

## LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS SEIMO NARIAI

## MEMBERS OF THE SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

Gedimino pr. 53, LT-01109 Vilnius, LITHUANIA Tel. +370 5 239 6060 E-mail: priim@lrs.lt

Mr Jørgen Watne Frydnes Chair of the Norwegian Nobel Committe Henrik Ibsens gate 51 0255 Oslo. +47 22 12 93 00

Email: jorgen@norskpen.no

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## Official statement

We, members of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, call on the Nobel Committee to reject the candidacy of billionaire Ruben Vardanyan for the 2024 Nobel Peace Prize. A similar call has already been made by 18 MP's of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine and 15 MP's of the Chamber of Deputies of Romania.

We consider it unacceptable to nominate a person for the Nobel Peace Prize who «took direct part in the implementation of the policies of misanthropic regimes» (as defined by the official representative office of the International Nobel Information Center in Ukraine).

According to an OCCRP investigation, Vardanyan's company «Troika Dialog» secretly transferred money to Putin's close friends. In 2006-2013 More than \$4.6 billion passed through the accounts of Vardanyan's offshore networks. Ruben Vardanyan is a person whom international media such as Forbes, Politico, Townhall, The Washington Times, The Hill, Al-Jazeera, Newsweek define as **«the man of the Kremlin»**.

According to The Washington Times media, Vardanyan, nominated for the Peace Prize, is also associated with the **Iranian criminal regime**, which since the very beginning of the war has been supplying the Russian Federation with weapons

to destroy Ukrainian infrastructure facilities and civilian citizens of Ukraine: «His connections with Iran can be traced through the Russian Gorchakov Foundation, which organizes events in various countries, including Armenia, featuring government-approved speakers from Tehran».

Against the backdrop of the fact that the Defense Council of Lithuania, headed by President Gitanas Nausėda, approved the allocation of 200 million euros as a «package of long-term military assistance to Ukraine» in January 2024, the Nobel Committee nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize a person who has proven ties to the perpetrators of the war in Ukraine - Russia and Iran. In addition, Ruben Vardanyan has been included in the draft sanctions lists of the United States, European Union and Ukraine.

Since 2023, on the initiative of the Security Service of Ukraine (SSU), Ruben Vardanyan has been included in the Ukrainian list of war criminals «Митротворец» as an *«accomplice of Russian-fascist invaders and terrorists»*, *«an accomplice in the crimes of the Russian authorities against Ukraine and its citizens»* and one who *«finances Russian aggression in post-Soviet territories»*.

We are convinced that Vardanyan's nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize is a Russian influence operation to whiten the criminal's reputation. This is proven by the launch of news into the information space by Russian primary sources – Sputnik and RBC.

A person with such an unscrupulous reputation cannot be a contender for the most prestigious peace award in the world.

Vardanyan's candidacy should be withdrawn from the list of nominees for the Nobel Prize in 2024 and any subsequent years.

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