



September 8, 2015



*Sunset at an outpost on the Iraq-Syria border.*

**"Now the majority of the professors at universities, who are supposed to be encouraging creativity, are afraid that creative projects will just get everyone in trouble."**

*- Mohammed Ezz Elarab, engineering graduate, Alexandria University*

In the past academic year, **20%** of SAR scholars were physical scientists and engineers. In many places, scholars are not only threatened for their human rights work, unorthodox opinions, or critical views of ruling regimes, but also for their commitment to the pursuit of scientific knowledge.

Right now [in Egypt](#), engineering students who work with electronics, chemicals, and copper wires are at risk of arrest for "attempting to build a bomb" while simply attempting to put together a school project. Elsewhere, engineers face risks due to their international connections, their prestigious university positions, and their courage to imagine a better world for future generations.

When the dust settles after conflict, it is the engineers who are called upon to rebuild. We can help them to be ready. **Please consider hosting an at-risk scholar of engineering at your university.**

# Scholars of the Week



## **BAHR-502**

Field: Engineering; Computer Science

Risk: Harassment/intimidation

Language: Arabic, English (Fluent), Persian (Advanced)

Education: PhD (UK)

Seeking: Teaching and/or research opportunities beginning immediately

This scholar has over 10 years of experience delivering courses in mechanical engineering, computer science, and telecommunications, in addition to serving in a leadership role in his department of computer science and engineering. He has published in numerous scientific journals and presented his research at engineering conferences worldwide.

## **SYRI-619**

Field: Civil Engineering

Risk: General/situational risk (Displaced)

Language: Arabic, English (Fluent)

Education: PhD

Seeking: Teaching and/or research opportunities beginning immediately

This scholar specializes in pavement rehabilitation and design and has 8 years of experience teaching courses in road construction, airport engineering, and the rehabilitation and maintenance of pavement. He has over 10 years of experience in transportation and highway research and has published 5 studies on flexible pavements and asphalt in regional engineering journals.

## **SYRI-550**

Field: Civil Engineering

Risk: Threat to life/person (Displaced)

Language: Arabic, English (Fluent), Polish (Fluent)

Education: PhD (Poland)

Seeking: Research opportunities beginning Spring 2016

This scholar of civil engineering specializes in water resources management, has nearly 20 years of teaching experience, and has published 16 academic articles and 3 textbooks. He is also a published poet who has won awards for his writing and is currently hosted at a university in the Netherlands.

## **SYRI-627**

Field: Electrical Engineering

Risk: General/situational risk

Language: Arabic (Native), French (Fluent), English (Advanced)

Education: PhD (France)

Seeking: Teaching and/or research opportunities beginning immediately

This scholar has over 15 years of experience delivering courses in electric systems optimization, modeling and simulation of electric systems, informatics, and computer-aided design. He also has 27 articles published in refereed international journals and 13

publications published at international conferences.

[All Scholars Seeking Assistance »](#)

## Upcoming Events

**September 15-18, Glasgow, Scotland:** Scholars at Risk will have a booth at the European Association of International Education (EAIE) Annual Conference



**October 15-16, Brussels, Belgium:** UNICA, a SAR Partner Network, celebrates its 25th Anniversary



**October 28-30, Siena, Italy:** International Association of Universities International Conference, "Internationalization of higher education: moving beyond mobility"



**November 13, Oslo, Norway:** SAR Norway Conference "International partnership in academia - an ethical challenge?" at the Nobel Peace Centre

[All Events »](#)

## Academic Freedom Media Review

Each week, SAR compiles articles pertaining to academic freedom and higher education communities worldwide. Here are the most-read articles of the past two weeks. [Read the full review.](#)

### **New Universities To Teach Syrian Refugees**

Benjamin Plackett, *Al-Fanar Media*, 08/31

The last year has seen a new feature of the effort to deliver higher education to the Syrian youth displaced by the long-running war in their country-institutions tailored solely for Syrian students.

[Read More »](#)

### **Egypt's Besieged Universities**

Emily Crane Linn, *Foreign Policy*, 08/31

Egyptian students and professors will soon return to universities which are experiencing the lowest levels of academic freedom the country has ever known.

[Read More »](#)

### **Indian Scholar Who Spoke Out Against Idol Worship Is Shot Dead**

Sania Farooqui, *TIME*, 08/31

An outspoken Indian rationalist scholar and college professor who had drawn the ire of religious groups for denouncing superstition and idol worship was shot dead by two unidentified assailants at his home in the southern state of Karnataka over the weekend.

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## Connect with Us



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