



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

9 June 2016

**CIFS 2016**

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Benjamin Netanyahu  
Prime Minister  
Prime Minister's Office  
3 Kaplan St. Hakiryia  
Jerusalem 91950, Israel

Dear Prime Minister Netanyahu,

I write on behalf of the American Physical Society's Committee on International Freedom of Scientists (APS CIFS) to express our concern about the arrest and detention of the Palestinian physicist, Imad al-Barghouti, who is an internationally well-respected physicist. APS is one of the world's largest professional societies in physics, and CIFS is tasked with monitoring threats to the freedom of scientists all around the world. We were concerned when, in December of 2014, Barghouti was placed by Israel in administrative detention. We were saddened to learn of his having once again been detained several weeks ago. We are especially worried by the news that, on May 29, when Barghouti had been ordered to be released by the military court, the prosecution instead reasserted the same charges that the military court had already deemed insufficient for Barghouti's continued detention and has now extended his detention.

Article 9 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights stipulates that "no one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile," and article 10 stipulates that those charged with a crime have the right to a public hearing in the determination of his rights while under criminal charge. Thus, we urge the Israeli government to make public all charges and evidence introduced in support of Barghouti's continued detention, and we urge his immediate release should the evidence be deemed – by a legally constituted court – to be insufficient for his arrest and detention.

APS has long taken a public stand against calls for academic boycotts. But we are equally committed to guaranteeing freedom of movement and expression for all scientists. Every nation must do its part to secure the conditions necessary for such freedom.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Don Howard".

Don A. Howard  
CIFS Chair