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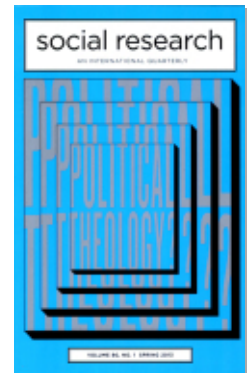
## Endangered Scholars Worldwide

Matt Congdon

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# Endangered Scholars Worldwide

Social Research was founded by a group of scholars known as the University in Exile, refugees from Nazi Europe who found a home at the New School. In each issue we publish the names and details of scholars, researchers, and students who have been threatened or imprisoned, along with ways to offer them support. We see this effort as consistent not only with our own history as a journal but with the need to call attention to the increasing and often brutal attempts to silence our colleagues around the world.

We urge readers to write letters on behalf of these scholars, researchers, and students. Sample letters can be found on our website at [www.newschool.edu/cps/endangered-scholars](http://www.newschool.edu/cps/endangered-scholars).

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

The information in this report is current, to the best of our knowledge, as of March 20, 2013. Additional information and more recent information about many of these cases may be available on our website at <http://www.newschool.edu/cps/endangered-scholars/>.

## SCHOLARS AND RESEARCHERS: NEW AND CONTINUING CASES

### BAHRAIN

Previously featured scholars from Bahrain who remain in prison include JALILA AL-SALMAN and MAHDI 'ISSA MAHDI ABU DHEEB, both board members of the Bahrain Teachers' Association, sentenced to six months and five years, respectively, on October 21, 2012, on charges of "inciting hatred against the regime" and "calling to overthrow and

change the regime by force”; DR. ABDUL-JALIL AL-SINGACE, professor of engineering at the University of Bahrain, sentenced to life in prison on charges of training and financing a terrorist organization; and RULA AL-SAFFER, assistant professor at the College of Health Sciences and head of the Bahrain Nursing Society, sentenced on September 29, 2011, to 15 years in prison.

#### Appeals to:

His Majesty Sheikh Hamad bin Issa  
Al-Khalifa  
Office of His Majesty the King  
P.O. Box 555  
Rifa'a Palace  
Kingdom of Bahrain  
Fax: +973 176 64 587

Dr. Fatima Al-Balushi  
Minister of Human Rights and Social  
Development, Acting Minister of Health  
Ministry of Human Rights and  
Development  
Manama  
Kingdom of Bahrain

Sheikh Khalid bin Ali Al-Khalifa  
Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs  
P.O. Box 450  
Al-Manama  
Bahrain  
Fax: +973 175 31 284

## CAMEROON

ENOH MEYOMESSE, a writer, political activist, historian, and founder of the Cameroon Writers Association, was sentenced to seven years in prison on December 27, 2012, on charges of illegally trafficking gold. During his trial Meyomesse was not allowed to testify on his own behalf and no witnesses or evidence were presented. Meyomesse's home was searched and he was arrested in November 2011, one month after he had unsuccessfully run for president of Cameroon with the opposition party, the United National Front, challenging President Paul Biya's 30-year rule. He was held in solitary confinement and complete darkness for 30 days, which has left him partially blind. In June 2012, given the lack of evidence, all charges against Meyomesse were dropped, but in July 2012 a judge ordered a six-month extension of his detention to allow the prosecution to gather more evidence. He was then charged with theft and ille-

gal trafficking of gold, despite lack of witnesses or evidence. Meyomesse maintains his innocence and alleges that his arrest is the result of his political writings.

**Appeals to:**

His Excellency Paul Biya  
President of the Republic of Cameroon  
Office of the President  
P.O. Box 100  
Yaoundé  
Republic of Cameroon

Dr. Chemuta Divine Banda  
Chairman  
National Commission on Human Rights  
and Freedoms  
B.P. 20317 Yaounde  
Cameroon  
Phone: +237 22 22 61 17  
Fax : +237 22 22 60 82  
Email: cndhl@iccnnet.cm

**CHINA**

**PROFESSOR ILHAM TOHTI**, a public intellectual and professor of economics at the Central Minorities University in Beijing, was denied permission by government authorities to take a visiting scholar position at Indiana University in the United States. He and his daughter were prevented from boarding their departing flight to the United States on February 2, 2013, when police stopped them during security checks at Beijing Capital International Airport. While Tohti's daughter was permitted to depart on a later flight, Tohti was held in an interrogation room for 10 hours and sent back to his apartment without explanation. Since then he has been put on 24-hour watch with police stationed outside his home. Tohti has been detained several times before and is an outspoken critic of the government's treatment of China's Uyghur minority.

According to reports on December 11, 2012, **WANG PEIJIAN**, a professor of law at China Jiliang University in Hangzhou, had his classes suspended and was forced by university security personnel to enter a psychiatric facility after speaking with his students about the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre. According to a report from China Human Rights Defenders, "Wang believed that this was because he had spoken to students about his views on, among other topics, the Chinese Communist Party's monopoly on power, the 1989 massa-

cre around Tiananmen Square, and suppression of human rights lawyers.”

Scholars featured in previous issues who remain in prison in China include writer and editor **TASHI RABTEN** (pen name **TE’URANG**), sentenced to four years’ imprisonment on June 2, 2011, for his critical political writings; **LIU XIAOBO**, a human rights activist and 2011 Nobel Peace Prize laureate, held in an undisclosed location in Beijing since his arrest in December 2008 for “inciting subversion of state power”; and **GUO QUAN**, a former literature professor at Nanjing Normal University, sentenced to 10 years in prison and 3 years of deprivation of political rights in October 2009 on charges of “inciting subversion of state power.”

#### Appeals to:

His Excellency Xi Jinping  
President of the People’s Republic of  
China  
Zhong Naihai  
Beijing 100032  
People’s Republic of China  
Salutation: Your Excellency

Mr. Wang Shengjun  
President, Supreme People’s Court No. 27  
Dongjiaominxiang Dongcheng District  
Beijing 100745  
People’s Republic of China  
Fax: +86 10 65292345 (c/o Ministry of  
Communication)  
Salutation: Dear President

Facebook group in support of Liu Xiaobo:  
<<http://www.facebook.com/Free.Liu>>

## IRAN

Scholars from Iran who remain in prison include **ARZHANG DAVOODI**, a poet, teacher, and cofounder of the pro-Western Confederation for Iranian Students (CIS), imprisoned since October 2003; two academics and members of the Iranian Writers Association (IWA), **MANIJEH NAJM ERAGHI** and **DR. FARIBORZ RAIS DANA**, arrested on June 3, 2012, and May 21, 2012, respectively, for their membership in the IWA, a group that promotes writers’ rights in Iran, and sentenced to one year in prison; **SAEED MADANI**, a sociologist and member of the Nationalist-Religious Front, held without charge since January 7, 2012; **ABDOLREZA GHANBARI**, a teacher of Persian literature currently awaiting execution

(execution date undisclosed) following political protests on December 27, 2009; **MASSOUD SEPEHR**, a political science lecturer at Shiraz Azad University, detained without charge since his arrest on November 17, 2011; seven people connected to the Baha'i Institute for Higher Education, following coordinated attacks on the Institute in May 2011, including **KAMRAN MORTEZAIE** and **VAHID MAHMOUDI**, each sentenced to five years, and **RAMIN ZIBAIE**, **MAHMOUD BADAIVAM**, **FARHAD SEDGHI**, **RIAZ SOBHANI**, and **NOUSHIN KHADEM**, each sentenced to four years; four cultural figures, all charged with "acting against national security" through supporting Kurdish opposition groups, including poet **JAMAL KHANI**, serving a two-year sentence; educator **FARHAD VAKILINIA**, serving three years; **NAEEM NAJAFI**, a student, serving four years, and Kurdish author and scholar **SAJJAD JAHANFAR**, serving one year; **SAEED LEILAZ**, a journalist and professor of economics at Shahid Beheshti University, convicted in 2009 of violating public order, planning to undermine the country's security, and insulting Iran's Supreme Leader; **DR. MOHAMMAD MALEKI**, former chancellor of Tehran University, held in Evin Prison since August 2009 on charges of "propaganda against the regime"; and **DR. MOSTAFA ALAVI**, an Iranian doctor and researcher sentenced to 15 years in August 2008 for "plotting against the regime."

**Appeals to:**

His Excellency Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali  
Khamenei  
The Office of the Supreme Leader  
Shoahada Street  
Qom  
Islamic Republic of Iran

His Excellency Mahmoud Ahmadinejad  
The Presidency  
Palestine Avenue  
Azerbaijan Intersection  
Tehran  
Islamic Republic of Iran

Ayatollah Sadeqh Larijani  
Office of the Head of the Judiciary  
Pasteur St., Vali Asr Ave., south of Serah-e  
Jomhuri  
Tehran 1316814737  
Islamic Republic of Iran

## ITALY

Previously featured scholars from Italy who remain in prison include six scientists convicted in October 2012 on charges of manslaughter for failing to predict an earthquake that devastated the city of L'Aquila in 2009, including **ENZO BOSCHI**, **FRANCO BARBERI**, **BERNARDO DE BERNARDIS**, **GIULIO SALVAGI**, **CALVI GIANMICHELE**, and **CLAUDIO EVA**.

### Appeals to:

Silvana Bastianello  
Vice Director  
Ministry of Justice

via Arenula 70  
00186 Rome  
Italy

## RUSSIA

Previously featured scholars from Russia who remain in prison are **SVYATOSLAV BOBYSHEV** and **YEVGENY AFANASYEV**, both professors at Baltic State Technical University in St. Petersburg, who were sentenced at a closed trial in June 2012 to 12 years in prison on charges of passing secret information to the Chinese government.

### Appeals to:

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

Mr. Yuriy Chaika  
General Public Prosecutor of the Russian  
Federation  
GSP-3, 15a B. Dimitrovka Street  
125993 Moscow  
Russia

## SAUDI ARABIA

Previously featured scholars from Saudi Arabia who remain in prison include **DR. SA'UD MUKHTAR AL-HASHIMI**, a medical doctor and faculty member at the King Abdulaziz University, sentenced in November 2011 to 30 years in prison, which is to be followed by a 30-year travel ban; **DR. YUSUF AL-AHMAD**, an Islamic scholar who teaches at Imam Muhammad bin Sa'ud University in Riyadh, arrested after posting a YouTube video critical of long-term detentions of security suspects

without due juridical process; **NADHIR AL-MAJID**, a teacher and writer, detained on April 17, 2011, soon after the appearance of an article in which he criticized the Saudi government; and university professors **SA'UD AL-DUGHATHIR**, **MUHAMMAD BIN NASIR AL-GHAMIDI**, and **ABD AL-KARIM AL-KHADHAR**, all members of a group of nine intellectuals who drafted a party proposal seeking to create what would have been the first political party in Saudi Arabia; they were arrested on February 16, 2011.

#### Appeals to:

His Royal Highness Prince Naif bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Ministry of the Interior	Fax: +966 1 403 0645
P.O. Box 2933	Mr. Turki bin Khaled Al-Sudairy
Airport Road	President
Riyadh 11134	Human Rights Commission
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	P.O. Box 58889
Fax: +966 1 403 1185	Riyadh 11515
	King Fahad Road
His Royal Highness Prince Saud al-Faisal bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud	Building No. 373
Minister of Foreign Affairs	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Nasseriya Street	Fax: +966 1 4612061
Riyadh 11124	

## TURKEY

Previously featured scholars from Turkey who remain in prison are **KEMAL GÜRÜZ**, a former university rector and retired professor at Middle East Technical University in Ankara, arrested on June 25, 2012, on charges related to the political transition in Turkey in 1997; **BÜSRA ERSANLI**, a constitutional law expert and professor of political science at Marmara University in Istanbul, currently facing charges of “leadership of an illegal organization,” which is punishable under Turkey’s Anti-Terrorism Laws; and **DR. MEHMET HABERAL**, founder and dean of Baskent University in Ankara and an expert on organ transplants, held in detention without trial since 2009, on charges of involvement with a terrorist organization.



## Appeals to:

His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdogan  
Prime Minister of Turkey  
Office of the Prime Minister  
06573 Basbakanlik  
Ankara Turkey  
Fax: +90 312 417 04 76

His Excellency Sadullah Ergin  
Minister of Justice  
06669 Kizilay  
Ankara, Turkey  
Fax: +90 312 419 3370

# ENDANGERED STUDENTS: NEW AND CONTINUING CASES

## BAHRAIN

Previously featured students who remain in jail include student activist **AHMED AOUN**, arrested by authorities when he sought treatment at a hospital following an eye injury inflicted by police during protests on May 13, 2012; and six students, all sentenced to 15 years in prison at a trial on March 5, 2012, as part of a crackdown on student involvement in pro-democracy demonstrations, including **JAWAD AL-MAHARY**, **SHAWQI RADHI**, **JASSIM AL HULAINI**, **JASSIM AL-MUKHODHER**, and **YOUSIF AHMED**. To our knowledge the name of the sixth student has not been released.

## Appeals to:

His Majesty Sheikh Hamad bin Issa  
Al-Khalifa  
Office of His Majesty the King  
P.O. Box 555  
Rifa'a Palace  
Kingdom of Bahrain.  
Fax: +973 176 64 587

Minister of Human Rights and Social  
Development, Acting Minister of Health  
Ministry of Human Rights and  
Development  
Manama  
Kingdom of Bahrain

Sheikh Khalid bin Ali Al-Khalifa  
Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs  
P.O. Box 450  
Al-Manama  
Bahrain  
Fax: +973 175 31 284  
Dr. Fatima Al-Balushi

## BELARUS

**ALEXANDER OTROSCHENKOV** (also transliterated as **ALIAXSANDER ATROSCHCCHANKAU**), a previously featured student from Belarus, remains in prison. He is an international law student at the European Humanities University, sentenced in the spring of 2011 to four years in prison on charges of inciting rioting following protests over the disputed Belarusian presidential election in December 2011.

### Appeals to:

President of the Republic of Belarus  
Alyaksandr G. Lukashenka  
Karl Marx Str. 38  
220016 g. Minsk  
Belarus

Fax: +375 (172) 26 06 10 or  
+375 (172) 22 38 72  
Tel: +375 (172) 22 38 72  
Email: [pres@president.gov.by](mailto:pres@president.gov.by)  
Salutation: Dear President

## IRAN

**PANIZ FAZL-ALI**, a civil engineering student at the University of Science and Technology in Tehran, was expelled from the university after it emerged that she is a member of the Baha'i religious community in February 2013. Baha'i is a banned religious minority in Iran, and its members are prohibited from receiving higher education. Fazl-Ali had just successfully finished her third year and was on schedule to complete her degree the following year.

Previously featured students from Iran who remain in prison include: **OMID KOKABEE**, a PhD student in physics, sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment in July 2012 on charges of communicating with a hostile government and taking illegal earnings; **MOHSEN SANATI-POUR**, a student activist and journalist, sentenced to one year in prison in the spring of 2012; **ABOLFAZL TABARZADI**, a civil engineering student and human rights activist, serving nine months since October 2011 after being convicted of "acting against national security" and "contact with foreign media"; student activist **JAVAD ALIKHANI**, arrested on May 28, 2010, and charged with "propagating against the regime," "acting against national security," "blasphemy," and "insulting the Supreme Leader"; **ABDOLLAH MOMENI**, a student activ-

ist and spokesman for Iran's largest reformist student organization, currently in Evin Prison; **SOROUGH SABET**, serving a two-year sentence in connection with his involvement in protests in 2007; **LEVA KHANJANI**, a member of the persecuted Baha'i religious minority, banned from receiving further education and serving a two-year sentence in connection with her involvement in protests in 2009; **SAYED ZIAOD-DIN (ZIA) NABAVI**, serving a 10-year sentence after attending protests following the 2009 elections; **NASIM SOLTAN BEIGI**, serving a six-year sentence for "propaganda against the regime" and "assembly and collusion against national security"; and **MAJID TAVAKOLI** and **BAHAREH HEDAYAT**, distinguished student activists sentenced to eight-and-a-half and nine-and-a-half years, respectively, for their involvement in antigovernment protests in 2009. All are at risk of torture and need your support.

**Appeals to:**

His Excellency Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali  
Khamenei  
The Office of the Supreme Leader  
Shoahada Street  
Qom  
Islamic Republic of Iran

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

Jomhour  
Tehran 1316814737  
Islamic Republic of Iran

His Excellency Mahmoud Ahmadinejad  
The Presidency  
Palestine Avenue  
Azerbaijan Intersection  
Tehran  
Islamic Republic of Iran

**LAOS**

Students protestors **THONGPASEUTH KEUAKOUN**, **SENG-ALOUN PHENG-PHANH**, and **BOUAVANH CHANHMANIVONG** remain in prison following their arrest on charges of treason in 1999 for displaying posters during a demonstration that called for economic, political, and social change.

**Appeals to:**

President Choummaly Sayasone  
Office of the President  
Vientiane, Laos

## NIGERIA

Four unnamed students were shot dead during protests at Nasarawa State University on February 25, 2013, with seven other students suffering gunshot wounds. The students were participating in a demonstration protesting scarcity of water and electricity on campus. Police and soldiers were deployed by authorities to suppress the protests, though both denied involvement in the shootings. Since the protests, the university has been closed indefinitely.

### Appeals to:

President Goodluck Jonathan  
c/o Prof. Adebowale Ibidapo Adefuye  
Embassy of the Federal Republic of  
Nigeria

3519 International Court, NW  
Washington, DC 20008

## SUDAN

Four students, **ADIL MOHAMED AHMED**, **MOHAMED YOUNIS NIL**, **ALSA-DIG YAGOUB ABDALLAH**, and **NOUMAN AHMED KOREISHI**, were killed following a peaceful sit-in at Al Jazeera University on December 3, 2012. The four were found dead in a canal near their university, their bodies showing signs of beatings, following their arrest by National Security Service officers. The students had been protesting the university administration's refusal to allow the students to enroll without paying full tuition. According to the Darfur Peace Agreement, students of Darfur origin are exempt from tuition fees. Protests continued after the deaths of the students, accompanied by continued police violence, including beatings and the use of tear gas to disperse protestors.

### Appeals to:

President His Excellency Lt. Omar Hassan  
Ahmed Al-Bashir  
President of the Republic of Sudan  
President's Palace  
PO Box 281  
Khartoum, Sudan  
Telegrams: President al-Bashir,  
Khartoum, Sudan  
Fax: +249 183 783 223/ +249 183 771 651/

+249 183 787 676

His Excellency Mohamed Boshara Dosa  
Minister of Justice and Attorney General  
Ministry of Justice  
PO 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 UN  
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

## SYRIA

Two explosions caused by either airstrikes or bombs hit Aleppo University in Syria on January 15, 2013, killing 82 people and wounding 192, most of whom were students, faculty, and staff at the university. The explosions occurred while students were taking exams at the university. Aleppo, a city in northern Syria, has been a contested battleground in the struggle for political control between the government and opposition forces. Responsibility for the attack remains unclear, with both loyalist and opposition forces blaming each other for the explosions.

### Appeals to:

President Bashar al-Assad  
Presidential Palace  
al-Rashid Street  
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic  
Fax: +963 11 332 3410  
Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Walid al-Mu'allim  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
al-Rashid Street  
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic

Fax: +963 11 214 6251/2/3  
Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Defense  
His Excellency General Dawood Rajiha  
Ministry of Defense  
Omayyad Square  
Damascus,  
Syrian Arab Republic  
Fax: +963 11 311 0554  
Salutation: Your Excellency

## TURKEY

Previously featured scholar **PINAR SELEK**, a writer, feminist, and PhD candidate in political science at the University of Strasbourg, was convicted in absentia on January 24, 2013, and sentenced to aggravated life imprisonment for her alleged role in a 1998 explosion at an Istanbul market. This was her fourth retrial after being acquitted three times of the same charges. Selek was charged in connection with a 1998 explosion in the Istanbul Spice Bazaar, which a team of experts later concluded was

the result not of a bomb but of an accidental gas ignition. As the result of her sociological research on Kurdish issues she was charged with “membership in an illegal organization” under Turkey’s Anti-Terror Law. Previously she had been arrested in July 1998, when she was tortured and interrogated concerning her research. Selek fled Turkey prior to the trial, and a warrant for her arrest has been issued and sent to Interpol.

Appeals to:

His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdogan  
Prime Minister of Turkey  
Office of the Prime Minister  
06573 Basbakanlik  
Ankara  
Turkey  
Fax: +90 312 417 04 76

His Excellency Sadullah Ergin  
Minister of Justice  
06669 Kizilay  
Ankara  
Turkey  
Fax: +90 312 419 3370

**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 (HRW) <<http://www.hrw.org/>>
- The International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran <<http://www.iranhumanrights.org/>>
- Islamic Human Rights Commission <<http://www.ihrc.org/>>
- Network for Education and Academic Rights (NEAR) <<http://www.nearinternational.org/>>
- Scholars at Risk (SAR) <<http://scholarsatrisk.nyu.edu/>>

—Written by Matt Congdon

