

ALLIANCE FOR LAWYERS AT RISK

SUPPORTING LAWYERS AND HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS AROUND THE WORLD

Norwegian Nobel Committee,
The Norwegian Nobel Institute
NO-0255 Oslo, Norway

Alliance for Lawyers at Risk
c.o. 10 Upper Bank Street
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E14 5JJ

25 September 2018


To Members of the Norwegian Nobel Committee.

I am President of the Alliance for Lawyers at Risk. It is an independent pro-bono organisation, based in the UK, which provides moral and legal support to lawyers and human rights' defenders working in precarious circumstances throughout the world. Its membership includes some of the most distinguished lawyers in the UK, including a number of active and retired judges from the highest courts in the country. A full list of the members can be found on its website. It works closely with the UK branch of PBI International.

The Alliance would like to lend its support to the nomination of human rights' defenders for the Nobel Peace Prize. We appreciate that the Committee will already be aware of the courageous and inspiring way in which many human rights' defenders throughout the world advance the cause of peace and justice for many of the weakest and poorest communities and individuals. We respectfully adopt all that is said in the nomination of human rights' defenders by the UK Parliamentary All Party Joint Committee on Human Rights and the French Government.

We appreciate that there are very many nominations, and no doubt several of those nominated are truly worthy of this distinguished prize. But we suggest that this is a particularly appropriate time to recognise the international significance of Human Rights' Defenders, given that it is both the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the 20th anniversary of the UN's Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognised Human Rights. Human Rights' Defenders make the sentiments of those Declarations a reality for many people around the world.

Yours sincerely



Rt Hon Sir Patrick Elias

The Alliance for Lawyers at Risk is an independent UK-based pro-bono network, of prominent members of the legal community that provides moral and legal support to lawyers and human rights defenders working in precarious circumstances.

Executive Committee: Sir Patrick Elias (President), Professor Christine Chinkin CMG (Vice President), Guy Beringer CBE, QC (Vice President), Sir Peter Roth (Chair)

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