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Scientists for Sakharov, Orlov and Shcharansky: Professional networks and human rights advocacy in the late Cold War

The paper will look at the international campaigns launched by California-based activists Scientists for Sakharov, Orlov and Shcharansky, on behalf of Soviet scientists in the late 70s and early 80s. SOS launched a moratorium on scientific cooperation with the Soviet Union, through a pledge that was signed by 8000 scientists in more than 45 countries. This paper will examine the methods by which SOS engaged scientists (a term which in this case can be quite broadly defined) with this campaign. It will explore the tactics they used in connection with and beyond the moratorium, how they worked (or didn't work) with other organisations in the field, and some of the challenges of capitalising on their initial success.