

Norwegian Nobel Committee,  
The Norwegian Nobel Institute  
NO-0255 Oslo, Norway

12 Sept 2018

Dear Members of the Norwegian Nobel Committee,

9 December 2018 will mark the 20th anniversary of the UN's Declaration on Human Rights Defenders (HRDs)<sup>1</sup>. It is an ideal and opportune moment to recognise and celebrate the efforts of these extraordinary individuals who despite threats of violence and unlawful imprisonment, harassment, intimidation, torture and assassination, continue to peacefully challenge injustice and call for the implementation and strengthening of the rule of law. Since 1998, over 3000 human rights defenders have been killed for defending the fundamental values enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the UN.

In recognising the increasingly hostile environments globally, in which human rights defenders must work, the late Former Secretary-General to the United Nations, Kofi Annan, recently said:

*"To stand up for human rights requires courage, perseverance, vigilance and a strong foundation of knowledge and evidence. We need to be vigilant in the protection of human rights defenders, for when the defenders' rights are violated, all our rights are injured."*<sup>2</sup>

In the same vein and emphasising the critical role that human rights defenders play in promoting and fostering stable democracies and sustainable peace, Permanent Representative of Norway to the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Ambassador Steffen Kongstad said:

*"Threats and attacks against human rights defenders may hamper the realisation of economic, social and cultural rights, undermining social cohesion, and ultimately stability and development."*<sup>3</sup>

Despite this recognition and respect at the highest levels of the international community, human rights defenders are killed every day. HRDs who suffer disproportionately are those activists working at grassroots and community levels, in isolated regions and from marginalised populations, who lack networks and resources to command international attention. Human

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<sup>1</sup> Also known as the UN Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups, and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognised Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, adopted by consensus by all states at the UN General Assembly on 9 December 1998, the eve of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights.

<sup>2</sup> Kofi Annan's address to the Bonavero Institute of Human Rights at Oxford University in 2017.

<sup>3</sup> Steffen Kongstad made this statement during an interactive dialogue with the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders, Michel Forst during the first week of the 31<sup>st</sup> session of the UN Human Rights Council.

rights defenders can be community leaders, lawyers, journalists, environmental activists, victims of abuse, trade unionists and teachers.

It is for these urgent reasons that Peace Brigades International with the support of the UK All-Party Parliamentary Human Rights Group has nominated the global community of HRDs for the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize. It is the highest humanitarian achievement through which to recognise HRDs and celebrate their commitment to advocating for and building societies that are peaceful, safe, inclusive, tolerant, just and sustainable for all. The nomination is currently supported by the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of HRDs and some governments, diplomats and parliamentarians around the world.

We believe that awarding the Nobel Peace Prize to the global community of HRDs will mark a milestone in legitimising the crucial work they undertake to protect humanity and bring the trends of persecution they suffer to the public eye.

Furthermore, this collective award would mark a world first. By nominating a community rather than individuals or organisations, we emphasise that the trends making the defence of human rights ever more risky and ever more admirable, are global. We seek to highlight that the community itself is integral to the defence of human rights and it is the idea of community that motivates people to take enormous risks defending the rights of others and advancing peace.

Signed:

1. ABColombia
2. ABCPAZ
3. Acceso a la Justicia
4. Access Now
5. Acuerdo de Mujeres
6. Adivasi-Koordination
7. Advocacy Forum (Nepal)
8. Albergue de Migrantes Hermanos en el Camino A.C.
9. Aliansi Demokrasi untuk Papua (AIDP)
10. Alianza Sierra Madre A.C.
11. Alliance des Avocats pour les Droits de L'Homme
12. All-Party Parliamentary Human Rights Group
13. Aluna Acompañamiento Psicosocial A.C. (México)
14. Amazon Watch
15. American Jewish World Service
16. Amigos
17. Amnesty International
18. Appleton Foundation
19. Artículo 19
20. ask! - ArbeitsgruppeSchweiz-Kolumbien
21. Asociación Calidad de Vida
22. Asociación Colectivo Violeta
23. Asociación de Familiares de Detenidos Desaparecidos y Víctimas de Violaciones a los Derechos Humanos en México (AFADEM)
24. Asociación Mujeres Palante
25. Asociación para una vida mejor (Apuvimeh) Honduras
26. Asociación Talita Cumi
27. Asociación Taller Abierto
28. ASPRODER

29. Association for Human Rights in Ethiopia (AHRE)
30. Association Tunisie Terre des Hommes
31. Ayuntamiento de Donostia/San Sebastián
32. Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales
33. Bindmans LLP Law Firm
34. Brot für alle CH
35. Brot für die Welt
36. Bulungan Pioneer Foundation
37. Business & Human Rights Resource Centre
38. CAFOD
39. Casa del Migrante de Saltillo
40. Caucasus Civil Initiatives (CCIC)
41. Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)
42. Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL)
43. Centre for Applied Human Rights, University of York
44. Centre for Human Rights and Development
45. Centro de Derechos Humanos de la Montaña "Tlachinollan"
46. Centro de Documentación en Derechos Humanos "Segundo Montes Mozo S.J."
47. Centro Diocesano para los Derechos Humanos Fray Juan de Larios
48. Centro Mexicano de Derecho Ambiental A.C.
49. Centro Nacional de Comunicación Social A.C.
50. CFD the Feminist Peace Organisation
51. Chairperson Oil Workers' Rights Protection Organization Public Union
52. Christian Aid Ireland
53. CIVICUS
54. Civil Rights Defenders
55. CMDPDH
56. Colectivo ANSUR
57. Colectivo Contra la Tortura y la Impunidad A.C.
58. Colectivo de Abogados Dike
59. Colectivo de Abogados José Alvear Restrepo
60. Colombia Libre
61. Colombian Caravana UK Lawyers Group
62. Comhlámh
63. Comisión de Solidaridad y Defensa de los Derechos Humanos A.C.
64. Comision Intereclesial de Justicia y Paz
65. Comision Nacional de los Derechos Humanos Cndh-Rd
66. Comité Cerezo México
67. Comité de Defensa Integral de Derechos Humanos Gobixha A.C.
68. Comité Permanente por la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos
69. Community Resource Centre
70. Comunidad Martín Carrera
71. Conciencia Ciudadana A.C.
72. Congreso de los Pueblos, Colombia
73. Consorcio para el Diálogo Parlamentario y la Equidad Oaxaca A.C.
74. CORDICOM
75. CORE Coalition
76. Corporación Andares Ida y Vuelta
77. Corporación Espacios de Mujer
78. Corporación Foro Ciudadano
79. Corporación Kes Kiwe
80. Defend Defenders (East & Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project)
81. Deighton Pierce Glynn (Law Firm)
82. Diakonia

83. Docip
84. Earth Rights International
85. Ecos de Colombia - Migración y Refugio
86. Educación para la paz, A.C.
87. ELAS - Fondo de Inversión Social
88. Election Monitoring and Democracy Studies Center
89. ELSAM (Institute for Policy Research and Advocacy)
90. Environmental Network for Central America (ENCA)
91. Epikeia Observatorio Universitario de Derechos Humanos
92. European Bars Federation
93. Faculty of Advocates Human Rights and Rule of Law Committee
94. Familia Pasta de Conchos
95. Feminist Self-care Collective - Brazil
96. FIAN International
97. Finca minga La Constanza
98. Fondo Alquimia
99. Fondo Centroamericano de Mujeres
100. Fondo de Acción Urgente para América Latina y el Caribe
101. Fondo de Mujeres Bolivia Apathi Jopueti
102. Fondo Lunaria Mujer - Colombia
103. Founders of the "Academics under Threat" Network
104. Frauen für den Frieden Schweiz
105. Friends of the Earth United States
106. Front Line Defenders
107. Fuerzas Unidas por Nuestros Desaparecidos en Coahuila
108. Fuerzas Unidas por Nuestros Desaparecidos en México
109. Fund for Global Human Rights
110. Fundación Acceso
111. Fundación Aguaclara
112. Fundación Moisés Bertoni
113. Fundación Pro Defensa del Derecho a la Educación y la Niñez
114. Funders' Initiative for Civil Society
115. Global Fund For Human Rights Defenders, Freedom House
116. Global Fund for Women
117. Global Greengrants Fund
118. Global Witness
119. Grupo belga 'Solidair met Guatemala'
120. Grupo de Pensamiento Afrodescendiente (GPA)
121. Grupo Ecuaménico de Mujeres Constructoras de Paz
122. Grupo Sociedad Civil
123. Honduras Forum Switzerland
124. HRM Bir Duino
125. Humanistas por la Renta Básica Universal e Incondicional
126. Humanrights.ch
127. Human Rights Committee of the Law Society of England and Wales
128. ICCO - COOPERATION
129. IDHEAS, Litigio Estratégico en Derechos Humanos AC
130. IFOR-MIR Switzerland
131. INAH Mexico
132. Indonesia Legal Aid Foundation (YLBHI)
133. Iniciativa Mesoamericana de Defensores de Derechos Humanos
134. Iniciativas de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (ICID)
135. Iniciativas para el Desarrollo de la Mujer Oaxaqueña
136. InspirAction

137. Instituto Mexicano de Derechos Humanos y Democracia A.C.
138. Inter Pares (Canada)
139. International Accountability Project
140. International film festival and forum on Human Rights (FIFDH)
141. International Labor Rights Forum
142. International Service for Human Rights (ISHR)
143. Irish Council for Civil Liberties
144. Iván Castro Chadid Profesor Titular Universidad Javeriana
145. Jamaa Resource Initiatives
146. JASS - Just Associates
147. Karapatan
148. Kenoli Foundation
149. Kolectivo Antimilitarista de Medellín
150. Lambi Fund Of Haiti
151. Latin America Bureau
152. Latin America Working Group (LAWG)
153. Latino Life Media
154. Leigh Day
155. Lesbenorganisation Schweiz LOS
156. LGBT Centre (Mongolia)
157. Link-AR Borneo
158. LP3BH Manokwari, the Institute for Research, Investigation and the Development of Legal Aid
159. Lush
160. Mathare Social Justice Centre
161. Mesa de Derechos Humanos Oriente Ant.
162. MISEREOR
163. Mississippi Workers' Center for Human Rights
164. Movimiento Social Discapacidad Colombia MOSODIC
165. Narasha Community Development Group
166. National Coalition of Human Rights Defenders (Kenya)
167. Novaokupa Red PIDHDD Argentina
168. Nürnberger Menschenrechtszentrum.V.
169. Observatoire d'Etudes et d'Appui à la Responsabilité Sociale et Environnementale (OEARSE )
170. Observatorio de Derechos Humanos de la Universidad de Los Andes
171. Observatorio San Calixto
172. Odhikar
173. Oficina EcuMénica por la Paz y la Justicia / Ökumenisches Büro für Frieden und
174. OMCT - World Organisation Against Torture
175. OMI - Västerås Suecia
176. Organización de Colombianos Refugiados en Chile OCORCH
177. Organización Fraternal Negra Hondureña, OFRANEH
178. Oxfam
179. OyuTolgoi Watch
180. Pan African Human Rights Defenders Network
181. Peace Brigades International
182. Peace Watch Switzerland
183. Perifèries del Món
184. Plataforma Internacional contra la Impunidad
185. Prisoners of Conscience Appeal Fund
186. Project on Organizing, Development, Education and Research (PODER)
187. Promoción Educación y Defensa en DDHH, PROMEDEHUM
188. Protection International

189. Protection International Mesoamérica
190. Psychological Responsiveness NGO
191. Red de Género y Medio Ambiente
192. Red de Huertos Urbanos Comunitarios de Madrid
193. Red de Víctimas Colombianas por la Paz en Latinoamérica y el Caribe -REVICPAZ-
194. Red europea de Comités Oscar Romero
195. Red Popular de Derechos Humanos Bogotá REDHUS
196. Revicpaz-Lac
197. Rivers without Boundaries Coalition (Mongolia)
198. Santa Fe Humana
199. Servicio Internacional para la Paz (SIPAZ)
200. Servicios para una Educación Alternativa EDUCA Oaxaca A.C.
201. Servicios y Asesoría para la Paz (Serapaz)
202. Simmons & Simmons
203. Sociedad Hominis Iura (SOHI)
204. Society for Threatened Peoples (Germany)
205. Sri Lanka Advocacy
206. SweFOR
207. Swiss Peace Council, Zurich
208. Swiss Working Group on Colombia/Arbeitsgruppe Schweiz Kolumbien
209. Tamera - International Peace Research Center
210. Tania González Peñas, Parlamento Europeo
211. Tavistock Peace Action Group
212. Terre des Hommes France
213. The Alliance for Lawyers at Risk
214. The Bromley Trust
215. The Norwegian Human Rights Fund
216. The Priory Fund
217. The Washington Office on Latin America
218. Trócaire
219. UGT España - Director ISCOD
220. Unidad de Protección a Defensoras y Defensores de Derechos Humanos Guatemala - UDEFEGUA
221. Unión Vecinal para la Participación Ciudadana A.C
222. Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights
223. Vamos por los Derechos. Nariño
224. Vicaría de Justicia y Paz, Diócesis de San Cristóbal de Las Casas
225. West African Human Rights Defenders' Network
226. Westpapua-Netzwerk
227. Yanet Fermín - Diputada Asamblea Nacional de Venezuela