



SVENSKA AKADEMIEN

Stockholm, 15 November 2019

Community of Publishers of Bosnia
and Herzegovina
Branilaca Sarajeva 24
71000 Sarajevo

Dear Publishers of Bosnia and Herzegovina,

The Swedish Academy has assessed Peter Handke's literary work in a different way than you have, and has concluded that the decision to award the prize to him is fully compatible with the purpose expressed in the will of Alfred Nobel. It is clear that Handke has been understood in different ways. The Nobel prize goes to an achievement. When Handke is awarded the prize, the ambition is to celebrate his extraordinary literary work, not the person. The Nobel prize in physics or chemistry goes to a discovery, regardless of person; the prize in literature goes to the discovery and development of a new manner of writing, regardless of person. This aesthetic evaluation and nothing else is the statement implied by the prize.

The Swedish Academy believes that in an open society there must be room for different opinions about authors and that there must be space for different reasonable interpretations of their literary works. We strive for respectful interchange notwithstanding sharply diverging views in important matters. On the same note we also believe that it is of paramount importance for the functioning of democracy and a sensible dialogue that we choose to rely on the lawful findings of courts such as the Hague Tribunal. For us the Tribunal's findings are an essential part of the understanding of Europe's tragic history, from which we all hopefully can learn.

Concerning your concluding remarks, may we ask you to also consider his statement referred to in *Süddeutsche Zeitung* 26 October.

I assure you our respect and highest considerations.

Anders Olsson
Chairman of the Nobel Committee

SWEDISH ACADEMY

Mail: P.O. Box 2118, 103 13 Stockholm. Visitors: Källargränd 4, Stockholm.
Phone: +46 (0)8-555 125 00. E-mail: sekretariat@svenskaakademien.se



SVENSKA AKADEMIEN

Stockholm, 15 November 2019

Murat Tahirović
President of the Association of victims
and witnesses of genocide
Vilsonovo šetalište 10/2
71000 Sarajevo

Dear Mr. Tahirović,

We have received the letter forwarded by you with concern and deep sorrow. It is obvious that we understand the literary work of Peter Handke in very different ways.

We do however seem to share common ground in that we all fully rely on the lawful and careful findings of the Hague Tribunal. For us the Tribunal's findings form a basis for understanding an essential part of Europe's tragic history, from which we all hopefully can learn.

Anders Olsson
Chairman of the Nobel Committee

SWEDISH ACADEMY

Mail: P.O. Box 2118, 103 13 Stockholm. Visitors: Källargränd 4, Stockholm.
Phone: +46 (0)8-555 125 00. E-mail: sekretariat@svenskaakademien.se



SVENSKA
AKADEMIEN

Stockholm, 15 November 2019

Mehmet Kraja
President of the Academy Sciences and Arts
of Kosovo
Rr. "Agim Ramadani", n.r. 305
Prishtinë-Kosovë

Dear Mr. Kraja,

Thank you for your honest concern. The Nobel Committee has assessed the intentions behind Mr. Handke's literary work in a different way than you have and the Committee has concluded that the decision to award the prize to him is fully compatible with the purpose expressed in the will of Alfred Nobel. It is clear that Handke is understood in different ways. The Nobel prize goes to an achievement. When Handke is awarded the prize, the ambition is to celebrate his extraordinary literary work, not the person. The Nobel prize in physics or chemistry goes to a discovery, regardless of person; the prize in literature goes to the discovery and development of a new manner of writing, regardless of person. This aesthetic evaluation and nothing else is the statement implied by the prize.

The Committee believes that in an open society there must be room for different opinions about authors and that there must be room for different reasonable interpretations of their literary works. We should strive to respect each other notwithstanding sharply diverging views in important matters. On the same note we also believe that it is of paramount importance for the functioning of democracy and a sensible dialogue that we choose to rely on the lawful findings of courts such as the Hague Tribunal. For us the Tribunal's findings are an essential part of the understanding of Europe's tragic history, from which we all hopefully can learn.

We assure you our respect and highest considerations.

Anders Olsson
Chairman of the Nobel Committee