BELARUS, RUSSIA, UKRAINE WIN NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

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As predicted by experts, the committee's choice of laureates this year marked a stinging criticism of Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, which has plunged Europe into its worst security crisis since the Second World War.

But the five-member committee stopped short of criticising Russian President Vladimir Putin directly.

Ms. Reiss-Andersen called his regime an "authoritarian government that is suppressing human rights activists", stressing that the committee wanted to highlight the "way civil society and human rights advocates are being suppressed."

The Nobel committee also called on Belarus to release Mr. Bialiatski, 60, the founder of rights group Viasna whose work has charted the increasingly authoritarian tendencies of President Alexander Lukashenko and his security forces.

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