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Endangered Scholars Worldwide

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Endangered Scholars Worldwide

The information in this quarterly print report is current as of August 20, 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.



On August 13, 2021, the Taliban completed their sweep of Afghanistan as they took the capital city of Kabul just weeks before the US and coalition forces were set to officially end their two-decades-long war. The deteriorating humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan is exacerbating pre-existing challenges, including poverty, hunger, and escalating violence in the country. In recent weeks, reports of war crimes, including summary executions, public beatings, and flogging of women, sexual

violence, and forced marriage, have surfaced in the areas captured by the Taliban.

Endangered Scholars Worldwide is gravely concerned about the well-being of students, scholars, and human rights activists in Afghanistan. While we call for the Taliban to restrain from violence and repression, we believe that the international community must prioritize helping the people of Afghanistan under the Taliban's reign. During the regime's brutal previous rule, schools were closed, girls were forbidden from classrooms and could only leave their homes with a male patron—girls as young as nine were forced into marriages.

Afghan students and scholars, who have already lived their entire lives through conflict and war, have a right to live free from violence, go to school, and engage in scholarly work safe from harm.

ESW urges the global community to make all efforts to respect obligations under international human rights and international humanitarian law, which includes ensuring free and unhindered humanitarian access to people in need of assistance and protection and open borders for the safe movement of people.

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 have been increasingly targeted in violent attacks—an unacceptable trend that damages the future of society 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 Adela Raz
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 prodemocracy demonstrations. ESW calls on the US Department of States, the UN High Commissioner for Human rights, and 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 administration's continuing attacks under the leadership of President Jair Bolsonaro and in the name of his aggressive, antiprogressive, and fascistic agenda. For current information on the independence of higher education institution, please see our website.

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.



Continuing cases: The whereabouts of renowned Uyghur poet and professor of Xinjiang Normal University, ABDULQADIR JALALIDIN, detained more than three years ago, and of TASHPOLAT TIYIP, 63, renowned scholar of geography, and former president of Xinjiang University (XJU), remain unknown, and the risk of execution cannot be ruled out. 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; Professor QURBAN OSMAN; Professor HALMURAT GHOPUR, 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 Naihai

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 scholars worldwide.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. As of this report, Samer has had no access to lawyers or to his family. University of Bologna student PATRICK GEORGE ZAKI, who was granted Italian citizenship on April 14, 2021, has been in custody since February 7, 2020, and has been allegedly tortured and mistreated by Egyptian authorities.

Endangered Scholars Worldwide also remains deeply concerned about the arbitrary arrest and sentencing of five Cairo University academics 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 Motaz Zahran
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.*



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

New information: On August 5, 2021, Endangered Scholars Worldwide learned that NILOUFAR BAYANI, 34, a researcher, conservationist, and scholar who has been imprisoned in Tehran since February 2018 and has been serving a 10-year prison sentence since February 2020 on charges of espionage, was transferred to the Evin Prison quarantine ward after testing positive for COVID-19. Reports indicate that Iranian authorities do not provide proper medical care to detainees in the quar-

antine ward. Bayani, the program manager for the Persian Wildlife Heritage Foundation, previously worked as a project consultant for UN Environment and as a research assistant at McGill University. She was convicted on November 23, 2019, and sentenced to ten years in prison on charges of “contacts with the US enemy state” and “gaining illegitimate income.” The ongoing outbreak of COVID-19 in Iran’s prisons has accentuated the urgent need to release political prisoners. We urge the officials of the Iranian government to release all prisoners of conscience, especially those who pose no threat to the public, as COVID-19 spreads rapidly in Iranian prisons.

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. In a joint statement issued on July 21, 2021, 14 international academic and human rights groups called on the US and European governments to secure Djalali’s release.

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/](https://www.facebook.com/www.Khamenei.ir)
www.Khamenei.ir

President Raisi
The Office of the President
Pasteur St., Pasteur Square
Tehran
Islamic Republic of Iran
Phone: +98 21 64451

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.endangeredscholarsworldwide.net/saudiarabia
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: Following six months of protests in Istanbul, Ankara, and Izmir, on June 15, 2021, Melih Bulu was removed from his post as the rector of Bogazici University by a presidential decree. Bulu had been appointed to the position from outside the faculty by a midnight presidential executive order in January. 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. Trials are still in progress over charges against 108 people, mostly students, who were taken into custody on February 1 and released after giving their statements, as are court hearings in a lawsuit filed on April 19, 2021, against 97 people who joined the protests in Istanbul.

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 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. TUNA ALTINEL, professor of mathematics at Lyon-1 University in France, who was acquitted of all charges in January 2020, finally received his passport on May 28, 2021, and on June 11 returned to France, where he was welcomed at Lyon-Saint Exupery Airport by his colleagues and the members of academic solidarity networks.

Please send appeals to the following:

President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan
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

Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan
Minister of Interior
Zayed Sport City, Arab Gulf Street, Near to
Shaikh Zayed Mosque
PO Box: 398
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
Fax: +971 2 402 2762 / +971 2 441 5780
moi@moi.gov.ae

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

RELEASES

Thailand: On May 19, 2021, Endangered Scholars Worldwide learned that two leaders of a Thai student-led prodemocracy movement who were jailed last year have been released after repeated requests for bail, which had been denied. The Criminal Court of Thailand granted bail to PART “PENGUIN” CHIWARAK, 22, and CHAIAMORN “AMMY” KAEWWIBOON-PAN, 32, both charged under Thai lese majeste laws. The pair spent months in pretrial detention. According to the statement published by the court, both have agreed to remain in Thailand, attend future court hearings, and refrain from engaging in activities intended to undermine the monarchy and activities that would lead to civil unrest. While in prison, Parit was hospitalized due to the deterioration of his health as a result of a 46-day hunger strike to demand the right to be granted bail. Parit, who was detained on February 9, 2021, had been charged for his participation in a Bangkok protest last year. He began a hunger strike on March 15, 2021. Chaiamorn was detained for burning a portrait of Thailand’s king in Bangkok’s Central Prison. The Thai lese majeste laws, which forbid insulting the monarchy, carry a penalty of up to 15 years in prison for each offense.

Turkey: On June 15, 2021, CIHAN ERDAL, sociology PhD candidate at Carleton University and a former HDP executive committee member, was released under judicial supervision. On June 21, 2021, EMINE BEYZA USTUN, civil engineer and former HDP deputy at the Turkish Grand National Assembly was released on June 21, 2021, under judicial supervision. Both trials will resume on September 20, 2021.

SOURCES

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- 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>
- 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