

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)¹. 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."*²

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."*³

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

¹ 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 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights.

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

³ 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 31st 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. Capitulo Argentino Plataforma Interamericana de Derechos Humanos, Democracia y Desarrollo
40. Casa del Migrante de Saltillo
41. Caucasus Civil Initiatives (CCIC)
42. Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)
43. Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL)
44. Centre for Applied Human Rights, University of York
45. Centre for Human Rights and Development
46. Centro de Derechos Humanos de la Montaña "Tlachinollan"
47. Centro de Documentación en Derechos Humanos "Segundo Montes Mozo S.J."
48. Centro Diocesano para los Derechos Humanos Fray Juan de Larios
49. Centro Mexicano de Derecho Ambiental A.C.
50. Centro Nacional de Comunicación Social A.C.
51. CFD the Feminist Peace Organisation
52. Chairperson Oil Workers' Rights Protection Organization Public Union
53. Christian Aid
54. CIVICUS
55. Civil Rights Defenders
56. CMDPDH
57. Colectivo ANSUR
58. Colectivo Contra la Tortura y la Impunidad A.C.
59. Colectivo de Abogados Dike
60. Colectivo de Abogados José Alvear Restrepo
61. Colombia Libre
62. Colombian Caravana UK Lawyers Group
63. Comhlámh
64. Comisión de Solidaridad y Defensa de los Derechos Humanos A.C.
65. Comision Intereclesial de Justicia y Paz
66. Comision Nacional de los Derechos Humanos Cndh-Rd
67. Comité Cerezo México
68. Comité de Defensa Integral de Derechos Humanos Gobixha A.C.
69. Comité Permanente por la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos
70. Community Resource Centre
71. Comunidad Martín Carrera
72. Conciencia Ciudadana A.C.
73. Congreso de los Pueblos, Colombia
74. Consorcio para el Diálogo Parlamentario y la Equidad Oaxaca A.C.
75. CORDICOM
76. CORE Coalition
77. Corporación Andares Ida y Vuelta

78. Corporación Espacios de Mujer
79. Corporación Foro Ciudadano
80. Corporación Kes Kiwe
81. Defend Defenders (East & Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project)
82. Deighton Pierce Glynn (Law Firm)
83. Diakonia
84. Docip
85. Earth Rights International
86. Ecos de Colombia - Migración y Refugio
87. Educación para la paz, A.C.
88. ELAS - Fondo de Inversión Social
89. Election Monitoring and Democracy Studies Center
90. ELSAM (Institute for Policy Research and Advocacy)
91. Environmental Network for Central America (ENCA)
92. Epikeia Observatorio Universitario de Derechos Humanos
93. European Bars Federation
94. Faculty of Advocates Human Rights and Rule of Law Committee
95. Familia Pasta de Conchos
96. Feminist Self-care Collective - Brazil
97. FIAN International
98. Finca minga La Constanza
99. Fondo Alquimia
100. Fondo Centroamericano de Mujeres
101. Fondo de Acción Urgente para América Latina y el Caribe
102. Fondo de Mujeres Bolivia Apathapi Jopueti
103. Fondo Lunaria Mujer - Colombia
104. Founders of the "Academics under Threat" Network
105. Frauen für den Frieden Schweiz
106. Friends of the Earth United States
107. Front Line Defenders
108. Fuerzas Unidas por Nuestros Desaparecidos en Coahuila
109. Fuerzas Unidas por Nuestros Desaparecidos en México
110. Fund for Global Human Rights
111. Fundación Acceso
112. Fundación Aguaclara
113. Fundación Moisés Bertoni
114. Fundación Pro Defensa del Derecho a la Educación y la Niñez
115. Funders' Initiative for Civil Society
116. Global Fund For Human Rights Defenders, Freedom House
117. Global Fund for Women
118. Global Greengrants Fund
119. Global Witness
120. Grupo belga 'Solidair met Guatemala'
121. Grupo de Pensamiento Afrodescendiente (GPA)
122. Grupo EcuMénico de Mujeres Constructoras de Paz
123. Grupo Sociedad Civil
124. Honduras Forum Switzerland
125. HRM Bir Duino
126. Humanistas por la Renta Básica Universal e Incondicional
127. Humanrights.ch
128. Human Rights Committee of the Law Society of England and Wales

129. ICCO - COOPERATION
130. IDHEAS, Litigio Estratégico en Derechos Humanos AC
131. IFOR-MIR Switzerland
132. INAH Mexico
133. Indonesia Legal Aid Foundation (YLBHI)
134. Iniciativa Mesoamericana de Defensores de Derechos Humanos
135. Iniciativas de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (ICID)
136. Iniciativas para el Desarrollo de la Mujer Oaxaqueña
137. InspirAction
138. Instituto Mexicano de Derechos Humanos y Democracia A.C.
139. Inter Pares (Canada)
140. International Accountability Project
141. International film festival and forum on Human Rights (FIFDH)
142. International Labor Rights Forum
143. International Service for Human Rights (ISHR)
144. Irish Council for Civil Liberties
145. Iván Castro Chadid Profesor Titular Universidad Javeriana
146. Jamaa Resource Initiatives
147. JASS - Just Associates
148. Karapatan
149. Kenoli Foundation
150. Kolectivo Antimilitarista de Medellín
151. Lambi Fund Of Haiti
152. Latin America Bureau
153. Latin America Working Group (LAWG)
154. Latino Life Media
155. Leigh Day
156. Lesbenorganisation Schweiz LOS
157. LGBT Centre (Mongolia)
158. Link-AR Borneo
159. LP3BH Manokwari, the Institute for Research, Investigation and the Development of Legal Aid
160. Lush
161. Maquila Solidarity Network
162. Mathare Social Justice Centre
163. Mesa de Derechos Humanos Oriente Ant.
164. MISEREOR
165. Mississippi Workers' Center for Human Rights
166. Movimiento Social Discapacidad Colombia MOSODIC
167. Narasha Community Development Group
168. National Coalition of Human Rights Defenders (Kenya)
169. Novaokupa Red PIDHDD Argentina
170. Nürnberger Menschenrechtszentrome.V.
171. Observatoire d'Etudes et d'Appui à la Responsabilité Sociale et Environnementale (OEARSE)
172. Observatorio de Derechos Humanos de la Universidad de Los Andes
173. Observatorio San Calixto
174. Odhikar
175. Oficina Ecuémica por la Paz y la Justicia / Ökumenisches Büro für Frieden und
176. OMCT - World Organisation Against Torture
177. OMI – Västerås Suecia

178. Open Society Foundations
179. Organización de Colombianos Refugiados en Chile OCORCH
180. Organización Fraternal Negra Hondureña, OFRANEH
181. Oxfam
182. OyuTolgoi Watch
183. Pan African Human Rights Defenders Network
184. Peace Brigades International
185. Peace Watch Switzerland
186. Perifèries del Món
187. Plataforma Internacional contra la Impunidad
188. Prisoners of Conscience Appeal Fund
189. Project on Organizing, Development, Education and Research (PODER)
190. Promoción Educación y Defensa en DDHH, PROMEDEHUM
191. Protection International
192. Protection International Mesoamérica
193. Psychological Responsiveness NGO
194. Red de Género y Medio Ambiente
195. Red de Huertos Urbanos Comunitarios de Madrid
196. Red de Víctimas Colombianas por la Paz en Latinoamérica y el Caribe -REVICPAZ-
197. Red europea de Comités Oscar Romero
198. Red Popular de Derechos Humanos Bogotá REDHUS
199. Revicpaz-Lac
200. Rivers without Boundaries Coalition (Mongolia)
201. Santa Fe Humana
202. Servicio Internacional para la Paz (SIPAZ)
203. Servicios para una Educación Alternativa EDUCA Oaxaca A.C.
204. Servicios y Asesoría para la Paz (Serapaz)
205. Simmons & Simmons
206. Sociedad Hominis Iura (SOHI)
207. Society for Threatened Peoples (Germany)
208. Sri Lanka Advocacy
209. SweFOR
210. Swiss Peace Council, Zurich
211. Swiss Working Group on Colombia/Arbeitsgruppe Schweiz Kolumbien
212. Tamera - International Peace Research Center
213. Tania González Peñas, Parlamento Europeo
214. Tavistock Peace Action Group
215. Terre des Hommes France
216. The Alliance for Lawyers at Risk
217. The Bromley Trust
218. The Norwegian Human Rights Fund
219. The Priory Fund
220. The Washington Office on Latin America
221. Trócaire
222. UGT España - Director ISCOD
223. Unidad de Protección a Defensoras y Defensores de Derechos Humanos Guatemala - UDEFEGUA
224. Unión Vecinal para la Participación Ciudadana A.C
225. Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights
226. Vamos por los Derechos. Nariño
227. Vicaría de Justicia y Paz, Diócesis de San Cristóbal de Las Casas

228. West African Human Rights Defenders' Network
229. Westpapua-Netzwerk
230. Yanet Fermín - Diputada Asamblea Nacional de Venezuela