

Scholars at Risk Primary Representative Digest

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Announcements

- **Free to Think Report Release:** On Tuesday, June 23rd, Scholars at Risk released *Free to Think*, a report of the SAR 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. Its release was covered by the [Washington Post](#), [University World News](#), [Inside Higher Ed](#), and other media sources. [Learn more and read the report here.](#)
- **Calls for letters:** This week, SAR called for letters on behalf of [fourteen university students arrested in Thailand](#) and [Dr. Abdul Jalil Al-Singace of Bahrain](#). If you have not already, please take the time to write in support of these students and scholars at risk.
- **SAR US Meeting Notes:** For those who were not able to join, meeting notes from the June 18th conference call are now available. Many thanks to all those who joined and presented! We look forward to the next call in the fall.

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 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.

Scholars of the Week

The following are summaries of scholars currently seeking placement assistance. 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 and +1-212-998-2179. Thank you for your help.

IRAQ-771

Field: Archaeology; Anthropology
Risk: Threat to life/person
Language: Arabic; English (Fluent)
Education: MA (US)

This promising junior scholar is an archaeologist with several years of experience as a university lecturer and field researcher. He received his MA in anthropology from an American university and his BA in archaeology from an Iraqi university. He has participated in several training programs and workshops organized by the US Embassy in Iraq, and has conducted field research in Yemen, Iraq, Colorado, and Nevada. He was previously a lecturer at a university in Iraq, where he also held leadership positions. He is a promising researcher with three published academic articles and three articles in preparation for publication. His research interests include Paleoanthropology, Paleolithic archaeology, lithic (stone tool) analysis, and Southwest Asia. Currently in Iraq, this scholar seeks research, teaching, and/or study opportunities in a safe location beginning **immediately**.

IRAQ-775

Field: International Relations
Risk: Threat to life/person
Language: Arabic; English (Intermediate)
Education: PhD

This scholar is a leading expert in Iraqi foreign affairs with significant higher education experience. He received his PhD in international relations from a university in Iraq, and worked for over 25 years at the same university, including as a professor, head of department, dean, and chancellor. He has a leading role in an association for Iraqi intellectuals, and has held leadership positions at several academic institutions in Iraq. In addition to his academic experience, this scholar has served in an ambassadorial position. He has also authored five academic books and dozens of published articles. An active reporter of human rights violations against Iraqi academics, he has contributed to governmental human rights reports in recent years. This scholar is seeking research and/or teaching opportunities in a safe location beginning **immediately**.

Upcoming Events

- **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
- **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:

- **Scott Walker’s Test of Academic Freedom**

William G. Bowen and Eugene M. Tobin, *Chicago Tribune*, 06/22

One hundred years ago this month, the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin dedicated a bronze plaque commemorating a historic victory for academic freedom. When a distinguished faculty member, economist Richard T. Ely, had been accused of promoting socialism and fomenting disorder through his pro-labor speeches and writings, the regents had cleared him of wrongdoing, even though he had spoken out at a time of violent nationwide industrial conflict. [Read more.](#)

- **Fear of terror and offence pushing critical voices out of UK universities**
Thomas Docherty, *Index on Censorship*, 06/22
From a government crackdown on extremism to marketing departments' concerns over branding, lecturer Thomas Docherty looks at the threats to the tradition of free discussion on campus. [Read more.](#)
- **Scrutiny for Campuses in China**
Jacqueline Thomsen, *Inside Higher Ed*, 06/26
At congressional hearing, officials at American institutions operating in China say that academic freedom is preserved. Leaders of universities with partnerships or campuses in China attempted to assuage the fears of a congressman about academic freedom in the country, saying that their institutions had not seen any restrictions. [Read more.](#)

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