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Endangered Scholars Worldwide

John Clegg

Social Research: An International Quarterly, Volume 77, Number 2, Summer 2010, pp. v-ix (Article)

Published by Johns Hopkins University Press

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1353/sor.2010.0059>



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IRAN

We deeply regret to announce that **FARZAD KAMANGAR**, the Kurdish teacher we featured in our Winter 2008 issue, was executed along with five other political prisoners on May 9, 2010, in Evin Prison, Tehran. All were accused of membership of the Party of Free Life of Kurdistan, a separatist group that the Iranian government views as “terrorist,” yet the executions are widely perceived to be a means of discouraging protest in the upcoming anniversary of last June’s contested elections.

We are pleased to report that since our last issue, several prisoners who were swept up in the crackdown following the June 2009 elections have been released, including **SAEED LAYLAZ** and **EMAEDDIN BAGHI**. However, hundreds of the arrestees remain in prison, and Iranian courts continue to hand out excessive sentences. Thus, **BAHAREH HEDAYAT** and **MILAD ASADI**, both distinguished student activists, were recently sentenced to prison terms of nine and a half years and seven years, respectively, for crimes such as “propaganda against the regime” and “insulting the Supreme Leader.” The International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran reports that their sentencing took place in closed hearings in which they had no access to their lawyers.

Scholars featured in previous issues who remain in prison in Iran include: **MAJID TAVAKOLI**, a student leader arrested December 2009 and sentenced to eight and half years, whose recent highly publicized hunger strike succeeded in getting him transferred out of solitary confinement; **DR. MOSTAFA ALAVI**, an Iranian doctor and researcher sentenced to fifteen years’ imprisonment in August 2008 for “plotting against the regime”; **DRS. ARASH** and **KAMIAR ALAEI**, two AIDS research-

Information current, to the best of our knowledge, as of June 24, 2010.

ers who were sentenced to three and six years, respectively, in January 2009 for “seeking to overthrow the government”; and **BEHROOZ JAVID-TEHRANI**, a student activist and prisoners’ rights campaigner who is currently being held in solitary confinement. All of these people are at risk of torture and need your support.

Appeals to:

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

Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi
Head of the Judiciary
Howzeh Riyasat-e Qoveh Qazaiyeh /
Office of the Head of the Judiciary
Pasteur St., Vali Asr Ave.,
South of Serah-e Jomhouri
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
E-mail: info@dadgostary-tehran.ir
(In the subject line write:
FAO Ayatollah Shahroudi)
Salutation: Your Excellency

THE FOLLOWING PREVIOUSLY FEATURED SCHOLARS REMAIN IN PRISON:

BURMA (MYANMAR)

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

Appeals to:

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

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

CAMEROON

JUSTICE M. MBUH, a lecturer at the National Polytechnic Bambui in Bamenda Cameroon, was arrested in September 2009 following accusations of “treason.” He remains in prison awaiting sentencing.

Appeals to:

His Excellency Paul Biya
President of the Republic of Cameroon
Yaoundé, Cameroon
Fax: (237) 22 20 33 06
Email: cellcom@prc.cm

Salutation: Your Excellency

CHINA

GUO QUAN, a former literature professor at Nanjing Normal University, sentenced to ten years in prison and three years of deprivation of political rights in October 2009 on charges of “inciting subversion of state power.”

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

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

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

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

Appeals to:

His Excellency Hu Jintao
President of the People’s Republic of
China
Zhong Naihai

Beijing 100032
People’s Republic of China
Salutation: Your Excellency

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

MOROCCO

Update: Of the 11 Moroccan students arrested in May 2008 following a student protest in defense of freedom of expression, 9 were released on May 15, 2010. **MOURAD AL-CHOUNI** and **KHALED MOUFTAH** remain in prison.

Appeals to:

Abbas El Fassi
Le Premier Ministre
Palais Royal
Touarga
Rabat
Morocco
Fax : 212 037 768656

M. Abdelwahad Radi
Le Ministre de la Justice
Place El Mamoumia
Rabat
Morocco

RUSSIA

Update: On May 1, 2010, a court in the Russian city of Arkhangelsk rejected an appeal for the release of **DR. IGOR SUTYAGIN**, the researcher at the U.S. and Canada Institute in Moscow who was arrested in Spring 2004 and sentenced to 15 years' hard labor for treason and espionage.

Appeals to:

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

VIETNAM

TRAN KHAI THANH THUY, a novelist and essayist, was arrested in October 2009 after she publicly defended six dissidents facing trial. In

February 2010 she was sentenced to 42 months in prison.

Appeals to:

His Excellency Nguyễn Minh Triết
President of the Socialist Republic of
Vietnam
c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Hanoi
Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Nguyễn Tân Dung
Prime Minister
1 Hoang HoaTham Street
Hanoi
Socialist Republic of Vietnam

—Written by John Clegg