

HUMAN RIGHTS SESSION

Lussino, august 29 2016

Organizations

- Committee of Concerned Scientists
- Committee of International Freedom of Scientists (APS)
- AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition
- Scholars at Risk

AUGUST 28, 2016

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Learn More About Us

What we seek to achieve

- Academic freedom for all scientists, physicians, engineers and scholars
- Freedom of exchange of scientific and other scholarly information, data and personnel
- Freedom of research, inquiry, publication and travel to and from scholarly and scientific meetings
- Freedom of association
- Freedom of emigration
- Recognition, implementation and preservation of human rights, individual and collective, without distinctions based on race, language, religion, sex or national origin
- Compliance by governments with provisions of international agreements they have signed pertaining to the human rights of scientists

What we do to accomplish our purpose

- Monitor and document violations of the human rights and scientific freedom of scientists all over the world
- Protest directly to repressive governments and urge similar action by professional societies and individual scientists
- Publicize human rights abuses through all available media
- Draw attention to abuses by conducting petition drives at scientific meetings, organizing press conferences and writing letters to the editors of print media
- Maintain close contact with members of U.S. Congress and the Executive Branch to secure their support and intervention for imperiled colleagues
- Obtain invitations for oppressed colleagues to attend scientific conferences or accept visiting professorships at universities, thus giving prominence to their professional standing and building support for them
- Encourage prospective participants in international conferences and exchange programs to relate their participation to the host country's human rights record, and to protest violations to its governmental and scientific officials
- Strengthen the morale of colleagues cut off from mainstream science in their own countries through mail, telephone calls and visits from American colleagues. Sponsor their memberships in scientific societies and their subscriptions to professional journals
- Provide material assistance to those who have been dismissed from professional employment and to the families of those jailed

Committee of Concerned Scientists

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Committee on International Freedom of Scientists

The membership of the Committee on International Freedom of Scientists consists of nine (9) persons selected by the Committee and appointed by the President-Elect to staggered three terms. The President-Elect appoints the Chair from among the members. This Committee is responsible for monitoring concerns regarding human rights for scientists through the Board and Council of problems encountered by scientists in their effecting satisfactory communication with other scientists and making appropriate courses of action designed to alleviate such problems.

Chair: [Don A Howard](#) (/memb-sec/profile/meminfo.cfm?CustID=5) Univ of Notre Dame

Past Chair: [Herbert L Berk](#) (/memb-sec/profile/meminfo.cfm?CustID=6) Univ of Texas, Austin

Member: [Surajit Sen](#) (/memb-sec/profile/meminfo.cfm?CustID=6) State Univ of NY - Buffalo

Member: [Margarita Ryutova](#) (/memb-sec/profile/meminfo.cfm?CustID=12/16) Lawrence Livermore Natl Lab

Member: [Joel L Lebowitz](#) (/memb-sec/profile/meminfo.cfm?CustID=7) Rutgers Univ

Member: [Kotik K Lee](#) (/memb-sec/profile/meminfo.cfm?CustID=7) Booz-Allen & Hamilton Inc

Member: [Vladimir Mirnov](#) (/memb-sec/profile/meminfo.cfm?CustID=7) Univ of Wisconsin, Madison

Member: [Prof Usha Mallik](#) (/memb-sec/profile/meminfo.cfm?CustID=7) Univ of Iowa

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▶ [Washington Post Op-Ed: "Free Omid Kokabee, another Iranian" \(https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/free-omid-kokabee-an-conscience/2015/10/30/18640a64-7e82-11e5-b575-d8dcfedb4ea\)](#)

▶ [CIFS opposes designation of Dynasty Foundation & Sakharov C \(/about/governance/committees/cifs/upload/Dynasty-Foundation-\)](#)

▶ [CIFS statement opposing academic boycotts \(/about/governance-on-Boycotts-July-2013.pdf\)](#)

▶ [International Affairs Programs \(/programs/international/index.cfm\)](#)

SCHOLARS AT RISK NETWORK
(https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/)

GET HELP (HTTPS://WWW.SCHOLARSATRISK.ORG/GET-HELP/)

Protecting scholars and the freedom to think, question and share ideas
GET INVOLVED (HTTPS://WWW.SCHOLARSATRISK.ORG/GET-INVOLVED-
(https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/about/)

GIVE TODAY
(HTTPS://SALSA4.SALALABS.COM/O/50943/DONATE_PAGE/GIVETODAY)

About

Scholars at Risk is an international network of institutions and individuals whose mission it is to protect scholars and promote academic freedom.

Scholars at Risk ensures safety by arranging temporary

and scholars' until their

"I feel a great gratitude to you and your network that welcomed me from the beginning... Your help, your generosity, is a moral debt that I will carry in my mind and my heart."

use values are invited to **join the Network** (https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/get-involved-institutions) in hosting threatened scholars, advocating for higher education and joining working

Chicago in 1999. The annual conference at the University of Chicago is the largest and most visible of the Network and the world. (To see our membership

international launch of the Network (NEAR) and its continued this Review, **Scholars-**



Science and Human Rights Coalition (program/science-human-rights-coalition)

PART OF THE SCIENTIFIC RESPONSIBILITY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND LAW PROGRAM (/PROGRAM/SCIENTIFIC-RESPONSIBILITY-HUMAN-RIGHTS-LAW)

(https://twitter.com/aaas_srhrl)
(https://www.facebook.com/SRHRL)

Science and Human Rights Coalition Meeting Provides Connections Around Climate (/news/science-and-human-rights-coalition-meeting-provides-connections-around-climate)



July 2016 Science and Human Rights Report (/news/july-2016-science-and-human-rights-report)

5 July 2016



August 2016 Science and Human Rights Report (/news/august-2016-science-and-human-rights-report)

4 August 2016



Expulsion of North-Korean physicists



March 2, 2016

Security Council Imposes Fresh Sanctions on Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2270 (2016)

"17. Decides that all Member States shall prevent specialized teaching or training of DPRK nationals within their territories or by their nationals of disciplines which could contribute to the DPRK's proliferation sensitive nuclear activities or the development of nuclear weapon delivery systems, including teaching or training in advanced physics, advanced computer simulation and related computer sciences, geospatial navigation, nuclear engineering, aerospace engineering, aeronautical engineering and related disciplines;



Ok Song AN
CHol Jun KANG
Kwang Hyok JONG
Ui Ri MUN

working on string theory and DNA
must be thrown out of SISSA

Critical situation in Turkey

(details provided by Ayse Erzan)

Members of the academic and scientific community under attack by the Turkish government

In January 2016, 2218 researchers and faculty signed a peace petition asking the Turkish government to stop violence in the Kurdish provinces of Southeastern Turkey and create a road map that could lead to a lasting peace.

In July 2016 40 signatories have been fired from their jobs, 4 were imprisoned for more than a month, 1124 were facing criminal investigation under charges of “spreading terrorist propaganda.” Hundreds of academics and research assistants had been removed from administrative positions or academic juries, their scholarships terminated or leaves for research visits abroad rescinded. 611 other faculty members started to be under investigation. There were 37 summary dismissals and 10 academics had been forced to resign.

This movement took place while a new Higher Education Bill had been introduced to the National Assembly which, if passed, would empower the Higher Educational Council to discipline and fire individual academics at its own discretion.

A month after the coup, more than 10^5 civil servants of all ranks have been suspended from their jobs (pending investigations - they receive 2/3 of their pay) or summarily dismissed. More than 2×10^3 teachers have had their teaching licences revoked. 15 universities with alleged ties to the Fetullah movement have been shut down, their students are supposed to be relocated at other universities. Many tv channels and newspapers have been shut down.

The most emblematic case of repressions at the moment is the writer (formerly a physicist) Asli Erdogan (no relation), who was arrested and put in jail a week ago. She is not in good health (she has a pancreas condition), she needs special foods. A vigil was started in front of the Bakirkoy Women's Correction Facility (i.e., jail)

<http://bianet.org/english/human-rights/178051-freedom-watch-begins-for-asli-erdogan>

OMID KOKABEE

(informations provided by Eugene Chudnovsky CCS)

-Omid Kokabee is an Iranian former physics PhD student. He has been currently granted a brief medical leave on bail to recover from kidney-cancer surgery.

-Omid is in prison in Tehran since **january 30 2011** accused of “**communicating with hostile government**” and for “**illegal earnings**”.

-September 2013: the American Physical Society awards the Andrei Sakharov prize “**for his courage in refusing to use his physics knowledge to work on projects that he deemed harmful to humanity, in the face of extreme physical and psychological pressure**”.

-October 2014: the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) announces that Kokabee has won the 2014 AAAS **Scientific Freedom and Responsibility Award** for “**his courageous stand and willingness to endure imprisonment rather than violate his moral stance that his scientific expertise not be used for destructive purposes and for his efforts to provide hope and education to fellow prisoners**”.

-March 17 2016: CCS Co-Chair Eugene Chudnovsky meets with UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, gives him a letter on behalf of Omid.

-May 17 2016: Amnesty International issues urgent action. It calls on the Iranian authorities “**to release Omid Kokabee immediately and unconditionally**”, and urges them “**to ensure that he continues to receive the specialized medical care he needs outside prison**”.



Latest News August 29

- 29 AGO 2016 — Dear all, dear friends and supporters,

We have a great new:

Omid Kokabee, has been granted freedom on parole, his lawyer announced on 29 August. It could be the end of a five-year-long struggle for the Iranian scientist, who has said all along that he was punished for refusing to help a covert nuclear-weapon programme.

Now he is even free to leave the country.

You have been one of the supportrs of this petition initiated with great difficulties and motivation.

Many thanks, all together we can change many important things in this society!!

Qasem Exirifard

Dismissed from Khajeh Nasir Toosi University for reasons completely unrelated to academic performance, simply on the grounds that his voice would lead to ridicule in classroom (his “feminine” voice would prevent him from effectively communicating with his university students).

Dr. Qasem Exirifard received his PhD in Astrophysics from SISSA in 2006.

In a separate interview with Iranian journalist Masih Alinejad, Exirifard said he was deeply saddened when he heard about the university’s decision. “I felt as if I was living in a cartoon world... I have a simple request from the authorities. I want my job back.”

What can we do to help Dr. Qasem Exirifard regain the university position from which he was unjustly removed?