

The Norwegian Nobel Committee

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Kathryn Bolkovac, USA – nomination for 2015

I hereby nominate Kathryn Bolkovac, Nebraska, for the 2015 Nobel Peace Prize for her continuing efforts to call international attention to the problems and abuses of the private military and security business.

Bolkovac had 12 years of educational and professional background as a police officer, when, in 1999, serving in UN uniform in a UN peacekeeping mission in Bosnia, she discovered extensive evidence of trafficking in young women from the neighboring countries of Eastern Europe who were kept in the most brutal sexual slavery. The efforts of Bolkovac to report on, rescue, and end the recruitment, entrapment and enslavement of these young girls was a courageous professional effort to protect their lives, freedom and human rights.

What motivates a Nobel prize, however, is her exposure of the role of the UN forces deployed to Bosnia. Bolkovac found that her colleagues and superiors, were themselves abusing the girls sexually and were unwilling to protect them. Even worse, her further investigation provided evidence and proof, that her colleagues were running the trafficking business and in actual fact functioned as a criminal ring of professional pimps. With a keen understanding of ethical and professional duties Bolkovac tried to stop the criminal activity, a very isolated and dangerous pursuit in a brutal environment with almost all around her trying to stop her.

What later developed is well depicted in Bolkovac's book, *The Whistleblower: Sex Trafficking, Military Contractors, and One Women's Fight for Justice*, and in Kondracki's movie "The Whistleblower." Bolkovac lost her job and all parts of the system she had been part of closed ranks doing their best to protect the UN and those who had engaged in the criminal behavior. Despite ample evidence, none of her colleagues were ever prosecuted for their crimes. The law could not be brought to bear on these colleagues, UN personnel, in UN uniform; they enjoyed immunity in their UN service. Immediately after the exposure of its failings in Bosnia the US gave huge contracts to the private corporation and has continued to do so.

Through a subsequent trial of her dismissal from work and her continued writing and speaking over the past decade, Bolkovac has, with a sharp sense, philosophical and practical, of societal, ethical and professional principle, done her best to display the hypocritical, absurdly unacceptable role of the private war business. The problems come to a head in «peace missions». In the practical implementation it often is no longer the nation state, or the United Nations, which is in charge of "security operations." Corporations and business interests intervene in and break the traditional chain of command and responsibility from the cabinet level to the persons who in practice execute the government's orders.

There are many examples of the unacceptable horrors entailed in privatization of the military. Bolkovac has acted with particular courage and acumen to expose the problem and how militarism instead of protection of people exposes them to humiliation, deprivation and destruction. More details justifying the nomination can be found in an article in the Guardian

about the film and Bolkovac: <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2012/jan/15/bosnia-sex-trafficking-whistleblower>. In the attachment are some of her own words on the problem.

Bolkovac is, indeed, a winner in her own right, but she may with great effect share the 2015 prize with Edward Snowden who has made similar exposures of the dangers of militarism and the need for the nations of the world to seriously consider creating the demilitarized "brotherhood of nations" that Nobel described in his will.

Harare, Jan 31, 2015

Aslak Syse, Professor of Law, University of Oslo

Attachment: Two texts by Bolkovac