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In Italy start up the Committee for the  
NOMINATION TO THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE FOR 2018  
"THE RIGHTEOUS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA"  
FOR THE HUMANITARIAN MARINE RESCUE OF MIGRANTS



Italy - Parma, 15/09/2017

An international group of citizens in Parma (Italy) start up the Committee for the nomination to the Nobel Peace Prize for 2018 "THE RIGHTEOUS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA - FOR THE HUMANITARIAN MARINE RESCUE OF MIGRANTS", for the joint candidature of 66 subjects from 19 different nations: non-governmental organizations and other worthy persons, which have continuously activated, during the "Refugees crisis", maritime rescue means along the migratory routes of the Central Mediterranean Sea and the Aegean Sea, to provide a humanitarian response to the protection of the lives of migrants, motivated by the universal principle that every person in danger at sea must be rescued and treated with dignity.

For too long we have witnessed one of the greatest humanitarian catastrophes and one of the major political and ethical challenges of our times: the daily death of refugees in the seas of European frontiers. The dramatic balance of deaths or official dispersions in the Mediterranean Sea from 2011 to 2017 is a total of more than 15.000 refugees.

The Committee brings together an international group of citizens who believe in a Europe of solidarity and humanity, outraged by the recent attacks, attempting to criminalize the humanitarian rescue of migrants, coming from different parties and supported by radical right raids. The Committee intends to respond to these allegations.

The term 'Righteous' comes from the Bible, which states that *"whoever saves a life saves the whole world"* and it was applied for the first time in Israel with reference to those who rescued Jews from Nazi persecution in Europe. The context is different, but there is though one common point though. The Holocaust Righteous and the rescuers who help the refugees at sea answer the call of the other's face. Probably, in their life, they would have done something completely different, but then something compelled them to act. They have not planned to do good, they have not gone out to do some volunteer work, nor decided to sacrifice their lives as missionaries, but in the face of people demanding help they have decided to act, as if they had received an order.

The Committee intends to honor the humanitarian effort of a network of solidarity made up of people who have not hesitated to help and save thousands of refugees and who have been in the last few years providing relief and first reception in often prohibitive sea conditions: fishermen, volunteers, artists, seamen, doctors, lifeguards, nurses, pilots, shipmasters, rescuers have opened their hearts to save refugee children, men and women fleeing war and terror. People who do not let the sea decide on the fate of the refugees. People who know they are running a risk but prefer to risk rather than living with the weight of remorse for being indifferent. Courageous souls who do all this just because "*it's the right thing to do*", with extraordinary inner strength and resilience.

These are the "THE RIGHTEOUS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA", men and women who have chosen which part of the Story to stay, who have chosen to go to sea with the uninterested goal of saving as many lives as possible with the following results: only in the Central Mediterranean Sea, according to official data from the Italian Coast Guard, the NGOs saved from August 2014 to April 2017 in total 80.655 refugees.

As a recognition for the work that has been actively carried out in maritime research, rescue and assistance operations, with which refugees have long been able to find effective rescue facilities with international crews, rescuers, doctors and volunteers who have welcomed them in the name of peace and conducted in a safe harbor, under the coordination of the competent authorities, the Committee proposes for 2018 the joint nomination to the Nobel Peace Prize of the following NGOs and MERITORIOUS SUBJECTS:

1. MÉDECINS SANS FRONTIÈRES - Switzerland
2. MIGRANT OFFSHORE AID STATION - Malta
3. CORPO ITALIANO DI SOCCORSO DELL'ORDINE DI MALTA - Italy
4. EMERGENCY ONG ONLUS - Italy
5. CROCE ROSSA ITALIANA - Italy
6. SEA-WATCH E.V. - Germany
7. HUMANITARIAN PILOTS INITIATIVE - Switzerland
8. SEA-EYE E.V. - Germany
9. PROACTIVA OPEN ARMS - Spain
10. HUMANITY CREW - Israel
11. DUTCH BOAT REFUGEE FOUNDATION - Holland
12. SAVE THE CHILDREN - United Kingdom
13. SOS MÉDITERRANÉE - Germany, France, Italy
14. MÉDECINS DU MONDE - France
15. JUGEND RETTET E.V. - Germany
16. GERMAN MARITIME SEARCH AND RESCUE ASSOCIATION - Germany
17. GERMAN LIFE-SAVING SERVICE - Germany
18. HELLENIC RESCUE TEAM - Greece
19. LIFE BOAT GGMBH I.G. - Germany
20. CADUS REDEFINE GLOBAL SOLIDARITY E.V. - Germany
21. ELPIS NAVE OSPEDALE ONLUS - Italy
22. WOMEN AND HEALTH ALLIANCE INTERNATIONAL - France
23. RAINBOW FOR AFRICA ONLUS - Italy
24. MISSIONLAND ONLUS - Italy
25. ENGIM INTERNAZIONALE - Italy
26. VOLUNTEER SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM - Greece
27. SAILORS WITHOUT BORDERS - Poland
28. SWEDISH SEA RESCUE SOCIETY - Sweden
29. ROYAL NATIONAL LIFEBOAT INSTITUTION - United Kingdom
30. NORWEGIAN SOCIETY FOR SEA RESCUE - Norway
31. ROYAL NETHERLANDS SEA RESCUE INSTITUTION - Holland
32. BODRUM SEA RESCUE ASSOCIATION - Turkey
33. LIFEGUARD HELLAS SAVE & RESCUE VOLUNTEER TEAM - Greece
34. INTERNATIONAL SURF LIFESAVING ASSOCIATION - Usa
35. BETHELLS BEACH SURF LIFE SAVING PATROL - New Zealand

36. LIFEGUARDS WITHOUT BORDERS - Usa
37. GREENPEACE INTERNATIONAL - Holland
38. EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTRE INTERNATIONAL - Greece
39. VANCOUVER SEARCH AND RESCUE - Canada
40. PROEM-AID OCEAN RESCUE TEAM - Spain
41. PLATANOS RESCUE TEAM - Greece
42. SALVAMENTO MARÍTIMO HUMANITARIO - Spain
43. F.E.O.X. RESCUE TEAM - Greece
44. REFUGEE RESCUE - United Kingdom
45. CANADIAN MARINE RESCUE ASSISTANCE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY - Canada
46. TEAM HUMANITY - Denmark
47. SAMOS DIVERS ASSOCIATION - Greece
48. ELITE SPECIAL TASK FORCE EGALEO - Greece
49. BOMBEROS EN ACCIÓN ONGD - Spain
50. ATLANTIC PACIFIC INT. RESCUE BOAT PROJECT - United Kingdom
51. THE WORLDWIDE TRIBE SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM - United Kingdom
52. ZENTRUM FÜR POLITISCHE SCHÖNHEIT - Germany
53. Mr. IOANNIS POLYCHRONOPOULOS - Piraeus, Greece
54. DISTRETTO DELLA PESCA E CRESCITA BLU - Mazara del Vallo, Italy
55. CONSORZIO PESCATORI LAMPEDUSA E LINOSA - Lampedusa, Italy
56. ASSOCIATION "LE PECHEUR" POUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT ET L'ENVIRONNEMENT - Zarzis, Tunisia
57. Mr. RECEP EVRAN - Kusadasi, Turkey
58. Mr. PANAGIOTIS KAPABETIS - Alexandroupolis, Greece
59. Mr. STRATIS KASSOS - Lesvos, Greece
60. Mr. NIKOS KATAKOUZINOS - Lesvos, Greece
61. Mr. BABIS MANIAS - Rodos, Greece
62. Mr. THANASIS MARMARINOS - Lesvos, Greece
63. Mr. GIORGOS MAVRIPIDIS - Lesvos, Greece
64. Mr. KOSTAS PINTERIS - Lesvos, Greece
65. Mr. STRATIS VALIAMOS - Lesvos, Greece
66. Mr. STEFANOS ZANNIKOS - Chios, Greece

The Nobel Peace Prize would be an important acknowledgment for an international community made up of humanitarian organizations and common people solely by attempting to actively testify of respect for human dignity and peace, since every brave and helpful contribution to the sacrifice shows the victims a human face and a source of hope for reconciliation and peaceful coexistence.

The Committee start the international campaign to support the nomination, which will be sent within January 31, 2018. Numerous initiatives are active:

- the activation the support from institutions, political organizations and the academic world for the official submission of the nomination
- the start of the official web site dedicated to the support campaign and social network profiles (<https://www.facebook.com/TheRighteousMedSea>)
- the launch of an international online petition on the Avaaz.org website to support the candidature ([https://secure.avaaz.org/en/petition/NORWEGIAN\\_NOBEL\\_COMMITTEE\\_NOBEL\\_PEACE\\_PRIZE\\_2018\\_TO\\_THE\\_RIGHTEOUS\\_OF\\_THE\\_MEDITERRANEAN\\_SEA](https://secure.avaaz.org/en/petition/NORWEGIAN_NOBEL_COMMITTEE_NOBEL_PEACE_PRIZE_2018_TO_THE_RIGHTEOUS_OF_THE_MEDITERRANEAN_SEA))
- the campaign "*On the part of the Righteous*", addressed to the mayors of european cities who intend to declare the public administration support to the nomination
- the request for official sponsorship to peace organizations and social subjects for the campaign

Peace cannot be defined solely by the absence of war or conflict, but also by protecting and promoting the dignity and respect of all people. Faced with the greatest refugee crisis in Europe after the Second World War, nobody deserves to drown at sea.

The Committee does not require any economic burden for own activity, absolutely non-profit and voluntary.  
Detailed information on individual candidates can be found online at the official campaign website ([www.nobel-righteous-mediterraneansea.info](http://www.nobel-righteous-mediterraneansea.info)).

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**Committee for the nomination of “The Righteous of the Mediterranean Sea” to Nobel Peace Prize 2018**

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