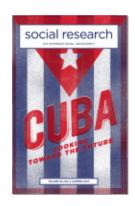


Endangered Scholars Worldwide

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Endangered Scholars Worldwide

The information in this quarterly print report is current as of July 6, 2017. 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 or follow us at 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.

ENDANGERED SCHOLARS WORLDWIDE STATEMENT OF BEHALF OF DR. MERERA GUDINA

It has been over eight months since Ethiopian security forces arrested the opposition leader Merera Gudina upon his return to Ethiopia, following his participation in a hearing at the European parliament about the crisis in his home country, charging him with rendering support to terrorism and attempting to "disrupt constitutional order."

Endangered Scholars Worldwide has been continuously following Professor Gudina's case and making inquiries in an attempt to have him released and to have charges against him dropped. Gudina is the chair of the Oromo Federalist Congress (OFC) and an associate professor of political science at Addis Ababa University. For more than four decades, he has fought for democracy and respect for human rights. He was unjustly imprisoned for eight years during the communist Dergue regime.

We at Endangered Scholars Worldwide consider Gudina's arbitrary and continued imprisonment part of a power play against Oromo activists and dissidents. Merera Gudina's detention is a flagrant violation of the freedom, security, and safety of a scholar who is a victim—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 strongly deplores and condemns the wrongful detention, persecution, and conviction of Ethiopian professor Merera Gudina and calls for his immediate release on bail and dropping of all charges against him. We encourage our readers to send letters, emails, and faxes respectfully urging authorities in Ethiopia to investigate the situation; ensure Gudina's well-being while in custody; see that any charges or convictions related to his peaceful exercise of protected human rights are lifted; and in the interim guarantee that his case is addressed in a manner consistent with internationally recognized standards of due process, fair trial, and detention in accordance with Ethiopia's obligations under international law.

Please send appeals to:

Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn Ministry of Foreign Affairs

PO Box 393 Addis Ababa

Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Email: mfa.addis@telecom.net.et

Mr. Getachew Ambaye Ministry of Justice

PO Box 1370 Addis Ababa Ethiopia

Fax: +251 11 5517775 / 5520874

Email: ministry-justice@telecom.net.et

Federica Mogherini

High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security

Policy

European Commission Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200

1049 Brussels Belgium

Thorbjørn Jagland

Secretary General of the Council of

Europe

Council of Europe Avenue de l'Europe F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex

France

Fax: +33 3 88 41 27 99

Philippe Boillat Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law Council of Europe

Avenue de l'Europe F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex France Fax: +33 3 88 41 27 99

NEW AND CONTINUING CASES

BAHRAIN

Scholars and Researchers: ABDUL-JALIL AL-SINGACE, head of the department of engineering at the University of Bahrain, 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, a polio victim who can only stand on one leg, 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 on his blog (in Arabic), Al-Faseela (The Date Sapling).

Students who remain in prison include AHMED AL ARAB, a nursing student, arrested in January 2014 and sentenced to life imprisonment. Al Arab has previously reported that he was subject to severe torture and illtreatment while held in detention. He said he was stripped naked and hung from his wrists while they were handcuffed behind his back.

AHMED AOUN was arrested in May 2015 on charges of "involvement in prodemocracy 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.

Endangered Scholars Worldwide is strongly concerned about the continued ill treatment of these students, 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-Manama

Al-Khalifa Kingdom of Bahrain
Office of His Majesty the King Fax: +973 175 13 333

The Amiri Court
PO Box 555 Jameel Bin Mohammed Ali Hamaidan

Rifa'a Palace Minister of Human Rights and Social Al-Manama Development

Kingdom of Bahrain Ministry of Human Rights and

Fax: +973 176 64 587 Development

Website: http://www.mofa.gov.bh/ Manama Kingdom of Bahrain

Sheikh Khalid bin Ali Al-Khalifa Tel: +973 176 82 422

Minister of Justice and Islamic Affairs Email: minister.office@mlsd.gov.bh
Diplomatic Area Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/

PO Box # 450 fatima.albalooshi.3

CHINA

Scholars and Researchers: On December 10, 2016, World Human Rights Day, a group of internationally renowned writers sent a letter to China's president, Xi Jinping, urging the Chinese authorities to release jailed and detained writers, journalists, bloggers, and activists. They called for the release of ILHAM TOHTI, an economics professor and distinguished scholar of China's Uyghur Muslim minority, who was sentenced to life in prison in September 2014 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.

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 to 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," and 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, ATIKEN ROZI and AKBAR IMIN.

Please send appeals to:

His Excellency Xi Jinping Zhou Qiang

President of the People's Republic of Chief Justice, Supreme People's Court

China No. 27 Dong Jiao Min Xiang

Zhong Naihai Beijing 100745

Beijing 100032 People's Republic of China

People's Republic of China Fax: +86 10 6529 2345 (c/o Ministry of

Communication)

Website: www.court.gov.cn

Calls for letters on behalf of ILHAM TOHTI: http://goo.gl/RIScCG

EGYPT

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 been granted asylum abroad but choses 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

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: On February 7, 2017, AHMADREZA DJALALI, 45, arrested in April 2016 on charges of espionage, was reportedly sentenced to death. According to the Belgian newspaper *De Morgen*, Djalali has been forced to sign a confession, for which he will receive the death penalty. The Iranian government is calling it a matter of national security. Djalali, who has taught at the European Master in Disaster Medicine (EMDM) in Italy—a joint master's at the Università degli Studi del Piemonte Orientale and the Vrije Universiteit Brussel—was arrested in Iran while he was visiting his family. He spent more than seven months in solitary confinement without a proper trial or access to a lawyer.

Endangered Scholars Worldwide considers this arbitrary detention 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 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 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.

Also remaining in prison are 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, and MOSTAFA ALAVI, an Iranian doctor and researcher sentenced to fifteen years' imprisonment in August 2008 on charges of "plotting against the regime."

Students who remain in prison include YASHAR DAROLSHAFA, 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"; and VAHID RANJBAR, arrested in August 2014.

Other students still in prison include ZIA NABAVI, serving a tenyear sentence after attending protests following the 2009 elections and currently is in critical condition; and HAMID BABAEI, a PhD student at the University of Liège 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. Babaei has also been suffering from severe gum disease and other dental problems in prison, but the authorities have ignored his need for proper medical treatment.

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

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

Islamic Republic of Iran Fax: +98 21 66743149 Website: http://www.mf

Tehran

Website: http://www.mfa.gov.ir Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/

The Minister's Office

Imam Khomeini Square

jzarif

Javad Zarif, Minister of Foreign Affairs Ministry of Foreign Affairs

LAOS

Student protestors thongpaseuth keuakoun, seng-aloun phengphanh, and bouavanh chanhmanivong were imprisoned in 1999 following their arrest on charges of treason for displaying posters calling for economic, political, and social change during demonstrations. Even after eighteen years, it is not known in which prison the three students are being held or if they are still alive.

Please send appeals to:

President Choummaly Sayasone Vientiane
Office of the President Laos

PAKISTAN

Student: On April 13, MASHAL KHAN, 23, a student at Abdul Wali Khan University in Mardan, a town in northwest Pakistan, was pulled from his dormitory room by a crowd of fellow students. The violence that followed, recorded on a mobile phone, was uncommonly brutal. The video shows the mob involved in the lynching shouting religious slogans and congratulating each other over the vicious episode. The attackers shot Mr. Khan twice, dragged his corpse through hallways, beat it with planks, and stripped him naked. Earlier in the day, a fellow journalism student had accused Mr. Khan of blasphemy. That allegation appears to have triggered the attack.

The penalty for blasphemy under Pakistani law is death. However, it is increasingly common that vigilantes take the law into their own hands before courts get involved. As of April 2017, at least 65 people have been murdered by mobs for allegedly insulting Islam in Pakistan. Khan's murder was the first blasphemy killing at a university, and the

participation of so many students in Khan's murder is a sign of growing religious intolerance on campuses. Pakistan's Islamist parties have been fanning the flames of it: alarmingly, it took two days for the Prime Minister, Nawaz Sharif, to condemn Khan's murder.

Endangered Scholars Worldwide condemns the brutal killing of Mashal Khan at the hands of an enraged mob on unfounded allegations of blasphemy in the strongest possible terms and stands in solidarity with the family of the victim. We firmly believe that the condoning of such attacks on university grounds, and indeed the condoning of such allegations, has a chilling effect on the freedom of speech and academic freedom that all educational institutions should uphold. We urge administrators at Abdul Wali Khan University and the Pakistani government in the strongest terms to stand against vigilante justice and protect all students' right to academic freedom and freedom of expression.

Please send appeals to:

Raja Ali Ejaz Phone: +1 212 879 5800 Consulate General of Pakistan Fax: +1 212 517 6987

12 East 65th Street Email: info@pakistanconsulateny.org

New York NY 10065

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. 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-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

Prince Turki bin Khaled Al-Sudairy President Human Rights Commission PO Box 58889, Bldg. 373 King Fahad Road Riyadh 11515

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Fax: +966 1 4612061

REPUBLIC OF SUDAN

On May 11, 2017, MUDAWI IBRAHIM, a professor of engineering at the University of Khartoum, who was arrested by the National Intelligence and Security Agency and accused of espionage, working within a network, and criminal organization against the state and in favor of foreign embassies in Khartoum on December 7, 2016, was charged with undermining the constitutional system and waging war against the state. Both charges potentially carry the death penalty. Mudawi Ibrahim is an internationally recognized human rights defender who was the winner of the inaugural 2005 Front Line Defenders Award for human rights defenders, and the founder and chairman of the Sudan Social Development Organization.

Endangered Scholars Worldwide is gravely concerned about the detention of Mudawi Ibrahim, and calls for letters, emails, and faxes respectfully urging authorities in Sudan to ensure Ibrahim's well-being while in custody, to ensure that any charges or convictions related to Ibrahim's peaceful exercise of protected human rights are lifted, and that in the interim, his case be addressed in a manner consistent with internationally recognized standards of due process, fair trial and detention, in accordance with Sudan's obligations under international law.

Scholars and Researchers: SIDIG NOREEN ALI ABDALLA, who has taught at West Kordofan, has been in prison since January 14, 2014. 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 Sudan

Al-Bashir Fax: +249 183 78 07 96/ +249 183 770883

President of the Republic of Sudan

President's Palace His Excellency Ambassador Daffa-Alla

PO Box 281 Elhag Ali Osman

Khartoum Permanent Representative to the United

Sudan

Fax: +249 183 783 223 Permanent Mission of the Republic of

Sudan to the United Nations in Geneva

His Excellency Mohamed Boshara Dosa Avenue Blanc 47 Minister of Justice and Attorney General 1202 Geneva

Ministry of Justice Switzerland

PO Box 302 Fax: +41 22 731 26 56

Al Nil Avenue Email: mission.sudan@bluewin.ch /

Khartoum mission.sudan@ties.itu.int

TURKEY

Endangered Scholars Worldwide is deeply concerned about the harsh measures the Turkish government has taken against universities and other institutions of higher education, and its systematic targeting of the country's scholars and professors. In the year since the coup attempt on July 15, 2016, 1,577 university deans and four university presidents have been effectively dismissed; 193 universities have been shut down; and 7,318 academics across the country have lost their jobs.

Forty-one of the dismissed scholars were members of the Academics for Peace initiative, a group of scholars whose open letter, on January 10, 2016, called on the Turkish government to end its violence in the Kurdish provinces. The letter prompted President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to accused its organizers and signatories of treason, an accusation that precipitated disciplinary investigations, suspensions, dismissals, and imprisonments. More than 30 people have committed suicide in the wake of these reprisals.

In response to the ongoing repression of the academic community, a network of "Solidarity Academies" has formed around Turkey and in a growing number of other countries. The primary aims of the Academies are to provide a safe space for purged academics to gather and organize lectures and courses open to the public; and to serve as an alternate form and venue for the production and dissemination of knowledge. The Academies are seeking support in a number of ways, ranging from financial donations to institutional support of individual students and scholars. For more information about how you can help support the Solidarity Academies, please visit http://www.endangeredscholarsworldwide.net/solidarity-academies/.

Given the magnitude of the crisis in Turkey and the sheer numbers of scholars and researchers who have lost their positions and been imprisoned, Endangered Scholars Worldwide is obliged to call attention to the urgency of the situation and provide a clearer picture of the magnitude of the ongoing repression. We express our solidarity with the thousands of Turkish academics who have lost their jobs as a result of their peaceful activities and the exercise of their freedom of speech, and urge the Turkish government in the strongest possible terms to cease its baseless attacks on its scholars and researchers.

For full coverage of the attack 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
06560 Cumhurbaskanlıgı Kulliyesi

Bestepe, Ankara Turkey

Fax: +90 (312) 525 58 31

His Excellency Bekir Bozdag

Minister of Justice 06669 Kizilay Ankara

Turkey

Fax: +90 312 419 3370

VIETNAM

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.

After receiving the letter, Hoang called the decision "invalid," saying it violates the law on Vietnamese nationality, and pledged to fight for his right to live in his homeland. He has formally begun the process of renouncing his French citizenship in a bid to block the revocation. Hoang is a professor in applied mathematics at the Ho Chi Minh City Institute of Technology. He was previously arrested in Vietnam for his political writing and activism. In August 2010, Hoang was sentenced to three years in jail and three years of probation under Article 79, "subversion of administration"—one of many penal codes defined vaguely and used to detain and arrest political activists in Vietnam.

Endangered Scholars Worldwide is gravely concerned about the loss of citizenship of the French-Vietnamese professor Pham Minh Hoang. We call for letters, emails, and faxes respectfully urging authorities in Vietnam to reconsider this decision, respect their responsibility to protect academic freedom and freedom of expression, and to refrain from imposing arbitrary restrictions on movement intended to limit or retaliate for the exercise of these freedoms.

Students who remain in prison are DINH NGUYEN KHA, sentenced to eight years in prison, 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.

Please send appeals to:

His Excellency Trần Đại Quang c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs

President of the Socialist Republic of Hanoi
Vietnam Vietnam

RELEASES

CHINA

Chinese Nobel peace laureate and *Social Research* author, Liu Xiaobo, who has been held in Jinzhou Prison since his arrest in December 2008 for "inciting subversion of state power," has been released on medical parole after he was diagnosed with terminal liver cancer. Liu, 61, a key leader in the Tiananmen Square protests in 1989, was arrested in 2008 after penning a prodemocracy manifesto called Charter 08, where he called for an end to one-party rule and improvements in human rights. Following a year in detention and a two-hour trial, he was sentenced to 11 years in prison for inciting subversion of state power.

Little has been heard from him since. When he was awarded the Nobel peace prize in 2010, he was represented by an empty chair. The Nobel committee described him as "the foremost symbol" of the human rights struggle in China. The Chinese government, which has regarded him as a criminal repeatedly, was infuriated by the award. His wife, Liu Xia, has been under house arrest since Liu Xiaobo was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2010.

Chinese authorities have never explained why they have restricted his wife's movements. Family friend and lawyer Pu Zhiqiang has stated that the intimidation of Liu Xiaobo's family members represents a wider pattern of selective use of the law by Chinese authorities to keep dissidents in line.

Endangered Scholars Worldwide calls upon the Chinese government to embrace the universal values that are championed by the Nobel Peace Prize and to begin political reform in China.

Editor's note: On July 13, 2017, as this report was being typeset, we learned that Liu Xiaobo had died of liver cancer at age 61. ESW holds the Chinese government responsible for his death. It imprisoned him unjustly and withheld proper medical treatment until his cancer was too advanced to treat, only then releasing him on medical parole. We join with many others around the world who mourn his death

and continue to work for the universal upholding of the values and freedoms he lived for. Liu Xiaobo's life and death should serve as a poignant reminder that freedom has a price.

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.academicrefugees.org/

Endangered Scholars Worldwide http://www.endangered scholarsworldwide.net/

English PEN http://www.englishpen.org/writersinprison/

Human Rights in China http://www.hrichina.org/

Human Rights Watch http://www.hrw.org/

Hurryet 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