

To the attention of
The Norwegian Nobel Committee
Henrik Ibsens Gate 51
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NORWAY

In my capacity as qualified nominator according to the established procedure of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, I wish to nominate for the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize Ms. Zura Karuhimbi, Ms. Yolande Mukagasana and Mr. Pierantonio Costa, for their efforts to promote tolerance, nonviolence and peace during and after the 1994 genocide of the Tutsis and the massacres of moderate Hutus in Rwanda.

In 1994, in the space of three months, between 6th April and 18th July, in Rwanda one million people mostly belonging to the ethnic Tutsi minority, along with many Hutu who opposed the genocide, was murdered by criminal extremists belonging to the Hutu majority. A murder every ten seconds took place under the indifferent eyes of the international community. In this context, many obeyed the orders and killed, raped and tortured; others were able to save themselves in front of the machetes threat, and others, denying the logic of the genocide, chose to oppose, helpless, the horror, and to save other human beings, at risk of their own lives. These are the Righteous of Rwanda I chose to nominate for the Nobel Peace Prize 2011.

Until now, no Nobel Prize has been awarded to those who have refused the violence and heroically saved hundreds of lives. Their example should instead be known, now more than ever, to show everyone that we all have a choice: the choice of saving instead of killing, the choice of nonviolence against violence, the choice of courage and dignity of good against the banality of evil.

Zura Karuhimbi is a Hutu peasant who is now 84 years old and, at the time of the genocide, was almost 70. With great intelligence and courage she hid and saved the lives of nearly 100 refugees. If she had been caught, Zura had surely met a terrible death, the one intended for the "accomplices" of the Tutsis. Zura has already been rewarded by the Government of Rwanda and has recently been recognized as "Righteous" by the Garden of the Righteous of Padua, Italy.

Yolande Mukagasana is a Tutsi nurse whose entire family, including her three children and her husband, was murdered under the blows of machetes. Saved by a Hutu woman, Yolande began an untiring campaign to witness the genocide of Rwanda all over the world. Her story is told in the book "Death does not want me". Writer of international reputation, Yolande has already received several awards including UNESCO Honorable Mention for Education to Peace.

Pierantonio Costa held the office of Italian Honorary Consul in Kigali at the time of the genocide. After having helped the evacuation of Italians and other foreigners and having already saved many Rwandese people in the early days of the genocide, he bravely returned to the country to rescue some 2,000 Tutsis beyond the Rwanda borders. His exceptional story is told in the book "The list of the Consul." Renamed by various media "the Italian Schindler", Costa was recognized as "Righteous" by the Committee for the Gardens of the Righteous Worldwide of Milan and by the Garden of the Righteous of Padua.

Please find attached the complete profiles of the three candidates.

Best regards.