



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

29 November 2006

CIFS 2006

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Secretary Condoleezza Rice
Secretary of State
Department of State
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Dear Madame Secretary:

The very recent massive abduction of citizens from the Iraqi Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Scholarships and Cultural Relations Directorate represents the latest event in a continuing program of systematic intimidation, kidnapping and killing directed against scholars, scientists, engineers and health professionals in Iraq.

In our 22 August 2006 letter to you we requested urgent efforts to provide for the protection of this very critical segment of Iraqi society. The future cultural, intellectual and educational survival of that nation depends upon these citizens. Peace, reconstruction and long-term stability cannot be assured without the survival and involvement of these Iraqis and the institutions of higher education.

We request your immediate attention to the protection of these citizens and their institutions.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'John R. Gillespie'.

John R. Gillespie
Chair

cc: General John Abizaid, U.S. Lt. General, Central Command, Qatar