



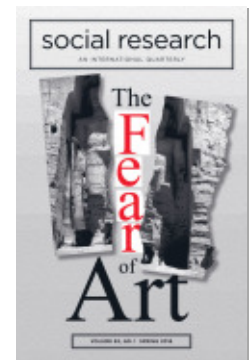
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Endangered Scholars Worldwide

Ebby Abramson

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Endangered Scholars Worldwide

The reader will encounter a few changes in the current quarterly report. The information provided for continuing cases has been reduced to a basic description of charges and potential or actual reported sentences. Our website, which is being continually expanded and updated, includes more details about each case and the ways in which readers can be involved in calling for the freedom of endangered scholars and students. Please visit us at www.endangeredscholarsworldwide.net or follow us at <https://www.facebook.com/endangeredscholars>.

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 April 10, 2016.



BAHRAIN

Continuing Cases

Scholars and Researchers who remain in prison are MAHDI ‘ISSA MAHDI ABU DHEEB, former president of the Bahrain Teachers’ Association, sentenced to five years of imprisonment in 2012 on charges of “attempting to overthrow and change the regime by force,” and ABDUL-JALIL AL-SINGACE, head of the department 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 2011. AL-SINGACE has been on a hunger strike since March 2015 in protest of the alleged degradation and ill treatment of prisoners of conscience.

Students who remain in prison are AHMED AL ARAB, a nursing student, arrested in January 2014 and sentenced to life imprisonment; and AHMED AOUN, arrested in May 2015 on charges of “involvement in pro-democracy demonstrations.” In addition, five students were sentenced to 15 years in prison at a trial on March 5, 2012, following involvement in prodemocracy demonstrations, including JAWAD AL-MAHARY, SHAWQI RADHI, JASSIM AL HULAINI, JASSIM AL-MUKHODHER, and YOUSIF AHMED. As of this report their whereabouts remain unknown.

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/>

Sheikh Khalid bin Ali Al-Khalifa
Minister of Justice and Islamic Affairs
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
Kingdom of Bahrain
Tel: +973 176 82 422

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

BANGLADESH

New Cases

NAZIMUDDIN SAMAD, a law student and secular activist, was killed by three men armed with machetes in the Bangladeshi capital of Dhaka. This is the latest in a series of grisly attacks on intellectuals and bloggers who have written critically about militant Islam on social media. As of this report, no arrests have been made. The *Dhaka Tribune* quoted police officials as saying the assailants shouted “Allahu Akbar” as they attacked

Samad, who had criticized religious extremism on his Facebook page. Islam is Bangladesh's state religion, though the Constitution proclaims secularism as one of its main tenets.

Amnesty International reports that there have been multiple killings of secular activists in Bangladesh in the last 18 months. According to Champa Patel, South Asia director of Amnesty International: "The vicious killing of secular activists in Bangladesh is a grave reminder that the authorities are failing to protect people exercising their right to freedom of expression."

Please send appeals to:

Ambassador Mohammad Ziauddin
Embassy of Bangladesh
3510 International Drive NW

Washington, DC 20008
USA
Tel: +1 202 244 2745

BURMA

Continuing Cases

Students: In March 2015, the All Burma Federation Student Union (ABFSU) organized a student protest in Letpadan against the newly adopted National Education Law, which restrains academic freedom. The protests resulted in the arrest of some 70 student activists. KO NANDA SITT AUNG, an ABFSU leader, was declared a fugitive until he was arrested in Yangon for his role in the Letpadan protests. He faces at least five criminal charges, including sedition and unlawful assembly, and risks more than 10 years in prison. PHYO PHYO AUNG, the secretary general of ABFSU, and PO PO, an ABFSU member, were arrested on March 10, 2015 in Letpadan, and face similar charges of unlawful assembly, rioting, and inciting the public. Phyoe Phyoe Aung appeared at a court hearing in February 2016 along with fellow student leader NANDA SITT AUNG, who is facing more than 80 charges. KYAW KO KO was also not present at the Letpadan protest but led a similar protest in Rangoon on the same day, where he was apprehended by police after seven months in hiding. LIN HTET NAING, a prominent student unionist, was detained in November 2015 after eight months in hiding. Others arrested during the Letpadan protest in March include AUNG HMEIN SAN, MYO MYAT SAN, PHYO DANA,

SOE HLAING, and SITHU MYAT, some of whom declared a hunger strike in October and others followed in November. Some of those who went on the hunger strike were beaten and tortured.

Please send appeals to:

Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman, State Peace and Development
Council
Ministry of Defense
Naypyitaw Union of Myanmar
Dr. Chemuta Divine Banda, Chairman

Minister Counselor U Myint Lwin
Chargé d'Affaires
Ad Interim Embassy of Myanmar
2300 S Street NW
Washington DC 20008
Phone: +237 22 22 61 17
Fax: +237 22 22 60 82

CHINA

Continuing Cases

Scholars and Researchers who remain in prison are XU ZHIYONG, sentenced in July 2015 to four years in prison for “gathering a crowd to disturb public order,” and ILHAM TOHTI, an economics professor and distinguished scholar of China’s Uyghur Muslim minority, who received a life sentence in September 2014 for “separatism.” Both Endangered Scholars Worldwide and Scholars at Risk are gravely concerned about Tohti’s ongoing unfair treatment. Also remaining in prison are GUO QUAN, a literature professor at Nanjing Normal University, sentenced to 10 years in prison in October 2009, on charges of “inciting subversion of state power,” and LIU XIAOBO, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate and *Social Research* author, who has been held in Jinzhou Prison since his arrest in December 2008 for “inciting subversion of state power.” QIAO MU, an associate professor of journalism at Beijing Foreign Studies University, remains banned from teaching since the summer of 2014.

Students who remain in prison on charges of “separatism” and their connection to Professor Ilham Tohti, are PERHAT HALMURAT, SHOHRET NIJAT, LUO YUWEI, MUTELLIP IMIN, ABDUQEYUM ABLIMIT, ATIKEN ROZI and AKBAR IMIN.

Endangered Scholars Worldwide deplores the Chinese government's pervasive and ongoing crackdown on human rights jurists and scholars since July 2015. As of this report, over 240 lawyers, law professors, and students have been detained. While many have since been released, the most prominent of those who remain in prison include CHEN TAIHE, WANG YU, LI HEPING, XIR YANG, SUI MUQING, ZHOU SHIFENG, WANG QUANZHANG, XIE YANI, HUANG LIQUN, LI CHUNFU, BAO LONGJUN, and PU ZHIQIANG.

Please send appeals to:

His Excellency Xi Jinping
President of the People's Republic of
China
Zhong Nhai
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://goo.gl/RISCCG>

EGYPT

New Cases

GIULIO REGENI, 28, an Italian doctoral student at Cambridge University studying Egyptian labor movements in Cairo, disappeared on January 25, 2016. On February 3, 2016, his battered body was found dumped on the side of a highway outside Cairo. As of this report no reason for the murder has been given. The vicious killing of Giulio Regeni in Egypt is a grave reminder that the authorities are failing to protect foreign nationals in the country.

Continuing Cases

Students who remain in prison are KARIM AL-BANNA, sentenced to three years in prison in January 2015 on charges of contempt of religion and insulting the divine, and SHERIF GABER, a student from Suez Canal University, who was sentenced to one year in prison in February 2015 for contempt of religion relating to activities on campus and atheist

statements online. Mr. Gaber went into hiding upon his release on bail and prior to his sentencing. He has now been granted asylum abroad but chooses to remain in hiding in Egypt.

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
United Nations
800 Second Avenue
New York, NY 10017
USA

INDIA

New Cases

Scholars and Researchers: Delhi University Professor s. A. R. GEELANI was arrested on February 16, 2016, on sedition charges for his role in the organization of a meeting to mark the third anniversary of the hanging of Afzal Guru, who was convicted and killed by the state in 2013 for his part in the attack on parliament in 2001. Professor Geelani was released on bail in March but banned from leaving the jurisdiction of Delhi without the permission of the court.

Please send appeals to:

Mrs. Riva Ganguly Das
Consul General, New York
Consulate General of India

3 E 64th St,
New York, NY 10065
USA

Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/IndiaInUSA>

Twitter : <https://twitter.com/IndianEmbassyUS>

IRAN

Continuing Cases

Scholars and Researchers who remain in prison are MOHAMMAD HOSSEIN RAFIEE, 71, a retired Tehran University professor of chemistry, sentenced to six years in prison in May 2015 on charges of active membership in the banned Council of National-Religious Activists, SAEED MADANI, a

sociologist, sentenced in June 2013 to six years in prison and ten years in exile; and KAMRAN MORTEZAIE and VAHID MAHMOUDI, connected to the Baha'i Institute for Higher Education, who were arrested following coordinated attacks on the institute in May 2011 and each sentenced to five years in prison. Also still in prison are MOSTAFA ALAVI, an Iranian doctor and researcher sentenced to fifteen years' imprisonment in August 2008 on charges of "plotting against the regime" and ABDOLREZA GHANBARI, a university lecturer in Persian literature, arrested in 2009 and initially sentenced to death. In June 2013 his death sentence was reduced to fifteen years' imprisonment and exile to the south of Iran.

Students who remain in prison are OMID KOKABEE, a PhD student in physics, sentenced to six years' imprisonment in July 2012 on charges of "communicating with hostile governments and taking illegal earnings," apparently on the basis of his scholarship funding; YASHAR DAROLSHAFI, a graduate student in sociology at Tehran University, arrested and charged with "assembly and collusion against national security" and "founding or leading an organization aimed to disrupt national security," currently serving a five-and-a-half year sentence; ARASH SADEGHI, a student rights activist who was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment in September 2014 on charges of "collusion against the regime" and "insulting the Supreme Leader of Iran"; VAHID RANJBAR, arrested in August 2014; and MASOUMEH GHOLIZADEH, a former student activist and student in Turkey, arrested in May 2014, on charges of "advocacy against the regime."

Other students still in prison include HAMID BABAEI, a PhD student at the University of Liege in Belgium, detained in August 2013 shortly after his return to Tehran and sentenced to six years in prison on charges of "communicating with hostile foreign governments and spying." ZIA NABAVI, serving a ten-year sentence after attending protests following the 2009 elections, is currently in critical condition. BAHAREH HEDAYAT, a distinguished student activist, was sentenced to nine-and-a-half years

in prison. She was expected to be released in August 2015 after serving her original sentence in full; however, the week of her expected release she was told that she will spend an additional two years in prison as a result of a suspended sentence from 2006.

Please send appeals to:

His Excellency Ayatollah Ali Khamenei
The Office of the Supreme Leader
Jomhuri St, Keshvar Doust Street
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>

Ayatollah Sadeqh 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
The office of the President
Palestine Avenue, Azerbaijan Intersection
Tehran
Islamic Republic of Iran

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

LAOS

Continuing Cases

Student protestors THONGPASEUTH KEUAKOUN, SENG-ALOUN PHENG-PHANH, KEOCHAY, and BOUAVANH CHANHMANIVONG remain in prison following their arrest on charges of treason in 1999 for displaying posters calling for economic, political, and social change during demonstrations. Even after seventeen years, it is not known for certain in which prison the three students are being held or if they are still alive.

Please send appeals to:

President Choummaly Sayasone
Office of the President

Vientiane
Laos

PAKISTAN

New Cases

Militants raided Bacha Khan University in Charsadda, northwest Pakistan, on January 21, timing their attack to coincide with a ceremony at the school, thus ensuring maximum casualties. At least 22 people were killed, including SYED HAMID HUSSAIN, a professor in the chemistry department. Endangered Scholars Worldwide demands that the authorities prosecute the perpetrators of the massacre and ensure the security of higher education sites inside the country.

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

SAUDI ARABIA

New Cases

In March 2013, Professor ALI ABDULLAH AL-HAJI of King Saud University in Riyadh was arrested on charges of spying for Iran, along with 31 others, including a student at Imam Muhammad Bin Saud Islamic University and a “development researcher” at the Ministry of Education for more than 25 years. Endangered Scholars Worldwide has not been able to obtain the names of the latter two defendants. The first session of the trial took place in March 2016, when the prosecution demanded the death penalty for 25 defendants.

Continuing Cases

Scholars and Researchers who remain in prison include ABDUL KAREEM YOUSEF AL-KHODR, a professor of comparative jurisprudence at Qassim University, sentenced in June 2013 to eight years’ imprisonment and a ten-year travel ban, and SA’UD MUKHTAR AL-HASHIMI, a faculty member at the King Abdulaziz University, sentenced in November 2011 to thirty years in prison.

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

Continuing Cases

SIDIG NOREEN ALI ABDALLA, who has taught at West Kordofan, remains in prison. According to the African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies (ACJPS) report dated March 25, 2015, there are growing safety concerns for the detained scholar, who has been held incommunicado and without charge by Sudan's National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS).

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

His Excellency Mohamed Boshara Dosa
Minister of Justice and Attorney General
Ministry of Justice
P.O. Box 302
Al Nil Avenue
Khartoum
Sudan
Fax: +249 183 78 07 96/ +249 183 770883

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

THAILAND

Continuing Cases

Students who remain in prison are PATIWAT SARAIYAEM, a student at Khon Kaen University's Fine and Applied Arts Faculty, and PORNTHIP MANKONG, on charges of insulting the monarchy for staging a play called *The Wolf Bride* at Thammasat University back in 2013. They were sentenced to two-and-a-half years in prison for "damaging the monarchy." The two were convicted on one count of Thailand's strict *lese majeste* laws in February 2015, which protects the royals from any insults.

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

New Cases

Following the arrest of 27 academics in January 2016 and a criminal investigation into more than 1200 individuals across 90 universities in recent months, the Turkish government has taken drastic steps towards restricting academic freedom. President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has stated that academics will pay a price for their "treachery." In a speech on March 14, 2016, he shockingly broadened the definition of "terrorist" to include journalists and politicians, saying, "It is not only the person who pulls the trigger, but those who made that possible who should also be defined as terrorists, regardless of their title." Erdoğan added that this could include journalists, academics, MPs, or human rights activists.

The academics who have been arrested, imprisoned or fired from their positions are as follows:

Arrested and imprisoned: ESRA MUNGAN of Boğaziçi University' KIVANÇ ERSOY of Mimar Sinan University of Fine Arts' and MUZAFFER KAYA, formerly of Nişantaşı University. A fourth arrest warrant has also been issued for MERAL CAMCI, formerly of İstanbul Yeniüzyıl University, who is reportedly out of the country. Professors Kaya and Camcı were both previously fired from their positions as a result of signing the petition.

REŞAT BARIŞ ÜNLÜ a professor of political science at Ankara University, faces seven years in jail for “terror propaganda” over an exam question asking students to compare two writings by Abdullah Öcalan, the jailed leader of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

Fired from their positions, facing prosecution:

HALİL İBRAHİM YENİGÜN, an assistant professor of political science and international relations and the Foreign Relations Committee chairman of the Association of Human Rights and Solidarity for Oppressed Peoples (MAZLUM-DER), received a 40-day suspension for signing the Academics for Peace petition. He was dismissed from his position at İstanbul Commerce University after the publication of a column by a government mouthpiece targeting him.

Associate Professor BATTAL ODABAŞI, from İstanbul Aydın University, has been fired for signing a declaration that calls for the restoration of peace and an end to ongoing military operations in the Southeast.

ÖRSAN K. ÖYMEN, a philosophy professor at İşik University, faces up to four years in prison for an op-ed he published in the opposition *Aydınlık* newspaper in April 2015. In that piece, Öymen suggested that the Turkish leader should be put on trial on a range of charges, including alleged corruption and the violation of the constitution.

Endangered Scholars Worldwide is deeply distressed by the Turkish government's actions toward the country's academic community. The targeting of scholars and professors harms the entire educational community by undermining the university's ability to meet

its educational, research, and social responsibilities. By ignoring the shameful government proposal that the scholarly community “choose sides,” we risk allowing a dangerous climate get worse. The solidarity petitions that have been issued in the wake of this proposal indicate to the Turkish government, and to the world, an ongoing commitment to securing Turkish academia as part of a global community of researchers and intellectuals despite the challenges they face in their own country.

To learn more about our initiative and for full coverage of the crisis in higher education in Turkey please visit our website at <http://goo.gl/AszD3G>.

Please send appeals to:

His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdoğan
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

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

New Cases

THANE M. NABERHAUS, a tenured faculty of the philosophy department at Mount St. Mary’s College in Newburgh, NY, was fired by the university president, Simon Newman, in February 2016. Newman accused Naberhaus of disloyalty for openly questioning the university’s retention plans, seeking to cull 25 students from the freshman class deemed unlikely to succeed in the first weeks of school in order to improve the college’s rankings.

Please send appeals to:

Karl W. Einolf, Acting President
President’s Office
Mount St. Mary’s University
16300 Old Emmitsburg Rd.

Emmitsburg, MD 21727
Website: http://msmary.edu/presidents_office/
Email: president@msmary.edu

VIETNAM

Continuing Cases

Students who remain in prison are DINH NGUYEN KHA and NGUYEN PHUONG UYEN, sentenced to eight and six years in prison, respectively, on charges of “conducting propaganda against the state” 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

RELEASES

BAHRAIN

AHMAD HASSAN ALI MSHAIMA’, arrested in December 2013, and charged on April 16, 2014, with “illegal gathering with an intent to commit crimes and disturb public security” has been released after serving his full sentence.

CHINA

We are happy to report that CHEN TAIHE, a law professor at Guilin University, who was arrested in July 2015 on charges of “provoking a serious disturbance,” has been released and all charges against him have been dropped. Mr. Taihe arrived in the US on March 1, 2016, to reunite with his family in California.

IRAN

We are happy to report that Jason Rezaian, the *Washington Post* journalist imprisoned in Iran for more than a year, was released in January along with three other dual-nationals.

The 39-year-old, who holds Iranian and American citizenship, was arrested at his home in Tehran in July 2014 along with his wife, Yeganeh Salehi, also a journalist, and two friends, an Iranian-American couple. The friends were released shortly after their arrest, while Salehi was released on bail in October and is facing a separate trial. The *Post* reporter was held on unspecified charges for more than seven months before appearing in court. He was kept incommunicado for most of his time in jail, with little access to his lawyers and family.

SOURCES

Al Jazeera English <http://www.aljazeera.com/>
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 <http://www.hrw.org/>
Hurriyet <http://www.hurriyet.com.tr/>
The International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran <http://www.iranhumanrights.org/>
Islamic Human Rights Commission <http://www.ihrc.org/>
The New York Times <http://www.nytimes.com>
Scholars at Risk <http://scholarsatrisk.nyu.edu/>
Southern Mongolian Human Rights Information Center <http://www.smhric.org/>
UN Watch <http://blog.unwatch.org/>

—Written by Ebby Abramson