

The SAR Primary Representative Weekly Digest is compiled and distributed every Monday to network members' primary representatives. If you would like to change your institution's primary representative or adjust your email preferences, please contact [scholarsatrisk@nyu.edu](mailto:scholarsatrisk@nyu.edu).

June 16, 2015

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## Announcements

- **New members:** This week we are welcomed [Princeton University](#) in Princeton, New Jersey, USA and [Cleveland State University](#) in Cleveland, Ohio, USA as the newest members of the SAR network.
- **Report Release in Geneva, Oslo, Amsterdam:** The **Permanent Mission of Portugal** will host a panel discussion on **Tuesday, 23 June**, from 12:00-14:00 at the **Palais des Nations**, room XXV, at the United Nations in **Geneva, Switzerland** formally releasing *Free to Think*, the report of the Scholars at Risk Academic Freedom Monitoring Project. The report analyzes more than 240 incidents involving attacks on higher education communities in 65 countries between January 2011 and May 2015.

Follow-up events will be held on **Wednesday, 24 June**, from 11:00-12:00 at Kulturhuset (Youngstorget 3) in **Oslo, Norway**, co-hosted by the Students' and Academics' International Assistance Fund (**SAIH**), Scholars at Risk (SAR) and the **SAR-Norway Section**; and **Thursday, 25 June** from 9:00-11:00 at KNAW in **Amsterdam, Netherlands**, as part of the Hendrik Muller Zomerseminar voor Academische Vrijheid en Wetenschappelijke Integriteit. If you would like to take part any of these release events, please email [scholarsatrisk@nyu.edu](mailto:scholarsatrisk@nyu.edu).

## Opportunities

- **Invite a SAR scholar to speak on your campus:** This year's Speaker Series lists include an incredible selection of academics, writers and human rights activists from the Middle East, Africa, and South Asia. SAR welcomes network members to invite one or more of these inspiring individuals to campus this year for lectures, panel discussions, workshops and other events. A list of scholars available for speaking engagements in your region, along with guidelines on inviting a speaker, can be found on SAR's website: <http://scholarsatrisk.nyu.edu/At-Risk-Scholars/Speaker-Series.php>. For more information about available speakers or about organizing your own event, please contact the SAR office at [scholarsatrisk@nyu.edu](mailto:scholarsatrisk@nyu.edu) or +1-212-998-2179.
- **2016 SAR Network Global Congress:** Scholars at Risk and the McGill University Centre for Human Rights & Legal Pluralism are pleased to host the 2016 Scholars at Risk Network Global Congress for June 7-10, 2016 in Montreal. The 2016 event will celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Scholars at Risk Network and the collective efforts of network members and partners protecting scholars and promoting academic freedom worldwide. For more information, go to [www.scholarsatrisk.org/Montreal2016](http://www.scholarsatrisk.org/Montreal2016).

## Scholars of the Week

This week, SAR is once again highlighting the cases of four Iraqi scholars, all still in country and seeking placement assistance as soon as possible. We ask for your help in reviewing the information and encourage you to share it with your institution and other colleagues who may be able to help. More information is available from the SAR network office at [scholarsatrisk@nyu.edu](mailto:scholarsatrisk@nyu.edu) and +1-212-998-2179. Thank you for your help.

### IRAQ-782

Field: Anatomy; Surgery

Risk: Threat to life/person

Language: Arabic, English (Fluent)

Education: MBChB

This scholar is a medical doctor with significant higher education experience. He holds a medical bachelor's degree (MBChB) from a university in Iraq and several specialized diplomas in surgery. The scholar taught for nearly 25 years at a university in Iraq, including courses on surgery and anatomy, and supervised students' surgical theses. In recent years, he was a visiting scholar at a university in the United States. The scholar has been published in international journals, and his recent research focuses on obesity management and Islets cell transplantation. Currently in Iraq, this medical scholar seeks teaching and/or research opportunities in North America or Europe beginning **immediately**.

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### IRAQ-784

Field: Cardiovascular Medicine

Risk: Threat to life/person

Language: Arabic, English (Fluent)

Education: PhD

This scholar is a senior medical doctor and professor of cardiovascular medicine. He has a PhD in clinical pharmacology and cardiovascular pharmacology from an Iraqi university, and conducted a post-doctorate fellowship in the United States. He received his DM in internal medicine, his MSc in clinical pharmacology, and his MBChB in medicine from Iraqi universities. A senior academic with two decades of teaching experience, he has taught numerous courses in internal medicine, cardiovascular pharmacology, and clinical pharmacology at universities in Iraq. He has authored and co-authored over 100 articles on pharmacology and internal and cardiovascular medicine in international and regional medical journals, and has also co-authored a book on treatment options for atherosclerosis. This scholar is currently in Iraq and is seeking research and/or teaching opportunities in a safe location beginning **immediately**.

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### IRAQ-011

Field: Public Health

Risk: Threat to life/person

Language: Arabic, English (Fluent)

Education: PhD

This scholar is a senior academic and a professor of public health with a specialty in community medicine. He has a PhD in public health from a university in Iraq and an MSc in epidemiology and biostatistics from a university in Lebanon. This scholar is an accomplished professor with over 20 years of teaching experience, and has delivered courses on epidemiology, biostatistics, and community medicine at several universities and institutions

in Iraq. He has published his research in public health journals regionally and internationally. His recent research has included studies of tobacco use, physical activity levels, cancer prevalence, intimate partner violence, and workplace noise as they relate to public health in Iraq and regionally. Currently in Iraq, this scholar is seeking research and/or teaching opportunities in the United States or Europe beginning **immediately**.

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## **IRAQ-780**

Field: Physiology

Risk: Threat to life/person

Language: Arabic, English (Fluent)

Education: PhD

This scholar is a neurophysiologist who received his PhD and MSc in neurophysiology and his MBChB in general surgery and medicine from universities in Iraq. Currently in a leadership post at a medical college in Iraq, he has over 20 years of teaching experience and has supervised numerous MSc and PhD candidates. In addition, he holds a leadership role in an Iraqi medical society, and plays a leading role at the neurophysiology unit of a teaching hospital. This scholar is the editor of a medical science journal, and has coauthored almost 30 academic articles, including most recently an article on gene variation associated with insulin sensitivity. He has also presented his research at dozens of conferences around the world. Currently in Iraq, this scholar seeks teaching and/or research positions in a safe location beginning **immediately**.

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## **Upcoming Events**

- **June 22, Geneva, Switzerland:** The Permanent Mission of Portugal will host a panel discussion from 12:00-14:00 at the Palais des Nations, room XXV, at the United Nations formally releasing *Free to Think*, the report of the Scholars at Risk Academic Freedom Monitoring Project.
- **June 23, Oslo, Norway:** A second *Free to Think* release event will take place from 11:00-12:00 at Kulturhuset (Youngstorget 3), co-hosted by the Students' and Academics' International Assistance Fund (SAIH), Scholars at Risk (SAR) and the SAR-Norway Section.
- **June 24, Amsterdam, The Netherlands:** As part of the Hendrik Muller Zomerseminar voor Academische Vrijheid en Wetenschappelijke Integriteit, another follow-up release event will be held from 9:00-11:00 at KNAW.
- **June 25, Amsterdam, The Netherlands:** The program for Academic Freedom / Scholars at Risk at VU Amsterdam will hold a Symposium on Gender and Sexual Diversity in Post-revolutionary Iran. The symposium aims for a scholarly debate on the situation of women and sexual minorities in post-revolutionary Iran and to hear a realistic narrative on the struggles from a minority position in Iran. Two scholars who are presently guests at the VU will discuss their research and experiences. To register, please email [m.kool@vu.nl](mailto:m.kool@vu.nl).
- **September 15-18, Glasgow, Scotland:** SAR European Director Sinead O'Gorman and Membership Assistant Margaret Coons will represent SAR at the 2015 European Association of International Education (EAIE) annual conference. Those interested in arranging meetings with SAR during the event are encouraged to get in touch in advance at [scholarsatrisk@nyu.edu](mailto:scholarsatrisk@nyu.edu)

- **November 13, Oslo, Norway:** The SAR Norway Section will host a conference on academic freedom at the Nobel Peace Centre entitled "International partnership in academia - an ethical challenge?" SAR Executive Director Robert Quinn and Magna Charta Observatory President Dr. Sijbolt Noorda will give keynote speeches, and SAR European Director Sinead O'Gorman will chair the conference.

## Academic Freedom Media Review

Each week, SAR compiles articles pertaining to academic freedom and higher education communities worldwide. The most read Media Review articles this week were:

- **College is not a commodity. Stop treating it like one.**  
Hunter Rawlings, *Washington Post*, 06/09  
Pick up any paper or magazine, and you're likely to see a front-page article on college: It costs too much, spawns too much debt, is or isn't worth it. I entered academia 52 years ago as a student of Latin and Greek expecting to enter a placid sector of American life, and now find my chosen profession at the center of a media maelstrom. With college replacing high school as the required ticket for a career, what used to be a quiet corner is now a favorite target of policymakers and pundits. Unfortunately, most commentary on the value of college is naive, or worse, misleading. [Read more.](#)
- **Scientists protest against Kremlin threat to research**  
Nick Holdsworth, *University World News*, 06/11  
Russian scientists and intellectuals mounted a rare public protest on 6 June to voice their fears that research and freedom of enquiry are under threat from the Kremlin. Several thousand protesters gathered in Moscow on Saturday 6 June to highlight growing red tape and President Vladimir Putin's fear-driven agenda that has seen a leading private research foundation labelled a 'foreign agent'. [Read more.](#)
- **On China's campuses, scholars battle ideology and red tape**  
Verna Yu, *Christian Science Monitor*, 06/07  
In the two years since China's Communist Party put forth a sweeping new ideological edict, a deep chill has settled among many intellectuals and scholars. New restrictions on freedom of thought at Chinese colleges – havens of relatively open expression – are taking hold. Scholars are experiencing an increasingly stifling academic environment. [Read more.](#)

This week's full Media Review can be found [on the SAR website.](#)