



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

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CIFS 2013

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The Committee on International Freedom of Scientists (CIFS) of the American Physical Society (APS) supports the principle of open scientific discourse and cooperation among scientists, regardless of nationality or political belief. CIFS defends the rights of scientists to free and open pursuit of scientific enterprise and engagement. It opposes attempts at stifling such scientific activities and urges all parties (academic and scientific organizations) to refrain from boycott of science and research.

While CIFS respects the rights of individual scientists to express their opinion of a government's specific policies or actions, it also strongly believes that excluding scientists, because of their nationality, from participating in the scientific enterprise or discouraging others from engaging them, is wrong.

In 2002, APS underscored its commitment to this principle in its statement "Against the Call to Boycott Israeli Scientists," which was in response to demands from some European academics to boycott the Israeli scientific community. APS stated its opposition to the isolation of any scientific community.

At that time, the APS Council also reiterated another statement from 1989 that stresses how "science can serve as a bridge for mutual understanding across political and ideological divisions and as a vehicle for the enhancement of peace." This message is still relevant today, as we continue to face calls to exclude and restrict members of the international academic community from participating in the scientific enterprise.

It is imperative, and in the best interest of science, that scientists and the scientific community engage each other, rather than isolate one another.