

The Nobel Peace Prize

Watch

Lay down your arms

nobelwill.org¹

Gothenburg, March. 26, 2016

The Norwegian Nobel Committee
Henrik Ibsens gt. 51, 0255 Oslo

POPE FRANCIS – ONE ADDITION TO OUR
LIST OF QUALIFIED CANDIDATES FOR 2016

On February 2, 2016, the Nobel Peace Prize Watch sent you a presentation of the 25 known nominees that come within the types of peace work and persons Nobel had in mind when he used the term “the prize for the champions of peace” in his will. Our list has later been expanded to a total of 32 qualified candidates. The Nobel Peace Prize Watch screening of all known candidates is published on our website <http://www.nobelwill.org/index.html?tab=7#list>, with the guidelines based on Nobel’s will that we have published with the list.

By this letter we wish to make one further addition. Pope Francis was omitted in our original list, for two reasons: 1) We had not succeeded to get hold of the nomination letter, and 2) descriptions in the media, in particular The National Catholic Reporter, clearly indicated that the nomination had little to do with the purpose of the prize – to liberate all nations from weapons, warriors and wars and to let co-operation on security replace threats and military power games.

In our letter of Feb. 2, 2016, we commended the committee for exemplary wording on disarmament in the opening of the chair’s speech at the 2015 peace prize ceremony. We wish to avoid that Pope Francis will be excluded by a defective nomination. Therefore we wish to draw the committee’s attention to several public appearances during the “last expired year” (2015) where Pope Francis made proclamations very supportive and relevant to the demilitarized peace order that Nobel wished his prize to promote.

In the annex you will find a selection of quotes that would seem to make it easy for the committee to give a citation loyal to Nobel if it were to select Pope Francis for the 2016 prize.

Addresses: mail@nobelwill.org, or: Nobel Peace Prize Watch, c/o Magnusson, Marklandsgatan 63, 414 77 Göteborg, Sweden.

We have sent the NPPW list to the committee as part of our ongoing work to ensure respect for the original idea of Alfred Nobel. This requires an open and fair selection process, in harmony with modern democratic ideas. The Nobel selection procedures should, indeed, mirror the standards that Nordic countries have established in this field, by legislation prescribing transparency as a way to ensure correct policies and prevent abuse of power.

Sincerely yours,

Fredrik S. Heffermehl

Tomas Magnusson

Cc:

The Nobel Foundation, Stockholm

Länsstyrelsen i Stockholm

Nobel Peace Prize Watch

Quotations 2015 – Pope Francis nominated for the 2016 Nobel

TIME magazine, USA

Pope Francis' Latest Mission: Stopping Nuclear Weapons

- [Elizabeth Dias](#) @elizabethjdias April 10, 2015
<http://time.com/3817021/pope-francis-nuclear-disarmament/>

“Pope Francis has recently pushed the moral argument against nuclear weapons to a new level, not only against their use but also against their possession,” Archbishop Bernedito Auza, the Holy See’s Ambassador to the U.N., says. “Today there is no more argument, not even the argument of deterrence used during the Cold War, that could ‘minimally morally justify’ the possession of nuclear weapons. The ‘peace of a sort’ that is supposed to justify nuclear deterrence is specious and illusory.”

The Vatican push on nuclear weapons comes as the United States is in the final stages of negotiating a deal with Iran and as 190 parties that have supported the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty prepare for its five-year review. The upcoming NPT RevCon, as the U.N. treaty review conference is called, is the first NPT review during the Francis papacy, and Francis’ voice is already adding moral and political weight to the conversation. The Holy See, a party to the Treaty, has opposed the possession and use of nuclear weapons since the beginning of the nuclear age.

The Holy See is “very concerned,” Auza adds, about nuclear-capable states’ commitment to disarmament, arguing that the central promise of the treaty remains unfulfilled. “The fact that nuclear-possessing States not only have not dismantled their nuclear arsenals but are modernizing them lies at the heart of nuclear proliferation,” he says. “It perpetuates the ‘injustice’ in the NPT regime, which was supposed to be temporary while nuclear disarmament was in progress.... how could we reasonably convince the pre-

NPT non-nuclear countries not to acquire or develop nuclear arms capabilities?

DER SPIEGEL

<http://www.spiegel.de/panorama/papst-franziskus-kritisiert-waffenbranche-a-1040023.html>

Papstkritik an Rüstungsbranche: Christen bauen keine Waffen

Montag, 22.06.2015

AFP

Papst Franziskus: "Geschäftsmänner, die sich als christlich bezeichnen und Waffen herstellen"

"Sie sagen das eine und tun das andere": Beschäftigte und Unterstützer der Waffenbranche können sich laut Papst Franziskus nicht ernsthaft als christlich bezeichnen.

Wer Waffen herstellt oder in die Waffenindustrie investiert, kann sich nicht ernsthaft als Christ bezeichnen - das meint zumindest Papst Franziskus. "Alles wird für Geld getan", sagte er in Turin. Der Papst sprach über Vertrauen und sagte, wenn man nur Menschen vertraue, sei man verloren. Er denke dabei an "Leute, Manager, Geschäftsmänner, die sich als christlich bezeichnen und Waffen herstellen. Das führt zu Misstrauen, oder nicht?"

Franziskus kritisierte nicht nur Beschäftigte, sondern auch Investoren der Waffenindustrie. Ihnen warf er Doppelzüngigkeit vor. "Sie sagen das eine und tun das

andere."

Bereits mehrfach hatte sich der Papst kritisch über die Waffenbranche geäußert. Vor einem Jahr hatte er die Unternehmen als "Händler des Todes" bezeichnet, vor einem Monat sagte er, die Branche verewige den Krieg, um Gewinn zu machen.

DEFENSE ONE

<http://www.defenseone.com/ideas/2015/09/pope-lining-ban-nuclear-weapons/121589/>

The Pope Is Lining Up to Ban Nuclear Weapons

SEPTEMBER 21, 2015

BY JOE CIRINCIONE

TOM COLLINA

- Under Pope Francis the Catholic church is moving away from Cold War nuclear acceptance faster than Congress and the Obama administration.
- **Commentary / Nuclear**
Pope Francis is making a key shift in church doctrine on nuclear weapons, Up to now, the church has abhorred the inhumanity of these weapons that indiscriminately target innocent civilians and would kill them in massive numbers. But—until now—it has recognized a need for states to have nuclear weapons to deter other countries from launching a nuclear attack on them.

No longer.

In a December message to a conference on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, the pope **wrote**: “Nuclear deterrence and the threat of mutually assured destruction cannot be the basis for an ethics of fraternity and peaceful coexistence among peoples and states.”

Last week, the church was more direct. Reading a statement from the Holy See, the pope’s spokesperson **said**:

The world’s nuclear arsenals are much reduced since the height of the Cold War, but they remain excessive. Moreover, the dubious strategic rationales for maintaining and even strengthening these

still bloated arsenals are morally problematic.

Nuclear deterrence can hardly be the basis for peaceful coexistence among peoples and states in the 21st century, since it is unable to be broadly responsive and tailored to the security challenges of our times; furthermore, it risks being used in a way that would cause severe humanitarian consequences.

Instead of being a step toward nuclear disarmament, nuclear deterrence has become an end in itself, and risks compromising the non-proliferation regime and undermining real progress toward a nuclear-free world.

In case there was any doubt about the direction the pope is taking, a December church policy paper **stated**,

Finally, it must be admitted that the very possession of nuclear weapons, even for purposes of deterrence, is morally problematic. While a consensus continues to grow that any possible use of such weapons is radically inconsistent with the demands of human dignity, **in the past the church has nonetheless expressed a provisional acceptance of their possession for reasons of deterrence, under the condition that this be “a step on the way toward progressive disarmament.” This condition has not been fulfilled—far from it.** In the absence of further progress toward complete disarmament, and without concrete steps toward a more secure and a more genuine peace, the nuclear weapon establishment has lost much of its legitimacy.

THE INTERCEPT

<https://theintercept.com/2015/09/24/pope-decries-shameful-culpable-silence-arms-sales-drenched-innocent-blood/>

[Pope Francis: Speech in US Congress]

Pope Decries “Shameful and Culpable Silence” on Arms Sales “Drenched in Innocent Blood”

Sep. 24 2015, 8:23 p.m.

The Intercept, Dan Froomkin

Pope Francis on Thursday gently scolded [US] Congress on a variety of issues, from immigration to foreign policy, but on one unexpected topic — the weapons sales that fuel armed conflicts around the world — he couldn't have been much more blunt.

He was speaking about his determination “to minimize and, in the long term, to end the many armed conflicts throughout our world,” when he said this:

Here we have to ask ourselves: Why are deadly weapons being sold to those who plan to inflict untold suffering on individuals and society? Sadly, the answer, as we all know, is simply for money: money that is drenched in blood, often innocent blood. In the face of this shameful and culpable silence, it is our duty to confront the problem and to stop the arms trade.

Those were fighting words, especially given where he spoke them. The U.S. is by far the largest arms supplier in the world, with domestic manufacturers selling more than [\\$23.7 billion in weapons](#) in 2014 to [nearly 100 different countries](#). During the Obama administration, [weapons sales](#) have [surged to record levels](#), in large part due to huge shipments to Gulf States, particularly Saudi Arabia.

Thursday's speech was not the first time the Pope has spoken out about the arms trade. He referred to it as “the industry of death” in a [talk with Italian schoolchildren](#) in May. “Why do so many powerful people not want peace? Because they live off war,” [he said](#).

“This is serious. Some powerful people make their living with the

production of arms and sell them to one country for them to use against another country,” he said. “The economic system orbits around money and not men, women. ... So war is waged in order to defend money. This is why some people don’t want peace: They make more money from war, although wars make money but lose lives, health, education.”