



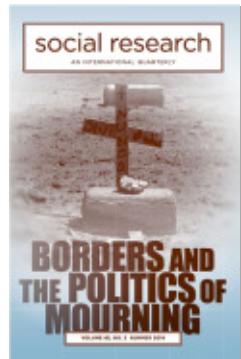
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Endangered Scholars Worldwide

Ebby Abramson

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Endangered Scholars Worldwide

The information in this report is current, to the best of our knowledge, as of July 23, 2016. Because the situation of scholars and students around the world changes on a daily basis, our quarterly print report is necessarily brief and inevitably out of date. In these pages we introduce new cases that have come to our attention in the past three months and provide basic information about continuing cases—a description of charges and potential or actual reported sentences. For current information, please visit us at www.endangeredscholarsworldwide.net or follow us at www.facebook.com/endangeredscholars. These websites, which are continually expanded and updated, include more details about each case and suggestions of ways in which readers can be involved in calling for the freedom of endangered scholars and students.

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

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

Students who remain in prison are AHMED AL ARAB, a nursing student, arrested in January 2014 and sentenced to life imprisonment; and AHMED AOUN, arrested in May 2015 on charges of “involvement in pro-democracy demonstrations.” In addition, five students were sentenced to 15 years in prison at a trial on March 5, 2012, following involvement in prodemocracy demonstrations, including JAWAD AL-MAHARY, SHAWQI RADHI, JASSIM AL HULAINI, JASSIM AL-MUKHODHER, and YOUSIF AHMED. As of this report their whereabouts remain unknown.

Please send appeals to:

His Majesty Sheikh Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa	Kingdom of Bahrain Fax: +973 175 13 333
Office of His Majesty the King	Dr. Fatima Al-Balooshi
The Amiri Court	Minister of Human Rights and Social Development, Acting Minister of Health
P.O. Box 555	Ministry of Human Rights and Development
Rifa'a Palace	Manama
Al-Manama	Kingdom of Bahrain
Kingdom of Bahrain	Tel: +973 176 82 422
Fax: +973 176 64 587	Email: fatima.albaloooshi@social.gov.bh / dr.albaloooshi@gmail.com
Website: http://www.mofa.gov.bh/	Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/fatima.albaloooshi.3
Sheikh Khalid bin Ali Al-Khalifa	
Minister of Justice and Islamic Affairs	
Diplomatic Area	
P.O Box # 450	
Al-Manama	

BANGLADESH

Student: TAHMID HASIB KHAN, a 22-year-old University of Toronto student and permanent resident of Canada, has been in custody, without clear charges, in Dhaka since the July first terrorist attack in Dhaka. KHAN, an undergraduate student studying global health at the University of Toronto, had travelled to Dhaka to visit family, with plans to continue on to Nepal, where he was to begin an internship. According to the New York Times, KHAN was held largely incommunicado by law enforcement in Bangladesh’s capital city of Dhaka for a week, suspected by the police of being involved in the attack, in which gunmen carrying explosives

stormed a Dhaka restaurant and the Islamic State took credit. He was meeting friends at an upscale restaurant in Dhaka's diplomatic zone when he got caught up in the 10-hour hostage crisis. A group of young Bangladeshi men held about 35 hostages over night, killing 20 of them, including 17 foreigners from Japan, Italy and India. Two police officers were also killed in the siege. KHAN was detained after the attack ended, and his family fears authorities may suspect him of being linked to the attackers, who have been identified as coming from well-off families.

Please send appeals to:

Ambassador Mohammad Ziauddin	Washington, DC 20008
Embassy of Bangladesh	USA
3510 International Drive NW	Tel: +1 202 244 2745

CHINA

Scholars and Researchers who remain in prison are XU ZHIYONG, sentenced in July 2015 to four years in prison for “gathering a crowd to disturb public order,” and ILHAM TOHTI, an economics professor and distinguished scholar of China’s Uyghur Muslim minority, who received a life sentence in September 2014 for “separatism.” In recent developments, according to Radio Free Asia, the wife of the jailed Uyghur scholar is facing extreme hardship and increasing isolation as she struggles to raise the couple’s young sons in Beijing. Both Endangered Scholars Worldwide and Scholars at Risk are gravely concerned about Tohti’s ongoing unfair treatment.

Also remaining in prison are GUO QUAN, a literature professor at Nanjing Normal University, sentenced to 10 years in prison in October 2009, on charges of “inciting subversion of state power,” and LIU XIAOBO, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate and *Social Research* author, who has been held in Jinzhou Prison since his arrest in December 2008 for “inciting subversion of state power.” QIAO MU, an associate professor of journalism at Beijing Foreign Studies University, has been banned from teaching since the summer of 2014.

Students who remain in prison on charges of “separatism” and their connection to Professor Ilham Tohti, are PERHAT HALMURAT, SHOHRET NIJAT, LUO YUWEI, MUTELLIP IMIN, ABDUQEYUM ABLIMIT, ATIKEN ROZI and AKBAR IMIN.

Endangered Scholars Worldwide deplores the Chinese government’s pervasive and ongoing crackdown on human rights jurists and scholars since July 2015. As of this report, more than 240 lawyers, law professors, and students have been detained. While many have since been released, the most prominent of those who remain in prison include CHEN TAIHE, WANG YU, LI HEPING, XIR YANG, SUI MUQING, ZHOU SHIFENG, WANG QUANZHANG, XIE YANI, HUANG LIQUN, LI CHUNFU, BAO LONGJUN, and PU ZHIQIANG.

Please send appeals to:

His Excellency Xi Jinping
President of the People's Republic of
China
Zhong Naihai 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/R1ScCG>

EGYPT

GIULIO REGENI, 28, an Italian doctoral student at Cambridge University studying Egyptian labor movements in Cairo, disappeared on January 25, 2016. On February 3, 2016, his battered body was found dumped on the side of a highway outside Cairo. As of this report no reason for the murder has been given. The vicious killing of Giulio Regeni in Egypt is a grave reminder that the authorities are failing to protect foreign nationals in the country. Hundreds of Egyptians have been forcibly disappeared and tortured in a “sinister” campaign to wipe out peaceful dissent in the most populous country in the Arab world, Amnesty International says in a new report.

Students who remain in prison are KARIM AL-BANNA, sentenced to three years in prison in January 2015 on charges of contempt of religion and insulting the divine, and SHERIF GABER, a student from Suez Canal University, sentenced to one year in prison in February 2015 for contempt of religion relating to activities on campus and atheist statements online. Mr. Gaber went into hiding upon his release on bail and prior to his sentencing. He has now been granted asylum abroad but chooses to remain in hiding in Egypt.

Please send appeals to:

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

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

IRAN

On July 11, 2016, Canadian-Iranian anthropologist HOMA HOODFAR, 65, an expert in the study of women in Muslim societies, was indicted on unknown charges in Iran. Hoodfar was to leave Iran in March 2016 after a brief trip to visit relatives and conduct academic work, when family members say Iranian authorities seized the professor's passports, along with her research papers and computer. As of this report, Iranian authorities have not released any official charges against Professor Hoodfar. She has also been denied the ability to consult with her lawyer. While Hoodfar holds Canadian, Irish, and Iranian nationalities, Iran does not recognize multiple citizenships.

Endangered Scholars Worldwide is deeply concerned about the arbitrary detention of dual-nationals in the recent months in response to their exercise of the rights to academic freedom, free expression, and free association, conduct that is expressly protected under international human rights instruments including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political

Rights, to which Iran is a party. We respectfully urge the Iranian Authorities to ensure Professor Hoodfar's well-being and her speedy release, and the dismissal of all accusations against her.

Scholars and Researchers who remain in prison are MOHAMMAD HOSSEIN RAFIEE, 71, a retired Tehran University professor of chemistry, sentenced to six years in prison in May 2015 on charges of active membership in the Council of National-Religious Activists, which is illegal; SAEED MADANI, a sociologist, sentenced in June 2013 to six years in prison and ten years in exile; and KAMRAN MORTEZAIE and VAHID MAHMOUDI, connected to the Baha'i Institute for Higher Education, who were arrested following coordinated attacks on the institute in May 2011 and each sentenced to five years in prison. Also still in prison are MOSTAFA ALAVI, an Iranian doctor and researcher sentenced to fifteen years' imprisonment in August 2008 on charges of "plotting against the regime," and ABDOLREZA GHANBARI, a university lecturer in Persian literature, arrested in 2009 and initially sentenced to death. In June 2013 his death sentence was reduced to fifteen years' imprisonment and exile to the south of Iran.

Students who remain in prison are YASHAR 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"; VAHID RANJBAR, arrested in August 2014; and MASOUMEH GHOLIZADEH, a former student activist and student in Turkey, arrested in May 2014, on charges of "advocacy against the regime."

Other students still in prison include HAMID BABAEI, a PhD student at the University of Liege in Belgium, detained in August 2013 shortly after his return to Tehran and sentenced to six years in prison on charges of "communicating with hostile foreign governments and spying."

Babaei has consistently said that he was imprisoned for refusing to operate as an informant in Belgium for Iran's Intelligence Ministry. ZIA NABAVI, serving a ten-year sentence after attending protests following the 2009 elections, is currently in critical condition. BAHAREH HEDAYAT, a distinguished student activist, was sentenced to nine-and-a-half years in prison. She was expected to be released in August 2015 after serving her original sentence in full; however, the week of her expected release she was told that she would spend an additional two years in prison as a result of a suspended sentence from 2006. On June 15, 2016, a United Nations body has called for the immediate release of Bahareh Hedayat and has expressed concern for her health.

Please send appeals to:

His Excellency Ayatollah Ali Khamenei The Office of the Supreme Leader Jomhouri 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	President Hassan Rouhani The office of the President Palestine Avenue, Azerbaijan Intersection Tehran Islamic Republic of Iran Javad Zarif, Minister of Foreign Affairs Ministry of Foreign Affairs The Minister's Office Imam Khomeini Sq. Tehran Islamic Republic of Iran Fax: +98 21 66743149 Website: http://www.mfa.gov.ir Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/jzarif
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LAOS

Student protestors THONGPASEUTH KEUAKOUN, SENG-ALOUN PHENGPHANH, KEOCHAY, and BOUAVANH CHANHMANIVONG remain in prison following their arrest on charges of treason in 1999 for displaying posters calling for economic, political, and social change during demonstrations. Even after seventeen years, it is not known in which prison the three students are being held or if they are still alive.

Please send appeals to:

President Choummaly Sayasone
Office of the President

Vientiane
Laos

SAUDI ARABIA

In March 2016, ALI ABDULLAH AL-HAJI a professor at King Saud University in Riyadh, was arrested along with 31 others on charges of spying for Iran. The accused also include a student at Imam Muhammad Bin Saud Islamic University, as well as an academician who held the job of “development researcher” at the Ministry of Education for more than 25 years. Endangered Scholars Worldwide has not been able to obtain the names of the latter two defendants.

Scholars and Researchers who remain in prison include ABDUL KAREEM YOUSEF AL-KHODR, a professor of comparative jurisprudence at Qassim University, sentenced in June 2013 to eight years’ imprisonment and a ten-year travel ban, and SA’UD MUKHTAR AL-HASHIMI, a faculty member at the King Abdulaziz University, sentenced in November 2011 to thirty years in prison.

Please send appeals to:

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
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SUDAN

SIDIG NOREEN ALI ABDALLA, who has taught at West Kordofan, remains in prison. According to the African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies (ACJPS) report dated March 25, 2015, there are growing safety concerns for the detained scholar, who has been held incommunicado and without charge by Sudan’s National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS).

Please send appeals to:

His Excellency Lt. Omar Hassan Ahmad
Al-Bashir
President of the Republic of Sudan
President's Palace
P.O. Box 281
Khartoum, Sudan
Fax: +249 183 783 223

His Excellency Mohamed Boshara Dosa
Minister of Justice and Attorney General
Ministry of Justice
P.O. Box 302, Al Nil Avenue
Khartoum, Sudan
Fax: +249 183 78 07 96/ +249 183 770883

His Excellency Ambassador Daffa-Alla
Elhag Ali Osman
Permanent Representative to the United
Nations
Permanent Mission of the Republic of
Sudan to the United Nations in Geneva
Avenue Blanc 47
1202 Geneva
Switzerland
Fax: +41 22 731 26 56
Email: mission.sudan@bluewin.ch/
mission.sudan@ties.itu.int

THAILAND

Students who remain in prison are PATIWAT SARAIYAEM, a student at Khon Kaen University's Fine and Applied Arts Faculty, and PORNTHIP MANKONG, on charges of insulting the monarchy for staging a play called *The Wolf Bride* at Thammasat University back in 2013. They were sentenced to two-and-a-half years in prison for "damaging the monarchy." The two were convicted on one count of Thailand's strict *lese majeste* laws in February 2015, which protects the royals from any insults.

Please send appeals to:

Ambassador Thani Thongphakdi
Permanent Mission of Thailand to the
United Nations and Other International
Organizations
United Nations

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

TURKEY

Endangered Scholars Worldwide is deeply concerned about the academic community in Turkey. Since July 15, following the attempted coup, Turkish officials have taken harsh measures against universities and other institutions of higher education. According to the semi-

official Anadolu news agency on July 18, Turkey’s Board of Higher Education requested the resignations of 1,577 university deans at state and private universities nationwide, effectively dismissing them. The government has also dismissed four university presidents at Dicle, Gazi, Yalova, and Yıldız Technical universities. On July 20, the Council of Higher Education (YÖK) announced that “legal action [would] to be taken against academic and administrative staff [engaged in] in parallel state formation.” As a result, by July 26, 15 universities have been shut down; 1,617 university employees, including 743 professors, have been suspended, and 284 lecturers and professors have been detained.

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

Arrested and imprisoned: On July 23, İSTAR GOZAYDIN, chair of the sociology department at Gediz University, was suspended from her position on the basis of her Twitter account. According to the official letter she received, her tweets on July 17 allegedly contained content implying “support for the coup attempt or criticism of those who opposed the coup.” ESRA MUNGAN of Boğaziçi University, KIVANÇ ERSOY of Mimar Sinan University of Fine Arts, and MUZAFFER KAYA formerly of Nişantaşı University have been arrested, and a fourth arrest warrant has been issued for MERAL CAMCI, formerly of İstanbul Yeniüzyıl University, who is reportedly out of the country. Professors Kaya and Camci were both fired from their positions as a result of signing the petition. REŞAT BARIŞ

ÜNLÜ a professor of political science at Ankara University, faces seven years in jail for “terror propaganda” over an exam question in which he asked students to compare two writings by Abdullah Öcalan, the jailed leader of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK).

Fired from their positions, facing prosecution: On June 19, 2016, ZEYNEP SAYIN BALIKÇIOĞLU, a member of the communication faculty at Bilgi University, was fired after “insulting the Turkish president during a lecture” on June 18. HALİL İBRAHİM YENİGÜN, an assistant professor of political science and international relations and the Foreign Relations Committee chairman of the Association of Human Rights and Solidarity for Oppressed Peoples (*Mazlum-Der*), received a 40-day suspension for signing the Academics for Peace petition. He was dismissed from his position at İstanbul Commerce University after the publication of a column by a government mouthpiece targeting him. Associate professor BATTAL ODABAŞI, from İstanbul Aydin University, has been fired for signing a declaration that calls for the restoration of peace and an end to ongoing military operations in the Southeast. ÖRSAN K. ÖYMEN, a philosophy professor at İşık University, faces up to four years in prison for an op-ed he published in the opposition *Aydınlık* newspaper in April 2015. In that piece, Öymen suggested that the Turkish leader should be put on trial on a range of charges, including alleged corruption and the violation of the constitution.

The rights to academic freedom, free expression, and free association, are expressly protected under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to both of which Turkey is a party. We at Endangered Scholars Worldwide urge Turkish officials to honor their obligations to protect the institutional integrity of universities and the academic freedom of scholars and academics. For full coverage of the crisis in higher education in Turkey and to sign our letter of protest, please visit our featured page at <http://tinyurl.com/esw-turkey>.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

THANE M. NABERHAUS, a tenured faculty member in the philosophy department at Mount St. Mary's College in Newburgh, NY, was fired by the university president, Simon Newman, in February 2016. Newman accused Naberhaus of disloyalty for openly questioning the university's retention plan, which sought to improve the college's rankings by culling from the freshman class 25 students deemed unlikely to succeed in the first weeks of school in order.

Please send appeals to:

Karl W. Einolf, Acting President
President's Office
Mount St. Mary's University
16300 Old Emmitsburg Road

Emmitsburg, MD 21727
Website: http://msmary.edu/presidents_office/
Email: president@msmary.edu

VIETNAM

Students who remain in prison are DINH NGUYEN KHA and NGUYEN PHUONG UYEN, sentenced to eight and six years in prison, respectively, on charges of "conducting propaganda against the state" in May 2013. The two were arrested in October 2012 for handing out leaflets critical of the government.

Please send appeals to:

His Excellency Troang Tan Sang
President of the Socialist Republic of
Vietnam
c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Hanoi
Socialist Republic of Vietnam
Salutation: Your Excellency

RELEASES

BAHRAYN

We are happy to report that on April 5, 2016, the Bahraini teachers' union leader MAHDI ABU DHEEB, who was arrested and sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment before an "unfair" military court in 2011, has been released after five years. Abu Dheeb and his colleague Jalila al-Salman were both arrested and charged with inciting hatred and attempting to bring down the regime of Khalifah ibn Sulman al-Khalifah—Bahrain's

only prime minister since the country's independence in the 1970s. During his time in prison, Abu Dheeb went on hunger strike on two occasions to protest against the use of torture against detainees, having himself suffered from broken ribs and kidney damage as a result of regular beatings, according to his daughter.

IRAN

We are happy to report that on May 25, 2016, the imprisoned Iranian laser scientist OMID KOKABEE was released on bail to recuperate. Kokabee, who has been diagnosed with advanced kidney cancer following five years of medical neglect in prison, had surgery to remove his right kidney on April 22. In September 2014, 18 physics Nobel laureates signed an open letter addressed to Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, calling for Kokabee's release. While in prison, Kokabee was awarded the 2013 Andrei Sakharov Prize by the American Physical Society for "his courage in refusing to use his physics knowledge to work on projects that he deemed harmful to humanity." In 2014, the American Association for the Advancement of Science awarded him its 2014 Freedom and Responsibility Award.

We are happy to report that on April 15, 2016, FARAN HESAMI, one of the imprisoned teachers from the Bahai Open University (BIHE), was released from Evin Prison in Tehran following a four-year sentence for educational activities. Faran and her husband, Kamran Rahimiyan, were arrested in September 2011 and charged with membership of the Baha'i community and "assembly and collusion to undermine national security" in connection with their work for the Baha'i Open University, which offered courses to Baha'i students who had been excluded from Iranian tertiary institutions. Both received four-year sentences. In March 2015, Mrs. Hesami was awarded the Raha Südwind Award, which honors individuals who have participated in the promotion and protection of human rights in Iran.

SOURCES

Al Jazeera English <http://www.aljazeera.com/>
Amnesty International <http://www.amnesty.org/>
Bahrain Center for Human Rights <http://www.bahrainrights.org/en>
Committee of Concerned Scientists <http://concernedscientists.org/>
Council for Assisting Refugee Academics <http://www.academic-refugees.org/>
English PEN <http://www.englishpen.org/writersinprison/>
Human Rights in China <http://www.hrichina.org/>
Human Rights Watch <http://www.hrw.org/>
Hurriyet <http://www.hurriyet.com.tr/>
The International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran <http://www.iranhumanrights.org/>
Islamic Human Rights Commission <http://www.ihrc.org/>
The New York Times <http://www.nytimes.com>
Scholars at Risk <http://scholarsatrisk.nyu.edu/>
Southern Mongolian Human Rights Information Center <http://www.smhric.org/>
UN Watch <http://blog.unwatch.org/>

—Written by Ebby Abramson