

# The Nobel Peace Prize

## Watch

### Lay down your arms

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

Gothenburg/Oslo, Nov. 2, 2017

The Storting Elections Committee, chair Olemic Thommessen

Members, of the Storting Elections Committee, Oslo

**The Nobel Committee: Criteria for being eligible. Proposals for suitable persons.**

Nobel Peace Prize Watch refers to its letter October 23, 2017 (see [nobelwill.org](http://nobelwill.org)) to the Storting and the Elections Committee about Parliament under Swedish law having the full and ultimate responsibility and authority, also for the peace prizes. What does this imply in practical terms?

In its decision in March 2012, the Swedish Foundation Authority expected clear guidelines to ensure stable compliance over time with *Nobel's* purpose. The prize should promote "creation of the brotherhood of nations," a co-operation to free the peoples of the world's from weapons, warriors and war, and thus protect our common prosperity and security.

Since its task is to select a Nobel Committee of the best suited to promote Nobel's idea, the legal responsibility of the Storting is to appoint the best in accordance with a correct understanding of Nobel's purpose. This was confirmed in a separate statement from 19 professors of law in our letter of October 23. The interpretation of the purpose is thoroughly documented in the books by Heffermehl on the peace prize. The official Norwegian military- and security policies are in our view the direct opposite of the peace thinking Nobel wished to promote, to build law and remove arms. This will exclude next to all in Norwegian politics and in official circles dealing with international issues, including peace research.

We wish to mention four Norwegians whom we presume stand for Nobel's alternative to militarism and armaments: Thomas Hylland Eriksen, Jostein Gaarder, Margrethe Tingstad, Arne Johan Vetlesen. It may be timely to have members from Sweden, such as: Lena Ag, K. G. Hammar, Maj-Britt Theorin, Jan Oberg. Outside Scandinavia we wish to mention: Ray Acheson, Canada; Mairead Maguire, Northern Ireland; Federico Mayor, Spain; Madeleine Rees, South Africa; Scilla Elworthy, and Bruce Kent, UK; Peter Becker, Germany; Richard Falk, Chris Hedges, and David Swanson, USA. All are well suited, NPPW has highlighted five.

With regards

---

Address: [mail@nobelwill.org](mailto:mail@nobelwill.org), Nobel Peace Prize Watch, c/o Magnusson, Marklandsgatan 63, 414 77 Göteborg, Sverige.

*(+ an oped printed in Aftenposten Nov. 2, 2017, NOT included with the letter to Parliament)*

## *Norway's parliament must comply with Swedish law*

*The five Nobel prizes are being conferred by the Nobel Foundation. Swedish law applies. The full authority and full responsibility lies in Stockholm, also for the peace prize. When the newly elected Norwegian Parliament in a month shall appoint three members to the Nobel Committee it must take the consequences of recent legal clarifications; by the decisions of the Swedish authorities in 2012 and in 2015 the Nobel Foundation gave up an appeal to the Swedish government. Following these decisions, the routine for the election of the Nobel Committee is no longer viable. Board members in Stockholm risk personal financial liability if they pay prizes that do not match Nobel's intention. Further details on all of this are available on the Nobel Peace Prize Watch website, [nobelwill.org](http://nobelwill.org).*

*My struggle to restore the Nobel Peace Prize, having begun with an article in Aftenposten 14.8 2007, has now passed its tenth anniversary. From the very beginning I asked the Nobel Committee set their places at your disposal and open to the choice of a committee who voted with the Nobel Prize purpose - which is not a boundless peace concept, but an idea of how to prevent war. Nobel's method is the opposite of what is being followed in Norwegian security policy. The prize should support efforts to establish the "fraternity of nations" - a global cooperation on disarmament would free us from the deadly model that - at astronomical costs - carries humankind toward death and destruction. Normally, a policy must win in open debates - here it enjoys legal protection. The role of Norwegian politicians here is not to develop policies. They are them, but they have a legal obligation to prevent peace prizes selections that result in personal liability for the Foundation's Board members.*

*In 1896 Left brought the Peace Prize to Norway; in 1948 Labor destroyed it. At the time Right (Conservatives) protested full throttle*

*against delegating the choice of committee members to the party groups. The party feared this would harm and change the prize. The Right was right, Nobel's idea has been forgotten. This cannot continue.*

*Fredrik S. Heffermehl, lawyer, author, editor of [nobelwill.org](http://nobelwill.org)*