



Professor Carlos E. Kenig
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Dear President Kenig

Thank you for your previous email correspondence raising issues in respect of two students:

- Azat Miftakhov, a mathematics and mechanics graduate student at Moscow State University
- Pavlo Hryb, a philosophy student at Kyiv Mohyla Academy, Kiev

The International Science Council (ISC) has considered the information available on these two students, and considers their cases not to be directly related to their science discipline nor their pursuit of their scientific research. The ISC feels that other organisations, such as Scholars at Risk¹, may be in a better position to inquire into these cases. With that in mind, the ISC does not intend to take further action at this time, beyond alerting our relevant networks and being open to new and relevant information that you may supply in the future.

I note there is a call for a boycott of the International Congress of Mathematicians in St. Petersburg in 2022 in support of these individuals. I would like to point out that such a boycott runs counter to the ISC's Principle of Freedom and Responsibility in Science, and that the ISC

¹ Scholars at Risk (SAR) is aware of these cases but not of any connection between the students' academic positions, student expression, or student-related conduct and these arrests. If there are any of these connections SAR could consider publishing reports on the students and include them in their annual Free to Think report.



does not support such a boycott. Boycotts limit the sharing of knowledge between scientists and potentially deny attendees' access to global leaders in their field. I would greatly appreciate the International Mathematics Union impressing upon the congress organisers the importance of encouraging and upholding the Principle of Freedom and Responsibility in science. Of course individual scientists are free to make their own choices about conference attendance.

Once again, thank you again for raising these matters with us.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Daya Reddy

President, International Science Council

Chair, Committee for Freedom and Responsibility in Science

Principle of Freedom and Responsibility in Science

The free and responsible practice of science is fundamental to scientific advancement and human and environmental well-being. Such practice, in all its aspects, requires freedom of movement, association, expression and communication for scientists, as well as equitable access to data, information, and other resources for research. It requires responsibility at all levels to carry out and communicate scientific work with integrity, respect, fairness, trustworthiness, and transparency, recognising its benefits and possible harms.

In advocating the free and responsible practice of science, the Council promotes equitable opportunities for access to science and its benefits, and opposes discrimination based on such factors as ethnic origin, religion, citizenship, language, political or other opinion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, or age.