Many scientists awarded the Nobel Prize have, in their personal and professional lives, also made significant contributions to the realization of human rights. This exhibit celebrates those contributions, highlighting some of the many efforts by Nobel Laureates to promote and protect rights recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international human rights treaties. It honors Laureates in the sciences, together with members of the scientific community who have received the Nobel Peace Prize.

Several of the individuals profiled have defended internationally protected rights under attack and advocated for individuals suffering rights abuses, sometimes placing themselves at risk in the process. Others have spoken out against the misuse of science to perpetrate rights violations, and still others have used their knowledge and skill to help address pressing rights-related challenges.

Numerous Nobel Laureates have also been, and continue to be, deeply involved with organizations that serve as a bridge between the scientific and human rights communities, including the Committee on Human Rights of the U.S. National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine and the International Human Rights Network of Academies and Scholarly Societies. Both of these organizations respond to attacks against professional colleagues, and to academic freedom more broadly, and raise public awareness of issues at the intersection of science and human rights.

The activities highlighted in this exhibit, which are only a small sampling of the human rights efforts of Nobel Laureates and the broader scientific community, demonstrate the profound and enduring connections between science and human rights and the important role for science in advancing human dignity worldwide.

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