

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.

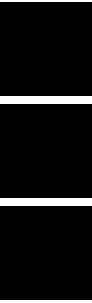
If you are aware of a scholar or student whose case you believe we should investigate, please contact us at socres@newschool.edu.

The information in this report is current, to the best of our knowledge, as of February 22, 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: On January 31, 2015, Bahrain's Ministry of Interior revoked the citizenship of **MASAUD MIRZA JAHROMI**, professor of engineering and the chair of the telecommunication engineering department at Ahlia University in Manama. The Ministry declared its



verdict without court process, claiming that it was revoking the professor's citizenship for his involvement in "terrorist activities," including "advocating regime change through illegal means." Previously, Jahromi was sentenced to four months in prison and a fine of 500 dinars for participating in "unauthorized rallies" during protests in 2011. Jahromi served his sentence and was restored to his position at Ahlia University. The verdict comes despite the absence of additional allegations or evidence that Jahromi violated any national law since his sentence. Restating Article 15 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which specifically prohibits arbitrary deprivation of anyone's nationality, Endangered Scholars Worldwide urges Bahrain officials to overrule the Ministry of Interior's decision and immediately restore Dr. Jahromi's Bahraini citizenship.

Other 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 has 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 prisoners' alleged crime.

Students: Previously featured students from Bahrain who remain in prison include **AHMAD HASSAN 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 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 /
dr.albalooshi@gmail.com
Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/
fatima.albalooshi.3](https://www.facebook.com/fatima.albalooshi.3)

BANGLADESH

Scholars and Researchers On November 15, 2014, **SHAFIUL ISLAM**, a professor of sociology at Rajshahi University in Bangladesh, was

attacked and killed while on his route home. As of this report, police have arrested twenty suspects in connection with the murder case. A group calling itself Ansar al Islam Bangladesh-2 took responsibility for the killing on its Facebook page, alleging that Professor Islam was an “apostate.” Endangered Scholars Worldwide urges the Bangladeshi government to thoroughly investigate this attack and defend all scholars’ right of freedom of expression.

Please send appeals to:

Ambassador Mohammad Ziauddin
Embassy of Bangladesh
3510 International Drive NW

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

BENIN

Students: On November 4, 2013, peaceful student protestors at Abomey-Calavi University were attacked by security forces, who fired tear gas at protestors and arresting student leaders. Students were protesting the introduction of new tuition fees. According to Scholars at Risk, dozens of students were injured as the result of the violent crackdown. On November 12, 2013, a previously featured student leader, **DAMIEN DÉGBÉ**, was arrested following his involvement in the organization of a two-day student strike on campus. The campus has remained under police surveillance since the initial protests.

Please send appeals to:

President Yayi Boni
Embassy of the Republic of Benin
2124 Kalorama Road, N.W.
Washington, DC 20008

USA
Fax: +1 202 265 1996
Email: info@beninembassy.us

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. It has now been 19 months since Meyomesse's lawyers succeeded in having his case referred to a civil court for appeal. His appeal was expected to be heard on June 20, 2013 but the hearing was postponed. At least 13 further hearings have been postponed due to various legal technicalities; the latest one on November 20, 2014. Meyomesse is suffering from various health conditions.

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: cmdhl@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 political rights and confiscation of all his assets. In the latest update, according to Tohti's lawyer, an appeals court in China has upheld the sentence, earlier on October 28th the Chinese authorities removed 850,000 yuan (US\$140,000) from Tohti's bank account. There is also reason to believe that the authorities will confiscate the apartment where Tohti's family lives. Both *Scholars at Risks* and *Endangered Scholars Worldwide* are gravely concerned about the ongoing threat against Professor Tohti and his family.

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

Students: On December 8, 2014, Chinese criminal court sentenced seven students of Professor Ilham Tohti from three to eight years in prison on the accusation of separatism. Professor Tohti’s 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**, **ATIKEM ROZI** and **AKBAR IMIN**. All the students except Luo are Uygurs. As 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 Nhai
Beijing 100032
People's Republic of China

Mr. Shengjun Wang
President, Supreme People's Court
No. 27 Dong Jiao Min Xiang
Beijing 100745
People's Republic of China
Fax: +86 10 6529 2345 (c/o Ministry of
Communication)
Website: www.court.gov.cn

Facebook group in support of **LIU XIAOBO**: <http://www.facebook.com/Free.Liu>

Calls for letters on behalf of **ILHAM TOHTI**: <http://goo.gl/RIscCG>

EGYPT

Scholars and Researchers: Previously featured scholars who remain in prison include **EMAD SHAHIN**, a political science professor at the American University in Cairo, who was charged for associating with the Muslim Brotherhood, including espionage and conspiring to undermine national security. **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: On December 28, 2014, Al-Azhar University expelled 122 students, alleging they had engaged in riots, illegal protests and violence. As of this report, specific factual allegations against the expelled students were unavailable. Al-Azhar University now requires students residing in its residence halls to sign an agreement not to engage in any protest or other political activities, or else risk expulsion. In addition, in October 2014, Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi

issued a decree allowing the expulsion of staff and students, including in cases involving “acts obstructing the educational process.”

Please send appeals to:

Ambassador Mohamed M. Tawfik
Egyptian Embassy to the United States
3521 International Ct. NW
Washington DC 20008
USA
Email: contact@egyptembassy.net
Website: <http://www.egyptembassy.net>

Ambassador Mootaz Ahmadein Khalil
Egyptian Permanent Representative to the
United Nations
United Nations
800 Second Avenue
New York, NY 10017
USA

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 were arrested along with members of the Zone 9 bloggers, **ABEL WABELA**, **ATNAF BERAHANE**, **MAHLET FANTAHUN**, **BEFEQADU HAILU**, **NATNAEL FELEKE**, **ASMA-MAW HAILEGEOGIS**, **TESFALEM WALDYES** and **EDOM KASSAYE**. All were detained on April 26, 2014. Kibret, Hailu, and all 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 charged with criminal defamation for allegedly posting criticism of university and city officials for corrup-

tion 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/

Mr. Getachew Ambaye
Ministry of Justice
P.O. Box 1370
Addis Ababa
Ethiopia
Fax: +251 11 5517775 / 5520874
Email: ministry-justice@telecom.net.et

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 BADAIVAM**, **FARHAD SEDGHI**, **RIAZ SOBHANI**, and **NOUSHIN KHADEM**, each sentenced to four years; two cultural figures, educator **FARHAD VAKILINIA** serving three years and **NAEEM NAJAFI**, a student, serving four years, both charged with "acting against national security" by supporting Kurdish opposition groups in August 2011; and **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 death sentence was reduced to fifteen years’ imprisonment and exile to the south of Iran in June 2013 by the court of appeal. All of these scholars are at risk of torture and need your support.

Students: **OMID KOKABEE**, a previously featured PhD student in physics 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, remains in prison despite the fact that the Iranian Supreme Court recently reviewed Kokabee’s case and issued a ruling stating that there was no evidence of wrongdoing by Kokabee, and that there was no evidence in the case to substantiate the charges and conviction.

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.”

Other 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 security,” “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 antigovernment protests in 2009. **HEDAYAT** is in a 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
Jomhour St, Keshvar Doust Street
Tehran
Islamic Republic of Iran
Fax: +98 21 644 11
Website: <http://www.leader.ir/langs/en/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/www.Khamenei.ir>

Ayatollah Sadeqh Larijani
Howzeh Riyasat-e Qoveh Qazaiyeh (Office
of the Head of the Judiciary)
Pasteur St., Vali Asr Ave., south of Serah-e
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
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.

Scholars at Risk has set up a petition letter in support of **BABAEI**. The petition letter and sample letters can be found at http://www.scholarsatrisk.nyu.edu/Documents/LOA_Babaei_04-02-2014.pdf.

ISRAEL

Scholars and Researchers: A previously featured scholar who remains imprisoned in Israel is **AHMAD QATAMESH**, a political scientist and Palestinian activist. He has been detained without trial since his arrest on April 21, 2011.

Please send appeals to:

His Excellency Benjamin Netanyahu
Prime Minister's Office
3 Kaplan Street
P.O. Box 187
Kiryat Ben-Gurion
Jerusalem 91919
Israel
Email: pm_eng@pmo.gov.il
Website: <http://www.pmo.gov.il/english/Pages/default.aspx>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/IsraeliPM>

Email: zlivni@knesset.gov.il
Website: <http://www.justice.gov.il/MOJEng/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/tzipilivni>

Ambassador Ron Prozor
Israeli Permanent Representative to the
UN
United Nations
800 Second Avenue
New York, NY 10017
USA

Tzipi Livni
Ministry of Justice
29 Salah A-din Street
Jerusalem 91010
Israel

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 PHENGPHANH, 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.

Please send appeals to:

President Choummaly Sayasone	Vientiane
Office of the President	Laos

MONGOLIA

Scholars and Researchers: 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	Ambassador Och Od
Kuhdaldaany Street 6/1	The Permanent Mission of Mongolia to
Chingeltei District 210646	the United Nations
Ulaanbaatar	6 East 77 th Street
Mongolia	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>

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

125993, Moscow
Russia

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/>

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 in 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-DUGHAITHIR, 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: University lecturer **SIDIG NOREEN ALI ABDALLA**, who has taught at West Kordofan, was arrested on January 16, 2014, while his child was undergone treatment in a hospital in Khartoum. He is currently being held in El Obeid without access to legal representation and has not been allowed to contact his family members.

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 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

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

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. Bahbouh 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 body of higher education system 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 July 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

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

On February 11, 2015, three American students were been shot to death at a residential complex of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. A 23 year old, **DEAH SHADDY BARAKAT**, his 21-year-old wife, **YUSOR MOHAMMAD**, and her sister, 19-year-old **RAZAN MOHAMMAD ABU-SALH** were shot by Craig Stephen Hicks, 46, who was arrested immediately and charged with killing the three Muslim students. Police have claimed the shooting stemmed from a parking dispute, but the victims' family has said it was clearly a hate crime. Endangered Scholars Worldwide believes that further investigation is needed into this case, and urges US Attorney General Eric Holder and the FBI to open a full and rigorous federal hate crime investigation into the tragic killing of three vibrant young American Muslims in Chapel Hill.

Please send appeals to:

Eric H. Holder, Jr.
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>

THAILAND

Students: On October 27, 2014, 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 more than a year earlier. **PATIWAT SARAIYAEM**, a student at Khon Kaen University's Fine and Applied Arts Faculty, acted in the play, while activist **PORNTHIP**

MANKONG 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. On December 29, 2014, Saraiyaem and Mankong pleaded guilty. The court is expected announce its verdict and issue a sentence on February 27, 2015.

Please send appeals to:

Ambassador Thani Thongphakdi
Permanent Mission of Thailand to the
United Nations and Other International
Organizations
United Nations
5 Rue Gustave-Moynier

CH 1202 Geneva
Switzerland
Fax: + 41 22 715 1000
Website: <http://www.thaimission.ch/>
Email: mission.thailand@ties.itu.int

TURKEY

According to a report published by *Hurriyet* newspaper, there are to date more than 3,000 university students in prison in Turkey, accused of various crimes but primarily of membership in political organizations. The report indicates that the committed crimes include reading out statements to the press and attending political events; reading Marx's books; celebrating International Women's Day; attending May Day events and protesting against the Higher Education Board; demanding free transport and health care; calling for a democratic university; opposing the construction of hydroelectric power plants; and advocating environmental rights. As of this report there is no detail on the nature of these convictions.

Please send appeals to:

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

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

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
Salutation: Your Excellency

Nguyễn Tân Dung
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/>

—Written by Ebby Sharifi