



PROJECT MUSE®

Endangered Scholars Worldwide

Social Research: An International Quarterly, Volume 74, Number 4, Winter 2007, pp. vii-xiii (Article)

Published by Johns Hopkins University Press

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1353/sor.2007.0017>



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BANGLADESH

ON AUGUST 24, 2007, 12 PROFESSORS FROM DHAKA AND RAJSHAHI University were arrested, along with several students. The arrests were made after Bangladesh's government imposed a curfew to quell student unrest, which had begun when a group of soldiers had beaten some students from the University of Dhaka during a football match. In the ensuing violent clashes, which left more than 300 people injured and at least 1 dead, students demanded an end to the emergency rule in place since January 2007 and the restoration of democracy.

At least one of the arrested professors, Dr. Anwar Hossein, head of the Dhaka University Teacher's Association, had reportedly tried to intervene to calm the situation, but the arrested professors were charged with instigating the violence. According to Dr. Hossein's son Sanjeeb, his father and Dr. Harunor-Rashid have undergone torture while in prison. On December 4, four of the Rajshahi professors were sentenced to two years' imprisonment on the reduced charge of having breached emergency laws by participating in a silent procession against police brutality on August 21. This sentence was overturned, however, on December 10 when President Iajuddin Ahmed pardoned them following a series of protests by teachers and students. The following four Dhaka University professors and two other Rajshahi professors are still awaiting trial at the time this issue was going to press:

PROFESSOR ANWAR HOSSAIN, Dean, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Dhaka University

Information current, to the best of our knowledge, as of December 10, 2007.

PROFESSOR HARUNOR-RASHID, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences,
Department of Political Science, Dhaka University

PROFESSOR SADRUL AMIN, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Department of
English, Dhaka University

PROFESSOR NEEM CHANDRA BHOUMIK, Department of Applied Physics,
Dhaka University

PROFESSOR SABBIR SATTAR TAPU, Department of Geology and Mining,
Rajshahi University

PROFESSOR CHOWDHURY SARWAR JAHAN SAJAL, Department of Geology
and Mining, Rajshahi University

Send individual letters of appeal to:

Dr. Fakruddin Ahmed,
Chief Adviser
Government of the
People's Republic of Bangladesh
Tejgaon, Dhaka, Bangladesh
Fax: 880-2-811-3244 or 3243

His Excellency M. Humayun Kabir
Ambassador of the
People's Republic of Bangladesh

Embassy of Bangladesh
3510 International Drive, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008
Fax: (202) 244-7830 or 2771

General Moeen U Ahmed,
Chief of Staff
Bangladesh Army
Dhaka Cantonment
Dhaka, Bangladesh

CHINA

HU SHIGEN, a Lecturer at Beijing Language Institute and founding member of the China Freedom and Democracy Party (CFDP), was arrested on September 27, 1992 as part of a large group of prisoners of conscience, jointly indicted on "counter-revolutionary" charges after the CFDP helped to organize memorials for the victims of the government's violent suppression of the Democracy Movement in June

1989. After numerous delays and questionable judicial proceedings, the group's trial started in July 1994 and the verdict was announced in December 1994. Hu received a sentence of 20 years' imprisonment (which was reduced in 2005 and again in 2007, so that he is now due for release May 26, 2010). There are reports that he has been tortured and is suffering from severe neurasthenia and chronic migraines, as well as liver, heart, stomach, and ear problems. Several vertebrae in his back are dislocated, which it is feared could lead to paralysis if left untreated. Requests for medical parole by his family have been ignored by the authorities.

ZHENG YICHUN, a Professor of English at Liaoning University, was arrested by the security services in Yingkou, Liaoning Province, on December 3, 2004, and charged with "suspicion of inciting subversion of state power." The Prosecutor's Office cited 63 of Zheng's articles as evidence for the charges against him. They were among 300 articles that the police confiscated from his home. Zheng, a prolific Internet writer and poet, has published several books on a number of topics, including political reform, capitalism in China, and an end to the practice of imprisoning writers.

Zheng was convicted on July 21, 2005 of "incitement to subversion of state power" for his critical writings. He was sentenced to seven years in prison on September 20 by the Yingkou Intermediate People's Court, Liaoning Province. Zheng suffers from diabetes and his health has deteriorated since his imprisonment.

LÜ GENGSONG, a Chinese writer and civil rights activist and author of a book about corruption in the Communist Party of China, was arrested on August 24, 2007 on charges of "incitement to subvert state power" and "illegally possessing state secrets." A history graduate from Zhejiang University, Lü taught at the Zhejiang Higher Professional School of Public Security before being expelled in 1993 because of his pro-democracy activities. He went on to become a freelance writer and has published several books on political reform, including *A History*

of *Chinese Community Party Corrupt Officials* in 2000. Lü is known for his reporting on human rights violations and his political commentaries published on the Internet. He is also an active member of the banned China Democracy Party. On November 28, 2007 Lü's case was transferred to the Hangzhou City Procuratorate for examination and decision on initiating a prosecution.

Send appeals for their release to:

His Excellency Jiang Zemin
President of the People's Republic
of China
Zhong Nhai, Beijingshi 100032
People's Republic of China
Salutation: Your Excellency:

IRAN

EMADEDIN BAGHI, a journalist, writer, and human rights campaigner, was arrested in Tehran on October 14, 2007. A member of the Iranian Sociology Association, Baghi has written many books on religious, historical, and sociological issues, and he worked as a university teacher for eight years before being dismissed under pressure from the military. He has since been prevented from teaching and has served a previous prison sentence in 2000–2003 as a result of his journalism. For his work on human rights he is a recipient of the Northcote Parkinson Fund's Civil Courage Award (2004) and the French National Consultative Commission on Human Rights Award (2005), and it was in relation to his role in the Association in Defense of Freedom of Press and the Association for Defending the Rights of Prisoners in Iran that he was called to the public prosecutor's office and arrested in October. He is now serving a suspended one-year sentence he received in 2004 for his journalistic activities as well as a new three-year sentence on additional charges of "propaganda against the state" and the "public disclosure of state secrets" (stemming from his activities in support of prisoners'

rights). He is being held in solitary confinement and interrogated in the notorious Evin Prison and has been denied visits from his family (who have themselves received legal threats) and regular access to his lawyer. As a result of his distressing situation, Baghi has sent letters to five officials, threatening a hunger strike if this ordeal continues. For more information see his campaign website: <<http://freedomforbaghi2.blogspot.com/>>.

MEHRNOSH SOLOUKI, a filmmaker and graduate student at the Université de Québec à Montréal (Canada), came to Iran in December 2006 in order to film a documentary on the burial rites of religious minorities; he had the permission of the Iranian Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance. In the process of researching the documentary, Solouki stumbled upon a mass grave of regime opponents summarily executed in 1988. In February 2007, Solouki was arrested by five armed men and placed in Evin Prison. She was released from prison when her parents posted bail of 85,000 euros on March 28, 2007—but authorities confiscated her French passport and banned her from returning to France. On November 17, 2007 she underwent a closed door trial in Tehran and was accused of “intent of committing propaganda” against the Iranian regime; the trial was adjourned to an undetermined date. She is also suffering from wounds received in a suspicious accident in which she was knocked down by a motorcyclist on July 29, 2007. See her campaign website: <www.freesolouki.org>.

Send individual letters of appeal to:

Supreme Leader of the
Islamic Republic
His Excellency
Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamenei
The Office of the Supreme Leader
Shoahada Street, Qom,
Islamic Republic of Iran
Email: info@leader.ir
istiftaa@wilayah.org

President
His Excellency
Dr. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad
Pasteur Ave.
Tehran 13168-43311
Islamic Republic of Iran

Head of the Judiciary
His Excellency
Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi
Shahrudi
Ministry of Justice, Park-e Shahrz
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Please send emails via the
Judiciary website:
<[iranjudiciary.org/
feedback_en.html](mailto:iranjudiciary.org/feedback_en.html)>

H. E. Dr. Mohammad Javad Zarif
Ambassador of Iran to the
United Nations
Permanent Mission of the Islamic
Republic of Iran to the
United Nations
622 Third Avenue, 34th Floor
New York, NY 10017, USA
Fax: 212-867-7086

The following scholars who were featured in our previous issue (vol. 74, no. 3) remain in prison. Information about them, along with means of supporting them, can be found at www.socres.org/endorsementscholars

KO AUNG HTUN (Burma)
XU ZERONG (China)
AREF DALILA (Syria)
IGOR SUTYAGIN (Russia)

VISA DENIALS BY THE UNITED STATES

RIYADH LAFTA, Iraqi doctor

Wrote a controversial paper on US casualties in Iraq. Invited to speak at Washington University in April 2007 but was denied a visa.

ADAM HABIB, South African Deputy Vice Chancellor at the University of Johannesburg

His visa was revoked in October 2006, preventing him from attending several conferences, including that of the American Sociological Foundation, on grounds of having “engaged in terrorist activity.”

NALINI GHUMAN, British Professor of Music at Mills College, California
Had her visa revoked in August 2006 without explanation.

YOANNIS MILIOS, Greek Professor of Economics, National Technical University, Athens

Prevented from speaking at New York University in June 2006 as a result of being refused entry after questions about his Marxist views. New application July 2006 in limbo.

DORA MARIA TELLEZ, Nicaraguan scholar and former Minister of Health

Forced to abandon her teaching post at Harvard University after the government denied her a visa in 2005, apparently because of her role in the Nicaraguan Revolution in 1979.

FERNANDO RODRIGUEZ, Bolivian human rights lawyer

Prevented from traveling to Washington in March 2005 to present a paper to the Inter-American Human Rights Commission. According to Rodriguez, immigration officials claimed he had met with “terrorist peasants.” Rodriguez was denied entry into the United States and his visa was revoked.

TARIQ RAMADAN, Swiss scholar, Visiting Professor at Erasmus University, Rotterdam

Refused entry to the United States and prevented from taking a post at Notre Dame University in 2004. Following an ACLU court case, the government formally denied him a visa in September 2006 on the grounds of having “endorsed or espoused” terrorism.

Send letters of protest to:

Secretary of State
Condoleezza Rice
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520



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Social Research: An International Quarterly, Volume 74, Number 4, Winter 2007, p. v (Article)

Published by Johns Hopkins University Press

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1353/sor.2007.0006>



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IN THE FIRST APPEARANCES OF OUR NOW REGULAR FEATURE ALERTING OUR READERS to the plight of endangered scholars around the globe, initiated in our summer 2007 issue, we limited our alerts and calls for action to imprisoned scholars and scholars whose lives are presently threatened by the governments of the countries in which they live. In this issue we have added an additional section that lists the names of foreign scholars invited to speak or lecture at universities in the United States who have been denied entry visas by the US State Department. While the lives of these scholars are not jeopardized by the actions of our government, the principles of academic freedom certainly are, which is why we made the decision to list their names here. When the expression of ideas is censored it is not only universities that are imperiled, but the very foundation of democracy is undermined. In this spirit we ask our readers to join us by sending petitions to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice protesting these actions. Should you decide to send a letter of protest on behalf of any of the scholars listed here, model letters can be found on our website (www.socres.org/endangeredscholars), along with information about scholars previously listed in earlier issues.