



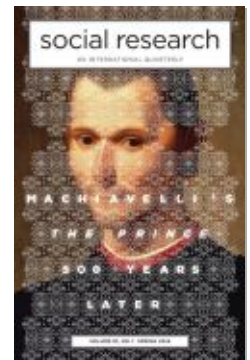
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Endangered Scholars Worldwide

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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.

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

The information in this report is current, to the best of our knowledge, as of February 24, 2014. Additional information and more recent information about many of these cases, as well as sample letters of protest, may be found on our website at <http://www.newschool.edu/cps/angered-scholars/>.

SCHOLARS AND RESEARCHERS: NEW AND CONTINUING CASES

BAHRAIN

Previously featured scholars from Bahrain who remain in prison include MAHDI 'ISSA MAHDI ABU DHEEB, former president of the Bahrain Teachers' Association (BTA), who was sentenced to five years' imprisonment on October 21, 2012, on charges of "inciting hatred against the regime" and "calling to overthrow and change the regime by force"; and DR. ABDUL-JALIL AL-SINGACE, professor 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.

Please send appeals to:

His Majesty Sheikh Hamad bin Isa
I-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/>

Minister of Justice and Islamic Affairs
Sheikh Khalid bin Ali Al-Khalifa
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
Tel: +973 176 82 422
Kingdom of Bahrain
Email: fatima.albalooshi@social.gov.bh /
dr.albalooshi@gmail.com
Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/
fatima.albalooshi.3](https://www.facebook.com/fatima.albalooshi.3)

CAMEROON

Previously featured scholar ENOH MEYOMESSE, a writer, political activist, historian, and founder of the Cameroon Writers Association, remains in prison. On December 27, 2012, he was sentenced to seven years in prison on charges of illegally trafficking gold.

Please send appeals to:

His Excellency Paul Biya
President of the Republic of Cameroon
Office of the President
P.O. Box 100
Yaoundé
Republic of Cameroon
Email: <https://www.prc.cm/en/contact>
Website: <https://www.prc.cm/en/>

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@iccnet.cm

CHINA

ILHAM TOHTI, an economics professor, distinguished Uyghur scholar, and activist who has taught at Beijing's Minzu University, was arrested on

January 15, 2014, without any specific charges. According to his wife, his personal computers and phones were also seized by several police officers. Tohti is a prominent scholar of China's Uyghur Muslim minority. According to a report posted online on January 25 by Chinese authorities, Tohti is accused of leading a nationalist group that advocates the use of violence to overthrow the Chinese government in Xinjiang. As of February 20, 2014, Tohti's location is unknown.

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; ZHU JIANRONG a Chinese scholar, has been held incommunicado by Chinese authorities since mid-July 2013. He went missing at that time while on a trip to Shanghai and was unable to communicate with family until over three months later when a letter written by Zhu made it to his brother in Shanghai. The letter only confirms that he is being detained by Chinese authorities and does not specify when he will be released. Prior to his disappearance, Zhu had been engaged in a research project involving interviews with officials of the Chinese military. 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"; and LIU XIAOBO, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate and *Social Research* author, held in Jinzhou Prison since his arrest in December 2008 for "inciting subversion of state power."

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

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>>

EGYPT

A previously featured scholar, AMR HAMZAWY, a professor at the American University in Cairo, has been charged with “insulting the judiciary” for a Tweet criticizing a court ruling. Hamzawy has played a prominent political role in the past three years, winning a seat in Parliament and leading a liberal party.

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

Scholars from Iran who remain in prison include ABDOLREZA GHANBARI, a university lecturer of Persian literature arrested following the 2009 presidential election protests, initially sentenced to death by Judge Abolghasem Salavati in branch 15 of the Islamic Revolutionary Court. His death sentence was reduced to 15 years of imprisonment and exile to the south of Iran in June 2013 by the court of appeal; SAEED MADANI, a sociologist and member of the Nationalist-Religious Front, sentenced on June 21, 2013, to six years in prison and ten years in exile; ARZHANG DAVOODI, a poet, teacher, and cofounder of the pro-Western Confederation for Iranian Students (CIS), imprisoned since October 2003; MASOUD 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 BADA VAM, FARHAD SEDGHI, RIAZ SOB HANI, and NOUSHIN KHADEM, each sentenced to four years; two cultural figures, educator FARHAD VAKILINIA serving three years and NAEEM NAJAFI, a student, serving four years, both charged with “acting against national security” by supporting Kurdish

opposition groups in August 2011; and DR. MOSTAFA ALAVI, an Iranian doctor and researcher sentenced to fifteen years in August 2008 for “plotting against the regime.” All others are at risk of torture and need your support.

Please send appeals to:

His Excellency Ayatollah Ali Khamenei
The Office of the Supreme Leader
Jomhouri St, Keshvar Doust St,
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](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
Jomhouri
Tehran
Islamic Republic of Iran

President Hassan Rouhani
President of Iran
Palestine Avenue
Azerbaijan Intersection
The Office of the President
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>

ISRAEL

A previously featured scholar who remains imprisoned in Israel is AHMAD QATAMESH, a political scientist and Palestinian activist. He has been detained without trial since his arrest on April 21, 2011.

His Excellency Benjamin Netanyahu
Prime Minister’s Office
3 Kaplan Street
P.O. Box 187
Kiryat Ben-Gurion
Jerusalem 91919
Israel
Email: pm_eng@pmo.gov.il
Website: [http://www.pmo.gov.il/english/
Pages/default.aspx](http://www.pmo.gov.il/english/Pages/default.aspx)
Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/
IsraeliPM](https://www.facebook.com/IsraeliPM)

Tzipi Livni
Ministry of Justice
29 Salah A-din Street
Jerusalem 91010
Israel
Email: zlivni@knesset.gov.il
Website: <http://www.justice.gov.il/MOJEng/>
Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/
tzipilivni](https://www.facebook.com/tzipilivni)

Ambassador Ron Prozor
Israeli Permanent Representative
to the UN
United Nations

800 Second Avenue
New York, NY 10017
USA

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: ENZO BOSCHI, FRANCO BARBERI, BERNARDO DE BERNARDIS, GIULIO SALVAGI, CALVI GIANMICHELE, and CLAUDIO EVA.

Please send appeals to:

Anna Maria Cancellieri
Minister
Ministry of Justice

via Arenula 70
00186 Rome
Italy

MONGOLIA

Previously featured scholar ROLMAAJIDIIN TSENGEL, a southern Mongolian historian and translator, remains in prison. He was arrested on May 6, 2012, and has been subject to torture during his detention and barred from having visitors.

Please send appeals to:

Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs
Kuhdaldaany Street 6/1
Chingeltei District 210646
Ulaanbaatar
Mongolia

Ambassador Och Od
The Permanent Mission of Mongolia to the
United Nations
6 East 77th Street
New York, NY 10075
USA
Website: <http://www.mfa.gov.mn>

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 espionage and passing secret information to the Chinese government.

Please send appeals to:

Vladimir Putin
President of Russia
Ilinka Str, No. 23
103132, Moscow
Russia

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Putin-Vladimir/27275371642>

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

125993, Moscow
Russia

Ambassador Sergey I. Kislyak
Russian Embassy to the United States
2650 Wisconsin Avenue, NW
Washington DC 20007
USA

Phone: +1 202 298 5700

Fax: +1 202 298 5735

Website: <http://www.russianembassy.org/>

SAUDI ARABIA

Previously featured scholars from Saudi Arabia who remain in prison include DR. ABDUL KAREEM YOUSEF AL-KHODR, a professor of comparative jurisprudence at Qassim University, sentenced on June 24, 2013, to eight years' imprisonment and a ten-year travel ban; DR. SA'UD MUKHTAR AL-HASHIMI, a medical doctor and faculty member at the King Abdulaziz University, sentenced in November 2011 to thirty years in prison, which is to be followed by a thirty-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 detention of security suspects without due juridical process and sentenced to five years' imprisonment and a five-year travel ban on April 11, 2012; 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-DUGHAITHIR, 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, arrested on February 16, 2011.

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

University lecturer SIDIG NOREEN ALI ABDALLA, who has taught at West Kordofan University, was arrested on January 16th, 2014, while his child was undergoing treatment in a hospital in Khartoum. He is currently being held in El Obeid without access to legal representation and has not been allowed to contact his family members.

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

Sudan
Fax: +249 183 78 07 96/ +249 183 770883

His Excellency Mohamed Boshara Dosa
Minister of Justice and Attorney General
Ministry of Justice
P.O. Box 302
Al Nil Avenue
Khartoum

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

SYRIA

On January 9, 2014, university professor BAHJET JUNDALI was killed when his building was hit by shrapnel. Jundali was a well known scholar and the dean of the architecture college at the Al Watanlya Private University, and the dean of architecture College at Al'Baath University. MAHMOUD BAHBOUH, a university professor who was arrested in June 2013, has been held incommunicado by Syrian authorities since his arrest. As of February 24 his location and situation remains unknown. Bahbough was a professor of chemistry at Al'baath University. University professor

ABDULRAHMAN ALKHATEB has been imprisoned since September 28, 2013. He was the head of Syrian Arab Crescent Branch in Talbisah, Homs, and the head of civil engineering department at Al'Baath University.

Please send 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

TURKEY

Previously featured scholar FATIH HILMIOGLU, former rector of İnönü University in Malatya, arrested in April 2009, is serving a 23-year sentence on charges of attempting to violently overthrow the government. Reports indicate that he is not receiving the specialized medical care that he needs for his various and serious ailments.

Please send 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 Bekir Bozdağ
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: JAWAD AL-MAHARY, SHAWQI RADHI, JASSIM AL HULAINI, JASSIM AL-MUKHODHER, and YOUSIF AHMED.

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/>

Minister of Justice and Islamic Affairs
Sheikh Khalid bin Ali Al-Khalifa
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
Address: P.O. Box 28867, Riffa, Kingdom of
Bahrain
Tel: +973 176 824 22
Email: fatima.albalooshi@social.gov.bh /
dr.albalooshi@gmail.com
Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/
fatima.albalooshi.3](https://www.facebook.com/fatima.albalooshi.3)

BENIN

On November 4, 2013, peaceful student protestors at Abomey-Calavi University were attacked by security forces, who fired tear gas at protestors and arrested student leaders. Students were protesting the introduction of new tuition fees. According to Scholars at Risk, dozens of students were injured as the result of the violent crackdown. On November 12, 2013, a previously featured student leader, DAMIEN DÉGBÉ, was arrested following his involvement in the organization of a two-day student strike on campus. The campus has remained under police surveillance since the initial protests.

Please send appeals to:

President Yayi Boni
Embassy of the Republic of Benin
2124 Kalorama Road, N.W.
Washington, DC 20008

USA
Fax: +1 202 265 1996
Email: info@beninembassy.us

CHINA

A previously featured student, WANGCHUK DORJE, a Tibetan student leader at the Middle School of Humanities in Rebkong County, remains imprisoned. He was sentenced in June 2013 to four years in prison for his alleged role in organizing student protests.

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

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

ETHIOPIA

MANYAZEVAL ESHETU, a previously featured student at Addis Ababa University, was charged with criminal defamation for allegedly posting criticisms of university and city officials for corruption on his Facebook page. Police apprehended him on campus and he remains held without charge.

Prime Minister
His Excellency Hailemariam Desalegn
Office of the Prime Minister
PO Box 1031
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Fax: +251 11 1552020
E-mail: national.parliament@telecom.net.et
national.parliament@ethionet.et

Website: www.mfa.gov.et/
Mr. Getachew Ambaye
Ministry of Justice
P.O. Box 1370
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Fax: +251 11 5517775 / 5520874
Email: ministry-justice@telecom.net.et

IRAN

Previously featured students from Iran who remain in prison include ASHKAN ZAHABIAN, a student activist arrested on May 27, 2013, and who is serving an eight-month sentence on charges of “acting against national security,” “spreading propaganda against the system,” and “forming an illegal group with intention of harming national security”; OMID KOKA-

BEE, a PhD student in physics, sentenced to ten years' imprisonment in July 2012 on charges of communicating with a hostile government and taking illegal earnings; ABDOLLAH MOMENI, a student activist and spokesman for Iran's largest reformist student organization, serving a nine-year sentence in Evin Prison since 2009; SOROUSH SABET, serving a two-year sentence since September 2012 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 ZIAODDIN (ZIA) NABAVI, serving a ten-year sentence after attending protests following the 2009 elections and currently in critical condition as a result of the harsh prison environment; 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.

Please send appeals to:

His Excellency Ayatollah Sayed Ali
Khamenei

The Office of the Supreme Leader
Jomhuri St, Keshvar Doust St.
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](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

President of Iran

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 Office

Tehran

Islamic Republic of Iran

Fax: +98 21 66743149

Website: <http://www.mfa.gov.ir>

Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/
jzarif](https://www.facebook.com/jzarif)

Amnesty International and the Committee
of Concerned Scientists has set up a
petition for immediate release of Omid

Kokabee: The petition can be found at:

http://freomid.org/?page_id=1136

LAOS

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.

Please send appeals to:

President Choummaly Sayasone
Office of the President

Vientiane
Laos

SYRIA

As of February 2014, scores of students who have fled Syrian universities are living in refugee camps in Jordan and other Middle Eastern countries, according to a survey conducted by US researchers. Since conflicts began in March 2011, universities have been targeted in retribution for student and faculty participation in protests. In the past year, universities in Aleppo and Damascus have been bombed, killing students and destroying university classrooms, dormitories, and labs (as reported in our Fall 2013 feature). The Syria Consortium for Higher Education in Crisis, a program led by the Institute of International Education, is bringing together universities throughout the world to establish scholarships for displaced Syrian students, with the goal of providing 600 scholarships starting in 2014.

ANAS SHUGHRI, a third-year economics student, remains held without charge in March 2011 after his participation in protests.

For information on the Syria Consortium for Higher Education, please visit: <http://www.iie.org/en/Programs/Syria-Scholarships>

Please send 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

TURKEY

Previously featured scholar PINAR SELEK, a writer, feminist, and PhD candidate in political science at the University of Strasbourg, remains in exile after being 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.

Please send 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 Bekir Bozdağ
Minister of Justice
06669 Kizilay
Ankara
Turkey
Fax: +90 312 419 3370

VIETNAM

Previously featured students who remain in prison in Vietnam include DINH NGUYEN KHA and NGUYEN PHUONG UYEN, sentenced to eight and six years in prison, respectively, on charges of “conducting propaganda against the state” at a trial 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

Nguyễn Tân Dung
Prime Minister
1 Hoang HoaTham Street
Hanoi
Socialist Republic of Vietnam
Salutation: Your Excellency

RELEASES

IRAN

We are happy to report that SAEED LEYLAZ, a journalist and professor of economics at Shahid Beheshti University, sentenced to six years in prison in 2009 for violating public order, planning to undermine the country’s

security, and insulting Iran’s Supreme Leader, was released from imprisonment in July 2013. All previous charges have been withdrawn.

Three Iranian students were released from prison: AFSHIN KESHTKARI, a student activist arrested on May 18, 2013 (released on December 2013 after serving his six month conviction in prison); JAVAD ALIKHANI, arrested on May 28, 2010, and charged with “propagating against the regime,” “acting against national security,” “blasphemy” and “insulting the Supreme Leader”; and NASIM SOLTAN BEIGI, a student activist.

TURKEY

We are happy to report that AYSE BERKTAY, a historian, translator, and women’s activist, arrested in October 2011 as part of a crackdown on the pro-Kurdish Peace and Democracy Party was released on December 20, 2014.

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/>

Scholars at Risk (SAR) <http://scholarsatrisk.nyu.edu/>

Southern Mongolian Human Rights Information Center <http://www.smhric.org/>

UN Watch <http://blog.unwatch.org/>

— *Written by Ebby Sharifi*