

# Be a Hero for a Better World

## Dag Hammarskjöld

(1905-1961)



"Freedom from fear" could be said to sum up the whole philosophy of human rights."

Dag Hammarskjöld was a Swedish diplomat and the second Secretary-General of the United Nations. He considered himself a citizen of the world, and he helped to strengthen the role of the UN in international affairs, especially in looking after the interests of smaller nations. Dag Hammarskjöld believed in peace through international law and hoped to spread the goals of the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights so that they would become the values that guided all nations.

Dag Hammarskjöld helped mediate many conflicts as Secretary-General and advocated for the creation of UN peace-keeping forces. During his second term, he died when his plane crashed en-route to a peace-keeping mission. This great peacemaker was posthumously awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his dedication to create "peace and goodwill among nations and men." The Swedish Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation was created in his honor to explore "workable alternatives for a democratic, socially and economically just, ecologically sustainable, peaceful and secure world in which human rights are genuinely respected." The Dag Hammarskjöld Medal is given by the UN to honor those who have lost their lives during peacekeeping missions.

Dag Hammarskjöld was born on July 29, 1905 in Jonkoping, Sweden

### Be A Hero For A Better World!

1. Find out more about this hero
2. Hold an event to raise awareness about human rights issues
3. Contribute to organizations working to defend human rights

### Human Rights Organizations

- Amnesty International ([amnesty.org](http://amnesty.org))
- Carter Center ([cartercenter.org](http://cartercenter.org))
- Human Rights First ([humanrightsfirst.org](http://humanrightsfirst.org))
- Human Rights Watch ([hri.org](http://hri.org))
- Rights International ([rightsinternational.org](http://rightsinternational.org))
- UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights ([ohchr.org](http://ohchr.org))
- Witness ([witness.org](http://witness.org))
- Women's Human Rights Net ([whrnet.org](http://whrnet.org))

For more information: [www.betterworldheroes.com/hammarskjold.htm](http://www.betterworldheroes.com/hammarskjold.htm)

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