

Endangered Scholars Worldwide

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Endangered Scholars

Worldwide

The information in this quarterly print report is current as of December 5, 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.



PETITION TO IRAN TO OVERTURN PROFESSOR AHMADREZA DJALALI'S DEATH SENTENCE

We the undersigned are compelled to express our outrage at the arrest, conviction, and sentencing of Iranian professor Ahmadreza Djalali, who has been detained since April 2016 by the Islamic Republic of Iran. He was accused of espionage and, following a closed trial, sentenced to death on October 20, 2017.

The 45-year-old professor, who taught at the European Master in Disaster Medicine (EMDM) in Italy—a joint master's program of the Università degli Studi del Piemonte Orientale and the Vrije Universiteit Brussel—was arrested in April 2016 in Tehran on charges of "collaboration with a hostile government" while he was visiting his family. Djalali was later accused of providing information to Israel to help it assassinate several senior nuclear scientists. Amnesty International reports

that Djalali's lawyers were told on Saturday, December 9, 2017, that the Supreme Court had considered his case and upheld his October 24 sentence in a secret process without allowing them to file defense submissions.

We at Endangered Scholars Worldwide and the undersigned consider this arbitrary sentence 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.

Endangered Scholars Worldwide and the undersigned deplore this unjustified verdict in the strongest terms and ask 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.

Signed: Talal Asad, Etienne R. Balibar, Jose Casanova, Nancy Fraser, Ira Katznelson, Janos Kis, Arien Mack, Steven Pinker, and more than 100 others from Belgium, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Netherlands, Poland, and the United States.

Please add your signature at: https://tinyurl.com/esw-djalali-petition.

NEW AND CONTINUING CASES

BAHRAIN

Scholars and Researchers: ABDUL-JALIL AL-SINGACE, the former head of the department of engineering at the University of Bahrain, has been in Jau

prison since 2011 on a life sentence for allegedly "plotting to overthrow the government" during the Arab Spring protests. Al-Singace, who has long campaigned for political reform and an end to torture, was himself tortured at the time of his detention. Recent reports suggest that he has repeatedly been denied medical treatment as he refused to wear the prison uniform and handcuffs. ESW calls for Dr. Abduljalil Al-Singace to be granted access to all necessary medical care as a matter of urgency, and continues to call for his immediate and unconditional release, as well as all those detained in Bahrain in violation of Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Bahrain is a state party.

Students: ALI MOHAMED HAKEEM AL-ARAB, 23, was arrested on February 9, 2017. On March 7, he was moved to Dry Dock Prison. Ali al-Arab has allegedly been tortured during interrogation, including having his toenails pulled off, given electric shocks, and beaten. Other students who remain in prison include AHMED AL ARAB, a nursing student arrested in January 2014 and sentenced to life imprisonment. Ahmed Al Arab has previously reported that he was subjected 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 scholars and students in Bahrain, 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, Rifa'a Palace

PO Box 555 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

CHINA

Scholars and Researchers: On August 9, 2017, authorities in northwest China's Xinjiang region sentenced HEBIBULLA TOHTI, a prominent Uyghur theological scholar sponsored 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 is among the more than 1000 Uyghur students that the Chinese government ordered to return to Eastern Turkistan from Egypt. According to Radio Free Europe, Chinese authorities have also targeted family members of Uyghur students studying abroad. Recent news coverage documents the Egyptian government's compliance with China's order, rounding up Uyghur students to deport them. The stories of students who were previously returned and detained by Chinese authorities indicate that these students will most likely face lengthy prison sentences in China.

On November 30, 2017 jailed Uyghur scholar ILHAM TOHTI, a professor of economics, was honored at a ceremony in The Hague, where he was awarded Liberal International's Prize for Freedom, given in absentia and accepted on his behalf by a rights group advocating for his release. Tohti, who regularly highlighted the religious and cultural persecution of the Muslim Uyghur ethnic minority in China's Xinjiang region, 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."

Endangered Scholars Worldwide deplores the Chinese government's pervasive and ongoing crackdown on the Uyghur people.

Also remaining in prison are XU ZHIYONG, named a Top 100 Global Thinker in 2013 by Foreign Policy; who was 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, SHOHRET NIJAT, LUO YUWEI, MUTELLIP IMIN, ABDUQEYUM ABLIMIT, ATIKEN ROZI and AKBAR IMIN.

Please send appeals to:

His Excellency Xi Jinping Zhou Qiang

President of the People's Republic of Chief Justice, Supreme People's Court

China No. 27 Dong Jiao Min Xiang

Zhong Naihai Beijing 100745

Beijing 100032 People's Republic of China

People's Republic of China Fax: +86 10 6529 2345 (c/o Ministry of

Communication)

Website: www.court.gov.cn

EGYPT

Students who remain in prison include KARIM ASHRAF MOHAMED AL-BANNA, sentenced to three years in prison in January 2015 on charges of on blasphemy and insulting the divine, and SHERIF GABER, a student from Suez Canal University, who 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 choses 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 News, 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. On November 28, in an interview with NBC News, XiYue Wang's wife, Qu Hua, told the network that Wang is "very desperate" and attempted suicide in the Iranian prison where he has been held for nearly 16 months. Endangered Scholars Worldwide strongly deplores and condemns the ongoing detention, persecution, and conviction of XiYue Wang, and calls 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 incarceration, to call for Wang'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 in accordance with Iran's obligations under international law.

Students who remain in prison in Iran include 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." 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 BABAEI, 34, 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. Recent reports suggest that Babaei is being refused hospital treatment by the authorities.

Please send appeals to:

His Excellency Ayatollah Ali Khamenei President Hassan Rouhani The Office of the Supreme Leader

The Office of the President Jomhouri Street Palestine Avenue, Azerbaijan Intersection

Tehran Tehran

Islamic Republic of Iran Islamic Republic of Iran

Fax: +98 21 644 11

Website: http://www.leader.ir/langs/en/ Javad Zarif,

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/ Minister of Foreign Affairs www.Khamenei.ir The Minister's Office

Imam Khomeini Square

Ayatollah Sadeqh Larijani Tehran

Howzeh Riyasat-e Qoveh Qazaiyeh (Office Islamic Republic of Iran

of the Head of the Judiciary) Fax: +98 21 66743149 Pasteur St., Vali Asr Ave., south of Serah-e Website: http://www.mfa.gov.ir

Iomhouri Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/

izarif Tehran

Islamic Republic of Iran

LAOS

Student protestors thongpaseuth keuakoun, seng-aloun phengphanh, and BOUAVANH CHANHMANIVONG were imprisoned in 1999, along with three others who were released last year, following their arrest on charges

of treason for displaying posters calling for economic, political, and social change during demonstrations. According to a report from the Amnesty UK, even after eighteen years, it is not known in which prison the three students named are being held or if they are still alive.

Please send appeals to:

President Bounnhang Vorachith His Excellency Thongloun Sisoulith

Presidential Palace Prime Minister's Office
Thanon Setthathirat Lane Xang Avenue

Ban Xiengyeun Tha, Muang Chanthaburi Vientiane

Vientiane Lao People's Democratic Republic

Laos 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. According to Saudi News outlets, Al-Haji was sentenced to 5 years of imprisonment. 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' imprisonment 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 Dr. Walid bin Mohammad bin Saleh

Minister of Foreign Affairs Al-Samaani

Nasseriya Street Minister of Justice
Riyadh 11124 PO Box 58889, Bldg. 373

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia King Fahad Road Fax: +966 1 403 0645 Riyadh 11515

> Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Fax: +966 1 4612061

REPUBLIC OF SUDAN

Scholar: 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, the most recent report Endangered Scholars Worldwide has been able to obtain, 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 Khartoum Al-Bashir Sudan

President of the Republic of Sudan Fax: +249 183 78 07 96/ +249 183 770883

President's Palace

PO Box 281 His Excellency Ambassador Omer Dahab

Khartoum Fadl Mohamed

Sudan Permanent Mission of the Republic of

Fax: +249 183 783 223 Sudan to the United Nations 305 East 47th Street, 4th Floor.

His Excellency Mohamed Boshara Dosa New York N.Y. 10017

Minister of Justice and Attorney General United States

Ministry of Justice Phone: +1 212 57360 33 PO Box 302 Fax: +1 212 573 61 60

Al Nil Avenue Email: sudan@sudanmission.org

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 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. The student, JATUPAT 'PAI DAO DIN' BOONPATTARARAKSA, was arrested in December 2016. 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

Scholars, researchers, and students: 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, a series of actions by Turkey's Council of Higher Education (YOK) have effectively dismissed 1,577 university deans and four university presidents and resulted in the shutting down of 15 universities. With the latest decrees both dismissing more academics and reinstating others, some 6000 academics have lost their jobs across the country.

ESW expresses 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. We are deeply distressed by the Turkish government's actions, which irreversibly harm the entire educational community by undermining universities' abilities to meet scientific and ethical standards as well as fulfill intellectual, educational, social and institutional responsibilities.

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 His Excellency Abdulhamit Gül

President of Turkey Minister of Justice The Office of the President 06669 Kizilav Cumhurbaskanlıgı Kulliyesi Ankara 06560 Bestepe Turkev

Ankara Fax: +90 312 419 3370 Turkev Email: info@adalet.gov.tr

Fax: +90 312 525 58 31

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Scholars and researchers: The United States Environmental Protection Agency has blocked three scheduled discussions of climate change by agency scientists at a conference on October 23 in Rhode Island, according to reporting by the *New York Times*. The last-minute cancellation was reported the day before the start of the State of the Narragansett Bay and Its Watershed Workshop in Providence, Rhode Island, where scientists are to gather to discuss the health of Narragansett Bay. The EPA has offered little explanation for the decision to prevent the scientists from participating, other than to say in a statement that they were allowed to attend the conference but not speak because "it is not an EPA conference."

Endangered Scholars Worldwide deplores in the strongest terms the administration's decision to prevent scientists from presenting climate change-related research, and calls upon all national and international organizations, academic and professional associations, and other groups and individuals devoted to the promotion and defense of freedom and especially scholarly freedom, to strongly protest and condemn this decision. We believe that this type of political interference is ill-advised and does a disservice to the American public and public health as well as to American scholarship.

Students: On September 5, 2017, United States Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced that the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program (DACA) is being rescinded. As numerous accounts indicate, the majority of DACA recipients are students who are enrolled in higher education institutions. As an organization committed to protecting the human rights of scholars and students across the globe, Endangered Scholars Worldwide believes that ending DACA would be a mistake. It would put lives of thousands of committed students in the United States in jeopardy, prevent them from the ability to pursue their education, and return them to a life of anxiety and doubt.

Endangered Scholars Worldwide urges the US Congress to move decisively to sustain the DACA program. We believe that upholding DACA will ensure the mission of institutions of higher learning to provide safe environments in which everyone is respected and teaching and learning is fostered.

Please send appeals to:

Jefferson Sessions Attorney General of the United States U.S. Department of Justice 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20530-0001 Tell: +1 202 514 2000

Website: http://www.justice.gov/ag

VIETNAM

Scholars and researchers: 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 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' imprisonment, 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. According to a report by Amnesty International, Dinh Nguyen Kha is being denied medical treatment following an operation in December 2016 to remove a tumor from his stomach. ESW calls upon the Vietnamese government to end the practice of deliberately depriving political prisoners of medical care, and to ensure that detainees receive proper medical care and are granted medical parole in time to properly treat their illnesses.

Please send appeals to:

His Excellency Trần Đại Quang c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs

President of the Socialist Republic of Hanoi Vietnam Vietnam

RELEASES

REPUBLIC OF SUDAN

On Tuesday August 29, 2017, MUDAWI IBRAHIM ADAM, an engineering professor at the University of Khartoum in Sudan, who was charged with six offences, some of which are punishable by death, was pardoned. Adam had been arrested by security forces in December 2016 as part of a crackdown against opposition leaders and activists. Prosecutors had accused him of "being among activists who were running a criminal organization and engaged in spying and intelligence activities for foreign embassies." Many global rights groups including Endangered Scholars Worldwide condemned Sudanese authorities over his arrest. We welcome this news with great relief and call for the protection and security of Professor Mudawi Ibrahim at all times after his release.

TURKEY

NURIYE GULMEN, 35, was sentenced to six years and three months in jail for being a member of the militant leftist DHKP-C group, deemed a terrorist organization by Turkey. However, the court granted her a

conditional release, and she was freed on December 1 from a hospital where she had been in custody. Turkish authorities had transferred Gulmen into intensive care in September due to her worsening health after a seven-month hunger strike. Gulmen was arrested in May along with Semih Ozakca, 28, a primary school teacher who had joined her in a hunger strike launched in March. The two have been protesting the loss of their jobs in a crackdown by Ankara on alleged coup participants that has led to more than 150,000 public sector workers being fired or suspended. Ozakca was acquitted of DHKP-C charges and released under judicial control October 21, on condition that he wear an ankle monitor. He remains on a hunger strike.

We welcome the news of these releases with great relief and call on Turkish authorities to drop all charges against Nuriye Gulmen and urge the officials of the Turkish government to respect, guarantee, and implement the provisions and principles of human rights as specified in international conventions and treaties to which Turkey has long been a signatory.

SOURCES

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Endangered Scholars Worldwide. http://www.endangered scholarsworldwide.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 Ebby Abramson and Dolunay Bulut