



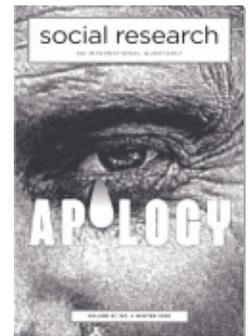
PROJECT MUSE®

Endangered Scholars Worldwide

Ebby Abramson, Dolunay Bulut

Social Research: An International Quarterly, Volume 87, Number 4, Winter 2020, pp. v-xix (Article)

Published by Johns Hopkins University Press



➔ For additional information about this article

<https://muse.jhu.edu/article/787889>

Endangered Scholars Worldwide

The information in this quarterly print report is current as of February 19, 2021. The situation of scholars and students around the world changes on a daily basis. For the most current 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.



NEW AND CONTINUING CASES

BAHRAIN

For the most current information, please visit www.endangeredscholarsworldwide.net/Bahrain or scan the QR code.



Continuing cases: Though Bahrain released 1,486 prisoners on March 17, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, imprisoned scholars and students—many of whom are older and suffer from underlying medical conditions—were excluded from the decrees, including ABDUL-JALIL AL-SINGACE, 57, former head of the Department of Engineering at the University of Bahrain, who has been subjected to torture and various other forms of mistreatment, and repeatedly denied medical attention despite his long-term poliomyelitis, which has left him paralyzed since childhood.

Students JAWAD AL-MAHARY, SHAWQI RADHI, JASSIM AL-HULAINI, JASSIM AL-MUKHODHER, and YOUSIF AHMED remain in prison for their involvement in pro-democracy demonstrations, as does AHMED AUON, who has also been denied medical treatment following loss of his right eye when he was struck by a metal pellet fired from a police shotgun following the demonstration.

Please send appeals to the following:

Sheikh Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa
Office of the King
The Amiri Court
PO Box 555
Rifa'a Palace
Al-Manama
Kingdom of Bahrain
Fax: +973 176 64 587

Website: <http://www.mofa.gov.bh/>
Sheikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al-Khalifa
Deputy Prime Minister
Diplomatic Area
PO Box # 450
Al-Manama
Kingdom of Bahrain
Fax: +973 175 13 333

BRAZIL

For the most current information, please visit www.endangeredscholarsworldwide.net/brazil or scan the QR code.



Continuing case: Endangered Scholars Worldwide stands in solidarity with the students and faculty of Brazilian universities, and joins academic, intellectual, and political leaders in Brazil and elsewhere to decry the Brazilian administration's continuing attacks under the leadership of President Jair Bolsonaro and in the name of his aggressive, anti-progressive, and fascistic agenda. We call upon all European governments, the United States Department of State, international organizations, university presidents, academic and professional associations, student groups, and individuals devoted to the promotion and defense of human rights to protest and condemn these attacks on the pillars of Brazil's democracy and education system. Please see our website for current information about the independence of higher education institutions.

Please send appeals to the following:

Koumbou Boly-Barry
United Nations Special Rapporteur on the
Right to Education
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
Email: sreducation@ohchr.org

Irene Khan
United Nations Special Rapporteur on the
promotion and protection of the right to
freedom of opinion and expression
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Fax: +41 22 917 9006
Email: freedex@ohchr.org

CHINA

*For the most current information, please visit
www.endangeredscholarsworldwide.net/China or scan the
QR code.*



New information: On February 8, 2021, Lawyers at Essex Court Chambers in London published a legal opinion piece suggesting that available evidence of Chinese state actions establishes a “credible case” that authorities have committed crimes against humanity and the crime of genocide against Uyghurs in northwest China’s Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR). Since 2017, authorities in the XUAR have detained around 1.8 million Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities in a vast network of internment camps as part of a “de-extremification” scheme. The opinion also finds that “the crime of genocide is occurring, as there is evidence of an intent to destroy the Uyghur population as such, including through a pattern of Chinese State-mandated conduct.”

Continuing cases: TASHPOLAT TIYIP, 63, renowned scholar of geography, and former president of Xinjiang University (XJU), is one of more than 400 intellectuals reportedly interned, imprisoned, or forcibly disappeared, including “an alarming 77 university professors” and more than 100 students. As of this report, his whereabouts remain unknown and the risk of execution cannot be ruled out. Other detained or disappeared academics include RAHILE DAWUT, a leading expert on Uyghur folklore

and traditions at Xinjiang University; Kashgar University's president, ERKIN OMER; its vice president, MUHTER ABDUGHOPUR; and professors QURBAN OSMAN and GULNAR OBUL; HALMURAT GHOPUR, the president of the Xinjiang Food and Drug Administration's Department of Inspection and Supervision and former president of the Xinjiang Medical University Hospital; ABDULQADIR JALALEDDIN, a professor, philosopher, and poet at Xinjiang Normal University; and ILHAM TOHTI, recipient in absentia of the 2019 Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought. Students who remain in prison on charges of "separatism" and their connection to Ilham Tohti are PERHAT HALMURAT, SHOHRET NIJAT, LUO YUWEI, MUTELLIP IMIN, ABDUQEYUM ABLIMIT, ATIKEN ROZI, and AKBAR IMIN.

Please send appeals to the following:

Xi Jinping
President of the People's Republic of
China
Zhong Naihui
Beijing 100032
People's Republic of China

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

HONG KONG

*For the most current information, please visit
www.endangeredscholarsworldwide.net/HongKong or scan the
QR code.*



Continuing case: Like all other dictatorships, China regards freedom of thought and political openness as dangerous. After the 1989 Tiananmen Square Massacre, the Chinese government stepped up its control over students through "patriotic" education campaigns. It also imposed more restrictions on scholars. Hong Kong's universities, long beacons of academic freedom, are under threat and risk losing their autonomy and internationally respected status. Despite this, academics working in universities, think tanks, and NGOs have, over the years, continued to expose and criticize systemic injustices.

ESW calls on the Chinese government to the uphold the legally binding Joint Declaration in which Beijing solemnly vows that freedom “of speech, of the press, of assembly, of association, of travel, of movement, of correspondence, of strike, of choice of occupation, of academic research, and of religious belief” would “remain unchanged for 50 years.” We believe that universities and academics around the world must take a firm stand when academic freedom is threatened abroad because, ultimately, the global challenge of defending our rights requires collective and institutionalized action.

Please send appeals to the following:

Secretary for Justice Teresa Cheng
Department of Justice
Secretary for Justice’s Office
5th floor, Main Wing, Justice Place,
18 Lower Albert Road, Central,
Hong Kong
Fax: +852 39184119
Email: sjo@doj.gov.hk

Chief Executive Carrie Lam
Hong Kong Special Administrative
Region Office of the Chief Executive
Tamar
Hong Kong
Fax: +852 25090580
Email: ceo@ceo.gov.hk

EGYPT

For the most current information, please visit www.endangeredscholarsworldwide.net/egypt or scan the QR code.



New information: On February 18, 2021, Endangered Scholars Worldwide learned that an Egyptian anthropology student at the Central European University in Vienna has been arbitrarily detained in Egypt while conducting research in early February 2021, according to a statement released by his family. AHMED SAMER, 29, left Austria in December 2020 to visit his family in Cairo. Samer was briefly detained upon return at the airport and has since faced harassment due to the nature of his research on reproductive rights in Egypt. As of this report Samer has been held without any access to lawyers or his family and charged with “spreading fake news and membership to a terrorist organization.” His detention is the latest in a series of arrests of researchers and students in Egypt on arbitrary charges.



Similarly, in January 2021, an Egyptian court extended the detention of the University of Bologna student PATRICK GEORGE ZAKI. Zaki, who is accused of calling for protests against the government and for the “spread of fake news,” has been in custody since February 7, 2020, and has been allegedly tortured and mistreated by Egyptian authorities. His arrest has alarmed many in Italy. There are fears that this may be a repeat of the case of the murdered Italian doctoral student Giulio Regeni, whose body was found with extensive signs of torture on a roadside on the outskirts of Cairo in 2016.

Rights activists say Egypt’s President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi has overseen an unprecedented crackdown on freedom—including banning all unauthorized demonstrations—since first taking power in 2013 and then winning the election in 2014. Recent laws in Egypt have expanded the definition of “terrorism” to include all political dissent, granting prosecutors broad power to keep people detained for months and even years without ever filing charges or presenting evidence.

Continuing cases: Endangered Scholars Worldwide remains deeply concerned about the arbitrary arrest and sentencing of five Cairo University academics in the aftermath of the September 2019 protests against the Egyptian government. See our website for current information about this and about the Egyptian administration’s continuing attacks, under the leadership of President Abdel Fattah el Sisi, on the independence of higher education institutions.

Please send appeals to the following:

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

Ambassador Mohamed Fathi Ahmed
Edrees
Egyptian Permanent Representative to the
United Nations
United Nations
800 Second Avenue
New York, NY 10017
USA

IRAN

For the most current information, please visit www.endangeredscholarsworldwide.net/Iran or scan the QR code.



New information: On February 12, 2021, Endangered Scholars Worldwide learned that a court in Tehran has sentenced REZA ESLAMI, a dual Iranian-Canadian citizen, and a law professor, to seven years in prison on charges of “cooperating with an enemy state” and undermining “the national security.” According to the BBC, Eslami was also banned from teaching or leaving the country. Eslami, who is a graduate of Canada’s McGill University, was arrested in May 2020 and charged with “cooperating with an enemy state through his participation in a law training course in the Czech Republic.” In a recorded audio message released from prison, Eslami dismissed the charges as “bogus,” stating that his academic work has always been free of “political, security and foreign-relations issues.” Eslami joins a string of dual nationals sentenced to lengthy prison terms in Iran, most sharing citizenship with Western countries, and many arrested on arbitrary espionage charges.

On December 2, 2020, ESW learned that AHMADREZA DJALALI, an Iranian-Swedish specialist in emergency medicine, facing execution in Iran for espionage, has been granted a reprieve, according to his family and his lawyer. Djalali 49, a professor, physician, and researcher affiliated with the Karolinska Institute near Stockholm, who focused on crisis management, was arrested in April 2016 on charges of “collaboration with a hostile government” while visiting his family in Tehran. Djalali was later accused of providing information to Israel to aid in the assassination of several senior nuclear scientists and, following a closed trial, was sentenced to death on October 20, 2017.

An escape and a release: British-Iranian anthropologist KAMEEL AHMADY, who was sentenced to nine years and three months in jail in Iran for “cooperating with a hostile state power” and undermining “the

national security,” has smuggled himself out of Iran, escaping over the country’s treacherous mountainous northern border. Ahmady told the *Guardian* that he walked to Turkey across remote mountains via dangerous routes used by smugglers, through five-foot-deep snow and fog while ducking Iranian border patrols.

On November 25, 2020, footage released by state broadcaster IRIB showed that KYLIE MOORE-GILBERT, who had been imprisoned for more than two years, was released. Moore-Gilbert’s release comes less than two months after French-Iranian academic FARIBA ADELKHAH, imprisoned in Iran since June 2019 on charges of conspiring against national security, was temporarily released from prison. Endangered Scholars Worldwide welcomes the news of Moore-Gilbert’s release with great relief.

Please send appeals to the following:

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>

President Hassan Rouhani
The Office of the President
Palestine Avenue, Azerbaijan Intersection

Tehran
Islamic Republic of Iran

Javad Zarif
Minister of Foreign Affairs
The Minister’s Office
Imam Khomeini Square
Tehran
Islamic Republic of Iran
Fax: +98 21 66743149

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

PAKISTAN

For the most current information, please

www.endangeredscholarsworldwide.net/pakistan or scan the QR code with your phone.



Continuing cases: Academic freedom has always been under threat in Pakistan. Endangered Scholars Worldwide is deeply alarmed by the recurring wave of vicious campaigns against academics in Pakistan,

particularly the blasphemy-related violence against lecturers, professors, researchers, and students, which is fostered in part by government persecution and discriminatory laws. It is increasingly common that vigilantes take blasphemy law into their own hands before the courts get involved, and authorities have failed to establish adequate protection for universities. Since 1990, at least 65 people have been murdered by angry mobs or assassinated on allegations of insulting Islam, including at least ten academics.

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

SAUDI ARABIA

For the most current information, please visit www.endangered scholarsworldwide.net/saudi arabia or scan the QR code.



Continuing Cases: In January 2020, Endangered Scholars Worldwide learned that the authorities in Saudi Arabia arrested about a dozen intellectuals and activists, and have increased their tactics of “intimidation” and “torture” against other detainees, as reported by the Saudi Human Rights group ALQST. According to the London-based organization, on November 16, 2020, the writers BADER AL RASHED, SULAIMAN AL SAIJAN AL NASER, UAAD AL MUHAYA, and MUSAB FUAD were arrested in the capital. According to the same report, the health of FAHAD AL-QAHTANI, a prominent Saudi economist who has been in jail since 2011, is deteriorating due to conditions in the Al-Ha’ir criminal prison in Riyadh.

Endangered Scholars Worldwide joins ALQST and other like-minded human rights organizations to call on the Saudi government to end the imprisonment and mistreatment of Al-Qahtani and other human rights defenders on account of their peaceful work, including ALI ABDULLAH AL-HAJI, a professor at King Saud University in Riyadh, who

was arrested along with 31 others in March 2016 on charges of spying for Iran. Others accused include a student at Imam Muhammad Bin Saud Islamic University and an academician who held the job of “development researcher” at the Ministry of Education for more than 25 years. Endangered Scholars Worldwide has still been unable to obtain the names of the latter two defendants.

Scholars and researchers who remain in prison include SA’UD MUKHTAR AL-HASHIMI, a faculty member at the King Abdulaziz University, who was sentenced in November 2011 to 30 years in prison, and ABDUL KAREEM YOUSEF AL-KHODER, a professor of comparative jurisprudence at Qassim University who was convicted on charges of inciting to breach public order, create chaos, and prejudice security and public peace; insulting the judiciary; describing the regime as a police state; and participating in unauthorized associations.

Please send appeals to the following:

Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud
Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs
Nasseriya Street
Riyadh 11124
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Fax: +966 1 403 0645

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

TURKEY

For the most current information, please visit www.endangeredscholarsworldwide.net/Turkey or scan the QR code.



New information: On January 1, 2021, the AKP government launched a new attack against academic freedom, targeting one of the most prestigious universities of the country. With a midnight executive decree, Turkey’s President Erdogan appointed Professor Melih Bulu the new rector of Bogazici University, the first rector since the notorious 1980

military coup d'état, to be chosen from outside the university community. The decision was met with outrage from faculty members and the student body, who interpreted Bulu's appointment as an assault on academic freedom and institutional autonomy. Faculty members gather daily in silent protest outside Bulu's office.

The faculty and students of several prominent universities in Ankara, Izmir, and Istanbul are protesting in support of the Bogazici community's struggle for academic freedom and institutional autonomy. Throughout the first month of protests, the police used excessive force against peaceful protestors, taking hundreds of students into custody or putting them under house arrest. The students have also been stigmatized by the state-controlled media on grounds of their sexual orientations and political affiliations, and have been labeled as terrorists by high-ranking state officials, cabinet members, and President Erdogan himself.

The AKP government's response to the demands and concerns of the faculty and students has been to announce another midnight presidential decree opening new faculties in several universities, including faculties of law and communication at Bogazici University effective February 6, 2021, according to the *Official Gazette*, the Turkish state's official press organ through which new legislation and presidential decrees are publicized. The decision, which signals another wave of politically motivated academic appointments, will bring AKP loyalists into the Bogazici ranks, most certainly breaking down resistance from within and shifting faculty demographics to favor the government and the president it appointed without faculty input.

New and continuing cases: As this issue goes to press, more than 6,000 academics, including those who have been acquitted of terrorism charges, have lost their jobs and passports to prevent them from leaving the country and seeking jobs abroad. Although the Constitutional Court's decision implied the removal of restrictions including the travel ban and the reinstatement of their freedom of movement, COVID19-

related contingencies have noticeably slowed the daily conduct of bureaucracy, and as a result, most academics are still waiting for the return of their passports. Among them is TUNA ALTINEL, professor of mathematics at Lyon-1 University in France, whose trial resulted with acquittal of all charges in January 2020. Nevertheless, as of September 2020, his passport has not been reauthorized and he is forcibly stranded in Turkey.

On Friday, September 25, 2020, Professor EMINE BEYZA USTUN, civil engineer and the 25th parliamentary term HDP (Democratic People's Party) deputy at the Turkish Grand National Assembly, and CIHAN ERDAL, sociology doctoral candidate at Carleton University and former People's Democratic Party (HDP) executive committee member, were detained in Istanbul, Turkey. Their detention was part of a simultaneous operation in seven provinces targeting people connected to HDP. On October 1, after their deposition hearings in Ankara, Ustun and Erdal were arrested. According to their lawyers, the prosecutor's decision and its timing are politically motivated, the rule of law has been instrumentalized to silence democratic opposition.

Please send appeals to the following:

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan
The Office of the President
Cumhurbaşkanlığı Kİlliyesi
06560 Beştepe, Ankara
Turkey
Fax: +90 312 525 58 31

Abdülhamit Gül
Minister of Justice
06669 Kızılay, Ankara
Turkey
Fax: +90 312 419 3370
Email: info@adalet.gov.tr

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

For the most current information, please visit www.endangeredscholarsworldwide.net/UAE or scan the QR code.



Continuing cases: On February 10, 2021, a United Nations expert published a report suggesting that the Emirati professor and economist NASSER BIN GHAITH and two other human rights defenders imprisoned

in the United Arab Emirates are being mistreated in conditions that may amount to torture and called for their release. Ghaith's health is reportedly severely deteriorating, and he is now unable to walk without assistance. The economist, who taught at the Abu Dhabi branch of Paris-Sorbonne University, is serving a 10-year sentence handed down in March 2017 for tweets critical of UAE authorities. During his trial, the Emirati authorities restricted his access to his lawyer, and he was unable to prepare a proper defense. Bin Ghaith is being held at the Al-Razeen maximum security prison in Abu Dhabi, which is home to a number of Emirati dissidents and where he claims to have experienced torture at the hands of officials.

Please send appeals to the following:

Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al
Maktoum
Prime Minister's Office
PO Box: 212000
Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Fax: +971 4 330 404
info@primeminister.ae

PO Box: 398
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
Fax: +971 2 402 2762 / +971 2 441 5780
moi@moi.gov.ae

Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan
Minister of Interior
Zayed Sport City, Arab Gulf Street, Near to
Shaikh Zayed Mosque

Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Al Bateen, King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz Al
Saud Street
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
Fax +971 02 444 7766
info@mofa.gov.ae

VIETNAM

*For the most current information, please visit
www.endangeredscholarsworldwide.net/vietnam or scan the
QR code.*



Release: According to the 88 Project, Vietnamese University lecturer PHAM XUAN HAO, 54, who had been sentenced on November 15, 2019, to 12 months in prison for “abusing democratic rights and freedoms to infringe upon state interests,” was released in October 2020. Hao is an internationally renowned scholar and has spent most of his life work-

ing as a lecturer at the Technology Faculty of the University of Can Tho, one of the major universities in southern Vietnam.

SOURCES

88project. <https://the88project.org/>

Al Jazeera English. <http://www.aljazeera.com>

Amnesty International. <http://www.amnesty.org>

ALQST <https://alqst.org/en>

Asia News. <http://asianews.it>

Bahrain Center for Human Rights. <http://www.bahrainrights.org/en>

BBC. <https://BBC.co.uk>

BBC Persian. <https://BBCPersian.com>

The Guardian <https://www.theguardian.com/>

Bianet. <https://bianet.org/>

Birgun. <https://www.birgun.net/>

Committee of Concerned Scientists. <http://concernedscientists.org>

Council for Assisting Refugee Academics.

<http://www.academic-refugees.org>

Endangered Scholars Worldwide.

<http://www.endangeredscholarsworldwide.net>

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

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

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

Hurriyet. <http://www.hurriyet.com.tr>

The International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran.

<http://www.iranhumanrights.org>

Islamic Human Rights Commission. <http://www.ihrc.org>

L'Humanité. <https://www.humanite.fr/>

Official Gazette.

<https://www.uspto.gov/learning-and-resources/official-gazette>

The New York Times. <http://www.nytimes.com>

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

Scholars at Risk. <http://scholarsatrisk.nyu.edu>

Southern Mongolian Human Rights Information Center.

<http://www.smhric.org>

UN Watch. <http://blog.unwatch.org>

—Written by *Ebby Abramson and Dolunay Bulut*