

# The Nobel Peace Prize

## Watch

Lay down your arms

[nobelwill.org](http://nobelwill.org)<sup>1</sup>

Gothenburg/Oslo, Oct. 1, 2015

The Norwegian Nobel Committee, Oslo

### **Measures to ensure that the Peace Prize serves the will of Nobel**

The Nobel Peace Prize Watch has received your letter of Sept 21, 2015 – after waiting for 7 months and only after Ms. Five, the Nobel chair, as member of the Nobel Foundation Board in 2012, had received notice of litigation from our lawyers, Kenneth Lewis & Partners, Stockholm.

There is ample evidence that the committee over time had forgotten the testament entirely, it had used "peace" as a criterion and even considered making its own definition of "peace." – see quote on page 112 in Heffermehl's Swedish book. By awarding humanitarian prizes, democracy prizes, climate and environmental prizes, in 2014 a prize for education of girls and against child labor, the committee does not even give "peace," a criterion of its own choosing, any meaningful limitation.

The Norwegian Nobel Committee is a subcommittee of the Nobel Foundation. The Board in Stockholm bears the ultimate and final responsibility for the correct use of the Foundation assets. Nobel does not even mention the Foundation, much less has any opinion on the roles within it. The idea of the Norwegian sub-committee having a superior, independent role is untenable. It was finally rejected in the March 31, 2014 decision of the Kammarkollegiet. It is hard to detect loyalty to Nobel as a concern on the Norwegian side, the committee's letter appears in its entirety as a strained attempt to obscure and justify its wrongful management of Alfred Nobel's prize.

While on the one hand accepting to be bound by Nobel's intention the committee does what it can to establish that Nobel did not have any specific intention. It even continues to draw on Nobel's various ideas over a long life, instead of his mindset when he wrote his will. The committee even pretends that Nobel did not intend to eliminate militarism, and that he even accepted it. These arguments ignore that disarmament was a most distinct feature mentioned in the will. We also note that Nobel in parallel with writing his will also acted on a plan to buy Aftonbladet – wishing to own a tool to combat "militarism and other relics from medieval times (motsätter sig rustningar och andra medeltida kvarlevor)" (Heffermehl, p. 114).

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Ignoring what Nobel must have meant the committee continues to read its own ideas into the concepts in the will. The committee's "dynamic interpretation" is flawed by not taking the specific peace idea of Nobel as its point of departure – see Heffermehl, at middle of p. 64. The letter does not mention the short list for the 2015 prize published at [nobelwill.org](http://nobelwill.org) even if we specifically requested a comment to this concrete illustration of what the prize was meant for.

In its February 20, 2015, letter the NPPW pointed to the "champions of peace" as the legitimate recipients, and in no way pretended an exclusive right for "the peace movement." Thus the definition in our letter mentioned "the peace movement and persons who ....". The three expressions in the will are not "criteria" but help us understand the term "champions of peace" and what kinds and parts of the peace ideas of the period Nobel wished to benefit.

The NPPW considers the letter in its entirety irrelevant, misconceived and untenable. Instead of a genuine will to serve Nobel the committee tries to justify a freedom to use the prize as it likes. We again hope that Norwegian politicians will stop violating the law and the will by misusing the prize that Nobel entrusted to their care.

Best regards

THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WATCH

Fredrik S. Heffermehl

Tomas Magnusson

cc/ The Stortinget, the Parliament of Norway, by the presidency, Oslo

cc/ The Nobel Foundation, Stockholm

cc/ Advokat Kenneth Lewis, Advokatbyrå Kenneth Lewis

cc/ Länsstyrelsen i Stockholm

cc/ Torgny Håstad, ordförande i Nobelfullmäktige, Stockholm