

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS NETWORK OF ACADEMIES AND SCHOLARLY SOCIETIES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Arjuna Aluwihare
Sri Lanka

D. Balasubramanian
India

Édouard Brézin
France

Martin Chalfie*
United States of America

Abdallah S. Daar
Oman/Canada

Belita Koiller
Brazil

Pedro León Azofeifa
Costa Rica

Henrietta Mensa-Bonsu
Ghana

Dong-Pil Min
Republic of Korea

Ida Nicolaisen
Denmark

John Polanyi*
Canada

Ovid Tzeng
Taiwan

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Carol Corillon

SECRETARIAT

Committee on Human Rights
The National Academies of
Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine
500 Fifth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001, USA
tel: (202) 334-3043
fax: (202) 334-2225
email: chr@nas.edu
nationalacademies.org/humanrights

FOUNDING MEMBERS
François Jacob* – *France*
Max Perutz* – *United Kingdom*
Pieter van Dijk – *Netherlands*
Torsten Wiesel* – *USA*
(*Nobel Laureate)

January 19, 2016

The International Human Rights Network of Academies and Scholarly Societies (H.R. Network) supports and defends the right of fellow academics, anywhere in the world, to peacefully express their lawful opinions and concerns. We, the members of the H.R. Network's Executive Committee, are alarmed by the increasingly repressive and inflammatory reaction by Turkish government leaders, many university officials, and other intolerant individuals toward hundreds of our Turkish colleagues, solely because they publicly expressed humanitarian concerns about the grave crisis in south eastern Turkey. Surely, citizens of a democratic country such as Turkey, and its academics in particular, have a civic duty to remind their government, when deemed necessary, of its obligation to respect Turkey's constitution, adhere to humanitarian standards for all of its citizens, and give priority to peaceful solutions in crisis situations.

We condemn any threats, false accusations, and incitement to violence against our colleagues by the government of Turkey, which is obligated, under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to allow its citizens the "freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers." In addition, we urge the government of Turkey to protect the rights of its citizens, to desist from threatening academics who are performing their civic duties by participating in governance, and to call its operatives to order—thereby discouraging hostile action against our colleagues.

Arjuna Aluwihare
D. Balasubramanian
Édouard Brézin
Martin Chalfie*
Abdallah S. Daar
Belita Koiller
Pedro Leon
Henrietta Mensa-Bonsu
Dong-Pil Min
Ida Nicolaisen
John Polanyi*
Ovid Tzeng

Authors of the H.R. Network's 2013 Report, "Scientists, Engineers, and Medical Doctors in Turkey"
Carol Corillon
Peter Diamond*
Hans-Peter Zenner

*Nobel laureate

Academies in the Network support and promote the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, assist unjustly incarcerated nonviolent professional colleagues, address grave science-related human rights issues, and advocate for member institutions whose independence is threatened.

(The U.S. National Academies, non-profit, non-governmental honorary societies, host the Network secretariat.)

www.nas.edu.hnetwork