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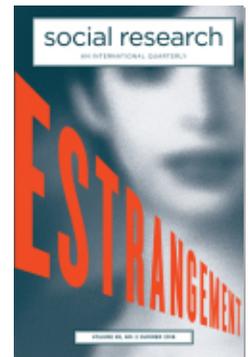
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## Endangered Scholars Worldwide

Ebby Abramson, Dolunay Bulut

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# Endangered Scholars Worldwide

*The information in this quarterly print report is current as of July 2, 2018. The situation of scholars and students around the world changes on a daily basis. For the most up-to-date information and ways in which you can be involved in calling for the freedom of endangered scholars and students, please visit us online at [www.endangeredscholarsworldwide.net](http://www.endangeredscholarsworldwide.net) or follow us at [www.facebook.com/endangeredscholars](http://www.facebook.com/endangeredscholars). In these pages we introduce new cases that have come to our attention over the past three months and provide basic information about continuing cases—a description of charges and potential or actual reported sentences. 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).*



## NEW AND CONTINUING CASES

### BAHRAIN

**Scholars and Researchers:** ABDUL-JALIL AL-SINGACE, 56, the former head of the department of engineering at the University of Bahrain, has been in Jau prison since 2011 on a life sentence for allegedly “plotting to overthrow the government” during the Arab Spring protests. Al-Singace, who has long campaigned for political reform and an end to torture, was himself tortured at the time of his detention. ESW confirmed on Thursday, May 10, 2018, that Dr. Al-Singace, a polio victim with special needs, is in deteriorating health and continues to be denied medical treatment. We call for Dr. Abduljalil Al-Singace to be granted access to all necessary medical care as a matter of urgency, and we continue to call for his immediate and unconditional release, as well as all those detained in Bahrain in violation of Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Bahrain is a state party.

*Students:* ALI MOHAMED HAKEEM AL-ARAB, 23, was arrested on February 9, 2017. On March 7, he was moved to Dry Dock Prison. According to a report by Amnesty International, Al-Arab alleges that he was tortured throughout 26 days of interrogation and forced to sign a confession. He remains at risk of further torture and other ill treatment.

Other students who remain in prison include AHMED AL ARAB, a nursing student arrested in January 2014 and sentenced to life imprisonment, who has reported that he was subjected to severe torture and ill treatment while held in detention. Endangered Scholars Worldwide is strongly concerned about continued attacks on Ahmed Al-Arab. On January 25, he was denied a family visit, and he has reported an increase in harassment. AHMED AOUN was arrested in May 2015 on charges of “involvement in pro-democracy demonstrations.” Five other 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.

ESW is deeply concerned about the continued ill treatment of scholars and students in Bahrain, and calls on the United States, the United Kingdom, the United Nations, the European Union, and international institutions to put pressure on Bahraini authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Ahmed Al-Arab, along with all other detainees held on politically motivated charges due to the ongoing popular movement for freedom and democracy.

Please send appeals to:

His Majesty Sheikh Hamad bin Isa  
Al-Khalifa  
Office of His Majesty the King  
The Amiri Court  
PO 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  
Deputy Prime Minister  
Diplomatic Area  
PO Box # 450  
Al-Manama  
Kingdom of Bahrain  
Fax: +973 175 13 333

## CHINA

*Scholars and Researchers:* On August 9, 2017, authorities in northwest China’s Xinjiang region sentenced HEBIBULLA TOHTI, a prominent Uyghur theological scholar sponsored by the country’s state-sanctioned Islamic Association, to 10 years in prison on charges of “illegal religious activity” following his return from Egypt, according to local sources. Tohti is not alone. While he is the best known of the persecuted Uyghur academics, there are more than 1000 Uyghur students whom the Chinese government ordered to return to Eastern Turkistan from Egypt. According to Radio Free Europe, Chinese authorities have also targeted family members of Uyghur students studying abroad. News coverage has documented the Egyptian government’s compliance with China’s order, rounding up Uyghur students to deport them. The stories of students who were previously returned and detained by Chinese authorities indicate that these students will most likely face lengthy prison sentences in China.

It has been over four years since Uyghur scholar ILHAM TOHTI, a professor of economics, was arrested on charges of promoting separatism and is now serving a life term behind bars in China. As an outspoken economist, Tohti, who regularly highlighted the religious and cultural persecution of the Muslim Uyghur ethnic minority in China’s Xinjiang region, was sentenced to life in prison in September 2014 by the Xinjiang People’s High Court for “separatism” following a two-day show trial. In a January 17, 2018 statement, Reporters Without Borders (RSF) described Tohti’s situation as “typical of the massive human rights violations taking place under [Chinese] President Xi Jinping.”

Endangered Scholars Worldwide deplores the Chinese government’s pervasive and ongoing crackdown on the Uyghur people. ESW is particularly concerned about the reports that Tohti’s wife and children would not be allowed to visit him in 2018.

Also remaining in prison is 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.”

*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, ATIEN ROZI and AKBAR IMIN.

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

Zhou Qiang  
Chief Justice, 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](http://www.court.gov.cn)

## EGYPT

On Sunday, June 3, 2018, WALID SALEM, a University of Washington doctoral student conducting research on Egypt’s judiciary system, was detained in Cairo on charges of “spreading false news” and “belonging to a terrorist group.” Salem’s arrest comes during a wave of detentions of journalists and activists in Egypt that has drawn scrutiny from Human Rights Watch and other organizations over concerns that President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi and the Egyptian government are seeking to oppress opposition voices. Under Egyptian law, suspects can be held for up to 15 days while matters are under investigation if a suspect is considered a danger to society or presents a flight risk. Those periods of detention can be extended, by law, for up to two years.

*Students* who remain in prison include KARIM ASHRAF MOHAMED AL-BANNA, sentenced to three years in prison in January 2015 on charges of on blasphemy 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>

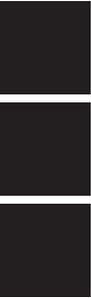
Ambassador Amr Abdellatif Aboulatta  
Egyptian Permanent Representative to the  
United Nations  
United Nations  
800 Second Avenue  
New York, NY 10017  
USA

## IRAN

*Scholars and Researchers:* ABBAS EDALAT, a professor of computer science and mathematics at Imperial College London and a political activist, was arrested by Iran’s Revolutionary Guards on April 15, 2018. Edalat is believed to be in the custody of Iran’s Revolutionary Guard (IRGC). Reports suggest that his home in Tehran has been raided by the IRGC and that his belongings, including his computer and notebooks, were confiscated when he was arrested. According to Fars, the semi-official state news agency, Iranian authorities acknowledged for the first time on April 26, 2018, that they were holding Mr Edalat. He is accused of being part of a British-affiliated anti-Iran group that allegedly launched espionage operations and had contacts with leaders of mass anti-government protests in 2009, the news agency said.

On February 5, 2018, Iran’s Supreme Court rejected a request to review the death sentence given to university professor AHMADREZA DJALALI, who was accused of passing information to Israel. The 45-year-old professor, who taught at the European Master in Disaster Medicine (EMDM) in Italy—a joint master’s program of the Università degli Studi del Piemonte Orientale and the Vrije Universiteit Brussel—was arrested in April 2016 in Tehran on charges of “collaboration with a hostile government” while he was visiting his family. Djalali was later accused of providing information to Israel to help it assassinate several senior nuclear scientists. Amnesty International reports that Djalali’s lawyers were told on Saturday, December 9, 2017, that the Supreme Court had considered his case and upheld his October 24 sentence in a secret process without allowing them to file defense submissions.

We at Endangered Scholars Worldwide consider this arbitrary sentence a flagrant and unjust violation of the freedom, security, and safety of an academic who is clearly a victim of a political witch hunt—arrested without cause, held for months in solitary confinement and without access to a lawyer, and subjected to physical mistreatment and psychological abuse. We deplore this unjustified verdict in the strongest terms and ask all international organizations, academic and



professional associations, and other groups and individuals devoted to the promotion and defense of human rights to strongly protest and condemn this arbitrary sentence, to call for Professor Djalali's immediate and unconditional release, and to urge the officials of the Iranian government to respect, guarantee, and implement the provisions and principles of human rights as specified in international conventions and treaties.

On February 8, 2018, an Iranian-Canadian professor died in prison in Tehran after being arrested with other environmental activists and scientists on suspicion of spying. KAVOUS SEYED EMAMI, a 63-year-old environmental activist and sociology professor at Iran's Imam Sadegh University, an elite institution set up after the Islamic revolution in part to train officials, was detained by Iranian authorities on January 24, 2018, in Tehran. Iranian authorities have said that Professor Emami committed suicide. However, his family has asked for an independent autopsy. Emami was also managing director of the Persian Wildlife Heritage Foundation, a well-funded and officially recognized NGO. On June 25, 2018, Emami's wife, Maryam Mombeini, was hospitalized in Tehran after being interrogated for hours by agents who raided her home and denied her access to a lawyer.

An American graduate student, XIYUE WANG, a 38-year-old historian from Princeton University, was sentenced by an Iranian court on July 17, 2017, to 10 years in prison for "spying under the cover of research." Wang, a Chinese-born US citizen, was arrested last summer while conducting research in Iran for his doctoral dissertation. *Fars News*, a semiofficial Iranian news agency, reported that Wang was "gathering secret and top secret [intelligence]" for the US State Department, Harvard Kennedy School, and the British Institute of Persian Studies. He was accused of "infiltrating Iran's national archive and building a 4,500-page digital archive" for "the world's biggest anti-Iran spying organization."

Endangered Scholars Worldwide strongly deplores and condemns the ongoing detention, persecution, and conviction of XiYue Wang, and calls upon all international organizations, academic and professional associations, and other groups and individuals devoted to the promotion and defense of human rights to strongly protest and condemn this arbitrary incarceration, to call for Wang's immediate and unconditional release, and to urge the officials of the Iranian government to respect, guarantee, and implement the provisions and principles of human rights as specified in international conventions and treaties in accordance with Iran's obligations under international law.

*Students* who remain in prison include ARASH SADEGHI, 38, a student rights activist sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment in September 2014 on charges of "collusion against the regime" and "insulting the Supreme Leader of Iran." Sadeghi was arrested on September 6, 2014, at his stationery store in Tehran by the Sarallah Headquarters of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' Intelligence Organization. He was detained, along with his wife and two friends, in the Intelligence Organization-controlled Ward 2-A of Evin Prison. On June 29, 2018, the Center for Human Rights in Iran reported that Sadeghi is being denied medical leave to undergo testing for a bone tumor that could be cancerous.

Other students still in prison include HAMID BABAEI, 36, 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." Babaei has consistently said that he was imprisoned for refusing to operate as an informant in Belgium for Iran's Intelligence Ministry. Recent reports suggest that he is being refused hospital treatment by the authorities.

Please send appeals to:

His Excellency Ayatollah Ali Khamenei  
The Office of the Supreme Leader  
Jomhouri 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](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  
Jomhour  
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  
The Minister's Office  
Imam Khomeini Square  
Tehran  
Islamic Republic of Iran  
Fax: +98 21 66743149  
Website: <http://www.mfa.gov.ir>  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/jzarif>

## LAOS

*Student* protestors THONGPASEUTH KEUAKOUN, SENG-ALOUN PHENGPHANH, and BOUAVANH CHANHMANIVONG, along with three others, were imprisoned in 1999 following their arrest on charges of treason for displaying posters calling for economic, political, and social change during demonstrations. According to a report from the Amnesty UK, even after all this time, it is not known in which prison the three students named are being held or if they are still alive.

Please send appeals to:

President Bounnhang Vorachith  
Presidential Palace  
Thanon Setthathirat  
Ban Xiengyeun Tha, Muang Chanthaburi  
Vientiane  
Laos

His Excellency Thongloun Sisoulith  
Prime Minister's Office  
Lane Xang Avenue  
Vientiane  
Lao People's Democratic Republic  
Fax: + 856 21 213560

## SAUDI ARABIA

*Scholars and Researchers:* In March 2016, ALI ABDULLAH AL-HAJI, a professor at King Saud University in Riyadh, was arrested along with 31 others on charges of spying for Iran. According to Saudi news outlets, Al-Haji was sentenced to 5 years of imprisonment. The accused also include a student at Imam Muhammad Bin Saud Islamic University, as well as an academician who held the job of "development researcher" at the

Ministry of Education for more than 25 years. Endangered Scholars Worldwide has still been unable to obtain the names of the latter two defendants.

Scholars and researchers who remain in prison include ABDUL KAREEM YOUSEF AL-KHODER, 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:

Adel bin Ahmed Al-Jubeir  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Nasseriya Street  
Riyadh 11124  
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
Fax: +966 1 403 0645

Dr. Walid bin Mohammed bin Saleh  
Al-Samaani  
Minister of Justice  
PO Box 58889, Bldg. 373  
King Fahad Road  
Riyadh 11515  
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
Fax: +966 1 4612061

## REPUBLIC OF SUDAN

*Scholar:* SIDIG NOREEN ALI ABDALLA, who has taught at West Kordofan, has been in prison since January 14, 2014, on charges of "advocacy on the situation in Darfur." According to the African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies (ACJPS) report dated March 25, 2015, the most recent report Endangered Scholars Worldwide has been able to obtain, there are growing safety concerns for the detained scholar, who has been held in custody in El Obeid town, North Kordofan state, 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

PO Box 281  
Khartoum  
Sudan  
Fax: +249 183 783 223

His Excellency Idris Ibrahim Jameel  
Minister of Justice and Attorney General  
Ministry of Justice  
PO Box 302  
Al Nil Avenue  
Khartoum  
Sudan  
Fax: +249 183 78 07 96/ +249 183 770883

His Excellency Ambassador Omer Dahab  
Fadl Mohamed  
Permanent Mission of the Republic of  
Sudan to the United Nations  
305 East 47th Street, 4th Floor,  
New York N.Y. 10017  
United States  
Phone: +1 212 57360 33

## THAILAND

*Scholars and Researchers:* On August 21, 2017, CHAYAN VADDHANAPHUTI, director of the Regional Centre for Social Science and Sustainable Development at Chiang Mai University, who organized the thirteenth International Conference on Thai Studies along with four other Thai academics, was charged with violating the country's military junta's ban on political gatherings of more than four people. Also charged were four delegates at the conference, PAKAWADEE VEERAPATPONG, CHAIPONG SAMNIENG, NONTAWAT MACHAI, and THIRAMON BUA-NGAM, all of whom committed the same offense: holding posters reading "An academic forum is not a military barrack" to protest the military's surveillance of participants during the conference. If convicted, they face up to one year of imprisonment.

*Students:* On Thursday, August 3, 2017, a court in Thailand began a closed-door trial of an activist law student arrested for sharing an article posted on Facebook by the BBC Thai-language service about the country's new king. The student, JATUPAT 'PAI DAO DIN' BOONPATTARAKSA, was arrested in December 2016 and was convicted on a lese majeste charges that landed him behind bars for two and a half years. Jatupat is a prominent member of Dao Din, a small student organization that has protested against Thailand's military government. While in detention, he was given the Gwangju Prize, a human rights award from the May 18 Memorial Foundation in South Korea.

Endangered Scholars Worldwide believes that the lese majeste law is being in Thailand used to silence academics, students, and political dissidents. The military regime that took power in 2014 has primarily cracked down on commentary on the Internet. According to iLaw, a group that tracks royal defamation cases, 82 people have been charged under the lese majeste law since the coup three years ago. ESW urges the officials of the Thai government to respect, guarantee, and implement the provisions and principles of human rights as specified in international conventions and treaties and urge the Thai authorities to drop any charges against the accused arising out of the nonviolent exercise of the rights to expression, association, and assembly.

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)

## TURKEY

*Scholars, researchers, and students:* Endangered Scholars Worldwide continues to be extremely concerned about the systematic targeting by the Turkish government of the country's scholars and professors. Since the signing of the Academics for Peace petition in January 2016 and the coup attempt in July of that year, a series of actions by Turkey's courts and Council of Higher Education (YOK) have been taken against academics, including the dismissal of all university deans, four university presidents and the shutting down of 15 universities. As of July 2018, as this issue goes to press, some 6000 academics have lost their jobs and passports in an effort to prevent them from leaving the country and seeking jobs abroad. In June 2018, before the presidential and general elections of June 24, the courts began to file cases against scholars who are outside the country. Those who remain in Turkey have estab-

lished Solidarity and street academies in a number of cities to bring dismissed scholars together and create an environment for them and their students to connect and produce knowledge.

ESW expresses our solidarity with the thousands of Turkish academics who have lost their jobs and are facing criminal charges as a result of their peaceful activities and the exercise of their freedom of speech. We are deeply distressed by the Turkish government's actions, which irreversibly harm the entire educational community by undermining universities' abilities to meet scientific and ethical standards as well as fulfill intellectual, educational, social and institutional responsibilities.

For full coverage of the crisis in higher education in Turkey and to sign our letter of protest, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/turkey-esw>.

Please send appeals to:

His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdogan  
President of Turkey  
The Office of the President  
Cumhurbaşkanlığı Kulliyesi  
06560 Bestepe, Ankara  
Turkey  
Fax: +90 312 525 58 31

His Excellency Abdulhamit Gül  
Minister of Justice  
06669 Kizilay, Ankara  
Turkey  
Fax: +90 312 419 3370  
Email: [info@adalet.gov.tr](mailto:info@adalet.gov.tr)

#### **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

On September 5, 2017, United States Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced that the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program (DACA) was being rescinded. As numerous accounts indicate, the majority of DACA recipients are students who are enrolled in higher education institutions. As an organization committed to protecting the human rights of scholars and students across the globe, Endangered Scholars Worldwide believes that ending DACA would be a mistake. It would put lives of thousands of committed students in the United States in jeopardy, prevent them from the ability to pursue their education, and return them to a life of anxiety and doubt.

Endangered Scholars Worldwide urges the US Congress to move decisively to sustain the DACA program. We believe that upholding DACA will ensure the mission of institutions of higher learning to provide safe environments in which everyone is respected, and teaching and learning is fostered.

Please send appeals to:

Jefferson Sessions  
Attorney General of the United States  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20530-0001  
Tell: +1 202 514 2000  
Website: <http://www.justice.gov/ag>

## VIETNAM

*Scholars and researchers:* On June 10, 2017, Vietnamese President Tran Dai Quang signed a special order into effect stripping French-Vietnamese mathematician and former political prisoner, PHAM MINH HOANG, of his Vietnamese citizenship. In the official letter, the Vietnam’s government informed Hoang, 62, of its decision to revoke his nationality, citing Articles 88 and 91 of the country’s Criminal Code, which prohibit “conducting propaganda against the state” and “fleeing abroad or defecting to stay overseas with a view to opposing the people’s administration,” respectively. On June 25, 2017, Hoang was arrested in Ho Chi Minh City after losing his appeal against deportation and, after meeting with French consular officials, was deported to France.

*Students* who remain in prison are DINH NGUYEN KHA, sentenced to eight years imprisonment, on charges of “conducting propaganda against the state” in May 2013. He was arrested in October 2012 for handing out leaflets critical of the government. According to a report by Amnesty International, Dinh Nguyen has been denied medical treatment following an operation in December 2016 to remove a tumor from his stomach. ESW calls upon the Vietnamese government to end the practice of deliberately depriving political prisoners of medical care, and to ensure that detainees receive proper medical care and are granted medical parole in time to properly treat their illnesses.

Please send appeals to:

His Excellency Trần Đại Quang  
President of the Socialist Republic of  
Vietnam

c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Hanoi  
Vietnam

## RELEASES

Endangered Scholars Worldwide has not received word of any new releases since the publication of our last quarterly report.

## 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/>

Endangered Scholars Worldwide.

<http://www.endangeredscholarsworldwide.net/>

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>

Radio Free Europe. <http://www.rfa.org/>

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 and Dolunay Bulut