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WILPF, Madeleine Rees, Kathryn Bolkovac - Nobel Peace Prize Nomination 2020

Let me join Jan Oberg in nominating the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, WILPF, for the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize, and add a formidable personal candidate to win, Madeleine Rees, UK.

I hope this nomination will be picked up by the committee in their first meeting in 2020. Nomination rules should serve as help, not be practiced as rigid and unnecessary obstacles to good candidates being considered. I also wish this letter considered as a nomination for 2021.

WILPF presents itself at wilpf.org; wilpf.org/our-global-programmes/, on programs, places disarmament on top and states that “Total and universal disarmament is one of the founding goals of WILPF”. The powerful WILPF program for disarmament, Reaching Critical Will, is found here: reachingcriticalwill.org; to involve women, Peace Women, at peacewomen.org. A recent example of work at the UN: wilpf.org/portfolio-items/first-committee-briefing-book-2019. The organization, with close ties to the UN, has main offices in Geneva and New York and 50 national sections worldwide, on all continents, as well as youth and academic networks.

In her Nobel nomination of WILPF in 2015 Christine Milne, MP Australia, mentioned the League’s efforts at the UN climate conference in Copenhagen 2009 and added: “WILPF has consistently explained that narrow military notions of security can do nothing to alleviate these challenges.” Let me second and repeat that nomination for 2020 also mentioning that “WILPF led the NGO coalition that successfully convinced the Security Council to adopt Resolution 1325 that recognises the enormous contribution of women as stakeholders of peace, disarmament and conflict prevention.”

Madeleine Rees is a British lawyer with great leadership talents. Her impressive personality commands respect in international settings and her qualities as organizer and speaker would greatly benefit the mission of the Nobel Peace Prize, as it has given a considerable boost to the WILPF. I refer to en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Madeleine_Rees. Her courage was demonstrated in UN service for the UNHCR in Bosnia. In the film “The Whistleblower”, that recounts one of the darkest periods in modern U.N. history: the story of how U.N. peacekeepers became implicated in the trafficking of eastern European women into sexual slavery in Bosnia. In the movie the role of Rees was played by Vanessa Redgrave. I would also draw attention to a Ted

talk by Rees in 2016: reachingcriticalwill.org/news/latest-news/10808-wilpf-secretary-general-gives-a-tedx-talk-on-gender-war-and-peace

Similarly brave in the UN service in Bosnia was **Kathryn Bolkovac** who has since spoken up against military contractors and the problems around privatization of military force, covered by professors Terje Einarsen and Aslak Syse on Jan. 26, 2017, nobelwill.org/?tab=8#bolkovac2. Bolkovac spoke on military accountability at WILPF, on 11 June, 2014: wilpf.org/the-whistleblower-15-years-on-where-are-we-now, all over the US, and several times in Norway.

Sincerely yours,



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