

Status of Petitioning for the Nobel Peace Prize Nomination

Background

- To add weight to the voice calling for the nomination of Marianne and Margaritha for the Nobel Peace Prize who dedicated 40 years of their lives to the selfless act of caring for the Hansen's disease patients so as to raise the awareness of human rights issues and importance of volunteerism throughout the world.

Status

- Jeollanamdo Provincial Government, Goheung County, and Marianne Margaritha Association acted as working group and have set up the Committee on Petition Calling for Nominating Marianne and Margaritha for the Nobel Peace Prize on November 23, 2017. Former Prime Minister Kim Hwang-Sik heads the committee and a total of 38 people from central government, local government, international organizations, and other related associations serve as committee members working to raise awareness and gain support.



Marianne Stöger
(1934 ~)



Margaritha Pissarek
(1935 ~)

MARIANNE & MARGARITHA

One-Million-Signature

Please add your signature to the petition calling for the recommendation of Nurses Marianne and Margaritha for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Join us now!

Online participation is available by visiting the following URL to join the One Million-Signature Petition calling for the recommendation of Nurses Marianne and Margaritha for the Nobel Peace Prize.

mm.kna.or.kr

TWO NURSES MARIANNE & MARGARITHA



**Calling for Nominating Nurses
Marianne and Margaritha for the
Nobel Peace Prize!**



Korean Nurses Association

Who Are Nurses Marianne and Margaritha?

The two nurses from Austria heard that Sorokdo Island was in need of nurses, came to the Island in their 20s and spent most of their lives taking care of Hansen's Disease patients. Marianne Stöger took care of the patients for 43 years from 1962, and so did Margaritha



Pissarek for 39 years from 1966. They came as nurses, but the staff called them "Sisters", and the patients called them "Grannies". The press refers to them as "Angels of Sorokdo Island".

The patients were doubly surprised when the nurses arrived. First was their appearance; the patients had never seen a foreigner with blue eyes and blond hair. Second was the way they treated the patients. Whereas the hospital doctors armed themselves in masks and

gloves and had the patients sit as far away as possible during treatment, the two new nurses only put on white gowns and touched the patients' curled up fingers and toes without any gloves, and directly applied disinfectant to



every part of their body. They treated the patients with bare hands and never minded even when their faces were splattered with the blood and pus from the wounds. It was the patients, not the nurses, who were more frightened. Moreover, the nurses asked authority such as Austrian Catholic Woman's Movement for more medicine when the supply ran out. They even built wards for patients suffering from tuberculosis, blindness, and mental illness. The financial support that came from the Catholic sisterhood back home was spent on buying snacks for the patients. The 10m² room that they occupied only had a small chest of drawers. Quietly, but with firm determination, they devoted themselves to caring for



the patients for 40 years and the number of patients decreased from 6,000 to 600. When their health began to deteriorate in November, 2005, they quietly returned to Austria leaving a note behind saying that they did not want to be a burden to the hospital.

Nurses Marianne and Margaritha broke the social prejudice people had toward Hansen's disease patients by serving them with dignity. It is now customary in the Sorokdo Hospital for the nurses to serve the patients with bare hands. Their dedicated service has created a "Heaven for Volunteer Workers" on Sorokdo Island, which is crowded with medical volunteer corps and other volunteers from all over the nation every year.



▲ Nurses Margaritha (left) and Marianne (right) nicknamed "Angels of Sorokdo Island" caring for a patient at the Sorokdo National Hospital in Goheung County, South Jeolla Province. By courtesy of Ministry of Justice

This is a petition calling for recommending Nurses Marianne and Margaritha for the Nobel Peace Prize. They volunteered for four decades on Sorokdo Island to care for the Hansen's Disease patients. They returned to Austria without asking for any compensation, and we would like to honor their sacrifice and dedication as valuable asset of mankind. Their love has turned Sorokdo Island into an island of healing and hope, and furthermore has left a deep impression in the hearts of the global citizens.