



Canadian Association of University Teachers
Association canadienne des professeurs et professeurs d'université

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BY E-MAIL: Chrystia.Freeland@international.gc.ca

October 11, 2018

The Honourable Chrystia Freeland
Minister of Foreign Affairs
125 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0G2

Dear Minister Freeland:

On behalf of the 70,000 academic staff members of the Canadian Association of University Teachers, I am writing to request that you urge the government of the Slovak Republic to uphold the right to a timely and fair trial for Dr. David Scheffel, a professor at Thompson Rivers University (TRU).

Dr. Scheffel, an anthropology professor of nearly 30 years at TRU, was arrested in Prešov, Slovakia on November 11, 2017 and only released on bail on September 24, 2018. His arrest is directly related to his anthropological research into Romani sex work. Dr. Scheffel received full ethics clearance from his university to conduct this research. As there appears to be no credible evidence for the charges against him, his arrest violates international principles of academic freedom.

We ask that you intervene on his behalf to secure Dr. Scheffel's rights to a fair and timely trial, access to his research materials, and to uphold the international principles of academic freedom.

Sincerely,

David Robinson
Executive Director