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Endangered Scholars Worldwide

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Social Research: An International Quarterly, Volume 82, Number 4, Winter 2015, pp. v-xiv (Article)

Published by Johns Hopkins University Press



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Endangered Scholars Worldwide

The reader will encounter a few changes in the current quarterly report. The information provided for continuing cases has been reduced to a basic description of charges and potential or actual reported sentences. Our website, which is being continually expanded and updated, includes more details about each case and the ways in which readers can be involved in calling for the freedom of endangered scholars and students. Please visit us at www.endangeredscholarsworldwide.net or follow us at <https://www.facebook.com/endangeredscholars>.

If you are aware of a scholar or student whose case you believe we should investigate, please contact us at esw@newschool.edu.

The information in this report is current, to the best of our knowledge, as of December 15, 2015.



BAHRAIN

Continuing Cases

Scholars and Researchers who remain in prison are MAHDI 'ISSA MAHDI ABU DHEEB, former president of the Bahrain Teachers' Association, sentenced to five years of imprisonment in 2012 on charges of and "attempting to overthrow and change the regime by force," and ABDUL-JALIL AL-SINGACE, head of the department of engineering at the University of Bahrain, sentenced to life in prison by the military National Safety Court on charges of "plotting to topple the government" in 2011. AL-SINGACE is currently undertaking a hunger strike in protest of the alleged degrading and ill treatment of prisoners of conscience.

Students who remain in prison are AHMAD HASSAN ALI MSHAIMA', arrested in December 2013, and charged on April 16, 2014, with "illegal gathering with an intent to commit crimes and disturb public security"; 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."

Please send appeals to:

His Majesty Sheikh Hamad bin Isa
Al-Khalifa
Office of His Majesty the King
+The Amiri Court
P.O. Box 555
Rifa'a Palace
Al-Manama
Kingdom of Bahrain
Fax: +973 176 64 587
Website: <http://www.mofa.gov.bh/>

Sheikh Khalid bin Ali Al-Khalifa
Minister of Justice and Islamic Affairs
Diplomatic Area
P.O Box # 450
Al-Manama
Kingdom of Bahrain
Fax: +973 175 13 333

Dr. Fatima Al-Balooshi
Minister of Human Rights and Social
Development, Acting Minister of Health
Ministry of Human Rights and
Development
Manama
Kingdom of Bahrain
Tel: +973 176 82 422

Email: fatima.albalooshi@social.gov.bh/
dr.albalooshi@gmail.com
Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/fatima.albalooshi.3)
fatima.albalooshi.3

BURMA

New Cases

Students: In March 2015, the All Burma Federation Student Union (ABFSU) organized a student protest in Letpadan against the newly adopted National Education Law, which restrains academic freedom. The protests resulted in the arrest of some 70 student activists. KO NANDA SITT AUNG, an ABFSU leader, was declared a fugitive until he was arrested in Yangon for his role in the Letpadan protests. He faces five criminal charges, including sedition and unlawful assembly, and risks

more than 10 years in prison. PHYO PHYO AUNG, the secretary general of ABFSU, and PO PO, an ABFSU member, were arrested on 10 March 2015 in Letpadan and face similar charges of unlawful assembly, rioting, and inciting the public. KYAW KO KO was not present Letpadan but led a similar protest in Rangoon on the same day, where he was apprehended by police after seven months in hiding. LIN HTET NAING, a prominent student unionist, was detained in November 2015 after eight months in hiding. Others arrested during the Letpadan protest in March include AUNG HMEIN SAN, MYO MYAT SAN, PHYO DANA, SOE HLAING, and SITHU MYAT, who declared a hunger strike in prison in October and November 2015, for which some have been beaten and tortured.

CHINA

New Cases

QIAO MU, an associate professor of journalism at Beijing Foreign Studies University, has been banned from teaching for political reasons since the summer of 2014.

Continuing Cases

Scholars and Researchers who remain in prison are CHEN TAIHE, a law professor at Guilin University, arrested in July 2015 on charges of “provoking a serious disturbance; 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.” Both *Scholars at Risks* and *Endangered Scholars Worldwide* are gravely concerned about the ongoing unfair treatment of this prominent scholar. 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.”

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

Endangered Scholars Worldwide is gravely concerned about the Chinese government’s pervasive and ongoing crackdown on human rights jurists and scholars since July 2015. As of this report, over 240 lawyers, law professors, and students have been detained. While many have since been released, those the most prominent 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 Nhai
Beijing 100032
People’s Republic of China

Beijing 100745
People’s Republic of China
Fax: +86 10 6529 2345 (c/o Ministry of
Communication)
Website: www.court.gov.cn

Mr. Shengjun Wang
President, Supreme People’s Court
No. 27 Dong Jiao Min Xiang

Facebook group in support of LIU XIAOBO:
<http://www.facebook.com/Free.Liu>
Calls for letters on behalf of ILHAM TOHTI:
<http://goo.gl/RIscCG>

EGYPT

Continuing Cases

Students who remain in prison are SHERIF GABER, a student from Suez Canal University, sentenced to a one-year prison in February 2015 for contempt of religion relating to activities on campus and atheist statements online, and KARIM AL-BANNA, sentenced to three years in prison on charges of contempt of religion and insulting the divine.

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

IRAN

Continuing Cases

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 DR. 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 OMID KOKABEE, a PhD student in physics, sentenced to six years' imprisonment in July 2012 on charges of "communicating with hostile governments and taking illegal earnings," apparently on the basis of his scholarship funding; YASHAR DAROLSHAFI, 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 who was 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.” ZIA NABAVI, serving a ten-year sentence after attending protests following the 2009 elections, is currently in critical condition. BAHA-REH 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 will spend an additional two years in prison as a result of a suspended sentence from 2006.

Please send appeals to:

His Excellency Ayatollah Ali Khamenei
The Office of the Supreme Leader
Jomhuri 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>

Ayatollah Sadeqh Larijani
Howzeh Riyasat-e Qoveh Qazaiyeh (Office
of the Head of the Judiciary)
Pasteur St., Vali Asr Ave., south of Serah-e
Jomhuri
Tehran
Islamic Republic of Iran

President Hassan Rouhani
The Office of the President
Palestine Avenue, Azerbaijan Intersection
Tehran
Islamic Republic of Iran

Javad Zarif, Minister of Foreign Affairs
Imam Khomeini Sq. Ministry of Foreign
Affairs

The Minister’s Office
Tehran

Islamic Republic of Iran
Fax: +98 21 66743149

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

LAOS

Continuing Cases

Student protestors THONGPASEUTH KEUAKOUN, SENG-ALOUN PHENGPHANH, 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 16 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 |

SAUDI ARABIA

New Cases

In May 2014 ASHRAF FAYADH, a Palestinian poet and artist who previously co-curated a show at the 2013 Venice Biennale, was sentenced to four years in prison and 800 lashes on charges of “apostasy” by the general court in Abha. He refuted all charges and appealed the sentence; his appeal was dismissed, and in an outrageous turn of events, he was sentenced to death in November 2015. No further information on his case is available. Endangered Scholars Worldwide is seriously concerned about the human rights situation in Saudi Arabia.

Continuing Cases

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; 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

SUDAN

Continuing Cases

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 Ambassador Daffa-Alla
Elhag Ali Osman
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

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

THAILAND

Continuing cases

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

VIETNAM

Continuing cases

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

ETHIOPIA

We are happy to report that BEFEKADU HAILU, a former lecturer and current staff member at St. Mary's University College, who was arrested along with members of the Zone 9 bloggers, ABEL WABELA, ATNAF BERAHANE, and NATNAEL FELEKE and charged with terrorism, were released in October 2015 after serving 500 days in prison.

SOURCES

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 Sharifi