

Bobby Muller
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Washington, DC XXXXXX

November 13, 2014

Thorbjørn Jagland
Chairman
Nobel Prize Committee
Henrik Ibsens gate 51
0255 OSLO, NORWAY

Dear Chairman Jagland and Nobel Peace Prize Committee Members:

As co-founder and head of the organization that managed the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize winning International Campaign to Ban Landmines, I know full well how important the awarding of this most prestigious civil rights prize is to advocates for peace and justice all over the world. Because of our Noble Peace Prize win in 1997, I am most fortunate to be empowered to nominate others to the Nobel Committee for this same award and I have exercised this power to nominate in favor of only one entity in that entire time span of 17 years for which I have had this unique opportunity.

Specifically, and for the last several years, I have been nominating an individual, and the civil rights advocacy organization he directs, to receive this most important award. I feel very strongly that the work of this person and the organization he founded is critical to furthering world peace and deserves international recognition. The organization addresses fundamentalist religious advocacy and intolerance within the United States armed forces. It's an incredibly costly, difficult and dangerous job to challenge Christian fundamentalism in the American military. Mikey Weinstein and his organization, the Military Religious Freedom Foundation, have my deepest respect. I hope you take a serious look at the incredible work he and his foundation have done and its crucial effort to expose fundamentalist proselytizing within the United States military which is a most significant issue as the United States goes after religious fundamentalist violence around the world.

I will gladly provide you again with a more detailed account than what follows of the organization's accomplishments and the challenges it faces if you so desire. Much was incorporated in my earlier Nobel Peace Prize letters of nomination. One of the reasons I continue to nominate Mr. Weinstein and his organization is because they are such a lone voice in this effort and have been subjected to the most vile and horrifying threats of violence and anti-Semitism that I've ever known. The bravery of this group to go on in the face of such terrifying intimidation is inspiring. I've come to appreciate that fundamentalist religious beliefs are dangerous when so aggressively, insensitively and relentlessly pushed on those of other faiths or of no faith. Clearly this is an issue that affects the entire world community in devastating ways all around the globe. To shine a

bright light on the very same destructive and counterproductive efforts of sectarian religious extremism within the American military would serve a great purpose in exposing what so many around the world already are aware of.

The U.S. military is traditionally looked upon by much of the Western world as a force upholding democracy, human dignity, and the aspirations of those yearning to live free from the yoke of superstition, theocracy, and sectarian bigotry. However, Mr. Weinstein has unearthed scandal upon shocking scandal revealing a frightening blurring of the important line separating church and state within the U.S. military, comprised as it is of a diverse cross-section of Americans belonging to myriad faith traditions (or none whatsoever). To name but a few of these scandals, there was the obligatory requirement that U.S. nuclear missile launch officers undergo Christian “Just War” indoctrination; the witch-hunting of Muslims serving in the U.S. Army; and myriad incidents where attendance at training programs with clearly parochial, exclusivist Christian themes were deemed mandatory for religious (and irreligious) minorities such as Jews, Muslims, Wiccans, and others.

It is for this reason that, according to MRFF’s count, the civil rights group has a “client” base (those active duty and veteran service members who contact MRFF for assistance) numbering nearly 40,000 heads, over 95% of them practicing Christians themselves. MRFF has not only provided the media and legal advocacy mouthpiece for these otherwise voiceless members of the U.S. military, but it has also made inroads into the halls of Congress and the Pentagon to advocate for the separation of church and state in the extremely deadly armed forces.

By preventing the outright hijacking of the United States military’s massive destructive capacity, the MRFF has doubtlessly made the world a safer place. The group’s expansive roster of achievements makes it more than deserving of the acknowledgment and recognition of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, and for this reason I am truly honored to nominate the Military Religious Freedom Foundation for the 2015 Nobel Peace Prize.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bobby Muller". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bobby Muller

Co-Founder of the International Campaign To Ban Landmines,
Winner of the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize