



1. The letter of invitation (Summary)

Utrecht, January 16, 2020.

Subject: nomination of Senator Leila de Lima (Philippines) for the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize.

Dear Reader,

on the occasion of Senator Leila de Lima's 1000th day in unjust detention on 20 November 2019, friends and allies rallied to again publicly affirm their support for the staunchest critic of president Duterte's bloody "war on drugs" and other anti-human rights policies. Supporters held an [Indignation Run](#) and a worldwide [Statement of Indignation](#) urged the Philippines Government to immediately free Senator de Lima and drop the charges against her.

As found by the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention ([UNWGAD](#)), the political persecution of Senator Leila de Lima resulted from her personal convictions and public statements against human rights abuses in the Philippines, more in particular her initiative to launch a Senate investigation into the spate of extrajudicial killings in the "war on drugs".

In the Philippines the defense of persecuted minorities is an undertaking that puts human rights defenders in permanent peril, to the point where they themselves become part of an unwanted and persecuted minority. Although Ms. de Lima remains vocal in her liberal beliefs and advocacies, the undetermined duration of her detention and her public vilification by Duterte and his political allies in media and social media -who have targeted her as an object of verbal assault, sexist tirade, false information and hate speech– take its toll.

Cognizant of the unconditional support of Senator de Lima for persecuted minorities, in particular the Filipino drug users who are the subject of organized mass murder, the Drugs Peace Institute (DPI) wishes to contribute to her defense and the ideals she stands for.

In 1948, indignation about the WWII mass murders prompted the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, since these barbarous acts were seen as the result of disregard and contempt for human rights, the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world. To honor Senator de Lima for her impeccable human rights activism and to keep her fate in the international spotlight and national attention, the DPI proposes the nomination of Ms. de Lima for the Nobel Peace Prize 2020.

One can wonder about the effectiveness of the nomination for this prize, because even people at present accused of (incitement to) genocide have been nominated or even been awarded that prize. But it is felt that the abuse by some people of this award that bestows an aura of great respectability and admiration, at present brings rather dishonor to the abuser than to the prize or its bona fide laureates and nominees. A robust nomination of senator de Lima could certainly impress Filipino public opinion and by extension its government.

To this end this letter is sent to representatives of potential support groups for the nomination, in particular to parliamentarians, her colleagues, human rights activists and researchers, her ideological allies, and to women, as senator de Lima is discriminated against as a member of her gender group, with the request to nominate senator Leila de Lima with the Oslo Nobel Committee before January 31, 2020.

The Drugs Peace Institute is convinced that your positive reaction to our request will greatly help senator de Lima in her fight for freedom. It may equally help to pressure the Duterte regime to reconsider its horrendous mass murder of drug users.

The Drugs Peace Institute thanks you in advance for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

the Drugs Peace Institute

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2. The nomination by Liberal International

“Neither the names of nominators nor of nominees for the Nobel Peace Prize may be divulged until the start of the year marking the 50th anniversary of the awarding of a particular prize.” the statutes of the Nobel Foundation state.

This prohibition of the divulgation of the nominee’s name applies to the Nobel Committee only. As the DPI never expected the drugs pacifists nominated in the past, like Evo Morales in 1994 and José Mujica in 2014, to be awarded the prize – given the prohibitionist beliefs at that time of the Norwegian Parliament from which the members of the Nobel Committee are recruited- the main reason for the nomination campaigns it organized was the publicity surrounding the nominees, which was meant to bestow an aura of respectability upon them. Senator de Lima however has not been presented as a drugs pacifist because her defense of persecuted minorities encompasses all social groups that are the victims of human rights abuses in the Philippines, as these equally may be the target of extrajudicial killings of the presumed “war on drugs”.

Senator de Lima’s chances to be awarded the Nobel are not mortgaged in advance as she is not presented as a proponent of a free drug policy but as a human rights advocate.

Moreover, in earlier phone conversations with the Nobel Committee, the DPI was told that no objections existed against disclosures about the nominee by the nominators, which disclosures are of their own responsibility.

Without violating the Nobel procedures and compromising the chances of the candidate, the DPI is pleased to publicize one of the letters of nomination. Please find [herewith](#) the endorsement by senator de Lima’s own political family, [Liberal International](#), by its president, Ms. Hakima El Haité.

3. The endorsement by The International Women's Alliance (IWA)

From the other end of the political spectrum came the endorsement of the nomination from the [International Women’s Alliance](#), a chapter of the International League of People’s Struggle. As the chairperson emeritus of the ILPS, Professor José Maria Sison, and the spokeswoman of the IWA, Ms. Donna Denina, are both of Filipino extraction, the DPI is extra pleased to publish [IWA’s letter of endorsement](#). A strong support from a militant global women’s liberation movement.