

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

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

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

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