

Resolution Title: Resolution on Peer Review and the Co-Authorship of Scholarly Publications that Originate in Sanctioned Countries
Submitted by: Professional Staff Congress, Local 2334

Whereas, scholarly journals published by the American Chemical Society, the American Society for Microbiology, and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers have recently been prevented from reviewing and editing articles authored by people residing in sanctioned countries* by action of the U.S. Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC); and

Whereas, the OFAC continues to ban the joint publication of scholarly work, when one of the scholars is from one of the sanctioned countries; and

Whereas, preventing a scholarly journal from editing, reviewing and publishing an article is inimical to the academic freedom that a government should respect; and

Whereas, the free flow of scholarly information is inherent in the constitutional protection of freedom of the press, a right established in the First Amendment to the Constitution; therefore be it

Resolved, that the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) urge the US government not to interfere with the free exercise of the freedom of the press; and be it further

Resolved, that AFT express its support for the right of scholars to co-author publications with people who live in sanctioned countries; and be it further

Resolved, that AFT express its support for professional organizations whose free press rights are being infringed; and be it further

Resolved, that AFT call on its locals, other educational organizations, as well as professional associations to support the right to freely run academic presses and to support the right of scholars to publish scholarly work with any co-author in any country; and be it further

Resolved, that AFT join the AAUP, the American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression, American Civil Liberties Union, the American Library Association, the PEN American Center, and others in supporting a statement protesting the application of the embargo on trade in goods and services to the sharing and editing of scientific papers among scholarly peers.

* includes Cuba, Iran, Libya, and Sudan

References:

<http://www.ieee.org>
(click on INFORMATION ABOUT THE IEEE AND OFAC)
<http://pubs.acs.org/cen/topstory/8208/8208notw5.html>
<http://www.nytimes.com/2004/02/28/national/28PUBL.html>
(On-line registration required)
<http://www.biomedcentral.com/news/20040407/03/>
<http://www.aaup.org/newsroom/Newsitems/OFAC%20PR.htm>
<http://www.aaup.org/newsroom/Newsitems/OFAC%20PR.htm>
<http://www.aaup.org/statements/SpchState/ncacpet.htm>

I hereby certify that the above resolution was approved for submission to the 2004 AFT Convention by the:

Delegate Assembly

at a meeting held on May 27, 2004

Signed:

(President)

(Secretary)

Professional Staff Congress

Local or Retiree Council Name

Local 2334

AFT#