

Speaker's manuscript – Peace prize 2021 Maria Ressa and Dmitry Muratov

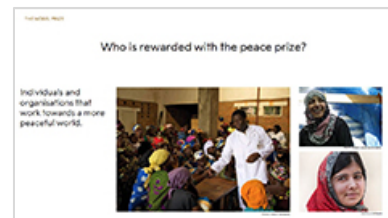
The Nobel Peace Prize

- The Nobel Peace Prize is one of the five prizes founded by Alfred Nobel and awarded on 10 December every year.
- Before Nobel died on 10 December 1896, he wrote in his will that the largest part of his fortune should be used to fund a prize to those who "have conferred the greatest benefit to humankind".
- One of the five prizes should go "to the person who has done the most or best to advance fellowship among nations, the abolition or reduction of standing armies, and the establishment and promotion of peace congresses".



Who is rewarded with the peace prize?

- The Nobel Peace Prize may be awarded to individuals and organisations that fight for things like disarmament, conflict resolution and human rights.
- Examples of laureates in recent years: Tawakkol Karman (2011) was awarded the prize for her work for women's rights, Malala Yousafzai (2014) for her fight for all children to have equal rights to education, and Dennis Mukwege (2018) for his efforts to put an end to the use of sexual violence in war and armed conflicts.



The 2021 peace laureates

- The 2021 Nobel Peace Prize is awarded to journalists Maria Ressa of the Philippines and Dmitry Muratov of Russia.
- Ressa and Muratov are awarded the prize for their courageous efforts on behalf of freedom of expression. For many years, and at risk to their own safety, they have reported on corruption, abuse of power and violations of human rights in their respective countries.
- They have also documented how social media is being used to spread fake news and harass people who are critical of those in power in their countries.



- In its announcement of the prize, the Norwegian Nobel Committee proclaims that the two laureates are representative of all journalists around the world who stand up for free speech in a world in which democracy and freedom of the press face increasingly adverse conditions.

The 2021 peace prize

- The 2021 peace prize calls attention to the work of journalists around the world and underscores the importance of free, independent and fact-based journalism.
- Freedom of expression and freedom of the press are fundamental rights and preconditions for democracy and lasting peace. Independent journalism contributes to an informed public and serves as a defence against the abuse of power, lies and war propaganda.
- In awarding the peace prize to Maria Ressa and Dmitry Muratov, the Norwegian Nobel Committee underscores how important it is to defend these fundamental rights at a time when journalists' ability to do their critical work is becoming increasingly difficult.



Maria Ressa

- Maria Ressa has worked for many years as a critical journalist and used her freedom of expression to expose corruption and abuse of power in the Philippines.
- In 2012, she was one of the founders of Rappler, an internet-based news site for investigative journalism that she continues to head.
- Rappler has reported on the violent anti-drug campaign waged by the country's government under the leadership of President Rodrigo Duterte. So many people have been killed in the regime's campaign that it resembles a war against their own people.
- For her critical attention to the Duterte regime Maria Ressa risks being imprisoned for a very long time.



Dmitry Muratov

- Dmitry Muratov has been defending freedom of expression for decades under increasingly challenging conditions.
- In 1993, he was one of the founders of the newspaper *Novaja Gazeta*, and two years later he became its editor-in-chief.
- *Novaja Gazeta* is a free, independent and critical newspaper. With its fact-based journalism, the paper has become an important source of information about things that are happening in Russian society that few others write about.



- From the beginning, *Novaja Gazeta* has been reporting on everything from police violence, electoral fraud and “troll factories” to Russian military actions inside and outside Russia.
- The paper’s journalists have been subjected to harassment, threats and violence. Since its founding in 1993, six of its journalists have been killed. Nevertheless, editor-in-chief Muratov has unwaveringly defended the paper’s independence.

“Without media, you cannot have a strong democracy and democracy is the best defense and protection against war and conflicts in the world today.”

- In an interview given in conjunction with the announcement of the 2021 peace prize, Berit Reiss-Andersen, Chair of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, described the connection between freedom of expression, freedom of the press, democracy and peace.



- “By critically examining those in power and reporting on injustice, oppression and armed conflicts, journalists contribute to peace and security throughout the world,” Reiss-Andersen explained.