



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.

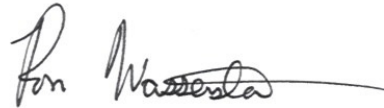
Without having access to all relevant information and without wanting to judge the specifics of the case, we would nevertheless express our concern regarding the criminal prosecution of scientists in this case.

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