

Human Rights Session



A session following *Joel LEBOWITZ* (Rutgers University) tradition

- We have to remember that we are privileged people since we have the possibility
 - to organize meetings freely,
 - to have open discussions.
- Unfortunately, many people have NOT this opportunity through the world.
- The minimum is to remember this privilege,
 - but one might also mention a few cases we are aware of
 - and if possible act and send letters.
- The cases proposed below were of course selected without political preferences.
- We focus on colleagues from universities (professors or students) although human rights questions are not limited to them ... of course.

Focus on 4 different cases

- Prof. I. SALEH (Chad) *Société Mathématique de France*
- 6 Medical Doctors from Cuba *New York Academy of Sciences*
- Prof. A. DALILAH (Syria) *Amnesty International*
- A. AKHMATKHANOV (Russia) *Amnesty International*

- All of them have only peacefully expressed their independent political views.
- None of them has used violence

Action: Send a letter to free these prisoners of conscience

Prof. Ibni Oumar Mahamet SALEH (*Chad*)

Société Mathématique de France



- a Chadian mathematician professor
- also politician and former minister.
- who has been abducted from his home on February 3, 2008
- no news from him since then.

- Beyond his political activities, Saleh is an active member of the mathematical community
- He completed his mathematical education at Université d'Orléans, where he defended his PhD thesis in 1978.
- He was appointed Professor at the Université de N'Djamena in 1985
Chair of the Department of Mathematics (1985),
Direction of the Center of Scientific Research (1986),
Rectorship (1990-1991).



In spite of his heavy administrative and ministerial duties, Ibni Oumar Mahamet Saleh succeeded always in maintaining a high level of teaching standards.



In order to improve the scientific level of teachers at the University of N'Djamena, he negotiated in 1991 a collaboration with

- the University of Orléans,
- INSA in Lyon
- University of Avignon.

This agreement is still in force and has been very successful.

Since February 3rd 2008, contradictory information circulates on Ibni Oumar Mahamat Saleh. The two other opponents, who were arrested the same day, have been released. One of them thinks that our colleague died, while his family thinks that he is always alive.

<http://smf.emath.fr/PetitionSaleh/documents.html>



Prof. Aref DALILAH (Syria)

Amnesty International

Economy professor

Dean of the University of Alep

- He was released in 2001 from his academic position due to his views against corruption and his calls for political and economic reforms in Syria.
- DALILAH has been detained for 7 years in Adra jail.
- During all these years of imprisonment, his health has kept deteriorating itself, now his left side is totally paralysed.
- The conditions in which he is detained are to be considered as cruel, inhuman and degrading.

Damascus was chosen as cultural capital of the Arab countries for 2008. However, all the Syrian intellectuals will not be able to take part in these celebrations.

<http://www.amnesty.org/>

6 medical doctors (*Cuba*)

New-York Academy of Science

- summarily tried and imprisoned in April 2003
- for peacefully expressing their independent political views.
- All of them suffer from serious medical conditions.
- According to reports, they are held in inhuman conditions, sometimes with violent offenders.

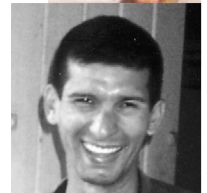
- Dr. **Oscar Elias Biscet GONZALEZ** (sentenced to 25 years in Combinado del Este Prison).

He is suffering from hypertension and ulcer,
He has lost most of his teeth due to a severe oral infection.



-Dr. **Marcelo Cano RODRIGUEZ** (sentenced to 18 years in Prison of Ariza in Cienfuegos).

He has not seen sunlight since 2004
He is suffering from severe infection of his feet.



-Dr. **Jose Luis Garcia PANEQUE** (sentenced to 24 years in Las Mangas Prison).

Since his imprisonment in 2003, Dr. Paneque's weight has dropped from 86 kg to 48 kg.
He is suffering from pneumonia in his right lung and severe anemia.



- **Dr. Luis Milan FERNANDEZ** (sentenced to 13 years in the Psychiatric Ward of the Prison of Boniato)

Despite having no history of emotional or mental problems.
he shares his prison cell with violent mental patients.



- Dr. Ricardo Enrique Silva GUAL** (sentenced to 10 years in Aguadores Provincial Prison).

He has been severely beaten in prison and suffers from glaucoma.



- Dr. Alfredo M. Pulido LOPEZ** (sentenced to 14 years in Kilo 7 Prison in Comaguey).

He is suffering from cardiac arrhythmia, chronic bronchitis and acute disorder of his vision.



The above cases of six medical doctors have attracted international attention. **Amnesty to these six medical doctors would be celebrated worldwide as a human act expected from the new Cuban government.**



Artur AKHMATKHANOV (*Russia*)

Has been abducted from his home on April 2nd 2003 at the age of 22 by the Russian Security forces

No News from him since then

- He was a student of the Grozny Petroleum Institute
- Member of Human Rights association «Society for the Russian-Chechenia Friendship»,
- The investigation on Akhmatkhanov's forced disappearance was deferred mid-september 2007

The letter ask:

- to have this investigation reopened as quickly as possible
- to inform his relatives



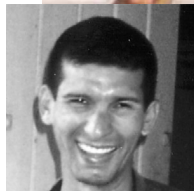
Prof. Ibni SALEH



Prof. Aref DALILAH

Letters are available
on the desk close
to the exit.

Feel free to take
some of them.



6 Medical Doctors



Artur AKHMATKHANOV

Questions ?

Comments