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## Endangered Scholars Worldwide

Social Research: An International Quarterly, Volume 83, Number 3, Fall 2016,  
pp. v-xx (Article)

Published by Johns Hopkins University Press



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# Endangered Scholars Worldwide

The information in this quarterly print report is current as of October 5, 2016. The situation of scholars and students around the world changes on a daily basis. For the most up-to-date information, including more details about each case and suggestions of ways in which you can be involved in calling for the freedom of endangered scholars and students, please visit us at [www.endangeredscholarsworldwide.net](http://www.endangeredscholarsworldwide.net) or follow us at [www.facebook.com/endangeredscholars](https://www.facebook.com/endangeredscholars). In these pages we introduce new cases that have come to our attention in 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

### Special Report

*On October 24, 2016, Endangered Scholars Worldwide and the Committee of Concerned Scientists, together transmitted a Joint Letter of Appeal to the Turkish Government and US Department of State, regarding the ongoing detention, persecution, and conviction of Serkan Golge, a 36-year-old United States citizen of Turkish descent who works as a physicist with the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration.*

**Joint Letter of Appeal on Behalf of Serkan Golge,  
Imprisoned US Citizen and NASA Physicist of Turkish Descent**

It has been over two months since Serkan Golge, a 36-year-old United States citizen of Turkish descent and a physicist with the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration, was arrested in Turkey. On August 6, 2016, we learned that Golge was formally accused of involvement with the Gulen movement, which Turkey considers a terrorist organization. According to one of Golge's associates, we also learned, he has been accused of spying for the US Central Intelligence Agency.

The Committee of Concerned Scientists has been monitoring Golge's case from the beginning, as did Endangered Scholars Worldwide by making inquiries on a daily basis in an attempt to have Golge released and to have charges against him dropped. We have been in contact with the US embassies in Turkey and have written to the Turkish authorities requesting that they release the NASA scientist. We have been told that Golge is alive, though he remains in detention and is the subject of a pending judicial case. Unfortunately, his case has not received wide media coverage in the US.

Golge is a senior research scientist at NASA who has been studying the health effects on the human body of time spent in space. He has helped create models that predict the risk of cancer from galactic cosmic rays and has analyzed data from particle detectors on the space station.

We at Endangered Scholars Worldwide and the Committee of Concerned Scientists consider Serkan Golge's detention a flagrant and unjust violation of the freedom, security, and safety of a scientist who is clearly a victim of a political witch hunt — arrested without cause, held for weeks in solitary confinement and without access to a lawyer, and subjected to physical mistreatment and psychological abuse.

Endangered Scholars Worldwide and Committee of Concerned Scientists strongly deplore and condemn the ongoing detention, persecution, and conviction of Serkan Golge, and call 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 his immediate and unconditional release, and to urge the officials of the Turkish government to respect, guarantee, and implement the provisions and principles of human rights as specified in international conventions and treaties to which Turkey has long been a signatory.

Please send appeals to:

Recep Tayyip Erdogan  
President of Turkey  
Office of the President  
06573 Basbakanlik  
Ankara  
Turkey  
Fax: +90 312 417 04 76  
E-mail: [contact@tccb.gov.tr](mailto:contact@tccb.gov.tr)

John Kerry  
United States Secretary of State  
Office of Foreign Missions  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520 USA  
Email: [OFMInfo@state.gov](mailto:OFMInfo@state.gov)

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

Samantha Power  
US Permanent Representative to the  
United Nations  
US Permanent Mission to the United  
Nations  
799 United Nations Plaza  
New York, NY 10017 USA

## BAHRAIN

*Scholars and Researchers* who remain in prison are ABDUL-JALIL AL-SINGACE, head of the department of engineering at the University of Bahrain, who has been in Jau prison since 2011. At that time, he was sentenced to life imprisonment for allegedly “plotting to overthrow the government” during the Arab Spring protests demanding greater democracy. AL-SINGACE is a polio victim who can only stand on one leg, he was nevertheless tortured at the time of his detention by beatings, sexual assault, and being forced to stand upright for long periods despite his disability. The professor of engineering at the University of Bahrain was also a Draper Hills Fellow at Stanford University’s Center on Democracy in Development and the Rule of Law. He has long campaigned for political

reform and an end to torture, writing on these and other subjects (in Arabic) on his blog, Al-Faseela—or “The Date Sapling.”

*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.

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

## CHINA

*Scholars and Researchers:* It has been over two years since ILHAM TOHTI, an economics professor and distinguished scholar of China's Uyghur Muslim minority, was sentenced to life in prison by the Xinjiang People's High Court for “separatism” after what Human Rights Watch called “a grossly unfair trial.” In recent developments, according to an interview conducted by Radio Free Asia, the family of the jailed Uyghur scholar is facing extreme hardship and increasing isolation as his wife struggles to raise the couple's young sons in Beijing. On the anniversary of his arrest, Endangered Scholars Worldwide deplores the Chinese

government's pervasive and ongoing crackdown on the Uyghur people. We call on the Chinese government to free Professor Ilham Tohti immediately and unconditionally, and investigate the allegations of his mistreatment while detained.

Also remaining in prison are XU ZHIYONG, sentenced in July 2015 to four years in prison for "gathering a crowd to disturb public order," 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, 60, 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." Even six years after winning the Nobel Peace Prize, Liu seems unlikely to be given a chance to "seek medical parole" overseas as high-profile dissidents have done before him. Since 2010, Liu's wife, Liu Xia, has remained under strict house arrest and close police surveillance at the couple's home.

QIAO MU, an associate professor of journalism at Beijing Foreign Studies University, has been 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.

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](http://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

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. Hundreds of Egyptians have been forcibly disappeared and tortured in a “sinister” campaign to wipe out peaceful dissent in the most populous country in the Arab world, Amnesty International says in a new report.

*Students* who remain in prison include KARIM AL-BANNA, sentenced to three years in prison in January 2015 on charges of contempt of religion and insulting the divine. SHERIF GABER, a student from Suez Canal University, 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](mailto: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

## IRAN

*Scholars and Researchers* who remain in prison are 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 YASHAR DAROLSHAFQA, 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 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 BABAIEI, 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. ZIA NABAIEI, serving a ten-year sentence after attending protests following the 2009 elections, is currently in critical condition.

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  
Jomhouri  
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 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, 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 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

Militants raided Balochistan Police College, on October 24, 2016, in Quetta, killing at least 61 people and injuring at least 120, with most casualties being students from Balochistan Police College. Immediately following the attack, Pakistani state officials pointed a finger at a Taliban affiliate known as Lashkar-e-Jhangvi. However, Islamic State (ISIS) officials publicly claimed responsibility for the attack just hours later. An investigation into these claims is ongoing. Endangered Scholars Worldwide demands that the authorities prosecute the perpetrators of the massacre and ensure the security of higher education sites inside the country.

Please send appeals to:

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

Phone: +1 212 879 5800  
Fax : +1 212 517 6987  
Email: [info@pakistanconsulateny.org](mailto:info@pakistanconsulateny.org)

## SAUDI ARABIA

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. 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 not been able to obtain the names of the latter two defendants.

*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:

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

Human Rights Commission  
P.O. Box 58889  
Building No. 373  
King Fahad Road  
Riyadh 11515  
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
Fax: +966 1 4612061

Prince Turki bin Khaled Al-Sudairy  
President

## REPUBLIC OF SUDAN

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/](mailto:mission.sudan@bluewin.ch/)  
[mission.sudan@ties.itu.int](mailto:mission.sudan@ties.itu.int)

## THAILAND

*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 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](mailto:mission.thailand@ties.itu.int)

## TURKEY

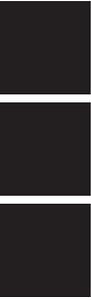
Endangered Scholars Worldwide is deeply concerned over recent reports from Turkey regarding the plight of the academic community. Since July 15, 2016, in the days following the attempted coup, we have received numerous reports that Turkish officials have taken

harsh measures against universities and other educational institutions of higher education. Universities are being shut down and faculty and administrators taken into custody and denied the possibility of leaving the country.

In the latest example of the Turkish government's pressure on scholars, on October 9, 2016, twenty three Turkish academics who were allegedly using ByLock— a text messaging application— were detained last week as part of an ongoing targeting of the Gülen movement. Turkish prosecutors claim that ByLock is the top communication tool among members of the Gülen movement, which the government accuses of masterminding a July 15 coup attempt. Critics, however, have criticized the government for detaining thousands simply for using a mobile application.

On August 19, Turkish prosecutors issued arrest warrants for 85 university academics suspected of links with US-based Muslim preacher Fethullah Gulen. Twenty-nine academics have been detained so far. A large majority of the detainees are from Istanbul University and Selcuk University, including the Selcuk university's dean, professor HAKKI GOKBEL. Selcuk University is in the city of Konya, in the Central Anatolia Region of Turkey about 160 miles south of the capital, Ankara. The Turkish intelligent service has seized computers and data files from professors' offices.

In July and August, according to the semi-official Anadolu news agency, Turkey's Board of Higher Education requested the resignations of 1,577 university deans at state and private universities nationwide, effectively dismissing them. The government has also dismissed four university presidents, at Dicle, Gazi, Yalova, and Yildiz Technical Universities. On July 20, the Council of Higher Education (YOK) announced that "legal action [would] to be taken against academic and administrative staff [engaged in] in parallel state formation." As a result, by July 26, 15 universities have been shut down; 1,617 university employees, including 743 professors, have been suspended, and 284 lecturers and professors have been detained.



The war against academics began long before the attempted coup. On January 1, 2016, a group of scholars calling themselves Academics for Peace signed an open letter calling on the Turkish government to end its violence in the Kurdish provinces. The next day, Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdogan accused the letter's organizers and signatories of treason and called for them to be punished. The Turkish judiciary system initiated public prosecutions under Turkish anti-terror laws, alleging defamation of the Turkish state and accusing signatories of spreading "terrorist organization propaganda." Turkey's Higher Education Council (YOK) ordered university rectors to commence disciplinary investigations. Numerous suspensions, dismissals, and imprisonments followed.

*Arrested and imprisoned:* On August 16, SERKAN GOLGE, a 36-year-old NASA physicist of Turkish descent who was arrested on August 6th, was formally accused of involvement with the Gulen movement, which Turkey considers a terrorist organization. Golge has also been accused of spying for the CIA. He traveled to Turkey in late June, along with his wife and two sons, to visit family. MEHMET ALTAN, a prominent professor who was detained along with his brother, Ahmet Altan on September 12, remains in custody after a hearing on his links with the Gulenist Movement. Mehmet Altan and Ahmet Altan were both arrested on September 12, over their appearance on a Turkish TV channel a day before the July 15 coup attempt. According to the official statement issued by the court, Mehmet Altan implied on the show that "a coup was imminent in his statements." The ruling said that Mehmet Altan was known for his pro-Gulenist views and tried to change public perception to be supportive of a possible coup.

On July 23, ISTAR GIZAYDIN, chair of the sociology department at Gediz University, was suspended from her position on the basis of her Twitter account. According to the official letter she received, her tweets on July 17 allegedly contained content implying "support for the coup attempt or criticism of those who opposed the coup." ESRA

MUNGAN of Bogazici University, KIVANC ERSOY of Mimar Sinan University of Fine Arts, and MUZAFFER KAYA formerly of Nisantasi University have been arrested, and a fourth arrest warrant has been issued for MERAL CAMCI, formerly of Istanbul Yeniyuzyil University, who is reportedly out of the country. Professors Kaya and Camci were both fired from their positions as a result of signing the petition. RESAT BARIS UNLU, a professor of political science at Ankara University, faces seven years in jail for “terror propaganda” over an exam question in which he asked students to compare two writings by Abdullah Ocalan, the jailed leader of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK).

*Fired from their positions, facing prosecution:* On June 19, 2016, ZEYNEP SAYIN BALIKCIOGLUB, a member of the communication faculty at Bilgi University, was fired after “insulting the Turkish president during a lecture” on June 18. HALIL IBRAHIM YENIGUN, 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 Istanbul Commerce University after the publication of a column by a government mouthpiece targeting him. Associate professor BATTAL ODABASI, from Istanbul 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. ORSAN K. OYMEN, a philosophy professor at Isik 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, Oymen 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.

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

Please send appeals to:

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

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

## VIETNAM

*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

### IRAN

Concordia University professor HOMA HOODFAR, 65, an expert in the study of women in Muslim societies, who was detained in Tehran's Evin prison on June 6, 2016, was released on September 26, 2016. Hoodfar suffers from a rare neurological condition that causes severe muscle weakness. She was hospitalized at one point before being returned to her cell, according to her family. The Iranian-Canadian anthropology professor was arrested while on a personal and research visit to Iran. Endangered Scholars Worldwide welcomes this news with great relief and calls for the protection and security of Professor Hoodfar at all times after her release.

On September 21, 2016, elderly prisoner of conscience MOHAMMAD HOSSEIN RAFIEE, a retired university professor, was released from Evin Prison. Rafiee was sentenced by Judge Salavati to six years in prison on May 25, 2015 for his peaceful political activism. A March 31, 2016, decree issued by Iran's supreme leader pardons male prisoners over the age of 65 and female prisoners over 55 if they have served at least one-fifth of their sentence. By June 2016, Rafiee had served more than a fifth of his sentence and therefore qualified for early release.

Iranian student activist and women human rights defender BAHAREH HEDAYAT has been released from prison after serving nearly seven years. Endangered Scholars Worldwide welcomes this news with great relief and calls for the protection and security of Hedayat at all times after her release. Hedayat was arrested on the night of December 31, 2009, by the Iranian Ministry of Intelligence. She later was sentenced to two years for "insulting the Supreme Leader of Iran"; six months for "insulting the President"; five years for "acting against national security and publishing falsehoods"; as well as an additional two years of imprisonment for "holding a protest gathering for women."

## 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