

San José, Costa Rica
October 20, 2014

Dear Carol,

The news about your departure as the prime mover in the Network of Human Rights Academies and Scholarly Societies (HRN) has brought much concern and sadness among the Board Members, but also expressions of admiration for the job done, which I want to share with you. The HRN has been blessed with your inspiration and leadership as the Executive Director for many years, decades. Carol, during all those years you have managed to inspire many of us to become involved in the defense of scientists throughout the world, whose human rights as professionals have been trampled. In addition, you provided us with a constant supply of information about the situation of many scientists detained and imprisoned, which the HRN has been defending, with clear instructions for action to the member Academies. Your personal data bank, not digital but cerebral, has been essential to the continued success of the HRN.

Beyond your leadership, you have managed to harness the support of many members of the Network but also the respect of nations that are deemed to be HH. RR. transgressors. I note that the member academies of the HRN hold a debt of gratitude to the US National Academy of Sciences in Washington for supporting your leadership during all these years. Finally, I admire your unique gift to negotiate agreements and to represent the HRN in different cultures, languages and different settings while showing the appropriate consideration and respect for others at all times. I personally witnessed the successful planning and execution of meetings of the HRN in Rabat, Morocco; Taipei, Taiwan; and recently, Halle, Germany. I trust there will be ways and means to keep you involved with the Board of the HRN, as we will continue to depend on your support and advice for the difficult job ahead.

While regretting your departure at the helm of the HRN I can only congratulate you for a job well done. We all deserve a fruitful retirement while we are still in good shape to enjoy it! Speaking as the voice of experience as I complete my first years after "*jubilación*", it is a great time in life to travel, spend time with friends and family and finally have the chance to fulfill old dreams. You of course know well that you have several places in Costa Rica that would welcome you anytime. Don't forget it.

My best wishes to you Carol

Un abrazo

Pedro León.