November 4, 2026

Dr. Gennady Krasnikov
President
Russian Academy of Sciences
Leninskiy Prospekt, 14
119991, Moscow, Russia

President Krasnikov,

We write jointly on behalf of the American Physical Society (APS) and the American Mathematical Society (AMS) concerning Mr. Azat Miftakhov, a mathematician and former postgraduate student at Moscow State University, Mr. Miftakhov is held at Penal Colony No. 18 “Polar Owl” in Kharp, serving a four-year sentence imposed on 28 March 2024 on a conviction resting on the testimony of fellow inmates and a prison employee. That sentence began immediately upon completion of an earlier six-year term that drew wide international criticism.

On 21 April 2026, one day after his arrival at the colony, Mr. Miftakhov was reportedly subjected to beatings, electric-shock torture, and threats of sexual violence by prison staff and other inmates. The allegations have been documented by The Insider, Novaya Gazeta Europe, and Amnesty International, which has called for an independent and effective investigation. The Investigative Committee conducted a preliminary check and on 11 June 2026 declined to open a criminal case; on 15 July 2026 the Labytnangi City Court found the investigator's inaction unlawful and ordered the violations remedied. To our knowledge, no criminal investigation has yet been opened.

Mr. Miftakhov remains an active research mathematician. In 2026, working in prison without access to the internet or a scientific library, he completed a proof of a result related to Chui's conjecture; the paper was published this summer in the French journal Revue de la filière mathématiques, and the University of Pisa has invited him to present the work at a seminar in 2027. Few facts could speak more clearly to the loss that his continued imprisonment represents for mathematics and for science.

On behalf of APS and AMS, we respectfully request measures to ensure Mr. Miftakhov's safety; humane treatment in custody, including access to medical care, correspondence, and mathematical literature; and due consideration of the non-violent character of the conduct at issue.

The American Physical Society is a non-governmental organization dedicated to advancing physics. With over 50,000 members worldwide, it is the largest organization of physicists in the United States. The American Mathematical Society, founded in 1888, is dedicated to the interests of mathematical research and scholarship and serves the national and international mathematical community through its publications, meetings, and advocacy; it has approximately 30,000 members.

Sincerely,

For the American Physical Society:



Brad Marston, APS President



Gabriela González, APS President-Elect



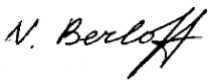
Paul Goldbart, APS Vice President



John Doyle, APS Past President

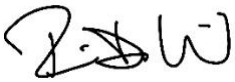


Jonathan A. Bagger, AP Chief Executive Officer



Prof. Natalia Berloff, Chair, APS Committee on International Freedom of Scientists

For the American Mathematical Society:



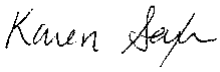
Prof. Ravi Vakil, AMS President



Dr. John Meier, AMS Chief Executive Officer



Prof. Victor Piercey, Chair, AMS Committee on Human Rights of Mathematicians



Dr. Karen Saxe, AMS Senior Vice President and Contact: kxs@ams.org

cc:
Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Russian Federation
Office of the Human Rights Commissioner (Ombudsman) of the Russian Federation
Embassy of the Russian Federation in the United States