



The Olof Palme Memorial Fund

For international
understanding and
common security

Press Release

THE OLOF PALME PRIZE 2006 to KOFI ANNAN and MOSSAAD MOHAMED ALI

The Olof Palme Prize for 2006 goes to KOFI ANNAN, Secretary General of the United Nations between 1997 - 2006, and to MOSSAAD MOHAMED ALI, lawyer and defender of human rights in Nyala, South Darfur, in the Sudan. They are awarded the prize because both of them have carried out energetic and dedicated work for human rights, peace and security.

Kofi Annan

During ten years, **Kofi Annan** has led the United Nations with courage and involvement. In the spirit of Dag Hammarskjöld he has striven to make the UN live up to its full responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. His fight for human rights, and his way of stressing that development is a necessary part of the work for security, has left indelible traces in the world organization. During difficult periods, Kofi Annan has given proof of the utmost integrity, and he has defended the UN principles and international law when these were challenged by the mightiest authorities.

Mossaad Mohamed Ali

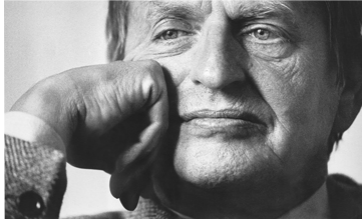
Mossaad Mohamed Ali is coordinator of 'The Amel Centre for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Victims of Torture in South Darfur', which gives legal help and medical and psycho-social assistance to victims of torture and sexual violence, and to those risking cruel, inhuman and debasing treatment, including the death penalty and amputations. His involvement has concerned hundreds of thousands of war victims in the camps surrounding Nyala since the escalation of the war. For over ten years, Mossaad has been an outspoken and courageous critic of crimes against human rights that were inflicted on the most exposed people of Darfur, both in Sudan and internationally.

The Olof Palme Prize is awarded annually for an outstanding achievement chosen by the Fund's Board. The prize consists of a diploma and 75.000 US dollars to be shared between the prize winners.

A Prize ceremony will be held in Stockholm in May 2007.

For comments about the Prize, please contact the Fund's Board Members Anita Klum on telephone: +46 (0)73 069 43 31 or Joakim Palme on telephone: +46 (0)70 399 03 54.

Olof Palme was Prime Minister in Sweden between the years 1969-1976 and 1982-1986. He was instrumental in the democratisation of education and in the development of the Swedish social welfare system. His international interest and commitment made him known and esteemed both in Sweden and abroad. He actively supported the dissident movement during the communist dictatorships in Eastern Europe, the resistance against dictatorships in Greece, Spain, Portugal and Chile as well as against the apartheid system in South Africa, and was one of the first to oppose the wars in Vietnam and Afghanistan. He was assassinated in 1986.



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“His visions knew no national boundaries” said Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the then UN Secretary General, at the funeral of Olof Palme in Stockholm on the 15th of March 1986.

Olof Palme should have been 80 years old today on January 30, 2007.

The Olof Palme Memorial Fund for International Understanding and Common Security was established by Olof Palme’s family and by the Social Democratic Party to honour Olof Palme’s memory. The Fund’s purpose is, through scholarships and grants, to give opportunities to young people for international exchange and for studies of peace and disarmament, to support work against racism and hostility toward immigrants and to foster in other ways work for international understanding and common security.

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Previous receivers of the Olof Palme Prize are:

- 1987 Cyril Ramaphosa, South Africa.
- 1988 Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, UN Secretary General.
- 1989 Václav Havel, Czechoslovakia.
- 1990 S.O.S. Racisme and Harlem Désir, France,
- 1991 Amnesty International.
- 1992 Arzu Abdullayeva, Armenia, and Anahit Bayandour, Azerbajdzjan.
- 1993 Students for Sarajevo.
- 1994 Wei Jingsheng, China.
- 1995 Fatah Youth, Labour Young Leadership and Peace Now.
- 1996 Casa Alianza, Central America, under the leadership of Bruce Harris.
- 1997 Salima Ghezali, Algeria.
- 1998 Independent Media in Former Yugoslavia, represented by Veran Matic, Serbia, Senad Pećanin, Bosnia and Viktor Ivančić, Croatia.
- 1999 Swedish anti-racists, Kurdo Baksi, Björn Fries and the Parent Group in Klippan, Sweden.
- 2000 Bryan Stevenson, Director of Equal Justice Initiative (EJI), USA.
- 2001 Fazle Hasan Abed, Bangladesh, founder of BRAC, Bangladesh.
- 2002 Hanan Ashrawi, Palestine.
- 2003 Hans Blix, Sweden.
- 2004 Ljudmila Alexejeva, Sergej Kovaljov, Anna Politkovskaja, Russia
- 2005 Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Burma

For further information please visit www.palmefonden.se or contact the office on telephone + 46 8 677 57 90 or e-mail palmefonden@palmecenter.se.

Tuesday, 30 January 2007

FOR THE OLOF PALME MEMORIAL FUND

Pierre Schori
Chairman