

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS NETWORK of Academies & Scholarly Societies



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Zohra ben Lakhdar
Tunisia

Édouard Brézin
France

Martin Chalfie*
United States of America

Carol Corillon
United States of America

Abdallah S. Daar
Oman/ Canada

RoseEmma Entsua-Mensah
Ghana

Edward Kirumira
Uganda

Belita Koiller
Brazil

Pedro León Azofeifa
Costa Rica

Indira Nath
India

Ida Nicolaisen
Denmark

John Polanyi*
Canada

Ovid Tzeng
Taiwan

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Rebecca Everly

SECRETARIAT

500 Fifth St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20001
United States of America
Email: hrnetwork@nas.edu
Internationalhrnetwork.org

FOUNDING MEMBERS

François Jacob* – *France*
Max Perutz* – *United Kingdom*
Pieter van Dijk – *Netherlands*
Torsten Wiesel* – *USA*

(*Nobel Laureate)

October 1, 2021

The International Human Rights Network of Academies and Scholarly Societies (IHRN) is an alliance of more than 90 national honorary scientific societies that defends the fundamental rights of fellow scientists, scholars, and health professionals worldwide. We, the members of the IHRN Executive Committee, are alarmed about the situation of 31 Mexican scientists and scientific administrators who are facing accusations of serious financial crimes.

In recent weeks, the Attorney General of Mexico has filed multiple warrants for the arrest of these individuals, alleging their involvement in organized crime and money laundering, and has sought their detention in a federal maximum-security prison. The alleged crimes carry severe penalties, including the possibility of decades in prison. A federal judge has found insufficient evidence of wrongdoing and has refused to grant arrest warrants for these individuals. However, the Attorney General continues to seek their detention. Repeated efforts to arrest and detain these individuals, based on legal arguments rejected by the country's Supreme Court, are inconsistent with Mexico's obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the American Convention on Human Rights, both of which promulgate the right to due process and the right to freedom from arbitrary detention.

We share the concern expressed by many other scientific organizations that our colleagues are being subjected to government harassment and call upon Mexican authorities to ensure that any further investigation of these individuals is in accordance with Mexico's commitments under international human rights law.

Executive Committee

International Human Rights Network of Academies and Scholarly Societies