nobel referred to in his will. Please find our list of qualified candidates here: <http://nobelwill.org/index.html?tab=7>

Many were happy to note how Kaci K. Five, the Committee chair, opening the award ceremony last December, expressed a renewed interest in Nobel’s actual intention. Stating Nobel’s purpose at the outset conforms to a basic method to secure the quality of decisions governed by law. The Chair’s *Nobel speech* has not come so close to confirming Nobel’s actual idea of peace through global cooperation on disarmament since the speech for Mikhail Gorbachev in 1990.

Ours is a short list, but we think that few others nominated for 2016 qualify, at most a handful. Keeping within this list the Oslo committee will avoid the embarrassing situation that it will entail liability for the Nobel Foundation Board in Stockholm to pay the prize to the winner, cfr. the demands expressed by the Swedish Foundations Authority in a decision of March 2012.

Our list is based on actual nominations. Even if it is against the rules, we hope you will bear with us for having found it necessary to publish the full nominations. In our view the secrecy around nominations dates from a pre-democratic era and it is counterproductive. By

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publishing the full nominations we hope Nobel's "champions of peace" will get the public attention and visibility that Nobel wished to secure for their work.

We welcome you, and the world, to the peace world of the visionary Alfred Nobel!

Sincerely yours,

Fredrik S. Heffermehl

Tomas Magnusson

THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WATCH GUIDELINES

for screening nominations qualified to win the Nobel "prize for the champions of peace":

While others, the committee, parliamentarians, peace researchers, even peace people base their views on a VERY wide understanding of «peace» (= they use the prize as they like) the NPPW list is based on studies of what counts under the law, what Nobel actually wanted.

The best, most direct, access to Nobel's own understanding of the "champions of peace" he described in his will lies in his correspondence with Bertha von Suttner, the leading peace protagonist of the period. The letters deal with breaking the arms race-driving logic of the old saying: "If you wish peace, prepare for war" and how to make countries agree on this.

Thus the purpose of Nobel - to liberate all nations from weapons, warriors and wars – has been decisive in our screening. The prize is primarily meant to prevent wars, not resolve old conflicts. It is not a prize for good deeds, but for a basic reform of international relations.

Candidates that work for global co-operation on international law and disarmament directly are the primary winners – but **also important work that indirectly serves to illustrate the imperative need for international demilitarization** should be considered. But to deserve the Nobel prize activities should point beyond resolution of local situations.

At the time of Nobel many statesmen listened to the voices for peace and disarmament, today very few officials and politicians hold the peace view that Nobel wished to support. In our view the prize must keep up with the times and in today's world belongs mainly to the grassroots, civil society, that contest the official culture of violence, not to leaders who just respond to political processes as they are supposed to in a democracy.

"I like to believe that people, in the long run, are going to do more to promote peace than our governments. Indeed, I think that people want peace so much that one of these days governments had better get out of the way and let them have it." US President Dwight D. Eisenhower 1959

Alfred Nobel would have liked to see his committee think along the same lines.

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