

Area of Activity I: Welfare of Scientists

Rationale

The scientific community is a strong supporter of the human rights of individual scientists. There is a need, however, to expand participation and work in this area, and to improve its effectiveness. By increasing the number of scientific associations involved and coordinating their efforts, the Coalition will help the scientific community to better respond to cases of alleged human rights violations. By improving their advocacy on behalf of scientists, scientific associations and academies contribute to the broader defense of universal human rights.

Objectives

- Protection and defense of the human rights of scientists under threat;
- Enhanced effectiveness of scientific associations in responding to cases of alleged violations of the human rights of scientists; and
- Awareness and appreciation within the scientific community of the importance of acting on behalf of colleagues both at home and abroad.

Content

- Coordinate the variety of ways scientists under threat are identified;
- Create a central repository of cases on the Coalition website, and link to organizations (e.g., Scholars at Risk Network) with lists of threatened, missing, and imprisoned scientists;
- Draft and circulate calls for action on behalf of scientists;
- Identify and disseminate examples of what member organizations have done in individual cases;
- Establish a means by which to respond to extraordinary problems that affect the scientific community, publicize this information, and recommend action, if needed;
- Address problems related to scientists' right to travel, free circulation, and free inquiry to enable all scientists, regardless of nationality, to freely pursue science; and
- Collaborate with committees and organizations in the U.S. and abroad that are devoted to protecting scientists under threat.

Support

- Human: "people-time" to identify, research, and investigate cases
- Material: database (repository) of human rights cases; list-serv; meetings and conference calls as needed