



PROJECT MUSE®

Endangered Scholars Worldwide

Ebby Abramson, Dolunay Bulut

Social Research: An International Quarterly, Volume 88, Number 1, Spring 2021, pp. v-xvii (Article)

Published by Johns Hopkins University Press



➔ For additional information about this article

<https://muse.jhu.edu/article/796812>

Endangered Scholars Worldwide

The information in this quarterly print report is current as of May 12, 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

AFGHANISTAN

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



Continuing cases: On March 16, 2021, gunmen ambushed a bus transporting university students, staff, and professors in Baghlan province, killing the driver and a student. Six university lecturers were also injured. The attack took place during the morning rush hour on the outskirts of the provincial capital city of Pul-e-Khumri while the bus was traveling toward Baghlan university.

In recent years, students, professors, and academics in Afghanistan have been increasingly targeted in violent attacks—an unacceptable trend that hurts societies’ future at large. Endangered Scholars Worldwide condemns these heinous crimes in the strongest possible terms and stands in solidarity with the victims’ families.

Please send appeals to:

Ambassador Roya Rahmani
Embassy of Afghanistan
2341 Wyoming Ave., NW

Washington, DC 20008
USA
Email: contact@afghanembassy.net

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 were excluded from the decrees, including ABDULJALIL AL-SINGACE, 57, former head of the Department of Engineering at the University of Bahrain. Students JAWAD AL-MAHARY, SHAWQI RADHI, JASSIM AL-HULAINI, JASSIM AL-MUKHODHER, YOUSIF AHMED and AHMED AUON also remain in prison for their involvement in pro-democracy demonstrations. ESW calls on the US Department of States, The UN High Commissioner for Human rights, the European Parliament to continue to press the Bahrain authorities to release all prisoners of conscience, especially those who pose no threat to the public, as COVID-19 spreads rapidly in Bahraini prisons.

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/>

Antony Blinken
United States Secretary of State
Office of Foreign Missions
U.S. Department of State

2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520 USA
Email: OFMInfo@state.gov

Michelle Bachelet
United Nations High Commissioner for
Human Rights
Office of the United Nations High
Commissioner for Human Rights
Palais des Nations

CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
Email: InfoDesk@ohchr.org

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

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 on higher education, under the leadership of President Jair Bolsonaro and in the name of his aggressive, anti-progressive, and fascistic agenda. Please see our website for current information about the independence of higher education institutions in Brazil.

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: In April 2021, the Newlines Institute for Strategy and Policy, a nonpartisan Washington DC-based think tank, published a report stating that China has exhibited an “intent to destroy” the Uyghur ethnic minority, and therefore the state is actively participating in committing genocide. The report counted the mass internment camps, as well as other official policies such as involuntary homestays, forced sterilization, mandatory state-sanctioned education of Uyghur children and targeting of intellectuals and other leaders, as evidence of intent to destroy the ethnic group.

Continuing cases: More than three years after he was taken into custody, the whereabouts of renowned Uyghur poet and professor of Xinjiang Normal University, ABDUQADIR JALALIDIN, who was detained by authorities in northwest China’s Xinjiang, remains unknown. The whereabouts of TASHPOLAT TIYIP, 63, renowned scholar of geography, and former president of Xinjiang University (XJU), are also unknown, and the risk of execution cannot be ruled out. Tiyip stands accused of being “two-faced,” which is “a term Chinese official use to refer to ethnic minority cadres who pretend to support the Chinese Communist Party.” According to a report published by SupChina, articles that praised Tiyip’s achievements have been systematically deleted from the internet and his name and legacy have been erased, even from the list of presidents of Xinjiang University.

Other detained or disappeared academics include RAHILE DAWUT, a leading expert on Uyghur folklore and traditions at Xinjiang University who was disappeared by the Chinese government in 2017 and has not been seen since; Kashgar University’s president, ERKIN OMER; its vice president, an Uyghur Afghan National MUHTER ABDUGHOPUR; and professors

QURBAN OSMAN and; 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; 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.endangered scholarsworldwide.net/HongKong
or scan the QR code.*



Continuing case: Like all dictatorships, China regards freedom of thought and political openness as dangerous. As China exerts increasingly tighter control over Hong Kong, its universities, long beacons of academic freedom, are under threat and risk losing their autonomy and internationally respected status. ESW believes 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. We call on the Chinese government to 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.”

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.*



Continuing cases: AHMED SAMER, 29, an Egyptian anthropology student at the Central European University in Vienna who was arbitrarily detained in Egypt in early February 2021, remains in custody, charged with “spreading fake news and membership to a terrorist organization.” He had faced harassment by police due to the nature of his research on reproductive rights in Egypt since his return to visit family in Cairo in December 2020. As of this report, Samer has had no access to lawyers or to his family.

University of Bologna student PATRICK GEORGE ZAKI, 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. On April 14, 2021, the Italian senate voted to approve a proposal for the exceptional granting of Italian citizenship to Patrick George Zaki. There are fears that his treatment in Egypt 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. Regeni’s family has also expressed solidarity with Zaki.

Endangered Scholars Worldwide also remains deeply concerned about the five Cairo University academics who were arbitrarily arrested

and sentenced 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 May 11, 2021, ESW learned that AHMADREZA DJALALI, an Iranian-Swedish specialist in emergency medicine facing execution in Iran for espionage, has been moved out of solitary confinement in Iran, 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. He 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.

Continuing case: Iranian authorities curtail the rights of freedom of expression, association, and assembly by arresting and imprisoning on vague charges professors, students, human rights defenders,

and others who voice dissent. Torture and other mistreatments of detainees remain common and have been committed with impunity; prison conditions are harsh. Unfair trials continue, resulting in some cases with death sentences. Dual citizens and members of ethnic and religious minorities face discrimination both in law and in practice. Endangered Scholars Worldwide deplores and condemns the ongoing detention, persecution, conviction, and mistreatment of dual nationals in response to their exercise of the rights to academic freedom, free expression, and free association

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 visit

www.endangeredscholarsworldwide.net/pakistan

or scan the QR code with your phone.



Continuing cases: Academic freedom has long 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 77 people have been murdered by angry mobs or assassinated on allegations of insulting Islam, including 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: Scholars and researchers who remain in prison include ABDUL KAREEM YOUSEF AL-KHODER, a professor of comparative jurisprudence at Qassim University who was convicted on multiple charges, including insulting the judiciary, describing the regime as a police state, and participating in unauthorized associations; SA'UD MUKHTAR AL-HASHIMI, a faculty member at the King Abdulaziz University, who was sentenced in November 2011 to 30 years in prison; 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; and FAHAD AL-QAHTANI, a prominent Saudi economist jailed in 2011, whose health is deteriorating due to conditions in the Al-Ha'ir criminal prison in Riyadh.

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.



Continuing cases: Protests continue at several prominent universities in Ankara, Izmir, and Istanbul against the appointment by Turkey's President Erdogan of a new rector of Bogazici University. Throughout the first month of protests in support of the Bogazici community's struggle for academic freedom and institutional autonomy, the police used excessive force against peaceful protestors, taking hundreds of students into custody or putting them under house arrest. 108 people, mostly students, were taken into custody on February 1 alone, and were released after giving their statements. As there was an ongoing case against 10 of the 108 people on the same charge and one of them was younger than 18, their files were separated from the others. The trials are still in progress.

As of April 19, 2021, a new lawsuit has been filed against 97 people who joined the protests in Istanbul. The 75-page indictment has demanded the penalization of 97 defendants for violating the Law no. 2911 "by attending unlawful meetings and marches unarmed and refusing to disperse by themselves despite warnings." The date of the first court hearing has not yet been determined.

As this issue goes to press, COVID-19-related contingencies have so slowed the daily conduct of bureaucracy that most of the 6,000+ academics who had lost their jobs and passports, including those who have been acquitted of terrorism charges, are still waiting for the return of their passports despite the lifting of restrictions on them by the Constitutional Court. Among them is TUNA ALTINEL, professor of mathematics at Lyon-1 University in France, who remains forcibly stranded in Turkey, without a passport, though he was acquitted of all charges in January 2020.

Among those who remain in detention are 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 HDP executive committee member, both arrested on October 1 as part of an operation targeting people with connection to HDP in seven provinces.

As of May 12, 2021, OSMAN KAVALA, Turkish businessperson, rights defender, and philanthropist has been in prison for 1289 days. Kavala was arrested in 2017 at the Istanbul Ataturk Airport, after returning from a visit to Gaziantep for a joint project with Goethe Institute. Since his arrest, Kavala has been targeted by the progovernment media as a “business tycoon with a shady background” and “Turkish George Soros.” He was also accused of financing and initiating the Gezi Park protests and having contacts to the Gülen Movement.

Please send appeals to the following:

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan
The Office of the President
Cumhurbaşkanlığı Külliyesi
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: Emirati professor and economist NASSER BIN GHAITH and two other human rights defenders imprisoned in the United Arab Emirates remain in detention and are reportedly being mistreated in conditions that may amount to torture, according to a United Nations report. Ghaith, 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.

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

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/>
Birgün. <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>
Hürriyet. <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](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