

SCHOLARS AT RISK PRIMARY REPRESENTATIVE DIGEST

June 22, 2015

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Announcements

- **Report Release in Geneva, Oslo, Amsterdam: The Permanent Mission of Portugal** will host a panel discussion tomorrow, **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.

A [model press release](#) and [the report](#) (*embargoed until Tuesday at 12:00 pm CEST/6:00 am EDT*) are currently available through our website.

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.

SYRI-613

Field: Fine Art; Printmaking

Risk: General/situational risk; Threat to life/person (Displaced)

Language: Arabic; Chinese (Advanced); English (Fluent)

Education: PhD (UK)

This scholar is an artist and scholar of fine art printmaking from Syria. He recently completed his PhD from a university in the UK, where his dissertation focused on Eastern and Western symbols in graphic design. The scholar also holds an MA in fine arts from an academy in China, and a BA in fine arts from a university in Syria. The scholar has had his art featured in many exhibitions around the world, including the US, Italy, the UK and China. The scholar has published a conference paper comparing Eastern and Western traditional and digital art. The scholar's current research interests include analyzing symbols and the use of animal imagery in medieval Islamic texts. Currently in the UK, this scholar is seeking research and/or teaching opportunities in a safe location beginning **immediately**.

DRCO-564

Field: Law; Human Rights

Risk: Threat of arrest/violence (Displaced)

Language: Swahili, French (Fluent), Lingala, English (Intermediate)

Education: LLM

Previously a professor in the law faculty at a university in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), this scholar holds a LLM and LLB equivalents from the same university. He has taught courses on civil law, civil responsibility and judgment, and has supervised the theses of bachelor and master's students. In addition to his academic experience, the scholar is a practicing lawyer and human rights defender who worked as an attorney for a university and on a court of appeals. His human rights work has included research on workers' rights, land rights, sexual violence, mass rape, justice in the DRC, forced marriages and the illegal exploitation of mines. In addition to comparative adoption law, his current research interests include land rights and questions of equality in African legislation. This scholar is currently completing his MA in law and political science at a university in France, and seeks opportunities to continue his research in a safe location beginning **Summer 2015**.

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**.

Upcoming Events

- **June 23, 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 24, 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 25, 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.
- **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:

- **Turkey election results delight scientists**

Alison Abbot, *Nature*, 06/16

Scientists in Turkey are euphoric after a 7 June election that stripped the mildly Islamic and increasingly repressive Justice and Development Party (AKP) of its absolute parliamentary majority. They hope that Turkey's next parliament will reverse the creeping restrictions on academic freedom and the seeping away of scientific standards that have been a feature of the AKP's 12 years of political domination. These include stripping public science organizations of their autonomy; allowing the teaching of creationism and astrology; and, most recently, a ban on social scientists interviewing political refugees. [Read more.](#)

- **Student detentions 'linked to coming elections'**

Naw Say Phaw Waa, *University World News*, 06/13

Student groups, parents, lawyers and civil society members say that students detained in Myanmar jails after protests against the National Education Law in March are being held intentionally because the government wants activist student groups out of the way before the 2015 election to be held in late October or early November. [Read more.](#)

- **Toppled Islamist president loses university job too**

Ashraf Khaled, *University World News*, 06/18

A state-run university has sacked Egypt's deposed Islamist president Mohamed Morsi from his job as an engineering lecturer – the latest in a tough crackdown on Islamist academics. [Read more.](#)

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