
your message

Masha Vlasenko <masha.vlasenko@gmail.com>
To: IMU President <president@mathunion.org>
Cc: EC22@mathunion.org

Fri, Apr 5, 2019 at 12:12 PM

Dear Professor Kenig,

Thank you for the response.

I've read carefully about the ISC involvement in questions of human rights violations. The two cases mentioned in my letter concern students arrested in Russia on political grounds. Firstly, one can hardly say that they were arrested because of their professional activity, and secondly, these people are even not yet scientists. By these reasons I do not think that readdressing the issue to ISC would be effective. At the same time, the two cases that we bring up already attracted attention of international community. However, even the call for immediate release of Pavlo Hryb issued by the diplomatic service of European Union didn't have any effect at the state authorities of Russia. From this perspective, writing a letter to Russian authorities in support of Azat Miftakhov might have little effect either. Note that Azat is a math grad student, not other sciences. **We continue to call for help of the IMU, because you are the organization that could actually make an effective statement in his case.** Since IMU entrusted Russia to host the Congress, and the state authorities are involved in the organization process, this puts IMU in a position to monitor the human rights situation in the Russian academy and to demand cooperation from the state authorities.

I understand from your letter that such involvement is not a usual practice for the IMU, and hence whether to take action or not depends on the personal attitude of the Executive Committee members. Please do not be ignorant. We believe that the IMU is in a position to improve the human rights situation in the Russian academia over the next few years.

I hope you don't mind that I share our correspondence with the members and supporters of the boycott group. The reaction of IMU really matters to us.

With best regards,
Masha Vlasenko

On Sun, Mar 31, 2019 at 5:05 PM IMU President <president@mathunion.org> wrote:

Dear Dr Vlasenko,

Thank you for your email.

The IMU is deeply concerned about human rights violations worldwide, and about any obstructions to academic freedom. However, the IMU is quite restrictive regarding its own involvement in any particular domestic issue.

Most human rights violations are not restricted to mathematics, and we have found it more effective to ask the ISC (formerly ICSU), the International Science Council (<https://council.science/>) to act in matters of this nature, as the ISC carries considerable weight worldwide and covers all sciences.

We will forward your message to the ISC.

Sincerely,

Carlos E.Kenig
President of the IMU