



## Joint Letter of Appeal on Behalf of Serkan Golge, Imprisoned US Citizen and NASA Physicist of Turkish Descent

It has been over two months since Serkan Golge, a 36-year-old United States citizen of Turkish descent and a physicist with the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration, was arrested in Turkey. On August 6, 2016, we learned that Golge was formally accused of involvement with the Gulen movement, which Turkey considers a terrorist organization. According to one of Golge's associates, we also learned, he has also been accused of spying for the US Central Intelligence Agency.

The Committee of Concerned Scientists has been monitoring Golge's case from the beginning, as did Endangered Scholars Worldwide by making inquiries on a daily basis in an attempt to have Golge released and to have charges against him dropped. We have been in contact with the US embassies in Turkey and have written to the Turkish authorities requesting that they release the NASA scientist. We have been told that Golge is alive, though he remains in detention and is the subject of a pending judicial case. Unfortunately, his case has not received wide media coverage in the US.

Golge is a senior research scientist at NASA who has been studying the health effects on the human body of time spent in space. He has helped create models that predict the risk of cancer from galactic cosmic rays and has analyzed data from particle detectors on the space station.

We, at Endangered Scholars Worldwide and Committee of Concerned Scientists, consider Serkan Golge's detention a flagrant and unjust violation of the freedom, security, and safety of a scientist who is clearly a victim of a political witch hunt — arrested without cause, held for weeks in solitary confinement and without access to a lawyer, and subjected to physical mistreatment and psychological abuse.

Endangered Scholars Worldwide and Committee of Concerned Scientists strongly deplore and condemn the ongoing detention, persecution, and conviction of Serkan Golge, and call upon all international organizations, academic and professional associations, and other groups and individuals devoted to the promotion and defense of human rights to strongly protest and condemn this arbitrary incarceration, to call for his immediate and unconditional release, and to urge the officials of the Turkish government to respect, guarantee, and implement the provisions and principles of human rights as specified in international conventions and treaties to which Turkey has long been a signatory.

Please send appeals to:

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**CC:**

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