

October 8, 2025

The Nobel Foundation  
Sturegatan 14, Stockholm

**Re: Seven Reasons Why I Believe President Donald J. Trump Is Unfit to Receive the Nobel Peace Prize**

Members of the Norwegian Nobel Committee,

I write to express my opinion and respectfully urge the Committee to consider the consequences of awarding the 2025 Nobel Peace Prize to U.S. President Donald J. Trump. At a moment when peace, human rights, and democratic values are under immense strain, I believe this honor must be reserved for leaders who unite people and uphold human dignity. President Trump's tenure has instead been marked by a might-makes-right authoritarian agenda, rooted in unilateralism, in tandem with a disregard for domestic and international law.

**Succinctly and perspicuously stated, President Donald Trump has, among his many disqualifying transgressions:**

- Withdrawn from critical international agreements, weakening global cooperation.
- Fueled Israel's genocide in Gaza, disregarding Palestinian lives and enabling widespread famine.
- Bolstered authoritarianism by emboldening Russia and withholding support for Ukraine.
- Renamed the Department of Defense the Department of War, and increased its budget.
- Exacerbated domestic polarization, stoking violence and eroding democratic norms.
- Used state power to intimidate U.S. cities through ICE and National Guard deployment, indicative of his might-makes-right authoritarian policies.
- Been convicted on 34 felony counts, indicative of his disregard for the rule of law.

Granting the Nobel Peace Prize to President Trump would betray the values it was created to honor. His record reflects less reconciliation or diplomacy, and more might-makes-right authoritarianism. Awarding him this noble distinction would diminish the accomplishments of the 139 previous laureates and undermine the Prize's acclaimed prestige. The Committee should make clear that lasting peace is achieved not through power or fear, but collaboration, justice, and respect for humanity.

Please see the following pages for further explanation.

## **Withdrew from critical international agreements, weakening global cooperation.**

Within hours of his second inauguration on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025, President Trump signed a series of executive orders severing or weakening U.S. participation in core multilateral institutions. He directed the United States to withdraw from the Paris Climate Agreement, the landmark accord designed to limit global warming to 1.5°C;<sup>1</sup> ordered the U.S. exit from the World Health Organization, the UN body that coordinates international health responses;<sup>2</sup> and renounced U.S. commitments under the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's (OECD) global minimum corporate tax agreement, a cornerstone of international tax fairness.<sup>3</sup>

These actions echo his first-term record, when he withdrew the U.S. from the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and froze funding to agencies like the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA).<sup>4</sup> Taken together, this pattern shows a retreat from global cooperation and a weakening of collective efforts on climate change, public health, nuclear non-proliferation, and human rights, the very areas the Nobel Peace Prize was conceived to advance.

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<sup>1</sup> Daly, Matthew, and Seth Borenstein. "Trump Signs Executive Order Directing US Withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement - Again." AP News, January 21, 2025. <https://apnews.com/article/trump-paris-agreement-climate-change-788907bb89fe307a964be757313cdfb0>.

<sup>2</sup> Gay Stolberg, Sheryl. "Trump Withdraws U.S. from World Health Organization - The New York Times." Trump Withdraws U.S. From World Health Organization, January 22, 2025. <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/01/20/us/politics/trump-world-health-organization.html>.

<sup>3</sup> Lawder, David. "Trump Effectively Pulls Us out of Global Corporate Tax Deal." Reuters, January 20, 2025. <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/trump-declares-oecd-tax-deal-has-no-force-or-effect-us-2025-01-21/>.

<sup>4</sup> "Withdrawing the United States from and Ending Funding to Certain United Nations Organizations and Reviewing United States Support to All International Organizations." The White House, February 6, 2025. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/02/withdrawing-the-united-states-from-and-ending-funding-to-certain-united-nations-organizations-and-reviewing-united-states-support-to-all-international-organizations/>.

## **Fueled Israel's genocide in Gaza, disregarding Palestinian lives and enabling widespread famine.**

President Trump's administration has consistently provided Israel's Netanyahu administration with political, diplomatic, and material support during its devastating might-makes-right military campaign in Gaza.<sup>5</sup> The Trump administration has expedited weapons transfers,<sup>6</sup> repeatedly vetoed United Nations ceasefire and humanitarian resolutions,<sup>7</sup> and cut funding to agencies such as UNRWA that provide food, medicine, and schooling to Palestinian civilians.<sup>8</sup> These measures have deprived millions of basic needs and shielded Israel from accountability.

The toll has been catastrophic: tens of thousands of Palestinians have been killed, over a million displaced, hospitals and schools destroyed, and families forced into overcrowded shelters without reliable medical care or education.<sup>9</sup> Gaza has been on the brink of mass starvation, with hundreds of thousands of Palestinians going days without food, aid workers and doctors also afflicted with hunger, and reports of journalists in Gaza being too weak to document the atrocities.<sup>10</sup>

Together, President Trump and Prime Minister Netanyahu have promoted a might-makes-right authoritarian end to a war, without a well-defined Palestinian state being part-and-parcel to lasting peace. Far from peacemaking, these actions facilitated mass suffering and undermined prospects for a just peace. This is antithetical to the time-honored values the Nobel Peace Prize was conceived to honor.

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<sup>5</sup> Staff, TOI. "US Moves to Expedite Delivery of \$4 Billion in Military Aid to Israel | The Times of Israel." The Times of Israel, March 2, 2025. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/us-moves-to-expedite-delivery-of-4-billion-in-military-aid-to-israel/>.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Nichols, Michelle. "US Casts 6th Veto at United Nations over War in Gaza." Reuters, September 18, 2025. <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/us-vetoes-un-demand-ceasefire-aid-access-gaza-2025-09-18/>.

<sup>8</sup> Lederer, Edith M. "Trump Announces Withdrawal from UN Human Rights Body and Halt to Funding for Palestinian Refugees." AP News, February 5, 2025. <https://apnews.com/article/trump-un-human-rights-palestinian-refugees-israel-05e1d57bbb41df38771d1ab69adb21a3>.

<sup>9</sup> "Netanyahu Says Israel Working on Ceasefire Plan on Eve of Trump Meeting. Gaza Death Toll Tops 66,000." U.S. News, September 28, 2025. <https://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2025-09-28/over-66-000-palestinians-have-been-killed-in-israel-hamas-war-gazas-health-ministry-says>.

<sup>10</sup> Hawley, Caroline. "Gaza Doctors Are Starving While Fighting to Save Lives, Evacuated Medic Tells BBC." BBC News, October 1, 2025. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c1wg4dyxjv9o>.

## **Bolstered authoritarianism by emboldening Russia and withholding support for Ukraine.**

President Trump has repeatedly minimized Russian culpability and blurred the line between aggressor and victim, weakening global norms against territorial conquest and empowering authoritarianism. He publicly praised and deferred to Russian President Vladimir Putin, defending him at press conferences, accepting his denials at face value, and calling Moscow's security concerns "legitimate," as Russia continued its war in Ukraine.<sup>11</sup> In contrast, President Trump belittled Ukraine's leadership, referring to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in derogatory terms and asserting that "You should have never started it," despite the international consensus that Russia's invasion was unprovoked.<sup>12</sup>

This imbalance has been reinforced by concrete policy choices. His administration omitted explicit affirmations of Ukraine's sovereignty,<sup>13</sup> declined to increase restrictions on Russian oil exports which could have constrained its military operations,<sup>14</sup> and put forth "peace plans" that have been criticized for echoing Kremlin talking points.<sup>15</sup> Collectively, this deference to President Putin and disparagement of Ukraine reduced the Russian cost of aggression, muddled the moral clarity of U.S. commitments, and legitimized revisionist authoritarian states, the converse of the leadership and commitment to peace the Nobel Prize is meant to recognize.

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<sup>11</sup> Cameron, Chris, and Maggie Haberman. "After Summit, Trump Heaps Praise on Putin in Fox News Interview." The New York Times, August 16, 2025. <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/08/16/world/europe/trump-hannity-interview-fox-news.html>.

<sup>12</sup> Samuels, Brett. "Trump Says Zelensky 'Should Have Never Started' War with Russia." The Hill, February 18, 2025. <https://thehill.com/homenews/administration/5151545-trump-ukraine-zelensky-war-russia/>.

<sup>13</sup> Wolf, Zachary B. "What to Know about Trump's Proposal to Carve up Ukraine | CNN Politics." CNN, April 26, 2025. <https://www.cnn.com/2025/04/26/politics/gut-up-to-speed-as-on-ukraine-as-trump-says-a-peace-deal-is-close>.

<sup>14</sup> Minority Staff. "Dropping the Baton: How America Is Failing to Use Russia Sanctions and Export Controls to Help Achieve a Just Peace in Ukraine." Senate Banking, August 2025. [https://www.banking.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/final\\_dropping\\_the\\_baton\\_-\\_how\\_america\\_is\\_failing\\_to\\_use\\_russia\\_sanctions\\_and\\_export\\_controls\\_to\\_help\\_achieve\\_a\\_just\\_peace\\_in\\_ukraine\\_-\\_august\\_2025.pdf](https://www.banking.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/final_dropping_the_baton_-_how_america_is_failing_to_use_russia_sanctions_and_export_controls_to_help_achieve_a_just_peace_in_ukraine_-_august_2025.pdf).

<sup>15</sup> Kaplan, Fred. "Trump's Ukraine Peace Plan Gives Russia Everything It Wants. What Is He Trying to Do?" Slate, April 24, 2025. [https://slate.com/news-and-politics/2025/04/donald-trump-ukraine-russia-ceasefire-peace-plan.html?pay=1759422771746&support\\_journalism=please](https://slate.com/news-and-politics/2025/04/donald-trump-ukraine-russia-ceasefire-peace-plan.html?pay=1759422771746&support_journalism=please).

## **Renamed the Department of Defense the Department of War and increased its budget.**

On September 5, 2025, President Trump signed an executive order renaming the Department of Defense the “Department of War,” a title last used in the 1940s, stating it would “project strength and resolve” and “send a message of victory.”<sup>16</sup> Secretary of War Pete Hegseth declared that the change signaled “maximum lethality, not tepid legality” and a commitment to “raise up warriors, not just defenders,” underscoring a shift away from defense and toward an explicit warfighting posture, led by a Commander in Chief implementing authoritarian might-makes-right policies.<sup>17</sup>

Beyond symbolism, President Trump proposed the first-ever \$1 trillion defense budget for fiscal year 2026, a sharp increase over the \$892 billion Congress had allocated for fiscal year 2025. This increase in War Department spending transpired even as his administration cut funding for education, health, environment, and foreign-aid programs.<sup>18</sup> Collectively, these moves reflect a prioritization of militarization over diplomacy and human needs, a philosophy fundamentally at odds with the Nobel Peace Prize’s aim of honoring leaders who advance peace rather than glorify war.

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<sup>16</sup> Debusmann, Bernd. “Trump Rebrands Department of Defense as Department of War.” BBC News, September 5, 2025. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cgr9r4qr0ppo>.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

<sup>18</sup> Luhby, Tami, Ella Nilsen, Andrew Freedman, Samantha Delouya, Sarah Oweremohle, and Jennifer Hansler. “Trump Budget Proposes \$1 Trillion for Defense, Slashes Education, Foreign Aid, Environment, Health and Public Assistance | CNN Politics.” CNN, May 2, 2025. <https://www.cnn.com/2025/05/02/politics/trump-budget-proposal-defense-spending>.

## **Exacerbated domestic polarization, stoking violence and eroding democratic norms.**

President Trump's words and conduct have sharply intensified political polarization in the United States and weakened public confidence in domestic institutions. He has repeatedly utilized antagonistic language inimical to entire groups of Americans, stating that he "hates the left," while calling political opponents "traitors" or "enemies of the people," and characterizing fellow citizens not as legitimate participants in a pluralistic democracy, but as existential threats.<sup>19</sup> This rhetoric, when amplified at rallies and on social media, normalizes contempt and suspicion across party lines and encourages the harassment and targeting of public officials and journalists.<sup>20</sup>

Simultaneously, his persistent falsehoods about electoral fraud, coupled with his delegitimization of the courts, the Congress, and the press, undermined public trust in core institutions and weakened the guardrails of democratic governance,<sup>21</sup> contributing to the January 6<sup>th</sup> insurrection of the U.S. Capitol.<sup>22</sup> Taken together, these patterns of communication have eroded civic norms, as well as what should be the agreed upon foundational facts necessary for peaceful democratic contestation, the antithesis of the values the Nobel Peace Prize was conceived to honor.

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<sup>19</sup> Marquez, Alexandra. "'The Enemy from within': Trump Calls Democrats More Dangerous than U.S. Foreign Adversaries." NBC News, October 13, 2024. <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/2024-election/-enemy-trump-claims-democrats-are-dangerous-us-foreign-adversaries-rcna175198>.

<sup>20</sup> Winter, Tom. "Police Chiefs Sound Alarm over 'disturbing Rise in Rhetoric,' Cite Rising Political Threats." NBCNews.com, October 2, 2025. <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/police-chiefs-sound-alarm-disturbing-rise-rhetoric-cite-rising-politic-rcna233948>.

<sup>21</sup> Davies, Dave. "Harvard Professor Offers a Grim Assessment of American Democracy under Trump." NPR, April 22, 2025. <https://www.npr.org/2025/04/22/nx-s1-5372334/harvard-professor-offers-a-grim-assessment-of-american-democracy-under-trump>.

<sup>22</sup> Jansen, Bart. "House Jan. 6 Final Report: Donald Trump 'central Cause' of Capitol Attack." USA Today, December 19, 2022. <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2022/12/19/january-6-committee-report-released/10606124002/>.

**Used state power to intimidate U.S. cities through ICE and National Guard deployment, indicative of his might-makes-right authoritarian policies.**

President Trump has repeatedly wielded federal agencies and security forces in ways widely condemned as politically motivated intimidation of his opponents and marginalized communities. His administration dramatically expanded high-profile Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids and “sanctuary city” crackdowns, sending heavily armed, masked ICE tactical teams into cities such as New York, Chicago, and Portland to seize suspected undocumented immigrants off the street without clear peace officer identification or warrants.<sup>23</sup> Civil-rights groups documented how these raids named by some as “snatch-and-grab” operations have created fear far beyond immigrant communities, with residents afraid to go to work, school, or medical appointments.<sup>24</sup>

The masked ICE crackdowns and the militarization of the National Guard exemplify how President Trump’s might-makes-right authoritarian actions blur the line between legitimate public safety operations and political coercion, by using federal power not merely to enforce laws, but to intimidate cities, punish dissenting jurisdictions, and undermine the democratic norms of local self-governance.

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<sup>23</sup> Sundel, Jenna, and Amanda Castro. “Trump Administration Says Ice to Expand Operations in Five Sanctuary Cities.” Newsweek, August 28, 2025. <https://www.newsweek.com/trump-admin-sanctuary-cities-ice-operations-deportations-increase-2120910>.

<sup>24</sup>Nittle, Nadra. “‘This Is the First Time I’ve Been Afraid That I Am Latina’: Ice Raids Set L.A. on Edge.” The 19th, June 16, 2025. <https://19thnews.org/2025/06/ice-raids-los-angeles-mental-health/>.



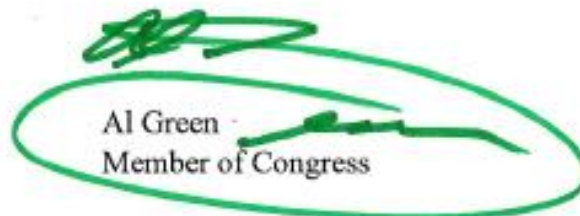
**Convicted on 34 felony counts, indicative of his disregard for the rule of law.**

President Trump is the first sitting or former U.S. president to be convicted on criminal charges, having been found guilty of 34 felony counts in a New York court in 2024 for falsifying business records in connection with hush-money payments and election interference.<sup>25</sup> This unprecedented status underscores not just legal culpability, but is also disrespectful of the rule of law.

The conviction has eroded public trust in the presidency, further polarized an already divided nation, and signaled to allies and adversaries alike that the United States can be led by someone willing to flout the rule of law. Far from embodying the noble leadership celebrated by the Nobel Peace Prize, President Trump's record of felony convictions exemplifies the converse: a disregard for legality, accountability, and the ethical norms essential to peace and democratic governance.

Should you require additional information, please contact my Chief of Staff, Aaron Linfesty, by email at [Aaron.Linfesty@mail.house.gov](mailto:Aaron.Linfesty@mail.house.gov) or phone at (202) 225-7508.

Sincerely,



Al Green  
Member of Congress

*Scion of the Enslaved Africans –  
Sacrificed to Make America Great*

*Progenitor of August and August 20th  
as Slavery Remembrance Month and Day*

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<sup>25</sup> Bustillo, Ximena, and Hilary Fung. "Trump Is Found Guilty on 34 Felony Counts. Read the Counts Here." NPR, May 30, 2024. <https://www.npr.org/2024/05/30/g-s1-1848/trump-hush-money-trial-34-counts>.