



Giorgio Napolitano  
President of the Republic of Italy  
Palazzo del Quirinale  
Piazza del Quirinale  
00187 Rome  
Italy

25 October 2012

Dear Mr. President,

We are writing to express our concern at the conviction, October 22, of six scientists and a government official from a Major Risks Committee on charges of providing inept information to residents about the impending danger of an earthquake in L'Aquila.

No doubt you are aware the case has caused a great deal of concern within the science community.

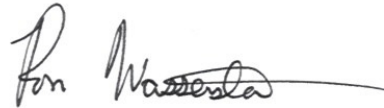
Without having access to all relevant information and without wanting to judge the specifics of the case, we would nevertheless express our concern regarding the criminal prosecution of scientists in this case.

It is our view the conviction is detrimental to the conduct of independent scientific research and puts at risk the willingness of scientists to provide expert advice in future. Scientists must feel they can present their research without the risk of prosecution.

Sincerely yours,

p.p. 

Hetan Shah  
Executive Director  
Royal Statistical Society



Ronald L. Wasserstein  
Executive Director  
American Statistical Association