



Department of Philosophy and Religion

January 31, 2021

The Norwegian Nobel Committee
Henrik Ibsens gate 51
0255 Oslo, NORWAY

**LETTER OF NOMINATION FOR THE 2021 NOBEL PEACE PRIZE:
BENJAMIN FERENCZ**

I repeat and resubmit my 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 nominations of Benjamin Ferencz for 2021.

At 100, Benjamin Ferencz has dedicated his life to eradicating intolerance, hatred and war through education, scholarship and – of particular relevance to the cause that Nobel wished to promote – developing the world’s legal order, including the development of international legal machinery by which aggressive war is criminalized.

In 1947, when he was just 27, Ferencz was appointed the chief prosecutor in the Einsatzgruppen Case - a subsequent Nuremberg proceeding in which 24 defendants were charged for murdering over a million people - the “biggest murder trial in history.” This experience, as well bearing witness to the liberation of camps like Buchenwald and Dachau, left an indelible impression on Ferencz. Indeed, we are the beneficiaries of that collision of man and history, of the influence of worldwide events upon Ferencz’s personal destiny. Since that time, he has worked ceaselessly and fearlessly to bring tolerance, compassion and peace more fully to life. He has, for instance, devoted his life to the implementation of the Nuremberg Principles. Affirmed by the United Nations in 1946, these Principles are core to Alfred Nobel’s vision to replace the ‘Law of Force’ with the ‘Force of Law’ in international relations.

Principle VI of the Nuremberg Principles recognizes “Crimes Against Peace” as crimes punishable under International Law. The world had to be further organized to implement this vision and Ferencz has been laboring since the beginning. He was present in Rome in 1998, when the International Criminal Court (ICC) was created. Twenty years later, on July 17, 2018, the ICC’s jurisdiction over the Crime of Aggression was finally activated. But the Court’s jurisdictional regime is narrow, and certain acts of aggression fall outside of the scope of prosecution. Ferencz has referred to this unacceptable regime as “pre-Nuremberg” – a World Order in which those guilty of the “supreme international crime” may go unpunished. At 100, he reminds us of how much can be done in one lifetime, while also reminding us of the work that we are obliged to continue. This work not only includes further developing the norms criminalizing aggressive war, but also laboring to realize Nobel’s vision to build a world order where the Law takes precedence over Power, and where the Power of Law is stronger than the Law of Power. Ferencz appeals to young people to continue this intergenerational project, for each person to add his or her “brick” to the “Tower of Law.” It is fitting to recognize the lifelong labor of Benjamin Ferencz for moving the international community towards a more humane international order, and moving us as individuals to “go on with the mighty work.”

For his lifelong efforts, Ferencz deserves to be recognized by the world’s population and to be seen as a most ardent worker in the full awakening of the human conscience towards Peace through Law, slow and halting though it is.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Hope May'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Hope Elizabeth May, Ph.D., J.D.
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Department of Philosophy and Religion