



## May - July, 2016

Attacks on higher education threaten the safety and well-being of scholars, administrators, staff and students; undermine academic work and instruction; and deny everyone the benefits of expert knowledge and scientific and creative progress. Too often such attacks go unreported. SAR's Academic Freedom Monitor identifies and tracks key attacks with the aims of protecting vulnerable individuals, promoting accountability and preventing future violations.

To report a new incident, provide updated information on a listed incident, or learn how you and your institution might participate in monitoring activities, email [sarmonitoring@nyu.edu](mailto:sarmonitoring@nyu.edu).

### Key Developments & Trends

Scholars at Risk notes with concern reports of arrests of student activists in [Colombia](#); arrest warrants arbitrarily issued for student activists in [Honduras](#); disciplinary proceedings launched against a scholar in [Hong Kong](#); the arrest and prosecution of a scholar in [India](#); the arrest and imprisonment of a scholar in [Iran](#); campus violence in [Papua New Guinea](#); detention of and force used against student activists in [Sudan](#); arrests of student activists in [Thailand](#); dismissal and detention of scholars, a country-wide travel ban on academics, and university closures in [Turkey](#); as well as the detention of and use of force against students, faculty and staff participating in protests in [Venezuela](#).

Types of incidents alleged*	May - July
Total # of incident reported	19
Killings/violence/disappearances	4
Wrongful imprisonment	11
Wrongful prosecution	6
Retaliatory discharge/loss of position	3
Travel restrictions	1
Other	3

*Note: Rows do not equal "Total" because each incident may involve more than one type of conduct.*

### All Incidents

**Country:** Colombia

**Date:** May 1, 2016

**Type:** Imprisonment, Prosecution

On May 1, 2016, four student leaders and members of the Colombian Association of University Students (ACEU) were detained, frisked and arrested after participating in a peaceful march celebrating International Workers' Day.

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**Country:** Honduras

**Date:** June 7, 2016

**Type:** Prosecution

On June 7, 2016, the Honduran Public Prosecutor's Office issued an arrest warrant for six students from the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Honduras (UNAH) on charges of "usurpation of university property," related to the alleged occupation of campus buildings during a June 6 protest.

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**Country:** Hong Kong

**Date:** June 28, 2016

**Type:** Loss of Position

On June 28, 2016, Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) launched disciplinary proceedings against Lau Siu-lai, a scholar of communication and social sciences at PolyU, in connection to a solidarity protest she led in support of street vendors seeking to avoid eviction during the Lunar New Year.

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**Country:** India

**Date:** June 16, 2016

**Type:** Imprisonment, Prosecution

On June 16, 2016, Dr B.P. Mahesh Chandra Guru, a professor in the department of communications and journalism at the University of Mysore, was arrested for giving a speech on campus, more than a year earlier, which allegedly insulted religious sensibilities of members of the Hindu community.

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**Country:** Iran

**Date:** June 6, 2016

**Type:** Imprisonment

On Monday, June 6, 2016, Dr. Homa Hoodfar, a professor of social anthropology and expert on sexuality and gender in Islam at Concordia University, was arrested by Iranian authorities, reportedly on grounds of "co-operating with a foreign state against the Islamic Republic of Iran."

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**Country:** Papua New Guinea

**Date:** June 8, 2016

**Type:** Killings, Violence, Disappearances

On June 8, 2016, protests by students at the University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG) reportedly led to destruction of campus property, as well as violence by both protesters and police, including reports of police firing live ammunition on students.

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**Country:** Papua New Guinea

**Date:** June 25, 2016

**Type:** Killings, Violence, Disappearances

On June 25, 2016, one student was killed, and a group of university buildings was set on fire, on the campus of Papua New Guinea University of Technology

(Unitech) in the northern city of Lae. The attacks occurred following several weeks of anti-government protests on campuses throughout the country.

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**Country:** Sudan

**Date:** May 5, 2016

**Type:** Killings, Violence, Disappearances, Imprisonment, Loss of Position, Other

On May 5, 2016, National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS) officers reportedly attacked and detained a group of student activists who were meeting with lawyers to discuss appealing disciplinary proceedings launched by the University of Khartoum as a result of their political activism.

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**Country:** Thailand

**Date:** June 23, 2016

**Type:** Imprisonment, Prosecution

On June 23, 2016, uniformed and plainclothes soldiers reportedly arrested a group of 13 students and union activists who were distributing political flyers critical of the Junta's draft charter.

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**Country:** Thailand

**Date:** June 24, 2016

**Type:** Imprisonment

On June 24, 2016, police officers reportedly arrested seven student activists for holding a demonstration and distributing a newspaper.

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**Country:** Turkey

**Date:** June 16, 2016

**Type:** Loss of Position

On June 16, 2016, Dr. Zeynep Sayın Balıkcıoğlu, a professor in the communications faculty at Bilgi University in Istanbul, was dismissed from her position in retaliation for statements she made about Turkey's President, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan during a lecture the prior day.

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**Country:** Turkey

**Date:** June 20, 2016

**Type:** Imprisonment

On June 20, 2016, authorities reportedly detained Şebnem Korur Fincancı, head of the department of forensic medicine at Cerrahpaşa Medical Faculty of Istanbul University, in response to her participation in a campaign to support press freedom in Turkey.

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**Country:** Turkey

**Date:** July 20, 2016

**Type:** Travel Restrictions

On July 20, 2016, Turkish authorities reportedly imposed a wide-ranging ban on all work-related, international travel by scholars, and demanding that all university personnel currently outside the country return to Turkey immediately.

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**Country:** Turkey

**Date:** July 23, 2016

**Type:** Other

On July 23, 2016, a decree went into effect ordering the closure of 15 Turkish universities, in connection with a state of emergency declared by the government following the failed coup attempt on July 15.

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**Country:** Turkey

**Date:** July 24, 2016

**Type:** Imprisonment, Prosecution

On July 24 and 25, 2016, Turkish authorities reportedly detained 31 scholars from Istanbul University on suspicion of membership to Turkey's Gülenist movement.

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**Country:** Turkey

**Date:** July 26, 2016

**Type:** Imprisonment, Prosecution

On July 26, 2016, Turkish authorities reportedly detained and later arrested 25 scholars from Sakarya University on suspicion of membership in Turkey's Gülenist movement and involvement in the July 15, 2016 coup attempt.

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**Country:** Venezuela

**Date:** May 11, 2016

**Type:** Imprisonment

On May 11, 2016, Bolivarian National Guard (GNB) officers reportedly detained Diego Hernandez, a law student at the Universidad Central de Venezuela, who was protesting outside Venezuela's National Electoral Council (CNE).

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**Country:** Venezuela

**Date:** May 18, 2016

**Type:** Killings, Violence, Disappearances, Other

On May 18, 2016, police officers and armed civilians reportedly attacked Universidad de Los Andes (ULA) students, faculty and staff participating in a nonviolent protest, as well as Rigoberto Lobo Puentes, a human rights defender and member of ULA's Observatorio de Derechos Humanos (ODHULA) who was monitoring the protest.

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**Country:** Venezuela

**Date:** July 5, 2016

**Type:** Imprisonment

On July 5, 2016, police and Bolivarian Intelligence Services (SEBIN) officers reportedly detained five student activists in apparent retaliation for nonviolent expressive activity.

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