



***Committee on International Freedom of Scientists
of the American Physical Society***

One Physics Ellipse, College Park, Maryland 20740, USA

8 November 2006

CIFS 2006

Chair
JOHN R. GILLESPIE
Lehman College, CUNY

His Excellency Mu'ammar al-Gaddafi
Leader of the Revolution

Office of the Leader of the Revolution

Tripoli

Past Chair
J.D. GARCIA
University of Arizona

Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

Libya

JUAN GALLARDO
*Brookhaven National
Laboratory*

Your Excellency,

IVAN K. SCHULLER
University of California, San Diego

The Committee on International Freedom of Scientists (CIFS) of the American Physical Society, as well as other scientific human rights organizations throughout the world, has been following with deep concern the trials and detention of the Palestinian physician and Bulgarian nurses who have been accused of intentionally infecting children in the al-Fateh Children's Hospital in Benghazi with the AIDS virus.

SALLY CAROL SEIDEL
University of New Mexico

VALERII VINOKOUR
Argonne National Laboratory

YUE WU
*University of North Carolina,
Chapel Hill*

The American Physical Society (APS) is the largest organization of physicists in the United States, with a large international membership. The APS is independent of any government.

CIFS is charged by the APS with monitoring the human rights of scientists throughout the world, including the United States, and assisting those in need. We are scientists who are concerned with the respect for the laws and international treaties on human rights.

Liaisons from the APS:
AMY K. FLATTEN
Director of International Affairs

CIFS understands that independent, world-renowned medical scientists have carefully studied the evidence against the accused and, after thorough analysis, have determined that the charges against these medical workers are without any scientific validity.

MICHELE IRWIN
*International Programs
Administrator*

We believe that Libya, out of respect for its own legal, cultural and medical traditions, as well as its adherence to the international community's human rights standards, should accept the findings of these experts. CIFS asks that the accused--Ashraf Ahmad Jum'a, Valya Georgieva Cherveniyashka, Snezhanka Ivanova Dimitrova, Nasya Stojcheva Nenova, Valentina Manolova Siropulo, and Kristiana Malinova Valcheva--have their previous death sentences commuted and be released to return to their homes.

Libya has shown great compassion for the infected children by providing expert medical care in Libya and in Europe. The international medical community has offered its full support for these measures. It is natural that Libya and its courts will show comparable compassion for the accused medical workers who, although innocent according to the evidence, have experienced severe hardship during their detention and trials.

Sincerely yours,

John Gillespie

Chair, Committee on International Freedom of Scientists