



Center for Disaster Management and Risk Reduction Technology

CEDIM Statement

responding to the conviction and sentencing of six Italian scientists and one government official for manslaughter in connection with the L'Aquila earthquake of 6 April 2009

The scientist of the Center for Disaster Management and Risk Reduction Technology (CEDIM) are alarmed and deeply concerned by the conviction and sentencing of six Italian scientists and one government official for manslaughter in connection with the L'Aquila earthquake of 6 April 2009.

Linking and prosecuting the free expression of scientific opinions to casualties resulting from the collapse of poorly built or maintained buildings during an earthquakes is disturbing, unjustified, and dangerous for future transfer of scientific knowledge into the field of disaster risk mitigation.

Governments and authorities are responsible to ensure that appropriate strategies and measures for risk mitigation are in place and applied. Scientists cannot be held responsible for effects that are not under their responsibility. Scientists on advisory panels need to express their views based on state-of-the-art scientific knowledge in an unbiased fashion and free of fear of being prosecuted. The trial and sentence will make scientists reluctant to serve on these panels and/or provide only mainstream and 'politically correct' statements.

We appeal to the higher judicial authorities to reverse this judgement.

Regarding this topic we fully conform with the statements issued by the International Association of Seismology and the Physics of the Earth's Interior (IASPEI, http://www.iaspei.org/news_items/laquila_IASPEI_press_release_final.pdf)

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