



PARTIDO DEMOCRÁTICO TRABALHISTA
EXECUTIVA NACIONAL



Brasilia, January 29th , 2010

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

Dear Dr. Lundestad:

As Chairman of the Brazilian Democratic Labour Party (PDT) and Vice-President of Socialist International, I am mostly glad to endorse the nomination of my former colleague member of the Brazilian National Congress, Mr. Abdias Nascimento, for the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize.

For 75 years this prominent Afro-Brazilian scholar, artist, and politician has endeavored to fight for human rights, particularly to prevent racial discrimination against black people, which according to the official statistics comprise more than half of the country's population. In 1944, Mr. Nascimento founded the Black Experimental Theatre and became an early leader in the Brazilian black movement.

In exile, during the military regime, Mr. Nascimento was very active at the international Pan African Movement and held positions as a Visiting Professor at several universities in the United States including Yale University's School of Drama (1969-1971), and University at Buffalo, The State University of New York, where he founded the chair in African Cultures in the New World, Puerto Rican Studies Program in 1971.

His Excellency

Dr. Geir Lundestad

The Secretary General of the Nobel Peace Prize Committee

The Norwegian Nobel Institute

Henrik Ibsens gate 51

0255 Oslo - Norway

Rua do Teatro, 39 – 2º andar – Centro – RJ – Cep 20.050-190

(21) 2232.0121 – fax (21) 2232.1016 – home-page www.pdt.org.br – e-mail secretarianacional@pdt.org.br



PARTIDO DEMOCRÁTICO TRABALHISTA
EXECUTIVA NACIONAL



Back to Brazil, he was elected representative to the Chamber of Deputies in 1983. During his term, Mr. Nascimento presented the first bills defining racial discrimination as a crime and creating affirmative action mechanisms to address racial problems and to guarantee the equality of rights for African descendants. In 1991 he was elected to the Senate where he served from 1994 until 1999. In 1991 the founder of PDT, governor Leonel Brizola, appointed him the head of the recently created Secretary for Defense and Promotion for the Afro-Brazilian Population. In 1999 he was again appointed Rio de Janeiro State Secretary of Human Rights and Citizenship.

Mr. Nascimento keeps a record of prizes acknowledging his strive for the Human Rights. Among them there are two prizes awarded by Unesco: the Human Rights and Culture (2001) and Toussaint Louverture (2004). In 2003 he was rewarded by the United Nations for Relevant Services in Human Rights. He was also decorated by President Lula in 2006.

Hence his solid work in the Human Rights at the public sector and the academic world makes him a mostly eligible candidate for the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize.

On behalf of the Brazilian Democratic Labour Party I therefore avail myself of the opportunity to renew to the Nobel Peace Prize Committee the assurances of my highest consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Vieira da Cunha M.P.
Chairman of the Brazilian Democratic Labour Party and Vice - President of Socialist International