



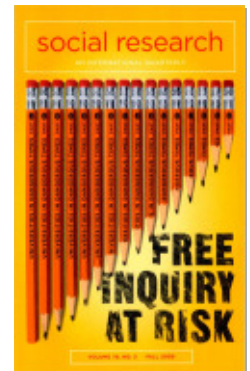
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Endangered Scholars Worldwide

Social Research: An International Quarterly, Volume 76, Number 3, Fall 2009,
pp. v-x (Article)

Published by Johns Hopkins University Press

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1353/sor.2009.0001>



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Endangered Scholars Worldwide

IRAN

WE ARE APPALLED TO LEARN THAT OUR FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE, DR. KIAN TAJBAKHSH, who, as we reported in our summer issue, was arrested and imprisoned in Iran at the beginning of July, has just been sentenced in extrajudicial proceedings to up to 15 years in prison. He has been charged by the Revolutionary Court with purportedly plotting with high-ranking reformists to overthrow the government with support from the United States. His formal charges appear to include espionage, cooperation with an enemy government, and acting against national security. All of these charges are completely baseless and are brought against Kian for purely political reasons. After his 2007 arrest and four-and-a-half-month detainment in solitary confinement, Kian cut his ties to international organizations and assiduously avoided all involvement with politics, even choosing not to vote in the recent presidential election. Despite this, he was caught up in the wave of arrests following the election and made to participate in televised show trials, which Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch denounced for their probable use of forced confessions. Kian remains in solitary confinement, is allowed very infrequent contact with his family, and continues to be denied access to his own legal representation. We call on the authorities in Iran to drop these charges at once and release Kian from prison. More information about his case and appeals on his behalf may be found at www.freekian09.org <<http://www.freekian09.org>>. Our readers are urged to write letters to the Iranian authorities on Kian's behalf.

Along with Kian, hundreds of students and academics were rounded up in the protests that followed the contested presidential elections in

Information current, to the best of our knowledge, as of October 22, 2009.

June. According to the International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran, at least 87 students and 9 professors remain in jail. On September 2, **DR. MOHAMMAD MALEKI**, a 76-year old Iranian scholar and former Chancellor of Tehran University, was arrested at his home and taken to Evin prison. It is believed that Dr. Maleki, an independent commentator, is being held for criticizing the conduct of the election, although, like Kian, he did not vote or participate in the subsequent protests.

Scholars featured in previous issues who remain in prison in Iran include: **FARZAD KAMANGER**, a Kurdish-Iranian teacher sentenced to death in February 2008 on charges of “endangering national security”; **DR. MOSTAFA ALAVI**, an Iranian doctor and researcher sentenced to 15 years’ imprisonment in August 2008 for “plotting against the regime”; **DRS. ARASH** and **KAMIAR ALAEI**, two AIDS researchers who were sentenced to three and six years, respectively, in January 2009 for “seeking to overthrow the Iranian government”; and **BEHROOZ JAVID-TEHRANI**, a student activist and prisoners’ rights campaigner arrested in 2005 for membership in an illegal organization. All of these people are being held in life-threatening conditions and need your support.

Appeals to:

His Excellency Ayatollah Sayed
‘Ali Khamenei
Leader of the Islamic Republic
The Office of the Supreme Leader
Islamic Republic Street–
Shahid Keshvar Doust Street
Tehran
Islamic Republic of Iran
E-mail: info@leader.ir
Salutation: Your Excellency

Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi
Head of the Judiciary
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
E-mail: info@dadgostary-tehran.ir
(In the subject line write:
FAO Ayatollah Shahroudi)
Salutation: Your Excellency

SRI LANKA

DR. PAIKIASOTHY SARAVANAMUTTU, a prominent Sri Lankan academic, has received an anonymous death threat, according to the BBC. Dr. Saravanamuttu is Executive Director of the Centre for Policy

Alternatives, Co-Convener of the Centre for Monitoring Election Violence (CMEV), and a Member of the Board of the Sri Lanka Chapter of Transparency International. Dr. Saravanamuttu is a well-known critic of government policy. The death threat reportedly refers to information supplied by him to Benita Ferrero-Waldner, the European Union's commissioner for external relations, for which he is accused of contributing to the decision to deprive Sri Lanka of European Union benefits in October. We urge you to write to the Sri Lankan president, insisting that Dr. Saravanamuttu's life be protected and that such attempts to silence dissenting voices are not tolerated.

Appeals to:

Mahinda Rajapaksa
President of Sri Lanka
'Temple Trees'
Colombo 3
Sri Lanka

HOLLAND

On August 18, 2009, **TARIQ RAMADAN** was dismissed from Erasmus University, Rotterdam, as well as from his position as adviser on integration for the city of Rotterdam, on the grounds that he continued to appear on a television show on the Iranian state-funded English-language broadcaster PressTV during the repression following the recent presidential elections in Iran. Ramadan is an internationally respected scholar who was featured in our Winter 2007 issue as a result of his being officially denied a visa to enter the United States on the grounds of "endorsing terrorism," a decision that was recently challenged by a U.S. Court of Appeals ruling. At the time, Ramadan was prevented from taking up a visiting professor position at Notre Dame University. Now he has lost another visiting professorship, one he has held since January 2007, for what look to be similarly baseless charges. The university and the city council provided no evidence that Ramadan had used his position on the show to defend the Iranian regime. Ramadan, who has publicly condemned the repression in

Iran, has claimed that the decision is a ploy by politicians seeking to capitalize on anti-Muslim sentiment in the coming elections. A letter protesting his dismissal has been signed by 30 scholars at Erasmus University. We urge you to add your name to the following petition in defense of academic freedom and calling for Ramadan's immediate reinstatement: <http://www.petitiononline.com/025487/petition.html>.

PERU

DR. SALOMÓN LERNER FEBRES, a prominent Peruvian academic and human rights defender has been the recipient of death threats. Human Rights Watch has reported that his dogs were poisoned and killed on September 5, 2009, while on September 23 he received an anonymous telephone call warning that "What we did to your dogs, we will do to you." Dr. Lerner, the former rector of the Catholic University of Peru and current president of the Institute for Democracy and Human Rights, is also the former president of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which was set up in 2001 to investigate human rights violations and deaths committed by terrorist groups and the military during the 1980s and '90s. According to Human Rights Watch, Dr. Lerner has previously been the victim of harassment and threats associated with his work for the commission, whose investigations have led to the prosecution of former military and police officers. Please send appeals, urging the immediate investigation of these threats, to:

Presidente Alan Garcia
2009 Despacho Presidencial
Jr. de la Unión 300 s/n 1era cuadra
Lima, Peru

Luis Castañeda Lossio
Alcalde de Lima Metropolitana
Municipalidad Metropolitana de Lima
Jr. de la Unión 300/Jr. Conde de Superunda
177 Lima, Peru

UPDATES

IRAN

We are pleased to report that that after one month in Evin prison and a

ten-month travel ban, **ESHA MOMENI** was finally permitted to leave Iran on August 11, 2009.

The following previously featured scholars remain in prison:

CHINA

LU XIAOBO, a Chinese writer and human rights activist, arrested in December 2008 for “inciting subversion of state power.”

DR. LÜ GENGSONG, a Chinese writer, activist, and former University teacher, arrested in the summer of 2007 on charges of “incitement to subvert state power” and “illegally possessing state secrets.”

DR. ZHENG YICHUN, Professor of English at Liaoning University in China, arrested in the winter of 2004 and charged with “suspicion of inciting subversion of state power.”

XU ZERONG, a professor affiliated with the Provincial Academy of Science and Zhongshan University in China, arrested in 2002 and charged with revealing state secrets for his use of historical materials in researching the Korean War.

Appeals to:

His Excellency Hu Jintao
President of the People’s Republic
of China
Zhong Naihai
Beijing 100032
People’s Republic of China
Salutation: Your Excellency

Mr. Xiao Yang
President of the Supreme People’s Court,
No.27
Dongjiaominxiang, Dongcheng District
Beijing 100745
People’s Republic of China

IRAQ

DR. USSAMA AL-MULLA, a professor of dentistry at Baghdad University, arrested without charge February 2008.

Appeals to:

His Excellency Nouri Kamal al-Maliki

Prime Minister
c/o Embassy of the Republic of Iraq
1801 P Street NW
Washington DC, 20036

RUSSIA

DR. IGOR SUTYAGIN, a researcher at the US and Canada Institute in Moscow, arrested in Russia in Spring 2004 and sentenced to fifteen years' hard labor for treason and espionage.

Appeals to:

Dmitry Medvedev
President of Russia
Ilinka Str, No 23
103132, Moscow, Russia.

BURMA (MYANMAR)

KO AUNG HTUN, a writer and former student activist, arrested in Burma in Winter 1998 and sentenced to seventeen years' imprisonment on charges of violating state censorship and engaging in unlawful association.

Appeals to:

Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman, State Peace and Development
Council
Ministry of Defense
Naypyitaw Union of Myanmar
(for US Postal Service, "Burma" should
appear in parentheses after "Myanmar"
on envelope only, not in the letter itself)
Salutation: Dear Senior General

Minister Counselor U Myint Lwin
Chargé d'Affaires
Ad Interim Embassy of Myanmar
2300 S Street NW
Washington DC 20008
Salutation: Dear Sir