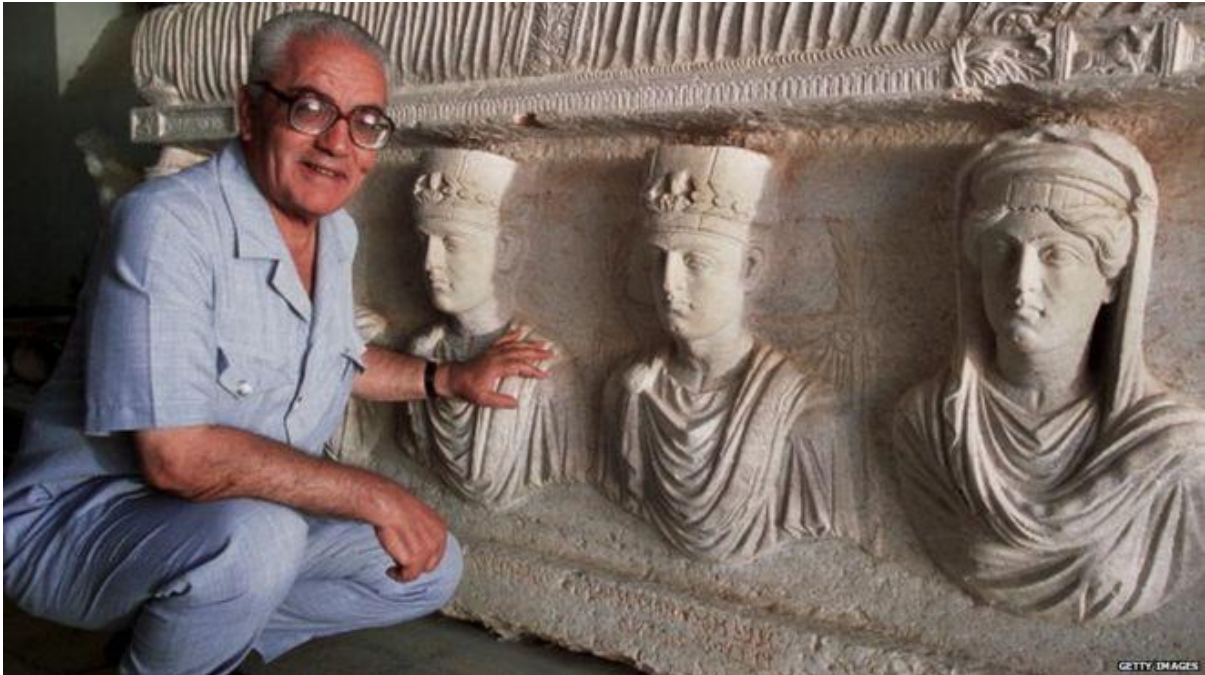


August 25, 2015



Khaled Al-Asaad, director of antiquities of Palmyra from 1963 to 2003, was killed last week. The SAR Network is saddened and dismayed by the killing of Khaled Al-Asaad, a Syrian archaeologist who died protecting the ancient ruins of Palmyra where he had worked for more than 50 years. Al-Asaad was beheaded by Islamic State militants who accused him, among other things, of being director of the "idols" at Palmyra and attending conferences overseas with "infidels."

In addition to his 40-year tenure as Palmyra's Director of Antiquities, Al-Asaad reportedly completed 20 books on Palmyra and the Silk Road. "His work will live on far beyond the reach of these extremists," UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova [said in a statement Wednesday](#). "They murdered a great man, but they will never silence history."

There are many more Syrian scholars who need our help as they work to preserve their country's cultural and intellectual heritage. **Below are four of these courageous scholars from Syria whom you can host this year.**

Scholars of the Week

SYRI-614

Field: International Law; Human Rights

Risk: General/situational risk

Language: Arabic, English (Fluent)

Education: PhD (Egypt)

Seeking: Teaching and/or research opportunities beginning immediately



This scholar is an accomplished legal academic with over 20 years of teaching experience, a leading role in the law department of a university in Syria, numerous publications in Syrian and regional academic journals, and two books on international law and human rights and international environmental law.

SYRI-590

Field: Physics; Engineering
Risk: Threat to life/person
Language: Arabic, English (Fluent)
Education: PhD (UK)
Seeking: Teaching and/or research positions beginning immediately

This scholar is an experienced professor and researcher of physics and engineering specializing in a branch of radiological physics called microdosimetry. He has almost a decade of university-level teaching experience, has published nearly a dozen academic articles in regional journals, and has authored and co-authored three books for undergraduate physics courses.

SYRI-619

Field: Civil Engineering
Risk: General/situational risk (Displaced)
Language: Arabic, English (Fluent)
Education: PhD
Seeking: Teaching and/or research positions in North America or Europe 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-582

Field: Visual Arts
Risk: Harassment/intimidation (Displaced)
Language: Arabic, English (Fluent), Polish (Fluent)
Education: PhD (Poland)
Seeking: Teaching positions in the US beginning Spring 2016

This scholar is a well-known visual artist with nearly 20 years of teaching experience at the university level including courses on design, drawing and configuration; furnishings; and architecture. Alongside extensive higher education experience, she developed an artistic portfolio spanning architecture, interior design and the foundations of Islamic art.

[All Scholars Seeking Assistance »](#)

Upcoming Events

- **September 5, San Francisco, USA:** Protection Services Director Clare Robinson will speak at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting
- **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.](#)

Arab Students in Israel Say Their Voices are Muffled

Asma' Jawabreh, *Al-Fanar Media*, 8/07

Arab-Israeli student activists say they face an uphill battle to voice their grievances on Israeli campuses, and rising tensions between Israelis and Palestinians since the war in Gaza last summer are worsening the situation.

[Read More »](#)

Many African universities swept up in Islamic extremism

Wachira Kigotho, *University World News*, 8/14

African higher education systems have become casualties of war, caught in the crossfire of Islamic fundamentalism that cuts across the spectrum of religious and political thought, according to Professor Sultan Barakat of the Brookings Doha Center in Qatar.

[Read More »](#)

Academic Freedom is Not Just a Generic Human Right

Mohamed Abdel Salam, *Al-Fanar Media*, 8/18

In spite of the frequent use of the concepts of academic freedom and university independence in debates about higher education in Egypt, the overlap of the two concepts without identifying what exactly they mean diminishes their true value.

[Read More »](#)