



Mr Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council  
Mr José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission  
Mr Martin Schulz, President of the European Parliament

Brussels, 3 December 2012

**Re: Call to raise the case of Chinese poet, human rights defender and Nobel laureate Liu Xiaobo at the Nobel Peace Prize Award Ceremony, Oslo, 10 December 2012**

Dear Presidents,

On 10 December, in Oslo City Hall, you will receive the Nobel Peace Prize 2012 on behalf of the European Union. This December also marks the fourth anniversary of the harsh imprisonment of Chinese poet and human rights defender **Liu Xiaobo**, as well as the second anniversary of the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to him, which he was unable to accept in person due to his imprisonment.

Liu Xiaobo was sentenced to eleven years in prison on 25 December 2009. The prosecution offered as evidence seven phrases that he penned from 2005 until his detention - all quotations from his many essays and from Charter 08, a manifesto for democratic reform that Liu Xiaobo had helped draft. Prior to his current detention, Liu Xiaobo has spent a total of five years in prison for his peaceful activism and writings, including a three-year sentence passed in 1996, and over the past two decades suffered frequent short arrests, harassment and censorship.

We, the undersigned organisations, call on you to raise the case of Liu Xiaobo at the Nobel Peace Prize award ceremony in Oslo on 10 December 2012, and to urge his immediate and unconditional release.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

John Ralston Saul  
International President, PEN International

Mary Lawlor  
Director, Front Line Defenders

Luis Enrique Eguren  
Chairman of the Board, Protection International

Gerald Staberock  
Secretary General, OMCT

Brigitte Dufour  
Director,  
International Partnership for Human Rights

Bjørn Engesland  
Secretary General,  
Norwegian Helsinki Committee