

**Committee of Concerned  
Scientists, Inc.**  
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Bayside, NY 11364

**Committee on the  
Human Rights of Scientists**  
*New York Academy of Sciences*  
2 East 63<sup>rd</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10021

**Committee on Scientific  
Freedom and Responsibility**  
*American Association for the  
Advancement of Science*  
1200 New York Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20005

**Committee on the Int'l.  
Freedom of Scientists**  
*The American Physical Society*  
One Physics Ellipse  
College Park, MD 20740

2 August 2001

Your Excellency Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin  
President of the Russian Federation  
The Kremlin  
Moscow, Russia

*Via Facsimile: +7 095 206 5173, -6277*

Dear Mr. President:

We write to you on behalf of the Committee of Concerned Scientists, the New York Academy of Sciences' Committee on Human Rights, the Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the Committee on the International Freedom of Scientists of the American Physical Society. Each of our Committees monitors the rights of scientists and works to protect scientific freedom worldwide.

For the past several months, we have been following with increasing concern the imprisonment and trial of fellow scientist, Dr. Igor Sutyagin. Dr. Sutyagin has been charged with high treason and espionage related to research he performed for a company formerly based in London. Materials used during this research were reportedly taken from articles published in the Russian press. The FSB has alleged that the company Dr. Sutyagin had been working for was a front for spies from "one of the NATO countries" and that Dr. Sutyagin was committing espionage on its behalf. Although there has been no proof from the FSB—or any other credible source—to substantiate this accusation, Dr. Sutyagin has been imprisoned since his arrest in October of 1999.

We have been quite troubled by this lack of evidence and the lengthy imprisonment of a person that has not had the benefit of a prompt, uninterrupted and public trial. As a result, our Committees have written to you, Prime Minister Kasyanov, and Prosecutor General Ustinov over the past few months asking that you verify the charges as well as specify the facts behind the allegations. We have received no replies.

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which the Russian Federation is a State Party, states in Article (9),

“3. Anyone arrested or detained on a criminal charge shall be brought promptly before a judge or other officer authorized by law to exercise judicial power and shall be entitled to trial within a reasonable time or to release. It shall not be the general rule that persons awaiting trial shall be detained in custody, but release may be subject to guarantees to appear for trial, at any other stage of the judicial proceedings, and, should occasion arise, for execution of the judgement.”

Nonetheless, Dr. Sutyagin's trial has been delayed or postponed numerous times since a judge announced that the trial would begin on December 26, 2000. The last reports we have seen indicate that the trial was delayed at the end of last month by the judge for unknown reasons until July 17. Whatever the reasons for these delays, such continued postponements do not constitute "prompt" or "reasonable."

Additionally, it has been reported by reliable sources that not only has the court restricted Dr. Sutyagin's access to his lawyers, but that it will not permit his lawyers to give him medicine and vitamins. Considering that he has a heart condition and his health has been deteriorating over the 21 months that he has been held in jail, this seems unconscionably harsh. We can think of no reason why a court would need to deny someone medicine or the means to improve one's health. We hope that these reports are not true.

On behalf of each of our Committees, we ask that you address the reasons behind the drawn-out detention of Dr. Sutyagin, the delays of his trial and the yet unproven charges against him.

Sincerely,



Joseph L. Birman, Ph.D.  
Chairman, NYAS Committee on Human Rights of Scientists



Carole Nagengast, Ph.D.  
Chair, AAAS Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility



Joel L. Lebowitz, Ph.D.  
Co-Chair, Committee of Concerned Scientists



Paul H. Plotz, M.D.  
Co-Chairman, Committee of Concerned Scientists



Walter Reich, M.D.  
Co-Chairman, Committee of Concerned Scientists



Daniel C. Mattis, Ph.D.  
Chair, APS Committee on the International Freedom of Scientists

cc: Yuri V. Ushakov, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the United States  
Vladimir V. Ustinov, Prosecutor General of the Russian Federation