

Herman Winick Celebration

Human Rights and International Activities

**Andrew M. Sessler
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
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It is an honor – and an activity I am delighted to undertake -- to be able to speak here, today, at the Celebration of Herman's 80th. I want to remark on his activities in human rights and international science. No small task, for Herman has been so active in each of these areas that describing them adequately would take a very long time. However, I will do my best in the time allotted and you are to understand that if I had more time I would cover even more.

Herman has been very active in four organizations: the APS Forum on International Physics, the APS Committee on the International Freedom of Scientists, Scholars at Risk, and the Institute of International Education. No doubt he has been active in some other things that have escaped my attention (like the Berkeley Group: Sakharov, Orlov, Sharansky (SOS)), but focusing on these four should give a good idea of the extent, and effectiveness, of Herman's work.

Before talking about Herman's activity in each of these groups, I want to take this opportunity to talk about the groups themselves. You may think that inappropriate, but knowing Herman I would suggest that he, himself, would approve of my talking-up these groups rather than using all my time in giving accolades to Herman. He knows that these organizations are bigger than any one person, and accomplish more than can be achieved by one individual, and this is a good opportunity to

describe what they do. (I am reminded of when I visited Sakharov in Moscow, just after he was released from Gorky. I thought we would talk about Sakharov's experiences, but he didn't want to talk about himself at all and spent all the time giving me the names, locations, previous employment, etc. of scientists still in the Gulag. I fed the detailed info into the State Department and it later proved useful at a Summit Meeting for it showed the Soviets how detailed the was the knowledge that the US had of Soviet actions..)

Tuning to the organizations Herman has been involved with, let's take them one at a time:

The Forum on International Physics

Herman was chair of this Forum in 2007 and is, right now, APS Councilor for FIP. As Herman has often said, quoting Anton Chekov, "*There is no national science, just as there is no national multiplication table. Science that is national is not science*".

A significant fraction; namely 21% of the APS Membership is foreign. Even more telling that the APS is really a world organization, is the fact that 70% of the papers in APS journals are submitted from foreign places. So it is not surprising that the APS has both Foreign Council Members and a Forum on International Physics. The Forum's mission statement is simply: "To advance the knowledge of physics and its diffusion by fostering cooperation and communication among physicists of all countries."

In order to achieve these goals it:

- Organizes sessions at APS meetings (*I trust many of you have attended these sessions*)
- Facilitates and supports projects and programs that foster international linkages (*Some of you may have done just this.*)
- Communicates with its members (*I hope many of you are members of FIP and receive these communications.*)
- Works to affect policies and procedures at the APS favorable to APS members from foreign countries
- Oversees the Wheatley Award and, partially, the Sakharov prize, and the award of APS fellowships in FIP (*Some of you may have received Fellowship through this route.*) (*I remember a wonderful week when John Wheatley and I biked together through Scotland*) *John worked in Chile and Herman is doing similar things in Ghana.*

The Committee on the International Freedom of Scientists

Herman was chair of this Committee in 1992.

It is wonderful – and some of us think most appropriate -- that the APS is concerned with human rights. Of course that didn't just happen, but rather it is the result of action by many way back in the late 60's and early 70's. (*I see Marty Perl in the audience and he was one of those many.*) Prior to those times the APS was strictly concerned with “physics” and had little – maybe not at all – concern for “physics and society” and just plain “physicists”. All that has changed as the Society has become involved with national funding, patterns of employment, science education at all levels, societal issues involving physics, informing the public, the human rights of our physics colleagues, and on and on.

The APS on human rights reads: “To achieve its full

potential and to benefit all mankind, science requires that governments respect basic human rights, allow open communication, and avoid interference with the rights of scientists as they carry out their professional work.” The APS Council authorized the Panel on Public Affairs (POPA) and later a sub-committee of POPA, to be called the Committee on the International Freedom of Scientists (CIFS).

The mission statement of CIFS is: “This Committee shall be responsible for monitoring concerns regarding human rights for scientists throughout the world. It shall apprise the [Society] of problems encountered by scientists in the pursuit of their scientific interests or in effecting satisfactory communication with other scientists and may recommend appropriate courses of action designed to alleviate such problems.”

In order to achieve these goals it:

- Reviews cases, involving reported violations of the human rights of scientists through out the world
- Advocates to relevant agencies and/or governments
- Investigates cases
- Supports, scientists whose rights have been violated
- Educates, colleagues in the APS and other agencies
- Partially oversees the Sakharov Prize.

I think of the Small Committees,

The necessity for work is never ending. Right now the Committee is involved with cases in China, Cuba, Gaza / Israel, Iran, Iraq, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Russia, and the United States.

Scholars at Risk

In some situations it is possible for persecuted scientists, and other academics and scholars, to leave their home countries to escape danger. Amongst organizations that help in such cases is Scholars at Risk, which helps arrange positions at participating universities in the network, and through the Scholar Rescue Fund provides up to \$25K of matching funds to any university in the world that will invite an endangered scholar.

The Scholars at Risk Network (SAR) is an international network of universities and colleges responding to attacks on scholars because of their words, their ideas and their place in society. It accomplishes these ends by providing sanctuary to professors, lecturers, researchers and other intellectuals who suffer threats in their home country. Through temporary academic positions, SAR members help scholars to escape dangerous conditions and to continue their important work. Many scholars return to their home countries after their visits. When safe return is not possible, SAR staff works with scholars to identify opportunities to continue their work abroad.

Scholars at Risk also engages in educating the public about attacks on scholars and is an advocate on behalf of imprisoned scholars.

Institute of International Education

The Institute of International Education is a venerable organization having been established in 1919 in the aftermath of World War I by Nobel Peace Prize winners Nicholas Murray Butler, President of Columbia University, and Elihu Root, former Secretary of State, and by Stephen Duggan, Sr., Professor of Political Science at the College of the City of New York and IIE's first President. They believed that we could not

achieve lasting peace without greater understanding between nations—and that international educational exchange formed the strongest basis for fostering such understanding.

To accomplish its mission it engages in:

- Promoting closer educational relations between the people of the United States and those of other countries.
- Strengthening and linking institutions of higher learning globally.
- Rescuing threatened scholars and advancing academic freedom.
- Building leadership skills and enhancing the capacity of individuals and organizations to address global challenges.

The Case of Mohammad Hadizadeh

Herman has been active, for many decades, in efforts to assist dissident scientists in various countries (e.g. the Soviet Union, China) for many decades, including efforts for Sakharov, Orlov, Fang and others. He has been particularly active in the case I now describe.

When his colleague and friend Mohammad Hadizadeh, also known as Hadi, was imprisoned in Iran in 2001. This was someone Herman knew personally, and he was being punished for peacefully expressing his views. Herman received an email from Hadi's wife which said Hadi was arrested and imprisoned after a brief trial. Later, Herman learned that he was tortured and kept in solitary confinement for months. Herman began a campaign to have Hadi released. This included letters from many organizations private individuals. It also included a plea for his release signed by 33 Nobel Laureates. Hadi was released on bail after spending 128 days in prison, almost all

under harsh conditions. Hadi went back to teaching while the government conducted hearings that resulted in a sentence of an additional 8 years and 9 months.

At this point Herman concluded that it was vital to get him out of the country since he would not survive such a sentence. He had open-heart surgery many years ago and needed special diet, medicines, and regular checkups by a physician. Herman started the process of getting him a visa to come to the US. Herman arranged for Hadi to attend scientific meetings in Jordan and Italy and to be invited for longer scientific visits to Japan and France. Hadi finally came to the US in October 2003 to take a temporary job offered by Ohio University in Athens Ohio. His wife and younger daughter came to be with him, but another daughter could not come because she was over 22 years old. His wife went back to Iran to be with the older daughter, so his family was split.

Herman was able to arrange for continued support at Ohio University for a total of 4 years. Support for a fifth year came from a human rights fellowship at Harvard University.

Although each of these five successive one-year appointments provided adequate salary, they provided no retirement benefits. Colleagues at his university in Iran urged him to return, partly because they had lost some faculty and needed him to teach physics courses there. So he returned to Iran in September 2008, and resumed teaching and research at Ferdowsi University, where he already had 25 years of service. Now at age 62, he looks forward to a reasonable retirement after a couple of more years of service, assuming that the government does not activate the 8 year and 9 month sentence for which he is still out on bail.

The younger daughter came with him and his wife to Ohio in 2003, finished her bachelors' degree in physics at Ohio University, and is now in her 5th year as a PhD student in physics at Northwestern University. The older daughter was, after much travail given a scholarship at Reading University, obtained an MA, and is now back with her family in Iran.

You can see the effort required to help just one family! In the past few years Herman has worked with others to bring 3 scholars at risk to Stanford, in each case raising \$20K to match funds provided by the Scholars Rescue Fund and Scholars at Risk. He is now working on raising funds to institutionalize this program, as Harvard has done, so that one or more such scholars at risk can be brought to Stanford each year. You might, at various universities try to do the same. (I am trying in Berkeley.)

SESAME

SESAME (Synchrotron-light for **E**xperimental **S**cience and **A**pplications in the **M**iddle **E**ast) is, as you all know, a “third-generation” synchrotron light source under construction in Allan (Jordan). It will be the Middle East's first major international research center. The project was started by Herman and Gus Voss in 1997 and is now well underway in Jordan as a collaboration of 9 Middle East countries, including Israel. This project uses science to promote understanding and peace between different countries with different religions and ethnicities, and has already helped to promote human rights in the Middle East. CERN did that just that after World War II. Both CERN and SESAME are under the auspices of UNESCO.

SESAME's main mission is:

"SESAME shall provide for collaboration in the Middle East and the Mediterranean Region with free access to all scientists of

SESAME members in relevant areas of research, being also open to scientists from the whole world, in basic and applied research using synchrotron radiation or closely related topics.”

Just this year CERN came forward and will take the lead in the construction of the magnets for SESAME's main storage ring. This help will be critical in allowing SESAME to maintain the ambitious goal of commissioning its storage ring in 2015 and starting experiments soon thereafter.

Herman should be proud of this fantastic center that he was so instrumental in getting going and nurtured to its present state. I could describe his many efforts, but perhaps that is unnecessary.

Accolades and Tributes

Now it is time for me to turn to accolades. Talking to some of my friends, I received wonderful tributes to Herman. Of course, I could easily have gotten many more, but I simply stopped at four. I have given the four to Piero Pianetta and he tells me he shall read them in the “open mike” session. They are from:

From Edward Gerjuoy, Long-time Human Rights Activist, Chair CIFS in 2004

Thank you very much for enabling me to honor Herman at this celebration, which alas I am unable to attend. (He is 94 years old; was J. Robert Openheimer’s last student.) Herman's reputation as an effective articulate opponent of human rights violations anywhere in the world--a reputation that has earned him many awards --is well deserved. I emphasize, moreover, that my interactions with him have always have found him to

be an intelligent and cooperative colleague, who did not take himself overly seriously. The pleasure I have taken in his company is reflected in the pleasure I am finding in writing these words

From Hamed Tarawneh, Former Scientist at SESAME

On the occasion of your 80th birthday, I convey to you and your family my best wishes for a prolonged, happy and healthy life. I remember when we first met in Amman, Jordan at the first SESAME Workshop on Sept. 2000 which was dedicated to the selection of young physicists and engineers from the Middle Eastern countries for training. Afterward they became the core team for building the SESAME Light Source. I was among the ones selected from Jordan and from you and Prof. G. A. Voss, I learned what an accelerator is and for that I owe you a lot.

In my opinion, your belief in science and most importantly, your belief in bringing people together despite their differences to set up the Science For Peace project in the Middle East, the SESAME Project. It is truly noble and such vision, and your contributions, will never be forgotten.

Robert Quinn, Executive Director; Clare Robinson, Senior Program Officer; and Everyone at Scholars at Risk From

In our work at Scholars at Risk, we have the honor of partnering with many kind, generous individuals who are dedicated to furthering human rights and who are eager help others in need, but Herman Winick stands out for his effort to help not one or two deserving scholars but many. Herman is a devoted advocate for human rights, and we are lucky to call him an advocate for scholars-at-risk, too. His actions imply that

he sees SAR as a professional priority but also as a personal one, as he always makes time to support threatened scholars who spend time at Stanford, helping them with everything from apartment hunts to connecting with colleagues in their field. Herman is there for them once they leave Stanford, too, checking in with them when they return home to their countries and reminding them that, yes, we care very much what happens to them, a message that is vital to these scholars' inspiration to continue their scholarship and their lives. It is people like Herman who make Scholars at Risk work. It is people like Herman who make the human rights movement work. It is people like Herman who make a lasting impact on the world and on so many people. Herman, we are ever grateful to you for your incredible efforts in the human rights arena and also for your kindness, generosity, friendship and warmth.

Thank you, thank you, for everything you do.

From Irving Lerch, Former Officer for International Programs at the APS

If you live long enough, something momentous will happen. For most of us this means that we bear passive witness to the events that engulf us. For a very few, it is an opportunity to embrace the moment and actively to contribute to history.

Herman Winick has never been a passive witness—neither in his professional, scientific life nor in the broader realm of international collaboration and social justice.

In 1997 when he convinced his friend and colleague, Gus Voss, to champion the exploitation of the soon-to-be-junked

BESSY I synchrotron as an international research facility, he was not suggesting that an antiquated instrument be foisted on the hapless scientists of a region in turmoil and conflict. Rather, he saw the opportunity to build a world-class laboratory that would be home to the ambitions, curiosity, talents and industry of a community—giving them a means to participate in the world scientific enterprise on a par with their European and Asian colleagues.

And rather than embrace the brilliance and vision he proffered, he was met with skepticism and resistance. Boldness often confronts timidity and uncertainty and for any singular vision to prevail, it requires persistence, even stubbornness, endurance, energy and eloquence—all of which Herman has demonstrated in abundance these past 15 years. He undermined the resistance of his colleagues in the physics community, first assuring the support of UNESCO and, ultimately, the governing councils of international science, disparate governments and funders.

What an amazing accomplishment!

But of course this is only a fragment of what Herman has done and continues to do. His prodigious energies in support of repressed and endangered scientists are well-known and documented. And in this endeavor, too, he doesn't give up or hesitate or wait. He has been tireless and devoted, pushing his community and others to come to the aid of those whose only sin is to express their conscience. I have watched with amazement as he has taken on mission after mission, expending time and energy and money to help, to comfort and intervene whenever and wherever he saw the need.

Bravo, Herman!

In Summary: Herman's Human Rights and International Activities

Herman began being active on human rights matters in the 1980's when he worked on behalf of dissidents from the Soviet Union, China and other countries. In the years since, he has been asked to chair the APS Committee on International Freedom of Scientists and the APS Forum on International Physics. In 2005 he received the Heinz R. Pagels Human Rights of Scientists Award from the New York Academy of Sciences and in 2009 he received the Andrei Sakharov Prize. And now we have today's event.

Given all this, Herman, you can now, to mis-quote Dylan Thomas, "go gently into that dark night". But please don't. We need people of your talent and ones with their "heart in the right place". To use the Yiddish term, you are a mensch, which according to the dictionary is a person of responsibility, who has integrity, honor, rectitude, dignity, and a sense of what is right. Doesn't that fit Herman perfectly? I think it does. You agree, don't you?

Thank you.