

# APS Committee on International Freedom of Scientists (CIFS)



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**“To achieve its full potential and to benefit all mankind, science requires that governments respect basic human rights, allow open communication, and avoid interference with the rights of scientists as they carry out their professional work.”**

**-- from the APS Statements on Human Rights**

## The CIFS Mission

“This Committee shall be responsible for **monitoring concerns regarding human rights for scientists throughout the world**. It shall apprise the [Society] of problems encountered by scientists in the pursuit of their scientific interests or in effecting satisfactory communication with other scientists and may recommend appropriate courses of action designed to alleviate such problems.”

-- from the APS CIFS Statement of Purpose

## What CIFS Does: RAISE

- **Reviews** cases involving reported violations of the human rights of scientists throughout the world
- **Advocates** by writing letters on behalf of scientists to relevant agencies and/or governments
- **Investigates** by seeking additional information from colleagues, agencies, and other sources
- **Supports** scientists whose rights have been violated through email and other forms of contact
- **Educates** colleagues in the APS and other agencies through articles in APS News, presentations, and informal discussions

## Current CIFS Actions

Cases are currently being reviewed from **China, Cuba, Gaza Strip/Israel, Iran, Iraq, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Russia, and the United States**, involving allegations of everything from scientists being unfairly tried and incarcerated to students prevented from traveling internationally to participate in professional advancement or educational opportunities.

## How you can help CIFS

- **Tell your colleagues** about CIFS so that others who may experience rights violations may know this avenue for help
- **Report instances of human rights violations** to CIFS via the APS website
- **Join the “Friends of CIFS” network** to respond to calls for help as they arise
- **Browse the CIFS website** for more information

## Where CIFS Matters:

**Dr. Wang Youcai,  
Jefferson Laboratory**



“I participated into democratic movement in China in 1986 when I was an undergraduate student in Hangzhou University. Later in 1989 I actively helped to lead the student demonstration in Tian'anmen movement and was elected as general-secretary of Beijing Higher Education Student Independent Federation (then the most important student organization ). In 1989, after the sadness June-4 massacre in Beijing, I was one of the most wanted students. Then I was sentenced into 4 years. I got released early in Nov 1991 owing to the pressure from international society, especially from US government.

After I got released in 1991, I continued to get in touch with other Chinese dissidents, especially many students who participated into the demonstration in 1989. In later 1997 to June 1998, we worked hard to found the opposition party-the China Democracy party. Later this year, I was sentenced into prison to 11 years again for attempting to found and develop the China Democracy Party.

Personally I am lucky because I received lots of help from international society. Then I got released early on March 4, 2004. I really appreciate all the help from international society. In my case, the CIFS make an important role because then the **member of CIFS, Professor Keh-Fei Liu** went to China and got in touch with my wife and friends and tried to visit me with my family when I was suffered in prison. He was detained by Chinese Police at that time. Because of this event, my case became more important, you know, in China because scientist from outside of China are concern about my case. My situation in prison changed much after Professor Liu tried to visit me. And I believe it is correlated for my early release with the CIFS member Professor Liu's attempt.

You know Scientists are important in Chinese minds and even in the minds of the Chinese authorities. That is really helpful for the political prisoners in China if Scientists from outside of China can raise these cases.”

**For more information, see**

**<http://www.aps.org/about/governance/committees/cifs/index.cfm>**