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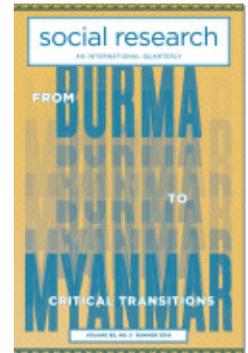
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## Endangered Scholars Worldwide

Ebby Sharifi

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# 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.

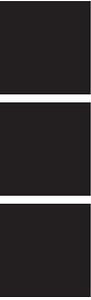
If you are aware of a scholar or student whose case you believe we should investigate, please contact us at [esw@newschool.edu](mailto:esw@newschool.edu).

The information in this report is current, to the best of our knowledge, as of June 2, 2015. 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/>. We would also like to announce that Endangered Scholars Worldwide now has a Facebook page. Please like us and follow our posts at <https://www.facebook.com/endangeredscholars>.

## NEW AND CONTINUING CASES

### BAHRAIN

*Scholars and Researchers:* Endangered Scholars Worldwide is gravely concerned about the decision issued on May 14, 2015, by the Bahraini court to deport Professor MASAUD MIRZA JAFFAR JAHROMI, who had his citizenship revoked on January 31, 2015, along with 70 other people.



Professor Jahromi does not have a second nationality. The decision to revoke his passport in January 2015 was based on an order from the minister of the interior, and allegations of “damage to the interests of the country and loyalty to the king.” The court issued an order for his deportation and a fine of 100 dinars. Professor Jahromi holds a PhD in Telecommunication Networking from the University of Kent at Canterbury in the United Kingdom, and he was the Chairman of the Telecommunication Engineering Department at Ahlia University. In 2011, Jahromi was imprisoned for five months.

Previously featured scholars from Bahrain who remain in prison include prisoner of conscience MAHDI ‘ISSA MAHDI ABU DHEEB, former president of the Bahrain Teachers’ Association, sentenced to five years’ imprisonment on September 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, 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 June 2011. As of this report, Professor Al-Singace’s family confirmed that he has been denied medical attention and family visits again. Endangered Scholars Worldwide emphasizes that denying prisoners’ medical care and treatment is considered a breach of international conventions and national laws, regardless of the crime.

Scholars at Risk has set up a petition letter in support of Dr. al-Singace. The petition letter and sample letters can be found at [http://salsa4.salsalabs.com/o/50943/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action\\_KEY=13826&killorg=True](http://salsa4.salsalabs.com/o/50943/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=13826&killorg=True).

*Students:* Previously featured students from Bahrain who remain in prison include AHMAD JASSAN ALI MSHAIMA’, arrested on December 28, 2013, and charged on April 16, 2014, 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. AHMED AL ARAB, 22, a nursing student from Bani Jamra, was arrested on

January 9, 2014, in Hamad Town and reportedly was severely tortured in extracting a confession. As of this report, his health condition remains critical. Also still imprisoned are 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, arrested on March 5, 2012, as part of a crackdown on student involvement in pro-democracy demonstrations: JAWAD AL-MAHARY, SHAWQI RADHI, JASSIM AL-MUKHODHER, YOUSIF AHMED, and JASSIM AL HULAIBI, the latter of whom remains in prison despite the fact that he has served his full sentence. According to the Bahrain Youth Center in Al-Wafaq, all of these students have been severely tortured in order to extract confessions.

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  
Tel: +973 176 82 422  
Kingdom of Bahrain  
Email: [fatima.albalooshi@social.gov.bh](mailto:fatima.albalooshi@social.gov.bh) /  
[dr.albalooshi@gmail.com](mailto:dr.albalooshi@gmail.com)  
Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/  
fatima.albalooshi.3](https://www.facebook.com/fatima.albalooshi.3)

## **BURMA (MYANMAR)**

*Students:* On March 10, 2015, riot police arrested 127 people, including 70 students, for joining protests against the proposed National Education Law, which is believed to have given the government excessive power in managing the country's higher education institutions. Although Myanmar government spokesman Ye Htut told the *Global New Light of Myanmar* newspaper that most students have been released from

the jail, according to a report published on June 2, 2015, at least five student leaders remain in prison as of this report: EI THINZAR MAUNG, a student leader from Mandalay, PO PO, a 20-year old, EMIN THWAY THIT, 22, from All Burma Federation of Student Unions, PHYU PHYU AUNG, 27, and HONEY OO, 27. As of this report, their condition remains unknown.

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

## CAMEROON

*Scholars and researchers:* A previously featured scholar, ENOH MEYOMESSE, remains in prison. Meyomesse, 58, a writer, political activist, historian, blogger, and founder and president of the Cameroon Writers Association, was sentenced on December 27, 2012, to seven years' imprisonment 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. As of this report, his situation remains critical.

Please send appeals to:

His Excellency Paul Biya  
President of the Republic of Cameroon  
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  
Republic of Cameroon  
Phone: +237 22 22 61 17  
Fax: +237 22 22 60 82  
Email: [cndhl@iccnet.cm](mailto:cndhl@iccnet.cm)

## CHINA

*Scholars and researchers:* ILHAM TOHTI, an economics professor and distinguished scholar of China's Uyghur Muslim minority, received a life sentence on Sept. 23, 2014, for "separatism" by a court in northwestern China's troubled Xinjiang region, as well as deprivation of his political rights and confiscation of all his assets. Tohti's wife, in an interview with the Radio Free Europe on May 22, 2015, stated that the Chinese authorities have denied the relatives of the jailed Uyghur scholar permission to visit him or send him clothing and money in prison. Both Scholars at Risk and Endangered Scholars Worldwide are gravely concerned about the ongoing unfair treatment of this prominent scholar.

GUO YUSHAN, a founder of the Transition Institute, a think tank that researches business regulations, reform, and civil society, was detained on October 9, 2014, on the charge of "causing a disturbance." Guo was involved in helping the blind dissident Chen Guangcheng flee to the United States in 2012.

A number of scholars featured in previous issues remain in prison, including ZHU JIANRONG, a Chinese scholar, who 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 confirms only 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 laure-

ate and *Social Research* author, held in Jinzhou Prison since his arrest in December 2008 for “inciting subversion of state power.”

**Students:** Previously featured students who were sentenced on December 8, 2014, by Chinese criminal court for anywhere from three to eight years remain in prison on the accusation of separatism in relation with Professor Ilham Tohti. These students were arrested in January 2014 along with Professor Tohti. PERHAT HALMURAT, SHOHRET NIJAT and LUO YUWEI had confessed on state television that they were instructed by Tohti to run articles that could stir ethnic tensions. The other four students are MUTELLIP IMIN, ABDUQEYUM ABLIMIT, ATKEM ROZI and AKBAR IMIN. All the students except Luo are Uyghurian. As of this report, their condition is unknown.

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://goo.gl/RIscCG>

## EGYPT

**Scholars and Researchers:** On May 19, 2015, an Egyptian court sentenced the ousted Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi to death. The ruling also applies to another 106 people, among them the editor-in-chief of

the *Oxford Encyclopedia of Islam* and professor of political science EMAD SHAHIN. Professor Shahin was sentenced in absentia to death in a case where he was accused of colluding with Iran and the Palestinian group Hamas to destabilize Egypt. He currently lives in the US and is a visiting professor at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service. Both Endangered Scholars Worldwide and Amnesty International are gravely concerned by yet another mass death sentence handed down by an Egyptian court to more than 100 defendants, including Professor Emad Shahin.

AMR HAMZAWY, a professor at the American University in Cairo, also still in prison, 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.

**Students:** SHERIF GABER, 22, a student from Suez Canal University, was given a one-year prison sentence by an Egyptian court on February 17, 2015, for contempt of religion relating to activities on campus and atheistic statements online. Despite not being explicitly illegal, the new Egyptian government and judicial system has recently upheld the role of religion in the country after the military coup d'état by using a set of three new penal codes that include the charges of contempt of heavenly religions, desecrating religious symbols, and mocking religious rites in public. Each can carry a sentence of up to five years in prison. Based on these new penal codes, on January 25, 2015, student KARIM AL-BANNA was given a three-year prison sentence on charges of contempt of religion and insulting the divine.

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](mailto: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:* Previously featured scholars and researchers who remain in prison in Ethiopia include ABRAHA DESTA, a political science lecturer at Mekelle University, who was arrested on July 8, 2014, and detained in connection with his involvement with the legally registered Arena Tigray Party. He has been held incommunicado since then. As of this report, his whereabouts and health condition remain unknown.

Also still in prison are ZELALEM KIBRET, a professor of law at Ambo University, and BEFIKADU HAILU, a former lecturer and current staff member at St. Mary's University College, who was arrested along with members of the Zone 9 bloggers, ABEL WABELA, ATNAF BERAHANE, MAHLET FANTAHUN, BEFEQADU HAILU, NATNAEL FELEKE, ASMAMAW HAILEGEORGIS, TESFALEM WALDYES and EDOM 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 blog's mission is to cover harassment, threats, surveillance, and intimidation by the Ethiopian government. Kibret was arrested on the Ambo University campus, and intelligence forces seized computers and books from his office and home. Kibret, Hailu, and all of the 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:* MANYAZEWAL ESHETU, a previously featured student at Addis Ababa University, who was accused of 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/](http://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](mailto:ministry-justice@telecom.net)

Calls for letters on behalf of PROF. KIBRET and MR. HAILU: <http://goo.gl/dH1tR5>

Calls for letters on behalf of ABRAHA DESTA: <http://goo.gl/9aLKg3>

## 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, arrested following coordinated attacks on the institute in May 2011, including KAMRAN MORTEZAIE and VAHID MAHMOUDI, each sentenced to five years, and RAMIN ZIBAIE, MAHMOUD BADA-VAM, FARHAD SEDGHI, RIAZ SOBHANI, and NOUSHIN KHADEM, each sentenced to four years. Two cultural figures were also arrested, educator FARHAD VAKILINIA, serving three years, NAEEM NAJAFI, a student, serving four years, both charged with "acting against national security" by supporting Kurdish opposition groups in August 2011, as was 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. His sentence was reduced in June 2013 to fifteen years' imprisonment and exile to the south of Iran by the court of appeal. All of these scholars are at risk of torture and need your support.

*Students:* We have previously featured OMID KOKABEE, a PhD student in physics, who was 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. He remains in prison despite the fact that the Iranian Supreme Court recently reviewed his case and issued a ruling stating that there was no evidence of wrongdoing by Kokabee, and no evidence in the case to substantiate the charges and conviction. Reports indicate that his health condition remains critical.

Other previously featured students who remain in prison include VAHID RANJBAR, a member of the students union from the University of Sistan and Baluchistan, arrested in his home on August 12, 2014. He is suffering from a peptic ulcer. 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. According to her family, she is suffering from heart failure and needs regular medical supervision. MARYAM SHAFIPOUR, 29, was sentenced to seven years in prison on March 1, 2014, on charges of "propaganda against the regime" and "assembly and collusion against national security." 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."

Additional Iranian students 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 secu-

riety,” “spreading propaganda against the system,” and “forming an illegal group with intention of harming national security”; SORUSH 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 anti-government protests in 2009. HEDAYAT is in 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  
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 Serahe  
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  
Imam Khomeini Sq. Ministry of Foreign  
Affairs  
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](http://freomid.org/?page_id=1136).

Scholars at Risk has set up a petition in support of BABAEI. The petition and sample letters can be found at [http://www.scholarsatrisk.nyu.edu/Documents/LOA\\_Babaei\\_04-02-2014.pdf](http://www.scholarsatrisk.nyu.edu/Documents/LOA_Babaei_04-02-2014.pdf).

## 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: ENZO BOSCHI, FRANCO BARBERI, BERNARDO DE BERNARDIS, GIULIO SALVAGI, CALVI GIANMICHELE, and CLAUDIO EVA.

Please send appeals to:

Anna Maria Cancellieri, Minister	00186 Rome
Ministry of Justice	Italy
via Arenula 70	

## LAOS

*Students:* Student protestors THONGPASEUTH KEUAKOUN, SENG-ALOUN PHENG-PHANH, 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 fifteen years, it is not known in which prison the three students are being held or if they are still alive.

Please send appeals to:

President Choummaly Sayasone	Vientiane
Office of the President	Laos

## MONGOLIA

*Scholars and Researchers:* A previously featured scholar, ROLMAAJIDIIN 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 77<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10075  
USA  
Website: <http://www.mfa.gov.mn>

## 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>

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/>

Mr. Yuriy Chaika  
General Public Prosecutor of the Russian  
Federation  
GSP-3, 15a B. Dimitrovka Street  
125993, Moscow  
Russia

## 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 Abdulaziz University sentenced on 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 teaches at Imam Muhammad bin Sa'ud University in Riyadh, arrested after posting a YouTube video critical of long-term detentions of security suspects without due juridical process, 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-DUGHATHIR**, **MUHAMMAD BIN NASIR AL-GHAMIDI**, and **ABD AL-KARIM AL-KHADHAR**, all members of a group of nine intellectuals who drafted a party 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:* **SIDIG NOREEN ALI ABDALLA** is a previously featured university lecturer who has taught at West Kordofan. According to an African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies (ACJPS) report dated March 25, 2015, there are growing safety concerns for this detained scholar, who has been held incommunicado and without charge by Sudan's National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS). Reports indicate that he may have been subjected to torture.

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

## 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. Bahbough 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. The crisis in Syria continues to have a devastating impact on professors, researchers, students and the whole system of higher education in Syria. According to "The War Follows Them: Syrian University Students and Scholars in Lebanon," published by the Institute of International Education and the University of California Davis' Human Rights Initiative, as of June 2014, scores of students in rising numbers have fled Syrian universities and are living

in refugee camps in Jordan and Lebanon. 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 previous features). 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. 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

On February 27, 2014, two individuals, a student and an activist, were charged in Thai criminal courts with insulting the monarchy for staging a play called *The Wolf Bride* at Thammasat University back in 2013. PATIWAT SARAIYAEM, 23, a student at Khon Kaen University's Fine and Applied Arts Faculty, acted in the play, while activist PORNTHIP MANKONG, 26, coordinated the production. The play, which is about a fictional monarchy, was staged as part of Thammasat University's commemoration of the fortieth anniversary of pro-democracy student demonstrations that occurred in October 1973. The two were convicted on one count of Thailand's strict *lese majeste* laws, which protect 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](mailto:mission.thailand@ties.itu.int)

## 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  
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Nguyễn Tấn Dũng  
Prime Minister  
1 Hoang HoaTham Street  
Hanoi  
Socialist Republic of Vietnam  
Salutation: Your Excellency

## 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 <http://www.hrw.org/>  
Hurriyet Newspaper <http://www.hurriyet.com.tr/>  
The International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran <http://www.iran-humanrights.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/>

Watenpaugh Keith David, Adrienne L. Fricke, and James R. King. 2014. "The War Follows Them: Syrian University Students and Scholars in Lebanon." New York: Institute of International Education and University of California, Davis. June. <http://www.iie.org/Research-and-Publications/Publications-and-Reports/IIE-Bookstore/The-War-Follows-Them-Syrian-University-Students-And-Scholars-In-Lebanon>

—*Written by Ebby Sharifi*