



Nobel Peace Prize Nomination

Letter: Senator De Lima

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**Norwegian Nobel Committee
Oslo**

On behalf of the Bureau of Liberal International, the global federation of liberal political parties, I have the honour to bring to your attention our support for the nomination organized by the Drugs Peace Institute of Senator Leila De Lima of the Philippines, embattled democratic leader and internationally recognised human rights defender for the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize.

Senator De Lima has stood for human rights since the beginning of her political career, despite great personal cost to herself. She has faced down oppressive authoritarians at the highest levels of power while accepting the risks that it entails.

In particular, the Senator is a known critic of the Philippine Drug War of the administration of President Rodrigo Duterte. In February 2017, days after garnering international awards for her campaign against extrajudicial killings in the Philippines, she was arrested and charged for being linked to the drug trade during her stint as justice secretary, an accusation almost unanimously understood to be politically motivated. Three years later, she remains without having received any form of a fair trial.

In October 2017, the prestigious Prize for Freedom was awarded to her for her stand against dictatorial regimes. She was designated as a "prisoner of conscience" by numerous international human rights organizations. In May 2018, Amnesty International conferred to her the first ever *"Most Distinguished Human Rights Defender"* award during the Ignite Awards for Human Rights.

I, along with our President of Honour, Dr. Juli Minoves-Triquell, visited Senator De Lima last year as well as the families affected by President Duterte's violent policies. Though we were inspired by De Lima's fortitude and unwavering defence of human rights even while imprisoned, we were greatly saddened when confronted with the human cost of Duterte's inhuman campaign. There have been

too many innocent victims and too many families torn apart by loss for us to be able to look away from what is happening.

In a time of rising populism, insecurity and inequality, those of us who are resisting must do everything possible to recognise the people leading the fight on our behalf. Senator De Lima has shown us the true meaning of fighting for what one believes in. By supporting the nomination of Leila de Lima for your prestigious prize, we show the world; we show all those who fight for justice and peace, and we bring to the ears of all the families that have lost loved ones, that their voices have not gone unheard, and that we will continue this fight.

As a representative for the political family that is dedicated to the pursuit of human rights, rule of law and democracy, I ask you to consider Senator De Lima of the Philippines for her immeasurable contribution to our common good, to the protection of our basic human rights, and for her uncompromising resistance against the forces that seek to extinguish the humanity within us.

Sincerely,

**Hakima El Haité
President
Liberal International**