



The Norwegian Nobel Committee
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0255 Oslo
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Norwegian Parliament

Date: 30 January 2015

Our ref.:

Your ref.:

Nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize

We hereby nominate Edward Snowden for the Nobel Peace Prize.

As former Nobel Peace Prize laureate Mairead Corigan-Maguire said, "peace is more than simply the absence of war; it is the active creation of something better". Our leaders are not merely actors on a global stage of preserving self-interest, they are also political leaders whom we need to trust, and hold accountable. Their responsibilities go beyond realpolitik and zero-sum games, their actions have real consequences for real people.

The new information technologies of the past few decades bring new possibilities for democratization, transparency and freedom of expression. But it also introduces new tools of oppression, surveillance, and espionage. Massive surveillance of ordinary people's communication, and targeted surveillance against allied leaders, is now possible on a scale that we wouldn't be able to imagine two or three decades ago. Mr. Snowden revealed to the public that it is not merely a possibility. Mass surveillance of ordinary citizens is a defining characteristic of intelligence services in our time. These expensive and intrusive programs have come about outside any form of democratic control, without regard to people's rights to free expression, and the basic principles of the rule of law. When democratic countries make introduce such programs outside democratic control, they undermine their own legitimacy as well as the ability to effectively criticize and change the oppressive politics, massive surveillance, not to mention the censorship, of authoritarian regimes.

A peaceful world order depends on trust between nations and trust between people. Peace brokering would be impossible without a basic level of trust. International agreements on non-proliferation and disarmament would be impossible without a basic level of trust. And peaceful resolutions to emerging security threats would be impossible without a basic level of trust. Mr. Snowdens disclosures crudely document how this has been detrimental in international climate change conferences, and illustrate how this is a very real concern.

Edward Snowden has paid a high personal price for revealing the nature and technological prowess of modern surveillance. The level of sophistication and depth of surveillance that citizens all over the world are subject to, has stunned us, and stirred debate all over the world. By doing this, he has contributed critical knowledge about how modern surveillance and intelligence directed towards states and citizens is carried out.

There is no doubt that the actions of Edward Snowden may have damaged the security interests of several nations in the short term. We do not necessarily support all of his disclosures. We are, however, convinced that the public debate and changes in policy that have followed in the wake of Snowden's whistleblowing has contributed to a more stable and peaceful world order. His actions have led to the first real public debate on modern mass surveillance. To enable increasing democratic control over these measures is a crucial step to reintroduce trust and transparency as a leading principle in global security policies. Its value cannot be overestimated.

A country's legitimate need for reliable intelligence to preserve its own security must always be balanced against the people's individual freedoms - and the global need for trust - as an integral condition for stability and peace. Edward Snowden has made a critical contribution to restoring this balance and we find Mr. Snowden a worthy candidate for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Bård Vegar Solhjell

Member of the Norwegian Parliament

Snorre Valen

Member of the Norwegian Parliament