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Dr. Geir Lundestad
Secretary, Nobel Peace Prize Committee
The Norwegian Nobel Institute
Henrik Ibsens Gate 51
0255 OSLO

Re: Endorsement of Nomination for the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize
ABDIAS DO NASCIMENTO

Dear Dr. Lundestad

I accept the privilege to endorse Professor Clóvis Brigagão's nomination of Abdias Nascimento for the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize.

In 1997/78, as acting head of the Department of African Languages and Literatures, I had the honor to host Abdias do Nascimento as visiting professor at Obafemi Awolowo University (then University of Ife), Nigeria. We were impressed with his already life-long non-violent struggle for the recognition of the humanity of Brazilians of African descent in the comity of all citizens of Brazil. We were aware that he had been forced into exile because, as a multi-faceted artist of the first order, he was committed to a systematic pursuit of human dignity for all.

Art wells from the impulse to imagine, to create, to express. The arts are, therefore, as Rocco Landesman puts it, and is accepted for all time, fundamental to our being human; they constitute an essential mode of humans' self-expression. The arts undergird humans' innate disposition to "aspiration: the idea that our current reality, our circumstances, if you will, need not determine our future" (Landesman). The human urge for self expression and unfettered access to participate in the amelioration of human condition through just governance and justice has informed Abdias Nascimento's selfless struggle to empower all Brazilians, and all peoples everywhere.

It is not unfair to say of Abdias Nascimento that his struggle has contributed in no small measure to the development of the current atmosphere in Brazil that is conducive to increasing inclusiveness of all citizens and to the awareness that the challenge to create access and participation to all must continue in order to achieve and sustain civic harmony.

His four decades of struggle as an artist, political activist, legislator, and educator has been recognized with numerous honors and has also inspired those whom his life has touched at home and abroad.

The award of the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize will not only recognize Abdias Nascimento's immense contribution to humanity, it will affirm the call by the award itself to all mankind to promote peace without necessarily preparing for war.

Yours sincerely,



Olasope O. Oyelaran

Retired Professor Languages and Director of International Programs