



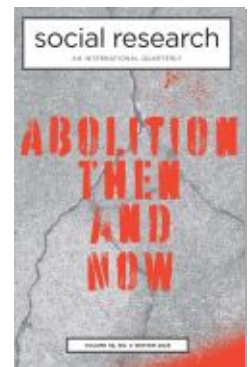
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Endangered Scholars Worldwide

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Endangered Scholars Worldwide

Attacks on higher education communities are occurring at an alarming rate worldwide, threatening the safety and well-being of scholars, students, and academic staff, as well as the autonomy of higher education institutions. While we continue to publish regular updates in *Social Research: An International Quarterly*, in response to a global increase in threats to academic freedom, Endangered Scholars Worldwide (ESW) has expanded its presence as an online publication under the auspices of the New University in Exile Consortium (www.newuniversityinexileconsortium.org), sharing frequent updates on news and developing cases in contribution to the Consortium's efforts to create a supportive intellectual community for threatened, exiled scholars.



For the most current information and ways in which you can be involved in our efforts to defend academic freedom and free expression, we invite you to visit our website www.endangeredscholarsworldwide.net or follow us at x.com/ESWNEWSCHOOL.

If you are aware of a scholar or student whose case you believe we should investigate, please get in touch with us at esw@newschool.edu.

Thank you for your unwavering support.

Special Delivery

The start of the 2025–26 academic year has witnessed a surge in widespread protests led by university students in countries such as Indonesia, Madagascar, Morocco, and Nepal. What had started out as

calls for the improvement of living standards for students, denunciation of severe inequalities in access to government resources in general, and demands for state reform, eventually led to government change in Madagascar and Nepal. The protests demonstrated the degree to which police violence is used to repress student demands whenever students take to the streets. These events have once again shown that the effort to safeguard academic freedom includes protections from state violence against free expression outside the university.


Protests in Nepal started on September 8, 2025, in reaction to the government shutting down social media platforms, where the luxurious lifestyle of the children of Nepali elite was receiving widespread and intense condemnation. Human Rights Watch reported that the Nepali police used excessive lethal force in their response to the protesters. On the first day of protests, security forces in the capital city of Kathmandu started firing into crowds, killing protesters, and instigating additional violence, including arson and looting. After the cabinet resigned on September 9, an investigation conducted by the transition government found that 76 people, including 63 protesters, were killed across two days. Due to these events, Tribhuvan University in Kathmandu closed down on September 11 until October 28. Other schools also halted classes and exams, and some, such as Kathmandu University School of Medical Sciences, switched to online classes in the aftermath of the protests. Some international students quickly left the country due to campuses being closed and because of concerns for their personal safety.

Protests in Madagascar began on September 25, 2025, over water and electricity shortages at the University of Antananarivo's student housing. While it was students who ignited the protests, they gradually spread to wider sections of society, eventually leading to the collapse of the government on October 14 after the Madagascar military withdrew support and announced that a military committee and an interim civilian government would jointly oversee a political transition period for up

to two years. Before it collapsed, the government attempted to repress the protests with violence, arrests, curfews, and social media censorship. More than 20 people were killed, and more than 100 were injured. Students who spoke to *University World News* said that their struggle brought together political protests against corruption and inequality with a desire to secure the future of higher education in Madagascar as governmental neglect left students in highly precarious conditions. At the university dorms, students are forced to share rooms in overpopulated units, with nearly no water and electricity. Overflowing sewage and the accumulation of trash also posed a health risk for students.

Spearheaded by university and high school students, protests broke out in Indonesia's capital city, Jakarta, on August 25, 2025, in reaction to the implementation of additional housing subsidies for legislators while the educational sector was facing spending cuts. Police used tear gas to disperse the crowd and beat up several student protesters. Protests spread and intensified after August 28 when the police killed a delivery driver in a hit-and-run. In one instance, police fired tear gas and rubber bullets toward student protesters at Pasundan University and Bandung Islamic University, injuring one student. On August 30 Rheza Sendy Pratama, a student at the University of Amikom Yogyakarta, was beaten to death under mysterious circumstances, allegedly at the hands of the police. At least 10 people died, and more than 1,000 were injured during the crackdown on the protests throughout the country, with many more arrested. Among those arrested was a student from Riau University in Sumatra, who is now being charged with "inciting violence" and is facing up to 12 years in prison for organizing protests.

Morocco was another country that witnessed a wave of student protests, which started on September 27, 2025, against cuts in public funding for healthcare and education. Moroccan security forces arrested more than 1,000 protesters, while several others were killed and hundreds severely injured by the police. Among the dead are Abdessamade Oubalat, a cinematography student at the Ouarzazate



Film Institute, who was shot in the head in what *Le Monde* reported as an incident of “police misconduct.” In a September 28 statement, the National Union of Moroccan Students condemned the arrest of student protesters from Mohammed I University in Oujda.

Endangered Scholars Worldwide (ESW) urges the revitalization of higher education and the improvement in services for students in Nepal, Madagascar, Indonesia, Morocco, and beyond. In solidarity with the student movements, we condemn the brutal repression of student expression inside and outside of campus boundaries. We invite the global community dedicated to upholding academic freedom to join our call.

Visit www.endangeredscholarsworldwide.net for more information.