

Dear Carol

It is so sad to realize that you are soon retiring as Director of the Committee of Human Rights (CHR) of the NAS, NAE and IOM. I am myself a member of the "Comité de Défense des Hommes de Science" (CODHOS) of the French Academy of Sciences since 1981, when I was elected in this academy. You were yourself at that time working with the similar CHR committee of the NAS before becoming its director in 1984. A few years later, I joined the International Human Rights Network of Academies and Scholarly Societies, which was created at your initiative in 1993. You were its Executive Director and I joined this network as a member of its executive committee.

So, we know each other for more than 30 years! We met several times, either in Washington or in Paris, or during the various meetings of the Network in various places all over the world. You are a very close friend for me and it is always an immense pleasure to meet you and to discuss with you.

I have always admired the efficiency and the open-mindedness with which you have solved the various problems met by our various committees. We are fortunate to work in countries where we can work with a complete freedom.

But there are so many places in the world where scientists are persecuted, tortured and imprisoned. It is a duty for us to devote part of our time for trying to help them. Your role in initiating and coordinating these actions has been absolutely essential. Without you, nothing could have been done. You are the soul, the leading spirit of our network.

Dear Carol, you can be proud of what you have done. It is very difficult for me to imagine the Network without your guidance. I hope that you will be able to keep an eye on the Network until its next 2016 meeting. In any case, I hope that we will continue to meet, either in France or in the US and to maintain our friendship ties.

Claude