



Prof. Alexander Sergeev
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Honorary doctorate awarded by the Russian Academy of Sciences

Dear President Prof. Alexander Sergeev,

even more than a week after the begin of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the Russian Academy of Sciences, representing the nations best intellectual resources, keeps its silence and has not appealed to stop this barbaric war in Europe, 77 years after the end of the catastrophic second world war which has been started by Hitler's Germany.

This long period of peace, despite the differences between the developments in the former East and West, has brought the nations and people closer together. It was our pleasure to meet Russian scientists in Germany, in Russia and at conferences all over the world. We intensified these contacts and established various successful joint projects between the RSF and the DFG, organized conferences and workshops, and published more than 100 joint papers with scientists from RAS institutes. And we became friends with many of our Russian colleagues.

We were awarded the honory doctorate of the Russian Academy of Sciences in 2007 and 2012, respectively and received the diploma out of the hands of former President Prof. Vladimir Fortov in Rostock and Moscow. We were very honoured by this prestigious award which linked us even closer to the famous Russian Academy of Sciences and outstanding Russian scientists.

However, even more important for us are peace and freedom, in particular as scientists. The Russian Federation is now brutally violating these elementary rules by invading Ukraine. But the Russian Academy of Sciences keeps its silence. We are ashamed by this attitude and, therefore, will refrain from holding this title.

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We hope that the people in Russia who, as we very well know, want to live in peace, will wake up and end this war as soon as possible. We are convinced that a clear signal of the Russian Academy of Sciences to end the war against Ukraine will be very well noticed in Russia. It will also be received with great respect all over the world.

Best regards and peace for all nations, Ronald Redmer and Michael Bonitz.

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