

# ORGANIZATION LOGO REDACTED

October 13, 2010

Thorbjørn Jagland  
Chairman  
Nobel Prize Committee  
[Mailing address withheld]

Dear Chairman Jagland and Nobel Peace Prize Committee Members:

The Military Religious Freedom Foundation (MRFF) was founded in 2005 by U.S. Air Force Academy honor graduate Michael L. "Mikey" Weinstein after the bitter religious harassment his sons, as Jewish cadets, and his now daughter-in-law, a Christian cadet, faced at the Academy.

As Weinstein discovered, the religious discrimination and harassment at the U.S. Air Force Academy was far from an isolated problem. Indeed, it was a vast military-wide issue requiring immediate and aggressive confrontation.

It quickly became apparent that the Foundation's initial mission of protecting the civil rights of the men and women of the U.S. military was only addressing one part of the problem. MRFF discovered widespread, aggressive evangelizing and proselytizing of Iraqi and Afghan Muslims by U.S. military personnel, military contractors, and private religious organizations operating with the universal sanction or aid of the military. Not only were U.S. troops being pushed towards fundamentalist Christian religious uniformity, but the full U.S. military might was being mobilized as an evangelical army to convert inhabitants of the Middle East.

Few things could be more comprehensively detrimental to the fraternity between the United States and the Islamic nations than the perception of the nearly unmatched conventional and nuclear military forces of the United States as the weapons of Fundamentalist Christianity. It was MRFF that first coined the term "Fundamentalist Christian, Military-Parachurch-Corporate Proselytizing Complex" to describe the formidable magnitude and ubiquitous nature of this American military religious nationalism. It was through MRFF's actions that Bible inscriptions on U.S. military rifle sights were removed. These same rifles were being used to train Iraqi and Afghan soldiers. At least five nations using these rifle sights joined the United States in demanding the removal of these inscriptions. The Church of England fully supported and issued a statement of support for removing these inscriptions, as they were contrary to Christianity.

More recently, General David Petraeus spoke out publicly against a U.S. minister's plans to publicly burn the Qur'an. MRFF not only vocally condemned this planned event, but offered, in conjunction with its close ally - The Institute on Religion and Public Policy - to replace every Qur'an that was burned. This offer resulted in a liaison for the Afghan National Army expressing appreciation for MRFF's gesture of goodwill – even though the Qur'an burning was

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eventually called off.

U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates recently discussed the danger to American troops resulting from perceptions of U.S. forces as a Christian army. What can be more dangerous to peace between nations than troops who take pictures with their holy books and rifles? We call these soldiers terrorists if they are Muslim, but very frequently U.S. military members take similar photos. It is solely due to MRFF's efforts that these provocatively dangerous trends are reversing. Without MRFF's dedication to the religious freedom of both U.S. military troops and those of our allies, the U.S. Armed Forces would rapidly be transformed into a proselytizing Christian military levying a pernicious religious crusade throughout Muslim nations.

In the years since its founding, MRFF has been contacted, reached out to, and retained by nearly 20,000 active duty United States marines, soldiers, sailors, airmen and veterans. More than 95%, amazingly, are Christians. These Christian clients of MRFF find themselves targeted by influential Fundamentalists, often superior officers in the military chain of command, who do not consider Catholics or mainstream Protestants to be "true Christians." The remainder of MRFF's clients come from diverse backgrounds such as Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, Hindu, Buddhist, Wiccan, atheist, agnostic and many others.

The brutal religious oppression wrought by the insuperable influence of the draconian spectre of U.S. military command influence causes lasting trauma. Standard internal military personnel channels of redress have been so terribly corrupted by religious extremism that MRFF stands completely alone as the sole avenue of redress for its "spiritually raped" clients. It is the only entity to which victims can effectively turn for help. Servicemen and servicewomen are terrified of the retribution, reprisal and revenge religious power extremists possess and continue to wield on the poor soldier, sailor, marine, or airman who dares to make either a formal or informal complaint. MRFF works tirelessly in the courts and in the national and international media to expose this extremely dangerous conflation of American military fanatical religious proselytizing with U.S. weapons of mass destruction.

In 2006, the Foundation's leader, Mr. Weinstein, was named one of the "Forward 50," a list of the most influential Jews in America compiled by The Forward, one of the America's preeminent Jewish publications, in the category of "Ideas & Activism." In 2008, he was honored by the distinguished civil rights organization Jews for Racial and Economic Justice with the Rabbi Marshall T. Meyer Risk-Taker Award, an award given to those who have taken extraordinary risks in the pursuit of justice. He is a past nominee for the JFK Profile In Courage Award. In 2010, he was awarded the Anne Froehlich Political Courage Award by the Pacific Palisades Democratic Club (Los Angeles, California), an award previously given to Ambassador Joseph C. Wilson and wife Valerie Plame, Ron Kovic, Daniel Ellsberg and Phil Donahue. Additionally, MRFF was the recipient of two nominations for the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize. Mr. Weinstein's tireless civil rights and humanitarian activism as the President and Founder of MRFF has been well chronicled in the national and international media and in critically acclaimed documentary cinema, plays and in books.

As a result, Mr. Weinstein and his family have been the target of extensive retaliatory death threats and related grotesque actions from American religious fundamentalists; such harassment

has included the repeated shooting-out of the windows of their home, the burning of a church where he was scheduled to speak, the placement of slaughtered animals at his front doorstep, the mass distributed invocation of imprecatory or "curse" prayers calling for his and his family's deaths, and the crude markings of swastikas and crosses on his family's dwelling, to name just a few.

The hard work of MRFF is supported by secular organizations including Veterans for Common Sense, and Americans United for the Separation of Church and State. MRFF has also been heartily endorsed by many religious organizations, including the Interfaith Alliance, the California Council of Churches IMPACT, the Columbus Jewish Foundation, and the Interfaith Freedom Foundation, as well as many other Islamic and Jewish organizations.

The past accomplishments and ongoing critical work of the Military Religious Freedom Foundation have earned this acclaimed civil rights organization and its cause the profound respect and attention of officers and officials in the highest ranks of the United States military as well as similarly situated military and civilian leaders from the governments of other nations.

Indeed, MRFF's unbridled humanitarian efforts have opened vital lines of communication to those who have the ability and authority to implement and enforce the policies necessary to address and correct both (1) the egregious violations of basic civil rights within the American military; and (2) the astonishing disregard of existing national and international laws and policies that result in the often not unfounded perception that the United States military presence in other nations is, in significant part, a pervasive religious crusade founded upon fundamentalist Christian ideals that is just as dangerous as the infamous Crusades of the 11th and 12th centuries.

In consideration of the extensive qualifications detailed above, it is my honor and privilege to hereby officially submit this nomination of the Military Religious Freedom Foundation for the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize.

Sincerely,

**OFFICIAL  
SIGNATURE  
REDACTED**

[Nominator's Name Redacted]

[Nominator's Organizational Title and Position Redacted]