

The Norwegian Nobel Committee

Nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize 2016

We refer to our respective nominations of Bolkovac and Snowden 2015 and this year wish to jointly nominate three candidates, separately, but preferably as a joint award of the Nobel Peace Prize for 2016: Edward Snowden, Kathryn Bolkovac and Arundhati Roy.

Snowden and Bolkovac have risked their lives and their freedom to warn about abuse of power, corruption and human rights violations from the inside of powerful organizations and systems. Roy, an author and activist, has criticized the same power structures and the emergence of a military and potentially self-destructive world order. These three exceptional individuals have in different ways taken up the struggle against militarism and power abuse. A prize giving them a deserved homage will also be a recognition of their personal efforts for a more open and just world. Under the cover of secrecy military operations constitute a constant danger for violations of democratic rights and abuse of power. Bolkovac and Snowden thus protect democracy and serve as inspiration for whistleblowers and activists worldwide.

Edward Snowden, USA, is living in exile. He is a computer expert employed in US intelligence, and who in 2013 became world famous for having leaked documentation of extensive surveillance directed by US and British security services. His revelations led to a worldwide debate about surveillance, espionage and abuse of power, while Snowden himself was prosecuted and branded a traitor. The actions of Snowden, and his alleged crime must be considered justified in relation to the violations of the constitution committed by US authorities. His revelation opened for an informed debate on modern surveillance, it paved the way for more democratic directions for surveillance, and again placed the importance of individual liberty and intergovernmental cooperation at the center of the debate on modern surveillance and intelligence. Snowden has clearly helped to illuminate the need for the more peaceful world order Nobel intended to support.

Kathryn Bolkovac is the policewoman from Nebraska, USA, who was to investigate violations of human rights. She was part of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in Bosnia, but was employed by a private military corporation, DynCorp, to, inter alia, train local police forces. In Bosnia Bolkovac discovered a network of trafficking, prostitution and corruption that turned out to involve also her superiors and employees of the UN system. Bolkovac revealed how women from neighboring Eastern European countries became victims of trafficking and subjected to gross abuse of the very persons who should protect peace and security. She lost her job because of her warning, and took an enormous personal risk when she fled from Bosnia with the evidence. Despite a lawsuit against DynCorp her former colleagues have not yet been punished for the abuses. Bolkovac has continued to criticize the use of private military contractors in national and international operations, a practice that makes war and suffering to a game of profit and influence. It is her disclosure of the consequences of the use of private contractors in war that motivates the nomination.

Arundhati Roy is an Indian author and activist, and one of the most inspiring and powerful critics in our time of modern military power, nuclear weapons and neo-imperialism. Roy's life and work have a clear international dimension, fighting against global injustice with the destructive tug of war over power and influence at its center. Her strong warning against nuclear weapons in the text "*The End of Imagination*" indicates just how self-destructive and irrational man has become in the chase for control and power. She writes: "*The nuclear bomb is the most anti-democratic, anti-national, anti-human, evil thing that man has ever made.*" In "War is Peace", she writes about the contradictory idea that peace can be achieved through military means; War is not peace - peace is peace. She has on several occasions demonstrated in her home country, in particular involving herself against India's occupation of Kashmir. She also at an early stage warned against indications of genocide and other serious state crimes in Sri Lanka, where there is reason to fear that the actual events have been covered up by the military. Roy has also won awards for both fiction and her work for peace and non-violence.

The Nobel Committee has the possibility to honor individuals who have shown great courage and stood up to defend democracy, peace, and justice against the threats that the military always entails, even in cases where the intention may be good. This is a very important focus in our time, where the future will be characterized by major global challenges requiring a massive common preference of peaceful means.

If the prize this year would go to Snowden, Bolkovac and Roy it will be a prize in accordance with Alfred Nobel's will, prescribing that the prize shall be awarded to *champions of peace* who promote *global cooperation* (the fraternity of nations) on a world order that seeks peace by peaceful means. Snowden, Bolkovac and Roy come from different backgrounds and the peace work they engage in takes different forms. Together they show the need for a far more demilitarized world order building on morality, solidarity, courage and justice.

Let 2016 be the year when the Nobel Committee chooses to recognize the work that has been done by whistleblowers worldwide, as well as the activists supporting them!

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