



*Committee on the International Freedom of Scientists of
the American Physical Society
One Physics Ellipse, College Park, MD 20740*

7 October 2003

CIFS 2003

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Liaisons from the APS:

IRVING LERCH

Director, International Affairs

MICHELE IRWIN

Office of International Affairs Staff

Judge Pyotr Shtunder
Moscow City Court
Bogoroditsky val, 8
Moscow 107076, Russia

Fax: +7 095 963-93-59

Dear Judge Shtunder,

The American Physical Society's Committee on the International Freedom of Scientists (CIFS) has followed the case of scientist Dr. Igor Sutyagin since he was arrested four years ago. CIFS remains concerned by the fact that Dr. Sutyagin remains in jail despite the apparent lack of evidence against him.

Even though Dr. Sutyagin was not found guilty of the espionage and high treason charges against him during a trial that ended in December 2001, he has been held in prison since his arrest in October 1999. In addition, the Kaluga court determined at the end of that trial that the Federal Security Service (FSB) investigators committed "significant violations" of legal procedures, which violated Dr. Sutyagin's rights. Nevertheless, the court called for a second investigation into the charges against Dr. Sutyagin and kept him in jail. A year later, on 25 December 2002, the Supreme Court upheld the decision that Dr. Sutyagin be held in detention despite the continued lack of evidence from the FSB to justify this. On 15 September 2003, Dr. Sutyagin came under prosecution for a second time.

While we are pleased that Dr. Sutyagin will receive a jury trial and that the defense now has access to the text of the indictment against him, CIFS joins Dr. Sutyagin's defense in requesting that he be released on bail. We are moved only by our concerns for Dr. Sutyagin's situation, and we believe that a four-year long detention of an apparently innocent man (his trial in 2001 did not find him guilty of any crime) is in contradiction to Article 49 (Innocence) of the Constitution of the Russian Federation.

We trust the Moscow City Court will recognize Dr. Sutyagin's rights, which have admittedly been violated during one trial, and the fact that he has already served four years in prison.

We thank for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Noémie Koller
CIFS Chairperson and
Professor of Physics, Rutgers University