



PeaceWomen Across the Globe
FRIEDENSFRAUEN WELTWEIT
نساء من أجل السلام عبر العالم
Femmes de Paix Autour du Monde
Женщины мира за мир на земле
MUJERES DE PAZ EN EL MUNDO
Mulheres pela Paz ao redor do Mundo

DONNE DI PACE NEL MONDO

ピースウーマン—国境を越え平和をつくる女たち
全球和平妇女

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A Political Phenomenon Nobel Peace Prize 2005 Limiting Violence vs. Human Security

Among hundreds of thousands of women throughout the world, I held my breath in hope, expecting the Nobel Prize for the year 2005 to be given to one thousand women nominated from all over the world collectively. I was surprised, though, when two candidates shared the prize: Mohammed El Barad'i and the International Atomic Energy Association (IAEA).

I did not know what to think about this decision. I was glad that the person chosen was someone who challenged US policy, and declared that the American logic behind the attack was a fallacy; someone who was an honest witness in a time where honesty has shrunk to its lowest levels. On the other hand, I was devastated that the collective efforts of women were not recognised; women who worked long and made tremendous efforts as pioneers in their societies to achieve justice, freedom, and a just peace. Their efforts were in political and social areas, including fighting poverty, investigating and prosecuting war crimes, promoting education, health, addressing violence, and environmental protection.

The Nobel Committee was wise to highlight moral courage and the dangers of nuclear weapons proliferation, and to send a warning between-the-lines to the President of the USA and the Prime Minister of the UK against attacking Iran because of its alleged nuclear weapons program. The head of the Nobel committee in Norway, Otl Danbot Mois, described the committee choice's reasoning: «This is a message to all the world's inhabitants. Do what you can to get rid of nuclear weapons. The strength of nations is powerful.»

The IAEA, which El Barad'i heads, states its goal is to promote the peaceful use of nuclear technologies and support nuclear non-proliferation through its lead role in investigation and monitoring. What, then, is the goal and message of these thousand peacewomen, who were nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize? What is their philosophy? What is their vision of peace? Do they work to curb violence? Or to end violence in all its manifestations?

The message of the 1000 peacewomen nomination was that women play a massive role in peacebuilding, and that peacebuilding is not an individual act, it is achieved through collective action. Which leaves the question: why didn't those women receive that prize?

The Association of 1000 Women for the Nobel Peace Prize 2005 has adopted a broader understanding of peace whereby the connection between opposing violence and achieving economic, social, cultural, and environmental peace, is asserted without involving victory of one nation over another, and lying beyond treaties between ruling governments or armed groups. Women, who form half our world's population,



Unter der Schirmherrschaft der Schweizerischen UNESCO-Kommission – Under the patronage of the Swiss Commission for UNESCO

and who have been historically and persistently marginalized and devalued, still manage to play a vital role in building actual and just peace, and those women, among whom are the 1000 nominees, continue to work to make peace a reality.

From this vision, the Association produced the book «1000 Peace Women Across the Globe», organized a traveling exhibition of the 1000 PeaceWomen, and stimulated academic research. The Association has congratulated El Barad'i and the IAEA for being awarded the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize. It noted the importance of curbing nuclear-weapon production, and confronting aggressive policies by the USA and its allies. The PeaceWomen Association also greatly supported the message that the UN is the only legitimate party to determine when military action is justified. At the same time, the Association regretted that the Nobel Committee worked within a narrow conceptualization of peace that does not consider the civil efforts, especially the efforts of women, for just and lasting peace.

While appreciating the Nobel Committee's decision to highlight the danger of nuclear-weapons proliferation, the Association for 1000 PeaceWomen emphasized that existing weapons are also a danger to the life, health, and future of nations. In addition, the Association requested the IAEA to revise its double mandate that requires it to both limit nuclear-weapon production but promote the development of nuclear technologies. The Association asked that specialists from the World Health Organization (WHO) become responsible for determining the health effects of nuclear radiation, so that official data would be independent of the IAEA. It also requested a scientific conference to be organized by the WHO, with scientists from various institutions and political streams including observers from different governments, in order to reach decisions involving nuclear issues that take into consideration the benefits of every person on earth.

One of the Association's three objectives is to popularize the PeaceWomen concept of peace and peacebuilding in which peace is not seen as merely the antonym of war, but is equated with human security and manifested in economic, cultural, environmental, and political justice. If this concept is to become reality it will take the political and social efforts of women, who are half of society, and their active participation in peace processes. The Association will work to achieve this through the participation of thousands of women throughout the world. The 1000 PeaceWomen nomination was a symbolic manifestation of this concept of peace: there exist concrete examples of 1000 women leading change, 1000 women leading the fight against violence, discrimination, oppression, poverty, hunger, and suffering. When a cloud of desperation hangs over the world and peace seems a far dream, remember there are 1000 innovative women providing alternative paths to peace.

In Palestine, women in particular fight for human security by demanding the end of Israeli occupation and the creation of a Palestinian free state that respects human rights. They ask El Barad'i and the IAEA to begin investigations and monitoring of nuclear structures in Israel, in order to ensure that such weapons are not used in military actions.

As women around the world who work and dream of a better world, we cannot but congratulate Mohammed El Barad'i and the IAEA for winning the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize, and also to congratulate the British writer Harold Pinter – known for his bold political stance against US politics, Blair's attachment to Bush's politics, and the occupation of Iraq – for winning the Nobel Prize for Literature.

Al-Ayyam, 11 Dec 2005