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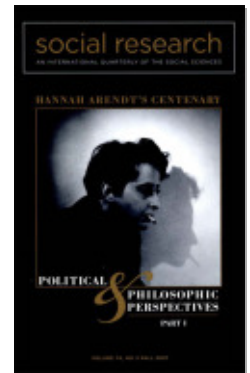
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## Endangered Scholars Worldwide\*

Social Research: An International Quarterly, Volume 74, Number 3, Fall 2007,  
pp. vii-x (Article)

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➔ *For additional information about this article*

<https://muse.jhu.edu/article/527569/summary>

# Endangered Scholars Worldwide\*

**DR. 'AREF DALILAH**, the former Dean of the Faculty of Economics of Aleppo University in Syria and a founding member of the Preparatory Committees of the Civil Society Forum, was arrested in Damascus, on September 9, 2001. A peaceful supporter of political and economic reforms, he had been dismissed from his post as Dean of Economic Faculty, reportedly due to his outspoken views against corruption and his calls for granting freedom of expression to complement economic reform. He was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment on charges of "attempting to change the constitution by illegal means." Serious concerns have been raised about Dr. Dalilah's health, including heart problems, but prison authorities have restricted his access to medical care. Limited information about his condition is available through the Alliance for Essential Liberties in the Middle East at <<http://www.aelme.org/syria-aref-dalilah>>. Send individual letters of appeal to the individuals listed below, with copies to diplomatic representatives of Syria accredited to your country:

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

Minister of Defence:  
His Excellency General  
Hassan Ali Turkmani  
Ministry of Defence  
Omayyad Square  
Damascus  
Syrian Arab Republic  
Fax: +963 11 223 7842  
Salutation: Your Excellency

\*Information current, to the best of our knowledge, as of September 12, 2007.

Minister of Foreign Affairs:  
His Excellency Walid Mu'allim  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
al-Rashid Street  
Damascus  
Syrian Arab Republic  
Fax: + 963 11 332 7620  
Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Health:  
His Excellency Maheral-Husami  
Minister of Health  
Majlis ash-Sha'b  
Damascus  
Syrian Arab Republic  
Fax : +963 11 3311114  
Email: health\_min@net.sy  
Salutation: Your Excellency

**DR. IGOR SUTYAGIN**, a researcher at the US and Canada Institute in Moscow, was sentenced to 15 years' hard labor for treason and espionage on April 7, 2004, accused of providing classified information to a UK consulting firm. As a civilian with no security clearances, he did not have access to any classified materials, and his research on civilian-military relations in Russian was based on nonclassified sources. However, authorities contend, the accuracy of his research indicates that Dr. Sutyagin had to have used classified documents to draw his conclusions, despite the absence of any evidence. His arrest and imprisonment appear to be part of a growing pattern of persecution of scientists and unfounded accusations of espionage. For more information about his case or to sign a letter in support of Dr. Sutyagin, visit <[www.sutyagin.org](http://www.sutyagin.org)>. Send individual letters of appeal to:

Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin  
President of Russia  
The Kremlin  
Moscow  
Russia  
Fax: +7 (095) 206-5173 or  
+7 (095) 206-6277  
E-mail: [president@gov.ru](mailto:president@gov.ru)  
Salutation: Dear Mr. President

Copies sent to:  
Yuri V. Ushakov, Ambassador  
Embassy of the Russian  
Federation to the United States  
2650 Wisconsin Avenue, NW  
Washington DC 20007  
Fax: (212) 298-5765  
Salutation: Dear Mr. Ambassador

**KO AUNG HTUN**, a writer and former student activist, was imprisoned in Burma between 1990 and 1995 for organizing student demonstrations against military rule. After his release, he wrote a seven-volume history of the student movement in Burma. In February 1998 he was rearrested and sentenced to a total of 17 years' imprisonment under charges pertaining to violation of censorship laws and to unlawful association with any organization deemed by authorities to be against state interests. He has been tortured during interrogation, and there are serious concerns about his health and safety. Information about his case may be found at <[http://www.amnestyusa.org/Banned\\_Books/Banned\\_Books\\_Ko\\_Aung\\_Htun/page.do?id=1091241&n1=3&n2=34&n3=842](http://www.amnestyusa.org/Banned_Books/Banned_Books_Ko_Aung_Htun/page.do?id=1091241&n1=3&n2=34&n3=842)>. Send individual letters of appeal to:

Senior General Than Shwe,  
Chairman  
State Peace and Development  
Council  
Ministry of Defense  
Naypyitaw  
Salutation: Dear Senior General  
Union of Myanmar (for US Postal  
Service, "Burma" should appear  
in parentheses after "Myanmar"  
on envelope only, not in the letter  
itself)

Minister Counselor U Myint Lwin  
Chargé d'Affaires Ad Interim  
Embassy of Myanmar  
2300 S Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20008  
Salutation: Dear Sir

**DR. XU ZERONG**, an associate research professor at the Provincial Academy of Social Sciences and an affiliated professor at Zhongshan University, Xu wrote several freelance articles for Hong Kong publications and co-founded a Hong Kong-based journal, *China Social Sciences Quarterly*. He was detained in 2000 and was arrested in 2002 after using historical materials for his academic research on the Korean War. He was sentenced to a total of 13 years in prison: 10 years for revealing state secrets by sending allegedly classified documents overseas, and an additional 3 years in prison for economic crimes, on charges of bring-

ing banned books into the mainland. Little is known about the conditions under which Xu is being held other than that officials say he is in good health, and he has reportedly been able to receive visitors. More information about his case is available at <[www.hrw.org/campaigns/china/scholars](http://www.hrw.org/campaigns/china/scholars)>. Send appeals for his 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:



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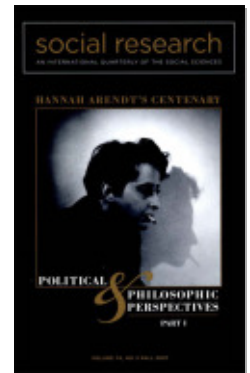
## Endangered Scholars Worldwide: Introduction

Arien Mack

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➔ *For additional information about this article*

<https://muse.jhu.edu/article/527568/summary>

# Endangered Scholars Worldwide: Introduction

*IN THE SUMMER 2007 ISSUE OF SOCIAL RESEARCH, WE ANNOUNCED OUR intention to feature a special section in every issue providing names and relevant information about scholars around the world who are in prison or otherwise persecuted for expressing their ideas. We also promised that we would include information about what we are being asked to do on their behalf in the hope that our readers will join us in protesting their imprisonment and pleading for their release. As we noted, this new feature returns us to our roots in the University in Exile, where professors and intellectuals who were rescued by the first president of the New School from the horrors of Nazism were given a new home at the New School and where, one year later, in 1934, they founded the journal Social Research.*

*In the first installment of this feature we focused on two members of our own extended community: Dr. Kian Tajbakhsh, a Social Research author and former New School colleague, who was imprisoned in Tehran on May 11 on charges of spying for the United States; and Dr. Berhanu Nega, who received his Ph.D. at the New School for Social Research, who was charged with treason and was facing execution in Ethiopia. We are happy to announce that Dr. Tajbakhsh was released on bail from Evin Prison on September 20, just as we go to press, and is home with his wife in Tehran, awaiting the birth of their first child. Dr. Nega has also been released from prison and is now in the United States.*

*In the first issue we mentioned two other imprisoned scholars who also have since been released: Dr. Haleh Esfandiari, who has now returned to the United States, where she is director of the Wilson Center's Middle East Program, and Dr. Mesfim Woldemariam, who has, along with Dr. Nega, also been released from prison in Ethiopia.*

*On the following pages we list three more scholars who have been imprisoned unjustly. We urge you to act on their behalf by sending letters of protest to those indicated below who have the power to release them. Although we will never know to what extent our petitions for these scholars helped, we believe they do have some effect. Draft letters of protest for each scholar may be found on our website <[www.soces.org/endorsementscholars](http://www.soces.org/endorsementscholars)>.*

*—Arien Mack, Editor*