

13 November 2016

Declaration explaining my absence

My name is Adlene Hicheur, born in Algeria almost 40 years ago. I obtained my PhD in Particle Physics in 2003 within the BaBar experiment at SLAC. I then joined the ATLAS experiment in the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory group from 2003 to 2006. After that experience, I obtained a fixed term position at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne up to 2009, when all my troubles with the French authorities started.

I was detained preemptively for two years and a half, from October 2009 until May 2012, on the basis of chats rooms and anonymous discussions on Islamic internet sites relating, among other subjects, information from Islamic armed groups in the world. I have not stopped from denouncing the different lies, distortions and dishonest practices that have accompanied the case, in vain. Eventually, I was judged in May 2012, and convicted for terrorism-related offences even though I never planned or committed, either directly or indirectly, any violent act. Given the time that I had already spent in prison, I was released immediately after the verdict.

Despite all the difficulties and obstacles, with the help of my generous Brazilian LHCb colleagues, in 2013 I succeeded in going back to particle physics with a position in Rio de Janeiro. With a lot of effort and dedication, I successfully managed to reconstruct a new life in Brazil and to be again productive as a researcher, playing a leading role in several recent important LHCb publications, and as a dedicated teacher, at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro.

But the hands of persecution reached me again in Brazil and I recently became the victim of a brutal and arbitrary measure decided by the new Brazilian ministry of Justice. On July 15, 2016, I was forcibly deported from Brazil to France on a short notice, without notification and without any right to appeal, even though my position in Brazil was completely legal and my conduct peaceful and irreproachable, as it has always been the case in my life! Even worse, as a registered Algerian worker in Brazil, I had repeatedly requested and had the right to be deported to Algeria, but in fact I was deported to France, where I had feared I would be confined under the ongoing state-of-emergency laws. This is precisely what happened: in full violation of all my rights, I was delivered to the French police and immediately put under administrative house arrest.

As a result, I am now an official hostage in France, prevented from even going back to Algeria. I am obliged to stay within the perimeter of a small city. I must report to police three times a day and cannot leave the apartment between 8:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. I do not know what other acts of arbitrariness may occur to me, but I am doing whatever possible, with the available national and international legal and/or political tools, to be released and leave the country.

It is this unbearable, Kafkaesque situation that is preventing me from being with you today, honouring the invitation.

I would have liked to be with you as an enthusiastic participant in SILAFAE (this would have been my second participation) and to give my humble contribution to the development and popularisation of high energy physics in Latin America. I would also have liked to learn a bit more about Guatemala.

Therefore, it is with great sadness that I am missing this event, although I hope you will all have a good time in discussing about science.

I wish some day I could meet most of the participants of this meeting to discuss about this sad experience and, more importantly, about science, which is one of the few areas still capable of federating human beings beyond their cultural and ideological backgrounds, bringing something positive into this unstable and hysterical world.

Kind regards,
Adlene Hicheur

For more information:

- [1] [Page of the International Committee of Support to Adlene Hicheur](#)
- [2] [Article of Nature of September 14, 2016](#)
- [3] [Editorial of Nature of September 14, 2016](#)
- [4] [Ongoing petition calling for the release of Adlene Hicheur](#)
- [5] [Summary of the facts posted on the facebook page of the Support Committee](#)