

Silje Hjemdal, Norway Intervention in the General Debate

It is one year ago since Jina was killed by the Moral Police in Iran.

We speak of peace and women right in this assembly, but I have not heard anyone mention this years Nobel Prize winner.

As some you might know, The Norwegian Nobel Committee has decided to award the Nobel Peace Prize for 2023 to Narges Mohammadi for her fight against the oppression of women in Iran and her fight to promote human rights and freedom for all.

I must underline that the Nobel Committee is totally independent of the Norwegian parliament and government, but I believe this decision has the support of all my fellow parliamentarians, regardless of political party.

Narges Mohammadis brave struggle has come with tremendous personal costs. Altogether, the regime has arrested her 13 times, convicted her five times, and sentenced her to a total of 31 years in prison and 154 lashes. Ms Mohammadi is still in prison.

This year's Peace Prize also recognises the hundreds of thousands of people who, in the preceding year, have demonstrated against the theocratic regime's policies of discrimination and oppression targeting women.

Strong institutions. Do we need institutions to dictate how a woman should dress?

Should not strong institutions instead defend people who stand up for human rights and dignity, and not least, democracy?

So The Islamic Republic of Iran,

set Narges Mohammadis free,

set your women free,

set your people free!

Finally I hope that the president of the IPU, Mr Pacheco can make a statement along the same lines:

Nobel Peace Prize Winner Narges Mohammadi must be released immediately and unconditionally