I feel very honored to be given this award and proud that this institution has such a strong, continuing commitment to human rights.

Albert Einstein, who was a member of the NAS, said "Everything that is really great and inspiring is created by the individual who can labor in freedom." This institution has worked, over the years, to obtain the freedom of scientists and engineers and health professionals, who are unjustly imprisoned, internally exiled, or detained. These efforts have been rewarded, time and again, as prisoners are released and can, once again, aspire to greatness in freedom. And I have been rewarded in being a part of this effort.

It is the members of the Academies and the Institute of Medicine who carry out the work of the committee and make its efforts a success. They have given their support and their time—and their hearts—to our work. It is they who write the letters of concern, who appeal to those in power in repressive countries, and participate in missions to remote areas of the world.

I would like to thank Dr. Press and Dr. White and Dr. Thier for their concern for the fate of their scientific colleagues and I would like to thank them for allowing me to help express their concern through concrete actions.
In accepting this award, I want to say that I could not have received it without the wonderful guidance and support and friendship of a terrific boss, Victor Rabinowitch, and those who have chaired my committees--Lipman Bers, Eliot Stellar, and Elena Nightingale.

I've also had the luxury of a dedicated, hard-working staff. Both Meeru Dhalwala and Becca Talley, and Carole Jolly before them, have been of invaluable assistance. They have also maintained a sense of humor through some difficult times. Many, many members of the NRC staff have been tremendously supportive of the committee's work and have provided a lot of volunteer help. You know who you are and I thank you sincerely. I would like, in particular, to thank Genie Grohman, Jay Davenport, and Jean George.

I want to say a special thanks to Norman Metzger. Without his help and encouragement years ago, I wouldn't be here today.

In closing, I would like to say that not many people are given an opportunity to use the power of such a prestigious organization to help free those who are in prison and to stay the hand of the torturer and the executioner. I am very grateful to this institution for being given the opportunity to do such meaningful work and for its confidence, and its support, and this recognition.

Thank you.