

An open letter in support of Azat Miftakhov, a mathematician

Multiple sources confirm that on February 1, 2019 Azat Miftakhov, a graduate student of the Moscow State University Faculty of Mechanics and Mathematics, was detained on suspicion of manufacturing explosives. He was tortured by the police and the Federal Security Service — according to another detainee Daniil Galkin, by the time he got a hold of Azat, he “didn’t look like a human being” anymore. The police used torture to force a testimony out of Miftakhov. Security forces are concealing his location from his lawyer Svetlana Sidorkina; she hasn’t been able to contact him for the time being. According to the lawyer and other detainees, Azat may have tried to cut his veins as a result.

Detailed information on this case is given by the Russian media such as Meduza (<http://alturl.com/nq53k>) and OVD-Info (<http://alturl.com/ycuai>).

Azat Miftakhov has just started his mathematical career: his first mathematical paper *On weak convergence of finite-dimensional and infinite-dimensional distributions of random processes* was published in 2016.

We, the representatives of the mathematical community and ones in solidarity with them, are extremely concerned about the current situation. We demand to know the location and health status of Azat immediately, and that he is granted access to his lawyer. We also demand instantaneous cessation of torture of Miftakhov and other detainees, as well as a transparent and fair trial.

UPDATE: Azat Miftakhov has been found in the Balashikha police station in Moscow. The investigator claims he was arrested at 19:10 on February, 2. Azat and his lawyer confirmed the use of torture, as reported by Mediazona (<https://zona.media/article/2019/02/03/azat>, in Russian). English version is available at The Russian Reader website: <https://therussianreader.com/2019/02/04/azat-miftakhov> <https://therussianreader.com/2019/02/04/azat-miftakhov-2>.

Letter originators: Balam Usov, Roman Krutowski, Ilya Dumansky, Rodion Déev, Konstantin Loginov, Dmitry Korshunov, Bogdan Zavyalov, Ann Dmitrieva.

Signatures

This list contains only selected signatures. For a complete list which includes more than 300 signatures of math researchers, students and alumni of math departments, see the webpage of the open letter: <http://doxajournal.ru/uni/mathfac> (in Russian).

Sergey Konyagin, principal researcher at Steklov Mathematical Institute, full member of the RAS, fellow of the AMS

Victor Vassiliev, principal researcher at Steklov Mathematical Institute, President of the Moscow Math Society, full member of RAS, fellow of the AMS

Anatoly Vershik, principal researcher at St. Petersburg Department of Steklov Mathematical Institute, professor, fellow of the AMS

Michael Finkelberg, professor at Skoltech Center for Advanced Studies, IITP RAS, HSE

Alexander Braverman, professor at University of Toronto, Skoltech

Alexander Belavin, principal researcher at Landau Institute for Theoretical Physics, corresponding member of RAS, professor

Ilya Shkredov, principal researcher at Steklov Mathematical Institute, professor of the RAS, corresponding member of the RAS

Vladimir Protasov, professor of the RAS, professor at Moscow State University and HSE, corresponding member of RAS

Efim Khazanov, Institute of Applied Physics of the RAS, corresponding member of RAS

Elizaveta Bonch-Osmolovskaya, principal researcher at Winogradsky Institute of Microbiology, corresponding member of RAS

Elena Berezovich, professor at the department of Russian language and general linguistics, Ural Federal University, professor of the RAS, corresponding member of the RAS

Askold Ivanchik, fellow at the Institute of World History of the RAS, corresponding member of the RAS

Noam Chomsky, Institute Professor, Professor of Linguistics Emeritus at MIT

Mikhail S. Gelfand, professor of bioinformatics, IITP, HSE, Skoltech, fellow of the Academia Europaea

Konstantin Sonin, professor at Harris School of Public Policy, University of Chicago, HSE

Yulij Ilyashenko, professor at HSE

Sergei Yakovenko, full professor, Gershon Kekst Professor of Mathematics, The Weizmann Institute of Science

Vladimir Lin, Technion, professor emeritus

Roman Bezrukavnikov, professor at MIT

Misha Verbitsky, Pesquisador Titular (full professor) at IMPA

Mikhail Belolipetsky, professor at IMPA

Alexandre Ananin, professor at Universidade de São Paulo

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Evgeny Vdovin, principal researcher at Sobolev Institute of Mathematics, professor of the RAS

Leonid Bokut', leading researcher at Sobolev Institute of Mathematics, professor, honorary citizen of Guangzhou

Roman Karasev, principal researcher at MIPT, federal professor

Alexandre Eremenko, Distinguished professor at Purdue University, fellow of the AMS

Alexander Bufetov, directeur de recherche at CNRS, leading researchet at Steklov Mathematical Institute, professor of the RAS

Yuri Prokhorov, leading researcher at Steklov Mathematical Institute, professor

Ekaterina Amerik, professor at Université de Paris-Sud, HSE

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Vladimir Roubtsov, professor at Université d'Angers

Alexander Shen, directeur de recherche at CNRS, LIRMM Montpellier

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Alexander Kirillov Jr., professor at SUNY Stony Brook

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Andrej A. Kon'kov, professor at Moscow State University

Victor Ostrik, professor at University of Oregon

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Sergei Maslov, professor at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

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Vladimir Shlyk, professor at Belarussian State University

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Panos Kompatsiaris, assistant professor at the School of Media, HSE

Grigory Bazhenov, junior researcher at faculty of economics, Moscow State University

Leonid Volkov, alumnus of the Ural State University, PhD in Mathematics