

JUSTICE

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National Research Council

March 10, 2000

The Honorable Janet Reno, Attorney General
United States Department of Justice
Constitution Avenue and 10th Street
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Madam Attorney General:

We write to inquire about the status of the case (#99-1417) of a physicist, former Los Alamos National Laboratory employee Wen Ho Lee. It is our understanding that Mr. Lee is charged with 59 felony counts under statutes 42 USC § 2275, 2276 and 18 USC § 793 (c&e). He is currently being held without bail in Albuquerque, New Mexico, pending trial.

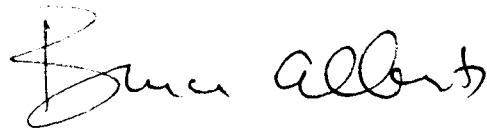
The purpose of this letter is to inquire about several matters related to Mr. Lee's case, as well as to request your assurances that his rights are being fully respected.

In view of recent allegations in the press with regard to Mr. Lee's treatment, we would appreciate being informed as to the conditions and circumstances under which Mr. Lee is being held. Are his conditions of confinement in accordance with all U.S. and international standards? We would also like to know whether, as has been alleged by Mr. Lee's family, instruments of restraint have been applied to him. If so, what instruments were used, when and for how long were they applied, why, and under what circumstances?

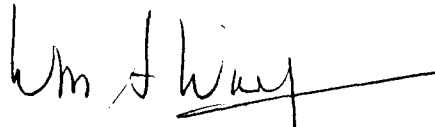
With regard to the need for a fair trial, we would value your assurances that Mr. Lee's rights not to be coerced into giving a confession and not to be held in a coercive environment are being fully respected. What and how much contact is Mr. Lee permitted to have with his family, defense counsel, and lawyers? We would also like to know what access Mr. Lee's lawyers are being given to information needed to adequately prepare his defense.

We very much appreciate your attention to our inquiry and look forward to receiving information that will help to assure us that all reasonable measures are being taken to protect Mr. Lee's rights, in full accordance with U.S. and international law.

Very truly yours,



Bruce Alberts, President
National Academy of Sciences



William Wulf, President
National Academy of Engineering



Kenneth Shine, President
Institute of Medicine