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R.S.E.F.

Spanish Royal Physics Society (est. 1903)

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April 14, 2016

Dear Ambassador:

The international physics community have repeatedly expressed their concern on the arrest of Mr. Omid Kokabee. As you may know, Mr. Kokabee is a graduate of the *Sharif University of Technology* in Tehran; later, he attended the *Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya* in Spain, where he obtained a master's degree in photonics, and started Ph.D. studies at the *Institute of Photonic Sciences* (ICFO) in Barcelona. Then, he moved to Texas University in USA. It was on a trip from USA to visit his family in Tehran in 2011 that he was detained, convicted by the Islamic Revolutionary Court, sentenced to a 10-year prison term for "communicating with a hostile government" and imprisoned; he has not been freed yet.

In September 2013, the *American Physical Society* announced Kokabee as a co-recipient of its 2014 *Andrei Sakharov Prize* for "his courage in refusing to use his physics knowledge to work on projects that he deemed harmful to humanity in the face of extreme physical and psychological pressure". Later, in November 2013, *Amnesty International* released a public statement declaring Kokabee a "prisoner of conscience, held solely for his refusal to work on military projects in Iran and as a result of spurious charges related to his legitimate scholarly ties with academic institutions outside of Iran." In that statement Amnesty asked for "his immediate and unconditional release". Finally, in October 2014, the *American Association for the Advancement of Science* awarded Kokabee its 2014 *Scientific Freedom and Responsibility Award* "for his courageous stand and willingness to endure imprisonment rather than violate his moral stance that his scientific expertise not be used for destructive purposes and for his efforts to provide hope and education to fellow prisoners".

At present, Mr. Kokabee is suffering from kidney cancer which progressed untreated for a long time; according to the last news, he recently underwent surgery in a hospital in Teheran.

In view of the above, ***the Council of the Spanish Royal Physics Society considered in its february 26 meeting the plight of the physicist Mr. Kokabee, and unanimously approved a petition for his immediate release. We respectfully request that he is freed immediately so that he can join his family to recover from his illness with them and to travel freely thereafter if so he wishes.***

We do trust that you will transmit our request to the appropriate authorities in Iran (which is the reason why this letter is written in English, a language you also know very well) so that our physicist colleague Omid Kokabee is granted all his rights, as expressed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to which Iran is signatory.

Yours sincerely,

José Adolfo de Azcárraga, RSEF President
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