



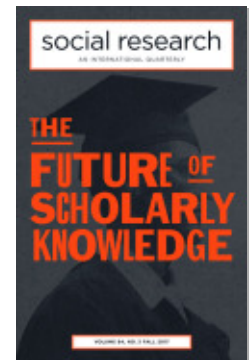
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Endangered Scholars Worldwide

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Endangered Scholars Worldwide

The information in this quarterly print report is current as of August 28, 2017. The situation of scholars and students around the world changes on a daily basis. For the most up-to-date 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.



ENDANGERED SCHOLARS WORLDWIDE REMEMBERS LIU XIAOBO

On July 13, 2017, Chinese Nobel peace laureate and *Social Research* author LIU XIAOBO died in custody at age 61. His death was confirmed by Chinese authorities in Shenyang province two weeks after officials announced he was being moved to a hospital for treatment. Liu was jailed in response to his call for peaceful reform, which spurred the Norwegian Nobel committee to honor him with its peace prize in 2010 and propelled him to international renown. But his first nomination had come two decades earlier, following the Tiananmen Square prodemocracy protests of 1989, in which Liu played a crucial role, first as one of the prominent “four gentlemen” who launched a hunger strike in support of the students, then by helping to broker a peaceful exit from the square for the remaining demonstrators amid the brutal



crackdown. These events were the turning point in Liu's life. Though he was a visiting professor at Columbia University in New York by the time the prodemocracy movement started, he went home despite the risks. The decision brought him jail and an end to his career as a brilliant young literary professor. In 2008, along with other dissidents, he drafted Charter 08, a document that called on the Chinese state to change its character and abandon one-party rule. Soon after he was tried for subversion. He was convicted in 2009 for writing seven sentences, a total of 224 Chinese characters, and sentenced to 11 years imprisonment.

"A calm and steady mind can look at a steel gate and see a road to freedom," Liu wrote of life as a prisoner. He insisted that love could dissipate hate and that progress would be made. *No Enemies, No Hatred*, a selection of his essays and poems, was published in English 2013.

Endangered Scholars Worldwide holds the Chinese government responsible for Liu's death. It imprisoned him unjustly and withheld proper medical treatment until his cancer was too advanced to treat, only then releasing him on medical parole. At the end, it spurned international appeals to allow him to go abroad for treatment. We join with many others around the world who mourn his death and continue to work for the universal upholding of the values and freedoms he lived for. Liu Xiaobo's life and death should serve as a poignant reminder that freedom has a price.

NEW AND CONTINUING CASES

BAHRAIN

Scholars and Researchers: ABDUL-JALIL AL-SINGACE, head of the department of engineering at the University of Bahrain, has been in Jau prison since 2011. At that time, he was sentenced to life imprisonment for allegedly "plotting to overthrow the government" during the Arab Spring protests demanding greater democracy. Al-Singace, a polio victim who can only stand on one leg, was nevertheless tortured at the time of his

detention by beatings, sexual assault, and being forced to stand upright for long periods despite his disability. The professor of engineering at the University of Bahrain was also a Draper Hills Fellow at Stanford University's Center on Democracy in Development and the Rule of Law. He has long campaigned for political reform and an end to torture, writing on these and other subjects on his blog (in Arabic), Al-Faseela (The Date Sapling).

Students who remain in prison include AHMED AL ARAB, a nursing student, arrested in January 2014 and sentenced to life imprisonment. Al Arab has previously reported that he was subject to severe torture and ill-treatment while held in detention. He said he was stripped naked and hung from his wrists while they were handcuffed behind his back. AHMED AOUN was arrested in May 2015 on charges of "involvement in pro-democracy demonstrations." Five other students were sentenced to 15 years in prison at a trial on March 5, 2012, following involvement in prodemocracy demonstrations, including JAWAD AL-MAHARY, SHAWQI RADHI, JASSIM AL HULAINI, JASSIM AL-MUKHODHER, and YOUSIF AHMED.

Endangered Scholars Worldwide is strongly concerned about the continued ill treatment of these students, and calls on the United States, the United Kingdom, the United Nations, the European Union, and international institutions to put pressure on Bahraini authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Ahmed Al-Arab, along with all other detainees held on politically motivated charges due to the ongoing popular movement for freedom and democracy.

Please send appeals to:

His Majesty Sheikh Hamad bin Isa
Al-Khalifa
Office of His Majesty 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/>

Sheikh Khalid bin Ali Al-Khalifa
Minister of Justice and Islamic Affairs
Diplomatic Area
PO Box # 450
Al-Manama
Kingdom of Bahrain
Fax: +973 175 13 333

Jameel Bin Mohammed Ali Hamaidan
Minister of Human Rights and Social
Development
Ministry of Human Rights and
Development
Manama

Kingdom of Bahrain
Tel: +973 176 82 422
Email: minister.office@mlsd.gov.bh
Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/
fatima.albalooshi.3](https://www.facebook.com/fatima.albalooshi.3)

CHINA

Scholars and Researchers: On August 9, 2017, authorities in northwest China's Xinjiang region sentenced HEBIBULLA TOHTI, a prominent Uyghur theological scholar endorsed by the country's state-sanctioned Islamic Association, to 10 years in prison on charges of "illegal religious activity," following his return from Egypt, according to local sources. Tohti was arrested at least twice before he was ultimately sentenced to a decade behind bars.

On December 10, 2016, World Human Rights Day, a group of internationally renowned writers sent a letter to China's president, Xi Jinping, urging the Chinese authorities to release jailed and detained writers, journalists, bloggers, and activists. They called for the release of ILHAM TOHTI, an economics professor and distinguished scholar of China's Uyghur Muslim minority, who was sentenced to life in prison in September 2014 by the Xinjiang People's High Court for "separatism" after what Human Rights Watch called "a grossly unfair trial." In recent developments, according to an interview conducted by Radio Free Asia, the family of the jailed Uyghur scholar is facing extreme hardship and increasing isolation as his wife struggles to raise the couple's young sons in Beijing. Endangered Scholars Worldwide deplores the Chinese government's pervasive and ongoing crackdown on the Uyghur people. We call on the Chinese government to free Professor Ilham Tohti immediately and unconditionally, and to investigate the allegations of his mistreatment while detained.

Also remaining in prison are XU ZHIYONG, sentenced in July 2015 to four years in prison for "gathering a crowd to disturb public order," and GUO QUAN, a literature professor at Nanjing Normal University, sentenced to 10 years in prison in October 2009 on charges of "inciting subversion of state power."

Students who remain in prison on charges of “separatism” and their connection to Professor Ilham Tohti are PERHAT HALMURAT, SHOURET NIJAT, LUO YUWEI, MUTELLIP IMIN, ABDUQEYUM ABLIMIT, ATIEN ROZI and AKBAR IMIN.

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

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

Calls for letters on behalf of ILHAM TOHTI: <http://goo.gl/RIscCG>

EGYPT

Students who remain in prison include KARIM AL-BANNA, sentenced to three years in prison in January 2015 on charges of contempt of religion and insulting the divine. SHERIF GABER, a student from Suez Canal University, was sentenced to one year in prison in February 2015 for contempt of religion relating to activities on campus and atheist statements online. Mr. Gaber went into hiding upon his release on bail and prior to his sentencing. He has been granted asylum abroad but chooses to remain in hiding in Egypt.

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 Amr Abdellatif Aboulatta
Egyptian Permanent Representative to the
United Nations
United Nations
800 Second Avenue
New York, NY 10017
USA

IRAN

Scholars and Researchers: On July 17, 2017, an Iranian court sentenced American graduate student XIYUE WANG, a 37-year-old historian from Princeton University, to 10 years in prison for “spying under the cover of research.” Wang, a Chinese-born US citizen, was arrested last summer while conducting research in Iran for his doctoral dissertation.



Fars, a semiofficial Iranian news agency, reported that Wang was “gathering secret and top secret [intelligence]” for the US State Department, Harvard Kennedy School, and the British Institute of Persian Studies. He was accused of “infiltrating Iran’s national archive and building a 4,500-page digital archive” for “the world’s biggest anti-Iran spying organization.” Wang is the latest American to be arrested in Iran on espionage charges.

Endangered Scholars Worldwide is gravely concerned about the ongoing detention of Xiyue Wang and calls for letters, emails, and faxes respectfully urging authorities in Iran to investigate the situation, to ensure Wang’s well-being while in custody, to ensure that any charges or convictions related to Wang’s peaceful exercise of protected human rights are lifted, and that in the interim, his case is addressed in a manner consistent with internationally recognized standards of due process, fair trial and detention, in accordance with Iran’s obligations under international law.

On February 7, 2017, AHMADREZA DJALALI was reportedly sentenced to death. According to the Belgian newspaper *De Morgen*, Djalali has been forced to sign a confession, for which he will receive the death penalty. The Iranian government is calling it a matter of national security. Djalali, who has taught at the European Master in Disaster Medicine (EMDM) in Italy—a joint Master’s at the Università degli Studi del Piemonte Orientale and the Vrije Universiteit Brussel—was arrested in Iran in April 2016, on charges of espionage, while he was visiting his family. He spent more than seven months in solitary confinement without a proper trial or access to a lawyer.

Endangered Scholars Worldwide considers this arbitrary detention a flagrant and unjust violation of the freedom, security, and safety of an academic who is clearly a victim of a political witch hunt—arrested without cause, held for months in solitary confinement and without access to a lawyer, and subjected to physical mistreatment and psychological abuse. We deplore this unjustified verdict in the strongest terms and call upon all international organizations, academic and

professional associations, and other groups and individuals devoted to the promotion and defense of human rights to strongly protest and condemn this arbitrary sentence, to call for Professor Djalali's immediate and unconditional release, and to urge the officials of the Iranian government to respect, guarantee, and implement the provisions and principles of human rights as specified in international conventions and treaties.

Students who remain in prison include YASHAR DAROLSHAFI, a graduate student in sociology at Tehran University, arrested and charged with "assembly and collusion against national security" and "founding or leading an organization aimed to disrupt national security," currently serving a five-and-a-half year sentence; ARASH SADEGHI, a student rights activist sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment in September 2014 on charges of "collusion against the regime" and "insulting the Supreme Leader of Iran"; and VAHID RANJBAR, arrested in August 2014.

Other students still in prison include ZIA NABAVI, serving a ten-year sentence after attending protests following the 2009 elections and currently is in critical condition; and HAMID BABAIEI, a PhD student at the University of Liege in Belgium, detained in August 2013 shortly after his return to Tehran and sentenced to six years in prison on charges of "communicating with hostile foreign governments and spying." Babaei has consistently said that he was imprisoned for refusing to operate as an informant in Belgium for Iran's Intelligence Ministry. Babaei has also been suffering from severe dental problems in prison, but the authorities have ignored his need for proper medical treatment.

Please send appeals to:

His Excellency Ayatollah Ali Khamenei
The Office of the Supreme Leader
Jomhuri 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

Ayatollah Sadeq 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
The Office of the President
Palestine Avenue, Azerbaijan Intersection
Tehran
Islamic Republic of Iran

Javad Zarif, Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
The Minister's Office
Imam Khomeini Square
Tehran
Islamic Republic of Iran
Fax: +98 21 66743149
Website: <http://www.mfa.gov.ir>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/jzarif>

LAOS

Student protestors THONGPASEUTH KEUAKOUN, SENG-ALOUN PHENGPHANH, and BOUAVANH CHANHMANIVONG were imprisoned in 1999 following their arrest on charges of treason for displaying posters calling for economic, political, and social change during demonstrations. Even after eighteen years, it is not known in which prison the three students are being held or if they are still alive.

Please send appeals to:

President Bounnhang Vorachith
Presidential Palace
Thanon Setthathirat
Ban Xiengyeun Tha, Muang Chanthaburi
Vientiane
Laos

His Excellency Thongloun Sisoulith
Prime Minister's Office
Lane Xang Avenue
Vientiane
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Fax: + 856 21 213560

SAUDI ARABIA

Scholars and Researchers: In March 2016, ALI ABDULLAH AL-HAJI, a professor at King Saud University in Riyadh, was arrested along with 31 others on charges of spying for Iran. The accused also include a student at Imam Muhammad Bin Saud Islamic University, as well as an academician who held the job of "development researcher" at the Ministry of Education for more than 25 years. Endangered Scholars Worldwide has not been able to obtain the names of the latter two defendants.

Scholars and researchers who remain in prison include ABDUL KAREEM YOUSEF AL-KHODER, a professor of comparative jurisprudence at Qassim University, sentenced in June 2013 to eight years' imprison-

ment and a ten-year travel ban, and SA'UD MUKHTAR AL-HASHIMI, a faculty member at the King Abdulaziz University, sentenced in November 2011 to thirty years in prison.

Please send appeals to:

Adel bin Ahmed Al-Jubeir
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
PO Box 58889, Bldg. 373
King Fahad Road
Riyadh 11515
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Fax: +966 1 4612061

REPUBLIC OF SUDAN

Scholars and Researchers: On May 11, 2017, MUDAWI IBRAHIM, a professor of engineering at the University of Khartoum, who was arrested by the National Intelligence and Security Agency and accused of espionage and “working within a network and criminal organization” against the state and in favor of foreign embassies in Khartoum on December 7, 2016, was charged with undermining the constitutional system and waging war against the state. Both charges potentially carry the death penalty. Mudawi Ibrahim is an internationally recognized human rights defender who was the winner of the inaugural 2005 Front Line Defenders Award for human rights defenders, and the founder and chairman of the Sudan Social Development Organization.

Endangered Scholars Worldwide is gravely concerned about the detention of Mudawi Ibrahim, and calls for letters, emails, and faxes respectfully urging authorities in Sudan to ensure Ibrahim’s well-being while in custody, to ensure that any charges or convictions related to Ibrahim’s peaceful exercise of protected human rights are lifted, and that in the interim, his case be addressed in a manner consistent with internationally recognized standards of due process, fair trial and detention, in accordance with Sudan’s obligations under international law.

SIDIG NOREEN ALI ABDALLA, who has taught at West Kordofan, has been in prison since January 14, 2014, on charges of “advocacy on the

situation in Darfur.” According to the African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies (ACJPS) report dated March 25, 2015, there are growing safety concerns for the detained scholar, who has been held in custody in El Obeid town, North Kordofan state, by Sudan’s National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS).

Please send appeals to:

His Excellency Lt. Omar Hassan Ahmad
Al-Bashir
President of the Republic of Sudan
President’s Palace
PO Box 281
Khartoum
Sudan
Fax: +249 183 783 223

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

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

THAILAND

Scholars and Researchers: On August 21, 2017, Endangered Scholars Worldwide learned that CHAYAN VADDHANAPHUTI, director of the Regional Centre for Social Science and Sustainable Development at Chiang Mai University, who organized the thirteenth International Conference on Thai Studies along with four other Thai academics, has been charged with violating the country’s military junta’s ban on political gatherings of more than four people. Also charged were four delegates at the conference, PAKAWADEE VEERAPATPONG, CHAIPONG SAMNIENG, NONTAWAT MACHAI, and THIRAMON BUA-NGAM, all of whom committed the same offense: holding posters reading “An academic forum is not a military barrack” to protest the military’s surveillance of participants during

the conference. If convicted they face up to one year of imprisonment. A report on University World News said the charges were announced on August 14, a month after the conference was held at Chiang Mai University in northern Thailand.

Students: On Thursday, August 3, 2017, a court in northeastern Thailand began a closed-door trial of an activist law student arrested for sharing on Facebook an article posted by the BBC Thai-language service about the country's new king. JATUPAT 'PAI DAO DIN' BOONPATTARARAKSA was arrested in December 2016, for sharing a profile of the king that was posted on Facebook by the BBC's Thai-language service. Jatupat is a prominent member of Dao Din, a small student organization that has protested against Thailand's military government. He was given the Gwangju Prize, a human rights award from "The May 18 Memorial Foundation in South Korea," in May while he was in detention.

Endangered Scholars Worldwide believes that the lese majeste law is being in Thailand used to silence academics, students, and political dissidents. The military regime that took power in 2014 has primarily cracked down on commentary on the internet. According to iLaw, a group that tracks royal defamation cases, 82 people have been charged under the lese majeste law since the coup three years ago. ESW urges the officials of the Thai government to respect, guarantee, and implement the provisions and principles of human rights as specified in international conventions and treaties and urge the Thai authorities to drop any charges against the accused arising out of the nonviolent exercise of the rights to expression, association, and assembly.

Please send appeals to:

Ambassador Thani Thongphakdi
Permanent Mission of Thailand to the
United Nations and Other International
Organizations
United Nations
5 Rue Gustave-Moynier

CH 1202 Geneva
Switzerland
Fax: + 41 22 715 1000
Website: <http://www.thaimission.ch/>
Email: mission.thailand@ties.itu.int

TURKEY

Endangered Scholars Worldwide continues to be extremely concerned about the harsh measures the Turkish government has taken against universities and other institutions of higher education, and its systematic targeting of the country's scholars and professors, since the coup attempt on July 15, 2016. These actions have inflicted major harm on the entire educational system

In July 2016, Turkey's Council of Higher Education (YOK) effectively dismissed 1,577 university deans and four university presidents, and took "legal action ... against academic and administrative staff [engaged in] in parallel state formation," which resulted in the shutting down 15 of 193 universities. Since then, more than 150,000 people have been dismissed, while nearly 44,000 have been jailed and more than 80,000 detained. Additionally, university rectors are no longer elected by the vote of faculty but rather appointed by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan from a panel of candidates selected by the YOK. The first such appointment took place on November 12, 2016, when President Erdogan appointed Mehmed Ozkan, instead of the democratically elected incumbent rector, Gulay Barbarosoglu, as rector of Bogazici University.

By August 2017, the Turkish government had issued two new statutory decrees, which dismissed another 928 civil servants, including 120 academics and nearly hundred administrative staff members. With the latest decrees, the number of academics who lost their jobs across the country has reached a total of 8,693.

ESW is obliged to call attention to the urgency of the situation in Turkey, provide a clearer picture of the magnitude of the ongoing repression, and express our solidarity with thousands of Turkish academics who lost their jobs as a result of their peaceful activities and the exercise of their freedom of speech.

For full coverage of the crisis in higher education in Turkey and to sign our letter of protest, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/turkey-esw>.

Please send appeals to:

His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdogan
President of Turkey
The Office of the President
Cumhurbaşkanlığı Külliyesi
06560 Bestepe, Ankara
Turkey
Fax: +90 312 525 58 31

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

VIETNAM

On June 10, 2017, Vietnamese President Tran Dai Quang signed a special order into effect stripping French-Vietnamese mathematician and former political prisoner PHAM MINH HOANG of his Vietnamese citizenship. In the official letter, the Vietnam's government informed Hoang, 62, of its decision to revoke his nationality, citing Articles 88 and 91 of the country's Criminal Code, which prohibit "conducting propaganda against the state" and "fleeing abroad or defecting to stay overseas with a view to opposing the people's administration," respectively.

After receiving the letter, Hoang called the decision "invalid," saying it violates the law on Vietnamese nationality, and pledged to fight for his right to live in his homeland. He has formally begun the process of renouncing his French citizenship in a bid to block the revocation. Hoang is a professor in applied mathematics at the Ho Chi Minh City Institute of Technology. He was previously arrested in Vietnam for his political writing and activism. In August 2010, Hoang was sentenced to three years in jail and three years of probation under Article 79, "subversion of administration"—one of many penal codes defined vaguely and used to detain and arrest political activists in Vietnam.

Endangered Scholars Worldwide is gravely concerned about the loss of citizenship of the French-Vietnamese professor Pham Minh Hoang. We call for letters, emails, and faxes respectfully urging authorities in Vietnam to reconsider this decision, respect their responsibility to protect academic freedom and freedom of expression, and to refrain from imposing arbitrary restrictions on movement intended to limit or retaliate for the exercise of these freedoms.

Students who remain in prison are DINH NGUYEN KHA, sentenced to eight years in prison, on charges of “conducting propaganda against the state” in May 2013. He was arrested in October 2012 for handing out leaflets critical of the government.

Please send appeals to:

His Excellency Trần Đại Quang
President of the Socialist Republic of
Vietnam

c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Hanoi
Vietnam

SOURCES

Al Jazeera English. <http://www.aljazeera.com/>

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/>

Endangered Scholars Worldwide. <http://www.endangeredscholars-worldwide.net/>

English PEN. <http://www.englishpen.org/writersinprison/>

Human Rights in China. <http://www.hrichina.org/>

Human Rights Watch. <http://www.hrw.org/>

Hurriyet. <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/>

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 Ebbly Abramson with Dolunay Bulut