

March 6, 2014

Editor
Troitsky Variant
info@trv-science.ru

To the editor:

I have learned on 5 March of the conviction of Academician Victor Vassiliev for his participation on 21 February, 2014 in a peaceful protest in support of the defendants in the Bolotnaya Square Case. This news is deeply disturbing.

Cooperation between scientists in Russia and the United States has been vitally important to both countries. This cooperation persisted for many decades through the deepest political divisions, to the great benefit of science and the people in both countries. My own work has followed paths laid down more than half a century ago by Israel Gelfand and his collaborators, just as I see students now inspired by the ideas of Victor Vassiliev.

The use of the police and the courts against peaceful protest is a direct threat to this long history of cooperation. If Russian scientists who are our brothers and sisters are not secure in Moscow, then we cannot feel secure there either.

I hope that the conviction of Academician Vassiliev can be overturned, and that the government of Russia can respect the rights of all of its citizens. Meanwhile I look forward to supporting all efforts at continuing our work together, however great the obstacles placed in the way.

Respectfully,



David A. Vogan, Jr.
President, American Mathematical Society
Member, National Academy of Sciences