



ORFALEA CENTER  
FOR GLOBAL & INTERNATIONAL STUDIES  
UNIVERSITY of CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA

1 February 2016

To the Norwegian Nobel Committee:

I am writing in support of the nomination of Johan Galtung as candidate for the 2016 Nobel Peace Prize. I write as a professor of international law who taught at Princeton University for 40 years before retiring there in 2001, and since then have been associated with the Global Studies Program at the University of California on its Santa Barbara campus. I have known Johan Galtung for more than 40 years, and followed his work intimately.

Johan Galtung has been the sort of dedicated warrior for peace that it seems to me the Nobel Prize was created to honor and by so doing raise public consciousness of what must happen if we are to overcome the war system and enjoy the material, political, and spiritual benefits of living in a world of peace premised on the nonviolent resolution of disputes among sovereign states and respect for the authority of international law.

For decades Johan Galtung has been an inspirational presence in the field of peace studies broadly conceived. His exceptional vitality and mobility has brought this message of understanding and insight into peace with justice to the four corners of the planet in a remarkable fashion that is truly unique in its educational and activist impact. It is no exaggeration to write that he invented and established the field of peace studies as a respected subject of study in institutions of higher learning throughout the world. As a consequence of his charismatic speaking ability and seminal writing Johan Galtung has reached the hearts and minds of thousands of people throughout the world, conveying the belief above all that peace is possible through the dedicated efforts of ordinary people if they are work to change the political climate sufficiently to educate and exert pressure on the political leaders of the world as well as on global media.

With all due respect, the time is long overdue to honor those who through thought and deed have brought Alfred Nobel's vision to life for students and activists of all civilizational backgrounds. It is only by creating this global peace consciousness at the grassroots level that we can have any realistic hope of overcoming the entrenched militarism that remains so dominant in governmental bureaucracies throughout the world. Giving Johan Galtung the kind of platform that the Nobel Prize affords would itself be an enormous contribution to the realization of a peaceful world, and the fact the he is a Norwegian son would have a special resonance in the country and beyond.



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It is with conviction and my own commitment to the ideals of the Nobel Prize that I encourage the Committee to give the utmost attention to the nomination of Johan Galtung.

Sincerely,

Richard Falk, Albert G. Milbank Professor of International Law Emeritus, Princeton University  
Faculty Fellow and Research Professor, Orfalea Center, UCSB