



A Group of French Physicists protests the custody of Adlene Hicheur

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Submitted by [Maninder Singh](#) on Tue, 11/09/2010 - 13:02 **France** **TNM**

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Adlène Hicheur, a scientist, a brilliant researcher, a bright

physicist has been arrested on 8 October 2009 under terrorism charges and has been held in French prison without trail for almost a year.

At present, a group of physicists gathered and decide to publically protest his custody. They have prepared a letter signed by 19 physicists for the Fench Physical Society.

In this letter they have mentioned the details of Hicher that before his arrest he was a postdoctoral researcher at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne (EPFL) and worked on the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at CERN, near Geneva, Switzerland. He is the person who has worked on the world's largest particle collider.

Group also writes that even though he prove to be innocent of all charges but still his career will face many strains due to the length and uncertainty of the procedures.

Hicheur colleagues have strong faith that he is innocent. Jean-Pierre Lees, deputy director of the Laboratory of Particle Physics in Annecy-Le-Vieux, France have made arrangements for the letter as he has worked with Hicheur since he was pursuing his graduation. Initially he was forced to keep quite by Hicheur's family and lawyer, who believed that any such protest will delay Hicheur's release.

Hicheur was arrested for plotting some terrorism attacks with 'Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb' — the North African branch of the terrorist organization Al-Qaeda. Judges in this case have ordered for strict guard over his communications and movements until his trail. Hicheur's lawyer, Dominique Beyreuther-Minkov, said that the case remains open with no firm date for either a trial or a formal indictment.

According to her this case is empty, but the presiding anti-terrorism judge, Christophe Teissier declined any such commented until the investigation is on.

People who worked with Hicheur's described him as a shy but affable scientist

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who loved political debate and are distressed by Hicheur's prolonged detention.

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