

OPEN LETTER OF THE BRAZILIAN PHYSICAL SOCIETY

As widely reported through the media, many Brazilian citizens were recently denied entrance in Spain, especially women. They were kept for many hours, in some cases even days, in inappropriate conditions and were eventually sent back to Brazil with no reasonable explanation.

We single out the case of Patricia Camargo Magalhães, a University of Sao Paulo graduate student. Ms. Magalhães was on her way to Lisbon to participate in the meeting “Workshop on Scalar Mesons and Related Topics” (SCADRON 70) where she would present her work “Study of the Unitarized Amplitude of Two Scalar Resonances”. While one of her fellow students accompanying her to the same meeting was allowed entrance in Spain, she was kept for approximately 50 hours at the Madrid airport, with no further explanation, even though she presented all the necessary documentation. After all these inconveniences she was sent back to Brazil.

The Brazilian Physical Society considers the mistreatment of the Spanish authorities to be unjustifiable and harmful to the longstanding scientific exchanges among Brazil, Spain and other European countries. This unfair mistreatment is in contrast with the fair and friendly reception that foreign colleagues receive upon arrival in Brazil.

The Brazilian Physical Society wishes to express its outrage at the acts of the Spanish authorities, and hopes that proper steps will be immediately taken to normalize entrance procedures in Spain, a country like Brazil with a legitimate democratic society. Such actions will allow the continuity of the existing traditional scientific and cultural relations between the two countries.