

Endangered Scholars Worldwide

Social Research was founded by a group of scholars known as the University in Exile, refugees from Nazi Europe who found a home at the New School. In each issue we publish the names and details of scholars, researchers, and students who have been threatened or imprisoned, along with ways to offer them support. We see this effort as consistent not only with our own history as a journal but with the need to call attention to the increasing and often brutal attempts to silence our colleagues around the world.

If you are aware of a scholar or student whose case you believe we should investigate, please contact us at socres@newschool.edu.

The information in this report is current, to the best of our knowledge, as of May 24, 2014. Additional information and more recent information about many of these cases, as well as sample letters of protest, may be found on our website at <http://www.newschool.edu/cps/endangered-scholars/>.

SCHOLARS AND RESEARCHERS: NEW AND CONTINUING CASES

BAHRAIN

Scholars and Researchers: Previously featured scholars from Bahrain who remain in prison include MAHDI 'ISSA MAHDI ABU DHEEB, former president of the Bahrain Teachers' Association, who was sentenced to five years' imprisonment on October 21, 2012, on charges of "inciting hatred against the regime" and "attempting to overthrow and change the regime by force"; and DR. ABDUL-JALIL AL-SINGACE, professor of engineering at the University of Bahrain, sentenced to life in prison by the military National Safety Court on charges of "plotting to topple" the government in June 2011. Reports indicate that his health condition is critical.

Students: On April 16, 2014, AHMAD HASSAN ALI MSHAIMA', who was arrested on December 28, 2013, was charged with "illegal gathering with an intent to commit crimes and disturb public security" following protests to mark the second anniversary of the uprising on February 14, 2013. He told the judge that he had been tortured in prison. The charge carries a potential sentence of up to 15 years in jail

AHMED AL ARAB, 22, a nursing student from Bani Jamra, was arrested on January 9, 2014, in Hamad Town. Reports indicate that Al Arab was severely tortured in order to extract a confession and is suffering from resulting injuries. According to his family, Al Arab is not being allowed access to medical care that he urgently needs. On May 12, 2014, Al Arab's family was able to visit him for 35 minutes. During the visit, Al Arab informed his family that while in detention he was stripped naked and hung from his wrists while they were handcuffed behind his back. He was repeatedly insulted and assaulted and deprived of sleep. When Al Arab refused to sign the confession paper, the interrogators applied waterboarding tactics on him. As of this report his health condition remains critical.

Previously featured students who remain in jail include student activist AHMED AOUN, arrested by authorities when he sought treatment at a hospital following an eye injury inflicted by police during protests on May 13, 2012; and six students, all sentenced to 15 years in prison at a trial on March 5, 2012, as part of a crackdown on student involvement in pro-democracy demonstrations: JAWAD AL-MAHARY, SHAWQI RADHI, JASSIM AL HULAINI, JASSIM AL-MUKHODHER, and YOUSIF AHMED.

Please send appeals to:

His Majesty Sheikh Hamad bin Isa
Al-Khalifa
Office of His Majesty the King
The Amiri Court
P.O. Box 555
Rifa'a Palace
Al-Manama
Kingdom of Bahrain
Fax: +973 176 64 587
Website: <http://www.mofa.gov.bh/>
Minister of Justice and Islamic Affairs

Sheikh Khalid bin Ali Al-Khalifa
Diplomatic Area
P.O Box # 450
Al-Manama
Kingdom of Bahrain
Fax: +973 175 13 333

Dr. Fatima Al-Balooshi
Minister of Human Rights and Social

Development, Acting Minister of Health
Ministry of Human Rights and
Development
Manama
Tel: +973 176 82 422

Kingdom of Bahrain
Email: fatima.albalooshi@social.gov.bh /
dr.albalooshi@gmail.com
Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/
fatima.albalooshi.3](https://www.facebook.com/fatima.albalooshi.3)

BENIN

Students: On November 12, 2013, a previously featured student leader, DAMIEN DÉGBÉ, was arrested following his involvement in organizing a two-day student strike on campus. The campus has remained under police surveillance since the initial protests.

Please send appeals to:

President Yayi Boni
Embassy of the Republic of Benin
2124 Kalorama Road, N.W.
Washington, DC 20008

USA
Fax: +1 202 265 1996
Email: info@beninembassy.us

CAMEROON

Scholars and Researchers: A previously featured scholar, ENOH MEYOMESSE, 57, a writer, political activist, historian, blogger, and founder and president of the Cameroon Writers Association, remains in prison. On December 27, 2012, he was sentenced to seven years in prison on charges of illegally trafficking gold. No witnesses or evidence were presented during the trial, and he was not allowed to testify in his own defense. Meyomesse is a recipient of the 2012 Oxfam Novib/PEN Award in recognition of his continued work in the face of persecution.

Please send appeals to:

His Excellency Paul Biya
President of the Republic of Cameroon
Office of the President
P.O. Box 100
Yaoundé
Republic of Cameroon
Email: <https://www.prc.cm/en/contact>
Website: <https://www.prc.cm/en/>

Dr. Chemuta Divine Banda, Chairman
National Commission on Human Rights
and Freedoms
B.P. 20317
Yaounde
Cameroon
Phone: +237 22 22 61 17
Fax: +237 22 22 60 82
Email: cndhl@iccnet.cm

CHILE

Students: On May 22, 2014, Chilean police deployed water cannons and fired loose tear gas to disperse student protesters after a march to demand education reforms from President Michelle Bachelet. According to the chief of local police, 33 students were arrested for disorderly conduct during the clashes. As of this report, the students remain in police custody and their condition is unknown.

Please send appeals to:

President Michelle Bachelet
Office of the President
La Moneda Palace
Moneda S/N

Región Metropolitana
Chile
Phone: +56 2 2690 4000
Website: <http://www.gob.cl/>

CHINA

Scholars and Researchers: A number of scholars featured in previous issues remain in prison: ILHAM TOHTI, an economics professor and distinguished Uyghur scholar, has been held incommunicado by Chinese authorities since mid-January 2014 on separatism charges. According to his wife, Beijing's Minzu University, where Tohti used to teach, has informed Tohti's family that as of April 2014 the university had stopped paying his salary. This action leaves Tohti's family little to survive on as they struggle to cope with Tohti's disappearance. Tohti is a prominent scholar of China's Uyghur Muslim minority.

ZHU JIANRONG, a Chinese scholar, has been held incommunicado by Chinese authorities since mid-July 2013. He went missing at that time while on a trip to Shanghai and was unable to communicate with family until more than three months later when his brother in Shanghai received a letter written by Zhu. The letter only confirms that he is being detained by Chinese authorities and does not specify when he will be released. Prior to his disappearance, Zhu had been engaged in a research project involving interviews with officials of the Chinese military.

Also still imprisoned are writer and editor TASHI RABTEN (pen name Te'urang), sentenced to four years' imprisonment on June 2, 2011, for his critical political writings; GUO QUAN, a former literature professor at

Nanjing Normal University, sentenced to 10 years in prison and 3 years of deprivation of political rights in October 2009 on charges of “inciting subversion of state power”; and LIU XIAOBO, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate and *Social Research* author, held in Jinzhou Prison since his arrest in December 2008 for “inciting subversion of state power.”

Students: A previously featured student, WANGCHUK DORJE, a Tibetan student leader at the Middle School of Humanities in Rebkong County, remains in prison. He was sentenced in June 2013 to four years in prison for his alleged role in organizing student protests.

Please send appeals to:

His Excellency Xi Jinping
President of the People’s Republic of China
Zhong Nhaihai
Beijing 100032
People’s Republic of China

Mr. Shengjun Wang
President, Supreme People’s Court
No. 27
Dong Jiao Min Xiang
Beijing 100745
People’s Republic of China
Fax: +86 10 6529 2345 (c/o Ministry of
Communication)
Website: www.court.gov.cn

Facebook group in support of LIU XIAOBO: <<http://www.facebook.com/Free.Liu>>

Calls for letters on behalf of ILHAM TOHTI: <http://www.scholarsatrisk.nyu.edu/Documents/LOA_Tohti_04-15-2014.pdf>

EGYPT

Scholars and Researchers: DR. EMAD SHAHIN, a political science professor at the American University in Cairo, was charged for associating with the Muslim Brotherhood, including espionage and conspiring to undermine national security. However, since 2012, Professor Shahin had been publicly critical of President Mohamed Morsi and the Muslim Brotherhood, as well as of the crackdown against them following Morsi’s ouster. The alleged charge carries a potential sentence of up to seven years in jail.

A previously featured scholar, AMR HAMZAWY, a professor at the American University in Cairo, has been charged with “insulting the judiciary” for a Tweet criticizing a court ruling. Hamzawy has played a prominent political role in the past three years, winning a seat in parliament and leading a liberal party. The charge carries a potential sentence of up to three years in jail.

Students: On April 15, 2014, MOHAMED ADEL, a student in Arabic Language and Islamic Thought, was shot dead during a “Students against the Coup” march when security forces dispersed the on-campus protest. Adel is the fourteenth student to be killed by security forces during protests since the beginning of the 2013–2014 school year. Endangered Scholars Worldwide is gravely concerned about use of excessive force against students engaged in the nonviolent protests.

Please send appeals to:

Ambassador Mohamed M. Tawfik
Egyptian Embassy to the United States
3521 International Ct. NW
Washington DC 20008
USA
Email: contact@egyptembassy.net
Website: <http://www.egyptembassy.net>

Ambassador Mootaz Ahmadein Khalil
Egyptian Permanent Representative to the
United Nations
800 Second Avenue
New York, NY 10017
USA

ETHIOPIA

Scholars and Researchers: University Professor ZELELEM KIBRET, a professor of law at Ambo University, and BEFIKADU HAILU, a former lecturer and current staff member at St. Mary’s University College, were arrested along with the Zone 9 bloggers ABEL WABELA, ATNAF BERAHANE, MAHLET FANTAHUN, BEFEQADU HAILU, NATNAEL FELEKE, ASMAMAW HAILEGEORGIS, TESFALEM WALDYES and EDM KASSAYE; all were detained on April 26, 2014. “Zone 9” symbolizes the invisible prison that surrounds Ethiopians, implying that all citizens could be arrested at any time for exercising their right to free expression. The weblog’s mission is to cover harassment, threats, surveillance, and intimidation by the Ethiopian government. Kibret was arrested at the Ambo University campus, and intelligence forces seized

computers and books from his office and home. Kibret, Hailu, and all the arrested bloggers are reportedly charged with inciting violence through social media and spreading instability in Ethiopia. The scholars are being held incommunicado at Makelawi prison with no access to legal representation and officials have not permitted family members to visit the prisoners. All are at risk of torture and need your support.

Students: MANYAZEWA ESHETU, a previously featured student at Addis Ababa University, who was charged with criminal defamation for allegedly posting criticism of university and city officials for corruption on his Facebook page, remains in prison. Police apprehended him on campus and he remains held without charge. As of this report his condition remains unknown.

Please send appeals to:

Prime Minister
His Excellency Hailemariam Desalegn
Office of the Prime Minister
PO Box 1031
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Fax: +251 11 1552020
E-mail: national.parliament@telecom.net.
et / national.parliament@ethionet.et
Website: www.mfa.gov.et/

Mr. Getachew Ambaye
Ministry of Justice
P.O. Box 1370
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Fax: +251 11 5517775 / 5520874
Email: ministry-justice@telecom.net.et

Calls for letters on behalf of Prof. Kibret and Mr. Hailu: <http://www.scholarsatrisk.nyu.edu/Documents/LOA_Kibret_and_Hailu_05-05-2014.pdf>

IRAN

Scholars and Researchers: Previously featured scholars from Iran who remain in prison include SAEED MADANI, a sociologist and member of the Nationalist-Religious Front, sentenced on June 21, 2013, to six years in prison and ten years in exile; ARZHANG DAVOODI, a poet, teacher, and cofounder of the pro-Western Confederation for Iranian Students, imprisoned since October 2003; MASOUD SEPEHR, a political science lecturer at Shiraz Azad University, detained without charge since his arrest on

November 17, 2011; seven people connected to the Baha'i Institute for Higher Education, following coordinated attacks on the institute in May 2011, including KAMRAN MORTEZAIE and VAHID MAHMOUDI, each sentenced to five years, and RAMIN ZIBAIE, MAHMOUD BADAIVAM, FARHAD SEDGHI, RIAZ SOBHANI, and NOUSHIN KHADEM, each sentenced to four years; two cultural figures, educator FARHAD VAKILINIA serving three years and NAEEM NAJAFI, a student, serving four years, both charged with "acting against national security" by supporting Kurdish opposition groups in August 2011; and DR. MOSTAFA ALAVI, an Iranian doctor and researcher sentenced to fifteen years in August 2008 for "plotting against the regime." ABDOLREZA GHANBARI, a university lecturer of Persian literature arrested following the 2009 presidential election protests, was initially sentenced to death by Judge Abolghasem Salavati in Branch 15 of the Islamic Revolutionary Court. His death sentence was reduced to fifteen years' imprisonment and exile to the south of Iran in June 2013 by the court of appeal. All of these scholars are at risk of torture and need your support.

Students: MASOUMEH GHOLIZADEH, a former student activist and student in Turkey, was arrested on May 23, 2014, shortly after his return to Tehran for a family visit. Her condition remains unknown.

Iranian student activist MARYAM SHAFIPOUR, 29, was sentenced to seven years in prison on March 1, 2014, by Branch 15 of the Revolutionary Court of Tehran under Judge Abolghasem Salavati on charges of "propaganda against the regime" and "assembly and collusion against national security." Shafipour was arrested on July 27, 2013. She spent 67 days in solitary confinement and eight months in "temporary detention" in Evin Prison while her case judge denied her right to be released on bail. On May 9, 2014, Shafipour developed a severe reaction from a medication that had been incorrectly prescribed for her for three months by prison doctors. The authorities have refused to allow her to see a specialist. As of this report her health condition remains acute. Shafipour is a prominent Iranian student activist who had been banned from pursuing higher education because of her student activism.

HAMID BABAEI, a PhD student at the University of Liege in Belgium, was arrested by the ministry of intelligence in August 2013 shortly after his return to Tehran for a family visit. After four months in detention, including three weeks of solitary confinement, BABAEI was sentenced to six years in prison on December 21, 2013, for allegedly acting against national security by “communicating with hostile foreign governments and spying.”

Previously featured students from Iran who remain in prison include ASHKAN ZAHABIAN, a student activist arrested on May 27, 2013, who is serving an eight-month sentence on charges of “acting against national security,” “spreading propaganda against the system,” and “forming an illegal group with intention of harming national security”; OMID KOKABEE, a PhD student in physics, sentenced to six years’ imprisonment in July 2012 on charges of communicating with a hostile government and taking illegal earnings apparently on the basis of his scholarship funding; SOROUGH SABET, serving a two-year sentence since September 2012 in connection with his involvement in protests in 2007; LEVA KHANJANI, a member of the persecuted Baha’i religious minority, banned from receiving further education and serving a two-year sentence in connection with her involvement in protests in 2009; SAYED ZIAODDIN (ZIA) NABAVI, serving a ten-year sentence after attending protests following the 2009 elections and currently in critical condition; and MAJID TAVAKOLI and BAHAREH HEDAYAT, distinguished student activists sentenced to eight-and-a-half and nine-and-a-half years, respectively, for their involvement in antigovernment protests in 2009. HEDAYAT is in a critical condition. All are at risk of torture and need your support.

Please send appeals to:

His Excellency Ayatollah Ali Khamenei
The Office of the Supreme Leader
Jomhouri St, Keshvar Doust St,
Tehran
Islamic Republic of Iran
Fax: +98 21 644 11
Website: <http://www.leader.ir/langs/en/>

Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/
www.Khamenei.ir](https://www.facebook.com/www.Khamenei.ir)

Ayatollah Sadeq Larijani
Howzeh Riyasat-e Qoveh Qazaiyeh (Office
of the Head of the Judiciary)
Pasteur St., Vali Asr Ave., south of Serah-e

Jomhuri
Tehran
Islamic Republic of Iran

President Hassan Rouhani
President of Iran
Palestine Avenue
Azerbaijan Intersection
The Office of the President
Tehran
Islamic Republic of Iran

Javad Zarif
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Imam Khomeini Sq.
The Minister's Office
Tehran
Islamic Republic of Iran
Fax: +98 21 66743149
Website: <http://www.mfa.gov.ir>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/jzarif>

Amnesty International and the Committee of Concerned Scientists have set up a petition for immediate release of KOKABEE that can be found at <http://freomid.org/?page_id=1136>.

Scholars at Risk has set up a petition letter in support of BABAEI. The petition letter and sample letters can be found at <http://www.scholarsatrisk.nyu.edu/Documents/LOA_Babaei_04-02-2014.pdf>.

IRAQ

Scholars and Researchers: On February 15, 2014, University Professor OMAR MOHAMED YUNIS was shot dead in front of his house in western Mosul. Professor Yunis taught at the University of Tal Afar in al-Mosul al-Jadeeda (the new Mosul City). As of May 24, 2014, no one has claimed responsibility for the attack. Endangered Scholars Worldwide believes that such attacks have a disturbing effect on academic freedom and institutional autonomy. The Iraqi government has a responsibility not only to hold attackers accountable but to take appropriate measures to guarantee the security of higher education communities in Iraq. In a similar incident on December 28, 2013, Professor BASHAR AWAD MAROUF, a prominent historian and Islamic scholar, was killed by gunmen in the western part of Mosul City. Professor Marouf was considered one of the preeminent scholars of modern Iraq. The identity of Professor Marouf's attackers remains unknown.

Please send appeals to:

Hoshyar Zebari
Minister of Foreign Affairs
SalHyi
Bagdahd
Iraq
Website: <http://www.mofa.gov.iq/EN/>

Ambassador Lukman Faily
1801 P Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036
USA
Phone: +1 202 742 1600
Email: ambassadoroffice@iraqiembassy.us.
Website: <http://www.iraqiembassy.us/>

ITALY

Scholars and Researchers: Previously featured scholars from Italy who remain in prison include six scientists convicted in October 2012 on charges of manslaughter for failing to predict an earthquake that devastated the city of L'Aquila in 2009. Each received a sentence of six years' imprisonment: ENZO BOSCHI, FRANCO BARBERI, BERNARDO DE BERNARDIS, GIULIO SALVAGI, CALVI GIANMICHELE, and CLAUDIO EVA.

Please send appeals to:

Matteo Renzi
Prime Minister
Presidency of the Council of Ministers
Palazzo Chigi

Piazza Colonna 370
00187 Rome - Italy
Phone: +39 066 77 91
Website: <http://www.governo.it/>

KENYA

Students: Engineering student EDWARD KUBAI was shot dead amid protests at the University of Nairobi. The protests broke out after another engineering student, ERASTUS ABOK, was found dead in police custody. ABOK had been arrested in connection with an "attempted act of arson." According to a police statement, ABOK committed suicide in his cell. Student protesters disputed the statement, suggesting that the police were at fault for his death and demanding further investigation. In response to the protest, police released loose tear gas and fired bullets against the protesters, killing KUBAI and injuring another student. Since December 2014 on-campus violence and the use of excessive force by Kenyan police has continued at the University of Nairobi.

Please send appeals to:

President Uhuru Muigai Kenyatta
P.O Box: 40530 00100
Nairobi
Kenya

Phone: +254 20 2227 436, +254 733 330
080 +254 724 256 522
Website: <http://www.president.go.ke/>
Salutation: Your Excellency

LAOS

Students: Previously featured student protestors THONGPASEUTH KEUAKOON, SENG-ALOUN PHENGPHANH, and BOUAVANH CHANHMANIVONG remain in prison following their arrest in 1999 on charges of treason for displaying posters calling for economic, political, and social change during demonstrations.

Please send appeals to:

President Choummaly Sayasone
Office of the President
Vientiane
Laos

MONGOLIA

Scholars and Researchers: A previously featured scholar, ROLMAAJI-DIIN TSENGEL, a southern Mongolian historian and translator, remains in prison. He was arrested on May 6, 2012, on charges of “attempting to overthrow the government of Mongolia and conspiracy of a coup.” Tsengel is currently being held in the Mongolian capital Ulan Bator’s Pre-trial Detention Center No. 461. He has been subject to torture during his detention and banned from having visitors or legal representatives.

Please send appeals to:

Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs
Kuhdaldaany Street 6/1
Chingeltei District 210646
Ulaanbaatar
Mongolia

Ambassador Och Od
The Permanent Mission of Mongolia to the
United Nations
6 East 77th Street
New York, NY 10075
USA
Website: <http://www.mfa.gov.mn>

NEPAL

Scholars and Researchers: On December 17, 2013, professor GOPAL BAHADUR BHATTARAI, director of Dhankuta Campus, Tribhuvan University, was brutally attacked by a group of Dhankuta professors. The attack reportedly is a result of a year-long labor dispute over the recruitment of 13 temporary professors in December 2012. Endangered Scholars Worldwide believes that such attacks have a disturbing effect on academic freedom and institutional autonomy and this incident needs further investigations by authorities.

Please send appeals to:

Prime Minister Singh Durbar
Office of the Prime Minister and Council
of Ministers
Kathmandu
Nepal

P.O. Box: 23312
Phone: +97 71 421 10 00
Email: info@opmcm.gov.np
Nepal
Website: <http://www.opmcm.gov.np/en/>

PAKISTAN

Scholars and Researchers: On January 7, 2014, university lecturer SYED NAZEER HUSSAIN UMRANI, who taught Shiite religious studies at Hashmat Ali College in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, was shot dead by unidentified gunmen on motorcycles in an apparently targeted attack. As of the date of this report, no individual or group has taken responsibility. Pakistan authorities have a responsibility to ensure the security of academic communities and prevent future attacks, and to hold perpetrators of violent attacks accountable.

Please send appeals to:

Raja Ali Ejaz
Consulate General of Pakistan
12 East 65th Street
New York, NY 10065

Phone: +1 212 879 5800
Fax: +1 212 517 6987
Email: info@pakistanconsulateny.org

PALESTINIAN TERRITORY

Scholars and Researchers: MOHAMMED S. DAJANI, a professor of political science at Al Quds University, received death threats and was accused of treason after he led a trip of 27 Palestinian students to visit the

Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp in March 2014. The trip was organized as part of a joint program on conflict resolution studies called “Hearts of Flesh – not Stone.” Israeli students from Ben-Gurion University likewise traveled to the Dheishe refugee camp in Bethlehem to learn about the experiences of Palestinians living there. Al Quds University denounced the trip, claiming that Professor Dajani and his students had made the trip in a “personal capacity.” Endangered Scholars Worldwide expresses its grave concerns about the situation and believes that such a threat undermines academic freedom and institutional autonomy. The Palestinian Authority and Al Quds University are responsible for upholding Professor Dajani’s academic freedom and protecting his safety within the Palestinian Territory.

Please send appeals to:

General Secretariat of the Council of
Ministers
Prime Minister’s Office
Fax number: +97 022 95 0979
Ramallah

Ambassador Maen Rashid Areikat
The General Delegation of the PLO to the
U.S.
1732 Wisconsin Ave NW
Washington, DC 20007
Phone: 202 974 6360
Fax: 202 974 6278
E-mail: info@plodelegation.us

RUSSIA

Scholars and Researchers: Previously featured scholars from Russia who remain in prison are SVYATOSLAV BOBYSHEV and YEVGENY AFANASYEV, both professors at Baltic State Technical University in St. Petersburg, who were sentenced at a closed trial in June 2012 to 12 years in prison on charges of espionage and passing secret information to the Chinese government.

Please send appeals to:

Vladimir Putin
President of Russia
Ilinka Str, No. 23
103132, Moscow
Russia
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/>

[pages/Putin-Vladimir/27275371642](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Putin-Vladimir/27275371642)
Mr. Yuriy Chaika
General Public Prosecutor of the Russian
Federation
GSP-3, 15a B. Dimitrovka Street

125993, Moscow

Russia

Ambassador Sergey I. Kislyak
Russian Embassy to the United States
2650 Wisconsin Avenue, NW
Washington DC 20007
USA

Phone: +1 202 298 5700

Fax: +1 202 298 5735

Website: <http://www.russianembassy.org/>

SAUDI ARABIA

Scholars and Researchers: Previously featured scholars from Saudi Arabia who remain in prison include DR. ABDUL KAREEM YOUSEF AL-KHODR, a professor of comparative jurisprudence at Qassim University, sentenced on June 24, 2013 to eight years' imprisonment and a ten-year travel ban; DR. SA'UD MUKHTAR AL-HASHIMI, a medical doctor and faculty member at the King Abdul-Aziz University, sentenced in November 2011 to thirty years in prison, which is to be followed by a thirty-year travel ban; DR. YUSUF AL-AHMAD, an Islamic scholar who taught at Imam Muhammad bin Sa'ud University in Riyadh, arrested after posting a YouTube video critical of long-term detention of security suspects without due juridical process and sentenced to five years' imprisonment and a five-year travel ban on April 11, 2012; NADHIR AL-MAJID, a teacher and writer, detained on April 17, 2011, soon after the appearance of an article in which he criticized the Saudi government; and university Professors SA'UD AL-DUGHAITHIR, MUHAMMAD BIN NASIR AL-GHAMIDI, and ABD AL-KARIM AL-KHADHAR, all members of a group of nine intellectuals who drafted a proposal seeking to create what would have been the first political party in Saudi Arabia, arrested on February 16, 2011. All are at risk of torture and need your support.

Please send appeals to:

His Royal Highness Prince Saud al-Faisal
bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Nasseriya Street
Riyadh 11124
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Fax: +966 1 403 0645

Prince Turki bin Khaled Al-Sudairy
President
Human Rights Commission

P.O. Box 58889
Building No. 373
King Fahad Road

Riyadh 11515
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Fax: +966 1 4612061

SUDAN

Scholars and Researchers: A previously featured scholar, SIDIG NOREEN ALI ABDALLA, who has taught at West Kordofan University, remains in the prison. He was arrested on January 16, 2014, while his child was undergoing treatment at a hospital in Khartoum. He is currently being held in El Obeid without access to legal representation and has not been allowed to contact his family members.

Please send appeals to:

His Excellency Lt. Omar Hassan Ahmad
Al-Bashir
President of the Republic of Sudan
President's Palace
P.O. Box 281
Khartoum
Sudan
Fax: +249 183 783 223

Sudan
Fax: +249 183 78 07 96/ +249 183 770883

His Excellency Mohamed Boshara Dosa
Minister of Justice and Attorney General
Ministry of Justice
P.O. Box 302
Al Nil Avenue
Khartoum

His Excellency Ambassador Daffa-Alla
Elhag Ali Osman
Permanent Representative to the United
Nations
Permanent Mission of the Republic of
Sudan to the United Nations in Geneva
Avenue Blanc 47
1202 Geneva
Switzerland
Fax: +41 22 731 26 56
Email: mission.sudan@bluewin.ch /
mission.sudan@ties.itu.int

SYRIA

Scholars and Researchers: Scholars from Syria who remain in prison include MAHMOUD BAHBOUH, a university professor who was arrested in June 2013 by Syrian authorities and has been incommunicado since his arrest. As of the date of this report, his location and condition remains unknown. Bahbouh was a professor of chemistry at Al'baath University
ABDULRAHMAN ALKHATEB has been imprisoned since September 28, 2013. He was the head of the Syrian Arab Crescent Branch in Talbisah, Homs and the chair of the civil engineering department at Al'Baath University.

Students: ANAS SHUGHRI, a third-year economics student, remains in prison without any specific charge.

As of May 2014, scores of students who have fled Syrian universities are living in refugee camps in Jordan and other Middle Eastern countries. Since conflicts began in March 2011, universities have been targeted in retribution for student and faculty participation in protests. In the past year, universities in Aleppo and Damascus have been bombed, killing students and destroying university classrooms, dormitories, and labs (as reported in our Spring 2014 feature). The Syria Consortium for Higher Education in Crisis, a program led by the Institute of International Education, is bringing together universities throughout the world to establish scholarships for displaced Syrian students, with the goal of providing 600 scholarships, starting in 2014. For information on the Syria Consortium for Higher Education, please visit: <http://www.iie.org/en/Programs/Syria-Scholarships>.

Please send appeals to:

President Bashar al-Assad
Presidential Palace
al-Rashid Street
Damascus
Syrian Arab Republic
Fax: +963 11 332 3410
Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Foreign Affairs
Walid al-Mu'allim
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
al-Rashid Street
Damascus
Syrian Arab Republic
Fax: +963 11 214 6251/2/3
Salutation: Your Excellency

THAILAND

Scholars and Researchers: On May 24, 2014, the newly installed National Peace and Order Maintaining Council issued an order calling on a number of scholars and writers to report to military authorities or face potential arrest. As of this report, it is not clear whether any of the summoned scholars have been detained or formally charged. The scholars reportedly include university professors SOMSAK JEAMTEERASAKUL; WORACHET PAKEERUT, SUDSANGUAN SUTHISORN and SAWATRI SUKSRI, who have lectured at Thammasat University; university professor SUDA RANGUPAN from Chulalongkorn University; philosopher SURAPOT THAWEESAK; and

PAVIN CHACHAVALPONGPUN, currently a professor of Southeast Asian studies at Kyoto University in Japan.

Endangered Scholars Worldwide express its grave concerns about the situation and believes that such a threat undermines academic freedom and institutional autonomy. Thai authorities and the National Peace and Order Maintaining Council are responsible for the protection of all scholars' academic freedom and well-being in the country.

Please send appeals to:

Ambassador Thani Thongphakdi
Permanent Mission of Thailand to the
United Nations and Other International
Organizations
United Nations
5 Rue Gustave-Moynier,

CH 1202 Geneva
Switzerland
Fax: + 41 22 715 1000
Website: <http://www.thaimission.ch/>
Email: mission.thailand@ties.itu.int

TURKEY

Students: BARIŞ ATAMAN, a student of Siirt University in Turkey, who had received a two and half year prison sentence in Turkey for protesting against the gang-rape of primary-school pupils, was found dead on May 13, 2014, in Lyon, France, where he had taken refuge from prosecution. Ataman, a student of Kurdish origin, had fled to France and asked for asylum after being repeatedly detained in Turkey. As of May 24 the investigation continues.

Previously featured scholar PINAR SELEK, a writer, feminist, and PhD candidate in political science at the University of Strasbourg, remains in exile after being convicted *in absentia* on January 24, 2013, and sentenced to aggravated life imprisonment for her alleged role in a 1998 explosion at an Istanbul market.

Please send appeals to:

His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdogan
Prime Minister of Turkey
Office of the Prime Minister
06573 Basbakanlik
Ankara
Turkey
Fax: +90 312 417 04 76

His Excellency Bekir Bozdağ
Minister of Justice
06669 Kizilay
Ankara
Turkey
Fax: +90 312 419 3370

VIETNAM

Students: Previously featured students who remain in prison in Vietnam include DINH NGUYEN KHA and NGUYEN PHUONG UYEN, sentenced to eight and six years in prison, respectively, on charges of “conducting propaganda against the state” at a trial in May 2013. The two were arrested in October 2012 for handing out leaflets critical of the government.

Please send appeals to:

His Excellency Troang Tan Sang
President of the Socialist Republic of
Vietnam
c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Hanoi
Socialist Republic of Vietnam
Salutation: Your Excellency

Nguyễn Tân Dung
Prime Minister
1 Hoang HoaTham Street
Hanoi
Socialist Republic of Vietnam
Salutation: Your Excellency

RELEASES

IRAN

We are happy to report that ABDOLLAH MOMENI, a student activist and spokesman for Iran’s largest reformist student organization, Advar-e Tahkim-e Vahdat, was released from prison on Thursday, March 13, 2014, after completing his five-year sentence in Evin Prison without a single day of furlough. Abdollah Momeni was arrested on June 2009 after the disputed presidential election. He was a supporter of the opposition presidential candidate Mehdi Karroubi in the election.

TURKEY

We are happy to report that Professor FATIH HILMIOGLU, former rector of İnönü University in Malatya, who was arrested in April 2009 and sentenced to a 23-year prison sentence on charges of attempting to violently overthrow the government, was released from jail on February 20 for six months on medical grounds after an order from the Constitutional Court.

SOURCES

Amnesty International <http://www.amnesty.org/>

Bahrain Center for Human Rights <http://www.bahrainrights.org/en>

Committee of Concerned Scientists <http://concernedscientists.org/>

Council for Assisting Refugee Academics <http://www.academic-refugees.org/>

English PEN <http://www.englishpen.org/writersinprison/>

Human Rights in China <http://www.hrichina.org/>

Human Rights Watch (HRW) <http://www.hrw.org/>

The International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran <http://www.iranhumanrights.org/>

Islamic Human Rights Commission <http://www.ihrc.org/>

New York Times <http://www.nytimes.com>

Scholars at Risk (SAR) <http://scholarsatrisk.nyu.edu/>

Southern Mongolian Human Rights Information Center <http://www.smhric.org/>

UN Watch <http://blog.unwatch.org/>

— *Written by Ebby Sharifi*