

New Hosts

- Radboud University Nijmegen, the Netherlands, offered a one year position to a scholar from Yemen. This placement was organized in cooperation with SAR's partner in The Netherlands, the Foundation for Refugee Students/University Assistance Fund (UAF).
- Clark University, USA, welcomed an Ivorian professor to campus for the fall semester.
- Freie Universität Berlin, Germany, welcomed two scholars to campus: an Iranian professor, who is taking up a one-year visiting scholar position, and an Iranian doctoral student, who is pursuing research on an 18 month-long grant.
- New York University, USA, welcomed a Syrian scholar to campus for the 2014-15 academic year.
- University of Pittsburgh, USA, welcomed a Sri Lankan professor to campus for the 2014-15 academic year.

One of the above scholars is in receipt of a fellowship from the Institute of International Education's Scholar Rescue Fund.

Events

- **September 1, Norway:** The SAR-Norway Section will hold its Steering Committee Meeting at Oslo and Akershus University College of Applied Sciences (HIOA) to discuss SAR activities in Norway in the upcoming year. Steering committee members from across Norway will participate, along with a representative from Malmö University, Sweden who will also attend to learn about best practices for hosting scholars.
- **September 16-19, Czech Republic:** SAR European Director, Sinead O'Gorman, will represent SAR at the 2014 European Association of International Education (EAIE) annual conference to be held in Prague. Sinead will present SAR's proposal for an MOU on higher education values; participate in a dialogue on peace-building and international education; and alongside SAR partners in the Netherlands and 2 SAR scholars will present on opportunities for HEIs in Europe and beyond to engage in SAR activities. Those interested in arranging meetings with SAR during the event are encouraged to get in touch in advance at scholarsatrisk@nyu.edu
- **September 18-19, Sweden:** SAR Executive Director, Robert Quinn, and the chair of the SAR-Norway Section will participate in a conference on the occasion of the 26th Anniversary of the Magna Charta Universitatum, to be held at Uppsala University in Sweden. The conference theme "University Integrity—Society's Benefit" will discuss codes of conduct of academic work, academic integrity and its value to society at large. In a workshop session on protecting threatened scholars, Robert Quinn will present on SAR activities alongside representatives from the SAR-Norway section, and scholars from Iran and Turkey. For further information, please see: <http://www.uu.se/en/magnacharta>
- **October 2, Netherlands:** The annual meeting of the UAF-Scholars at Risk network in the Netherlands and Belgium will take place at UAF offices in Utrecht. SAR scholars in the Netherlands and Belgium and representatives of all member institutions in both countries are encouraged to participate along with those interested in getting involved. For further information, please contact t.curri@uaf.nl

News

Chris Tatara, one of SAR's summer 2014 interns, shares about his experiences working at SAR's New York headquarters: <https://www.iwu.edu/news/2014/08-human-rights-internships.html> .

New Alerts

Scholars at Risk recently circulated alerts or information updates on the following scholars. For more information on SAR's efforts on behalf of imprisoned scholars, please visit: <http://scholarsatrisk.nyu.edu/Education-Advocacy/Alerts-Scholars-in-Prison.php>.

- Ilham Tohti of China (Economics)

Gifts to SAR Since August 1

- Jenny Holzer
- Henry Heaphy in honor of Alfred Babo
- Harvey Dale

Dear friends,

- Following are the 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.
 - **Iraqi scholar of English literature**
 - **Congolese scholar of political science**
 - **Ivorian scholar of religion**
 - **Syrian scholar of theater and English literature**
 - **Syrian scholar of civil engineering**
 - **Togolese scholar of educational administration**
- More information is available from the SAR network office at scholarsatrisk@nyu.edu and +1 212 998-2179. Thank you for your help.

Scholars of the Week

IRAQ-743

Field: English Literature

Risk: Threat of re-arrest/violence (displaced)

Language: English, Arabic (fluent)

Education: PhD ABD (UK)

Seeking: Research and teaching opportunities in **North America** and the **Middle East** beginning **Spring 2015**

DRCO-570

Field: Political Science, Sociology, Conflict Resolution

Risk: Threat to life/person

Language: French (fluent), Kiswahili (fluent)

Education: MA

Seeking: Opportunities beginning **immediately** to continue his teaching or research in **French-speaking Africa, Europe, or North America**

IVOR-518

Field: Religion, History, Sociology, Francophone Studies

Risk: Threat to life/person (displaced)

Language: French (native), English (intermediate)

Education: PhD (France)

Seeking: Opportunities beginning **immediately** to continue teaching or research in a safe and stable environment

SYRI-579

Field: Drama, English Literature

Risk: Threat to life/person, General/situational risk (displaced)

Language: Arabic (native), English (fluent)

Education: MA (United States)

Seeking: Opportunities beginning **immediately** to continue his research and teaching **in the United States**

SYRI-550

Field: Civil Engineering

Risk: Threat to life/person (displaced)

Language: Arabic, Polish (fluent), English (intermediate)

Education: PhD (Poland)

Seeking: Research or teaching opportunities beginning **immediately**.

TOGO-506

Field: Educational Administration

Risk: Harassment/Intimidation (displaced)

Language: English, French (fluent), German (basic)

Education: PhD (United States)

Seeking: Opportunities beginning **immediately** to continue his teaching and research **in the United States**

Scholars at Risk's **Academic Freedom MONITOR** identifies alleged threats or attacks on higher education communities and their members worldwide, with the aim of raising awareness and mobilizing action to protect vulnerable individuals, promote accountability and prevent future attacks. To report a new incident, provide updated information on a listed incident, or learn how you and your institution might participate in monitoring activities, email sarmonitoring@nyu.edu.

Type of incidents alleged*	New incidents	2014 YTD incidents
Total # of incidents reported	25	76
Killings/violence/disappearances	14	39
Wrongful imprisonment	3	18
Wrongful prosecution	1	8
Retaliatory discharge/loss of position	3	10
Travel restrictions	3	3
Other	5	12

Note: Rows do not equal "Total" because each incident may involve more than one type of conduct.

Key developments:

In this digest, Scholars at Risk notes concern about deaths on campuses in Nigeria and Senegal, military action against universities in the West Bank and Gaza, restrictions on scholars in China and Tajikistan, retaliatory discharge in Malaysia, widespread campus unrest in Venezuela, kidnappings of students and scholars in Afghanistan, and the assassination or attempted assassination of professors in Iraq and Yemen.

Priority incidents:

Country/Territory: AFGHANISTAN

Type(s): Killings, Violence, Disappearances

Institution: Kandahar State University

Date of incident: June 10, 2014

Date of report: June 12, 2014

Description: On June 10, 2014, an estimated 35 professors and 8-10 students from Kandahar State University were kidnapped in Ghazni province, Afghanistan. According to reports, Taliban-affiliated gunmen attacked a bus traveling from Kandahar to Kabul, carrying the students and professors home for a nation-wide, six-day university holiday, recently established to coincide with the upcoming Afghan elections. The attackers forced the professors and students off the bus and into other vehicles, where they were transported to unknown locations. One professor was injured during the attack and was later taken to a nearby hospital. As of this writing, the professors' and students' whereabouts remain unknown. However, it is reported that tribal elders have engaged in negotiations with the Taliban to secure their release. According to a spokesman for the governor of Kandahar, Taliban insurgents have indicated that the professors would be released following the runoff election scheduled to take place on June 14. Scholars at Risk is concerned about the attack and kidnapping of a group of professors and students, and about the ongoing threat to their physical safety and liberty. State officials have a responsibility to ensure the security of higher education communities, to prevent future attacks, and to hold perpetrators accountable.

Update: The professors were reportedly released from custody early Monday, June 23, 2014.

See: <http://monitoring.academicfreedom.info/reports/2014-06-10-kandahar-state-university>

Country/Territory: **CHINA**

Type(s): Imprisonment/Travel Restrictions

Institution: Indiana University

Date of incident: July 5, 2014

Date of report: July 7, 2014

Description: An American professor was denied entry to China despite having a valid visa, apparently in retaliation for nonviolent, expressive activity in the United States in support for detained Uighur scholar Ilham Tohti. According to reports, on July 5, 2014, Elliot Sperling, an associate professor of Central Eurasian Studies at Indiana University, arrived at Beijing International Airport where he was taken into custody by border officials, briefly interrogated, and denied entry into the country. His valid tourist visa was cancelled, and he was taken to a plane and forced to return to the United States. According to Sperling, border officials refused to tell him why he was being refused entry into China, and Chinese government sources have not commented on the case. Professor Sperling is an expert on the history of Tibet and Tibetan-Chinese relations, has never previously had visa problems, despite having traveled frequently to China, including having previously served as a visiting scholar at Peking University where he regularly gave lectures on Tibet. According to Sperling, he believes he was placed on a "blacklist" and denied entry into China because of his recent, public support for Professor Tohti, who has been detained in China since January 15, 2014 on charges of separatism. According to Sperling, "[t]here was obviously an order about me entered into the database." "I saw no point in arguing. I mean, I had a pretty clear notion about why I was being denied entry. For me, it was clearly about Ilham." Scholars at Risk is concerned about the denial of entry to a scholar, apparently in retaliation for nonviolent expressive activity which is protected under international human rights instruments, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which China is a signatory. Scholars at Risk is especially concerned that the action against the scholar is in retaliation for the exercise of his professional responsibility to express concern for a detained colleague, and for negative impact such retaliation can have on academic freedom, institutional autonomy and the quality of higher education institutions, teaching and research in China. State authorities not only must refrain from such retaliation, but have an affirmative responsibility to protect academic freedom and institutional autonomy. Similarly, while States have the authority to regulate entry into their territory, denying entry based on the content of nonviolent professional expression would violate academic freedom and State obligations under international law.

See: <http://monitoring.academicfreedom.info/reports/2014-07-05-indiana-university>

Country/Territory: **COLOMBIA**

Type(s): Other

Institution: University of Pereira

Date of incident: June 19, 2014

Date of report: July 9, 2014

Description: On June 19, 2014, a paramilitary group reportedly circulated a document on social media issuing death threats against ten student representatives and aspiring student representatives from Colombia's University of Pereira. The document demanded that the students leave campus within 40 days, and refrain from enrolling in classes. In addition, two of the students have reported being personally approached and threatened in the days following the publication of the document, one by a person with a gun. The threatening document was reportedly signed by Aguilas Negras, a successor group to Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia (AUC), a right wing paramilitary organization that was demobilized in Columbia in 2004-2006. A number of the threatened students are reportedly affiliated with the left wing opposition party Unión Patriótica. The rector of the university, Luis Enrique Arango, has publicly condemned the threats against the students, and has indicated that the university would be contacting police authorities to respond. Scholars at Risk is concerned about violent threats against members of higher education communities. Such threats not only harm the immediate victims, but undermine academic freedom, institutional autonomy and the ability of higher education communities to serve their educational, research and social functions, harming all members of these communities and society generally.

See: <http://monitoring.academicfreedom.info/reports/2014-06-19-university-pereira>

Country/Territory: **ETHIOPIA**

Type(s): Killings, Violence, Disappearances

Institution: Makelle University

Date of incident: July 8, 2014

Date of report: July 17, 2014

Description: On July 8, 2014, Abraha Desta, a political science lecturer Mekelle University, was reportedly arrested along with three other prominent Ethiopian opposition leaders. Reports indicate that Mr. Desta was arrested and detained in Mekelle, and, as of this report, is being held incommunicado. It has been reported that Mr. Desta's arrest is a response to his involvement with the Arena Tigray party, a legally registered party, as well as political opinions he expressed on social media websites. No official charges have been made public,

but it has been reported that he could face charges for terrorist offenses. Scholars at Risk is concerned about the arrest and incommunicado detention of a professor, apparently as a result of nonviolent expressive activity and his association with a legal political party, conduct that is expressly protected under international human rights instruments including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Ethiopia is party. State officials are obligated to comply with internationally recognized standards of due process and fair trial, including the right to counsel and the right to a fair and public hearing. State officials also have a responsibility not to interfere with the rights to free expression and association, so long as they are exercised peacefully and responsibly. Intimidation, detention or prosecution aimed at limiting free expression and association undermine academic freedom and democratic society generally.

See: <http://monitoring.academicfreedom.info/reports/2014-07-08-makelle-university>

Country/Territory: **ETHIOPIA**

Type(s): Loss of Position

Institution: Ambo University

Date of incident: July 2, 2014

Date of report: July 11, 2014

Description: On July 2, 2014, Zelalem Kibret, a lecturer of law at Ambo University who has been detained by the Ethiopian government since April 25, 2014, was reportedly fired from his position at the university for failing to report to work during the time he has been in custody. Professor Kibret was reportedly arrested in connection with his membership in the “Zone 9” forum, a bloggers’ group formed in response a narrowing of space for free expression in Ethiopia. He and his colleagues were reportedly charged with “working with foreign organizations claiming to be human rights activists to destabilize the nation” and “receiving funding in order to incite the public to violence via social media.” In a statement following the notification that Professor Zelalem had been fired, Dr. Lakew Wondimu, Academic and Research Vice President of the University, stated that “Zelalem has not been on the job for the past three months and had not responded to two previous notices, written within the past couple of months to report about his absence from the University, and the University has officially fired him from his post.” Dr. Wondimu stated further that “[t]he university has not received any formal report on the lecturer’s detention, and his ability to report,” and indicated that while Professor Zelalem was not expected to report to the university in person, he should have informed the university of his whereabouts in some fashion. Dr. Wondimu went on to state that if Professor Zelalem furnished evidence of his reasons for failing to come to work over the past three months, and if such evidence was accepted by the university, the university would consider reinstating him. Professor Zelalem’s arrest and detention are a matter of public record in Ethiopia. He was held incommunicado from the time he was taken into custody until mid-May, when he was reportedly first allowed to see his lawyer. He was reportedly prevented from communicating with anyone else, including his family, until after the university announced its decision to fire him. Scholars at Risk is concerned about the dismissal of a scholar, resulting from his detention and legal proceedings which themselves were brought in apparent retaliation for the exercise of protected rights, including freedom of expression and association. Such dismissal compounds the harm caused by such detention and prosecution, further chills academic freedom, and undermines university values and democratic society generally.

See: <http://monitoring.academicfreedom.info/reports/2014-07-02-ambo-university>

This is an update to an earlier report. To view, please click [here](#).

Country/Territory: **IRAN**

Type(s): Prosecution

Institution: University of Tehran

Date of incident: June 18, 2014

Date of report: July 1, 2014

Description: Sadegh Zibakalam, a political science professor at the University of Tehran, was sentenced to 18-month in prison on June 18, 2014, after being convicted for “propaganda against the Islamic Republic regime,” “publishing falsehoods to create public anxiety,” and “insulting judges and Judiciary officials.” Zibakalam, an outspoken writer and political analyst who frequently appears on international news outlets including the BBC and al-Jazeera, had published open letters to the chief editor of Iran’s Kayhan Newspaper and to Hamid Rasaei, a member of Iran’s parliament, questioning the benefits of Iran’s nuclear policy. In his letter to the newspaper, which was reportedly used as an exhibit in his prosecution, Professor Zibakalam asked “A country whose per capita medical treatment and education budget compares to that of under-developed African countries, its environment has turned into a big dumpster, ... faces 5.6 million unemployed individuals, and has a thousand and one other problems, is it prudent to spend all its resources on its nuclear programs?” Separately, Professor Zibakalam had publicly challenged the trial process in the criminal bank fraud case of Mahafarid Khosravi, a case widely reported in Iran in which the defendant, a successful entrepreneur, was ultimately convicted and sentenced to death. Professor Zibakalam was sentenced to eighteen months in prison, one year for the former statement, and six months for the latter. According to a statement published in Persian by Zibakalam on his

Facebook page, he is appealing the ruling. Scholars at Risk is concerned about the prosecution of a scholar in apparent retaliation for nonviolent, expressive activity which is related to his professional expertise and protected by internationally recognized human rights standards. State authorities have a responsibility not to interfere with scholars' expressive activity, so long as that activity is undertaken peacefully and responsibly. Prosecution aimed at limiting such expressive activity undermines academic freedom and democratic society generally.

See: <http://monitoring.academicfreedom.info/reports/2014-06-18-university-tehran>

Country/Territory: IRAQ

Types(s): Killings, Violence, Disappearances / Other

Institution: al-Anbar University - College of Agriculture

Date of incident: June 1, 2014

Date of report: June 25, 2014

Description: On June 1, 2014 at al-Anbar University, an Iraqi army sniper stationed near the school's College of Agriculture, reportedly opened fire, targeting a number of students as they took final exams. One female student, Sama Laith Mouayad, was killed, while an assistant dean and two other students were injured. Scholars at Risk is concerned about violent attacks on campus by security personnel. In addition to the harm to the immediate victims, such incidents have a chilling effect on academic freedom and institutional autonomy. State officials have a responsibility to ensure the security of higher education communities, to prevent future attacks, and to hold perpetrators of violent attacks accountable.

See: <http://monitoring.academicfreedom.info/reports/2014-06-01-al-anbar-university-college-agriculture>

Country/Territory: IRAQ

Types(s): Killings, Violence, Disappearances / Imprisonment

Institution: Anbar University

Date of incident: June 7, 2014

Date of report: July 12, 2014

Description: On Saturday, June 7, 2014, armed militants stormed Anbar University in Ramadi, Iraq, reportedly killing three security guards stationed at the campus entrance. They then moved on to the campus, blew up a bridge that led to the university's gates, and seized a dormitory. There, they reportedly identified themselves as members of the militant group Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIS) -- an al Qaeda splinter organization -- and instructed several students to remain in their rooms, while taking several dozen others hostage. The incident occurred during a period of increased sectarian violence between armed groups within Iraq's Sunni minority and Shia majority communities. The ISIS is a Sunni group with a history of violent attacks against Shiite Muslims. The incident ended and the students were released after a few hours, when Iraqi security forces staged a counterattack and forced the militants to withdraw from campus. Ultimately, no students were injured. Scholars at Risk is concerned about violent attacks on university campuses. Such attacks threaten the lives and well-being of members of higher education communities; undermine higher education functions, autonomy and academic freedom; and impair the ability of the higher education to serve its public mission. All members of higher education communities, and all members of society, benefit from this mission, and all parties to a conflict have a responsibility to respect the autonomy, safety and security of the higher education space.

See: <http://monitoring.academicfreedom.info/reports/2014-06-07-anbar-university>

Country/Territory: IRAQ

Types(s): Killings, Violence, Disappearances

Institution: Technical Institute of Baquba-Diyala

Date of incident: June 9, 2014

Date of report: July 11, 2014

Description: On June 9, 2014, Mustafa Abdul Aziz Sadiq, a lecturer in the department of accounting at the Technical Institute of Baquba, was shot and killed by unidentified gunmen, using silencers, after leaving his house in Baquba, the provincial capital of Diyala located about 30 miles northeast of Baghdad. The following day, two bombs exploded in the cemetery where Professor Sadiq's funeral was held, killing or injuring as many as 20 people in attendance, including a number of Professor Sadiq's colleagues. Among the victims of the blasts was Faisal Khalil Ibrahim, a lecturer at the Technical Institute of Baquba. Professor Ibrahim was killed. Scholars at Risk is concerned about the targeted attack and killing of higher education personnel. In addition to the harm to the immediate victims, such incidents have a chilling effect on academic freedom and institutional autonomy. State officials have a responsibility to ensure the security of higher education communities, to prevent future attacks, and to hold perpetrators of violent attacks accountable.

See: <http://monitoring.academicfreedom.info/reports/2014-06-09-technical-institute-baquba-diyala>

Country/Territory: IRAQ

Types(s): Killings, Violence, Disappearances
Institution: al-Mustansiriya University-Baghdad
Date of incident: June 20, 2014
Date of report: July 11, 2014

Description: On June 20, 2014, Professor Osama al-Rawi, a physics professor at al-Mustansiriya University in Baghdad, was reportedly kidnapped, along with two of his sons, by unidentified armed militia from their home in the al-Jami'a neighborhood in Baghdad's city center. Their bodies were found 24 hours later in the al-Baya'a neighborhood located on the southern outskirts of Baghdad. They had been shot. No one has claimed responsibility for the crime. Scholars at Risk is concerned about the kidnapping and apparently targeted killing of a higher education professional and members of his family. In addition to the harm to the immediate victims, such incidents have a chilling effect on academic freedom and institutional autonomy. State officials have a responsibility to ensure the security of higher education communities, to prevent future attacks, and to hold perpetrators of violent attacks accountable.

See: <http://monitoring.academicfreedom.info/reports/2014-06-20-al-mustansiriya-university-baghdad>

Country/Territory: **MACAU**

Types(s): Loss of Position
Institution: University of Macau
Date of incident: August 13, 2014
Date of report: August 21, 2014

Description: The University of Macau has reportedly refused to renew the contract of Bill Chou Kwok-ping, a professor of political science, in retaliation for his political activism. Professor Chou has long been an outspoken advocate of democratic reforms in the region, having publicly criticized government policies toward the media and participated in protests in support of increased press freedom and universal suffrage. He was recently elected vice president of the New Macau Association, a leading pro-democracy organization. The university reportedly began a disciplinary investigation of Professor Chou in November 2013, and in June 2014, suspended him for 24 days without pay on grounds of "imposing his political beliefs" on students, as well as failing to provide different perspectives in class and discriminating against students. According to Professor Chou, university officials informed him on August 13, 2014, that his contract was not being renewed. Although the university did not provide him with a reason for its decision, Professor Chou has indicated that the non-renewal of his contract was a result of his political activism, and not his job performance. Professor Chou indicated that a strong teaching record earned him a promotion to assistant professor in 2011. University officials have denied that their decision was motivated by Professor Chou's activism, and that his termination was consistent with relevant regulations and procedures. Scholars at Risk is concerned about allegations of the dismissal of an academic in retaliation for the content of his academic work or peaceful exercise of the right of free expression. State and university authorities have a responsibility not to interfere with academic freedom or expressive activity, so long as that activity is undertaken peacefully and responsibly. Retaliatory discharge aimed at limiting such expressive activity harms academic freedom and related higher education values including autonomy and social responsibility.

See: <http://monitoring.academicfreedom.info/reports/2014-08-13-university-macau>

Country/Territory: **MALAYSIA**

Types(s): Loss of Position
Institution: University of Malaya
Date of incident: June 30, 2014
Date of report: August 1, 2014

Description: Dr. Mohamad Redzuan Othman, a political science professor at the University of Malaya was reportedly forced to resign his position as director of the Center for Democracy and Elections (UMCedel) and his position as dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences was not renewed, allegedly as a result of government dissatisfaction with UMCedel survey findings which were not favorable to the ruling Barisan Nasional (BN) coalition (including findings that the BN coalition Prime Minister Najib Razak trailed behind opposition leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim in the 2013 general election, and that 60% of respondents preferred the opposition Pakatan Rakyat party's pledges over the BN's election pledges). According to university officials, the decision not to renew Professor Redzuan's position as dean was based on normal internal procedures and was not due to pressure from any outside parties. The officials claimed his term as dean was not extended because he is eligible to retire next year, and that the decision to replace Professor Redzuan as the director of UMCedel was made to allow his successor (as dean) to familiarize himself with the role of director. Professor Redzuan contends that his position was terminated before his regular term had ended, and he was not planning to retire. Former deputy higher education minister Datuk Saifuddin Abdullah reportedly resigned as a research fellow at the university in support of Professor Redzuan, claiming that officials within the Ministry of Education had been calling for Professor Redzuan's dismissal for several months. Scholars at Risk is concerned about the apparent dismissal of an academic in retaliation for the content of his academic work and peaceful exercise of the right of free expression. State and university authorities have a responsibility not to

interfere with academic freedom or expressive activity, so long as that activity is undertaken peacefully and responsibly. Retaliatory discharge aimed at limiting such expressive activity undermines academic freedom and related higher education values including institutional autonomy and social responsibility.

See: <http://monitoring.academicfreedom.info/reports/2014-06-30-university-malaya>

Country/Territory: NIGERIA

Types(s): Killings, Violence, Disappearances

Institution: Kano State School of Hygiene

Date of incident: June 23, 2014

Date of report: July 3, 2014

Description: An apparent suicide bombing occurred on the campus of Kano State School of Hygiene in northern Nigeria on June 23, 2014, killing eight people including the bomber, and wounding some 25. According to reports, the bomb, which had been concealed in a book bag, went off near the university's main gate, in an area frequented by students between classes. As of this report, police had questioned one suspect, but no arrests had been made and no one had claimed responsibility for the attack. Scholars at Risk is concerned about violent attacks on university campuses. Such attacks threaten the lives and well-being of members of higher education communities; undermine higher education functions and values, including autonomy and academic freedom; and impair the ability of higher education to serve its public mission. State authorities have a responsibility to ensure the security of academic communities, to prevent future attacks, and to hold perpetrators of violent attacks accountable.

See: <http://monitoring.academicfreedom.info/reports/2014-06-23-kano-state-school-hygiene>

Country/Territory: NIGERIA

Types(s): Killings, Violence, Disappearances

Institution: Kano State Polytechnic University

Date of incident: July 30, 2014

Date of report: August 7, 2014

Description: An apparent suicide bombing occurred on the campus of Kano State Polytechnic University in Northern Nigeria on July 30, 2014, killing six, including the bomber, and injuring at least seven others. According to reports, the bomber had disguised herself as a student and detonated the bomb amongst students who were gathered around a notice board on the college's campus. As of this report, no one has claimed responsibility for the attack, but Nigerian authorities suspect Boko Haram is responsible. Scholars at Risk is concerned about violent attacks on university campuses. Such attacks threaten the lives and well-being of members of higher education communities; undermine higher education functions and values, including autonomy and academic freedom; and impair the ability of higher education to serve its public mission. State authorities have a responsibility to ensure the security of academic communities, to prevent future attacks, and to hold perpetrators of violent attacks accountable.

See: <http://monitoring.academicfreedom.info/reports/2014-07-30-kano-state-polytechnic-university>

Country/Territory: PALESTINE (OPT)

Types(s): Other

Institution: Birzeit University; Arab American University; Al Quds University; Palestine Polytechnic University

Date of incident: June 19-22, 2014

Date of report: July 3, 2014

Description: Between June 19-22, 2014, Israeli military forces conducted raids of multiple West Bank universities. On the morning of Thursday, June 19, Israeli troops reportedly entered the campus of Birzeit University near Ramallah, raiding the Islamic student union and confiscating flags, posters and other materials used by a student group during recent student council elections. According to a statement by Birzeit University, Israeli troops “convert[ed] its academic facilities to military barracks,” “confiscate[ed] student property,” “wip[ed] out the [university’s] eastern and western gates, search[ed] parts of the Faculty of Science building and attempt[ed] to force open administrative offices.” The following morning, according to Palestinian sources including Ma’an News Agency, Israeli troops entered the campus of the Arab American University in Jenin, raiding and confiscating files from the student union and the headquarters of the Dean of Student Affairs. On June 22, Palestinian sources reported that troops destroyed the main gates of Palestine Polytechnic University in Hebron, entering the campus and confiscating computers from several university offices. Additionally, troops reportedly raided Al Quds University in East Jerusalem on June 22, entering the building of the law faculty and confiscating computers, Islamic flags and banners. The campus intrusions were reportedly part of a search for three Israeli teens kidnapped on June 12, 2014. The youths were found murdered near Hebron, in the West Bank, on June 30, sparking further violence and counter-violence, including the abduction and killing of a Palestinian youth and violent incidents involving civilians and Israeli and Palestinian security forces. Scholars at Risk condemns the abductions, killings and other acts of violence committed. Nevertheless, Scholars at Risk

is concerned about allegations of forced entry and occupation of university campuses by state military forces, as well as seizures of documents, computers and other materials. Scholars at Risk recognizes that states have a responsibility to take reasonable measures to secure the safety of individuals at risk, including victims of kidnappings. However such measures must comply with recognized human rights standards. Entry into or control of higher education facilities must be based on particularized and reasonable suspicion, communicated to higher education leaders and stakeholders as early and fully as circumstances may reasonably permit. Arbitrary entry into or control of higher education facilities without such reasonable and particularized information, communicated properly, may violate recognized human rights standards and can undermine university autonomy and academic freedom, and impair the ability of higher education institutions to serve their educational, social and public functions, including imparting the skills and knowledge necessary for respectful discourse, understanding and peace-building.

See: <http://monitoring.academicfreedom.info/reports/2014-06-22-birzeit-university-arab-american-university-al-quds-university-palestine>

Country/Territory: PALESTINE (OPT)

Types(s): Other

Institution: Islamic University

Date of incident: August 2, 2014

Date of report: August 21, 2014

Description: On August 2, 2014, an Israeli missile reportedly struck an administrative building on the campus of the Islamic University in Gaza, as part of the ongoing military conflict in the territory. No injuries were reported, but the missile reportedly inflicted major damage, leaving university facilities in ruins. Israeli officials have claimed that they targeted the university facilities because they were being used for military purposes by Hamas. University officials have denied these claims. Scholars at Risk is concerned about the alleged military use and targeting of university facilities in armed conflict. Parties must refrain from using higher education facilities for military purposes during active conflict. Parties to a conflict may only attack legitimate military targets; where a party suspects that a civilian facility -- such as a university building -- is being used for military purposes, that party has a duty to take every action practicable to verify that this suspicion is correct before initiating an attack. In the event of such an attack, parties must take all practicable precautions to avoid or minimize damage to civilian facilities. Further, parties must refrain from launching attacks which may be expected to cause disproportionate damage to civilian facilities.

See: <http://monitoring.academicfreedom.info/reports/2014-08-02-islamic-university>

Country/Territory: SENEGAL

Types(s): Killings, Violence, Disappearances / Other

Institution: Cheick Anta Diop University of Dakar

Date of incident: August 14, 2014

Date of report: August 26, 2014

Description: On Thursday, August 14, 2014, Bassirou Faye, a student in the department of science and technology at Cheick Anta Diop University of Dakar (UCAD) was killed during riots between students and police. Protests at UCAD have been ongoing for several months, with students expressing grievances over a nearly year-long delay by the university in making grant and scholarship payments, and demanding an end to the permanent presence of police on campus, which has been ongoing since November 2013. On August 14, following a meeting with Senegal's Higher Education Minister, in which students unsuccessfully demanded that their grants be paid, student activists called a 72-hour strike. During the demonstrations that followed, students reportedly threw stones at police, while police deployed teargas to disperse the protesting crowds. As the conflict escalated, police reportedly entered campus dormitories, and ransacked and vandalized student property including computers and television sets. Faye was reportedly shot during an encounter with police as he was leaving his dormitory; he was immediately taken to the hospital, where he was pronounced dead shortly thereafter. Scholars at Risk is concerned about violence on university campuses, especially when resulting in the death of a student. While State and university authorities have a legitimate interest in maintaining order and protecting property, they must do so in ways that are proportional to the situation, that respect peaceful expression, and that minimize the risk of physical injury. Use of excessive force in response to campus unrest unnecessarily increases risks of physical harm to individuals and undermines higher education functions, academic freedom and institutional autonomy. Similarly, while students have the right to free expression, that right does not extend to violence or the destruction of property; on-campus expression must be undertaken in a manner that is consistent with university values including social responsibility. Student violence against persons or property also creates unnecessary risks of physical harm to individuals and undermines higher education functions, academic freedom and institutional autonomy.

See: <http://monitoring.academicfreedom.info/reports/2014-08-14-cheikh-anta-diop-university-dakar>

Country/Territory: TAIWAN

Types(s): Travel Restrictions

Institution: National Tsing Hua University

Date of incident: June 24, 2014

Date of report: July 3, 2014

Description: On June 24, 2014, border officials denied three Taiwanese student activists visas to enter Hong Kong, on a trip to participate in pro-democracy rallies connected to Occupy Central with Love and Peace, a peaceful protest calling for universal suffrage in Hong Kong. Planned activities were organized by the New School for Democracy, an on-line school that promotes exchanges between activists in Taiwan and Hong Kong. Chen Wei-ting, Lin Fei-fan and Huang Kuo-chang -- co-founders of Taiwan's student-led Sunflower movement, which in March 2014 had vocally opposed a trade agreement between China and Taiwan -- applied on-line for visas to travel to Hong Kong the week prior to the scheduled rallies. Although the activists reported that their visa applications fully complied with applicable regulations, all three applications were denied. Following the denial of his visa application, Chen, a graduate student at National Tsing Hua University, attempted to travel to Hong Kong using a "Taiwan Compatriot's Travel Document" -- a permit issued by Chinese authorities that allows Taiwanese citizens to travel to China and Hong Kong. Chen reported, however, that upon arrival at Hong Kong International Airport, customs officials took him aside, searched him, and informed him that his travel document had been nullified, despite the fact that it was not scheduled to expire until 2018. Customs officials then escorted him to a plane bound for Taiwan. Scholars at Risk is concerned about apparent attempts to retaliate for or restrict academic and expressive freedoms by limiting student mobility. State authorities have a responsibility to protect academic freedom, freedom of expression and freedom of assembly, and to refrain from imposing arbitrary restrictions on movement intended to limit these freedoms.

See: <http://monitoring.academicfreedom.info/reports/2014-06-24-national-ting-hua-university>

Country/Territory: **TAJIKISTAN**

Types(s): Killings, Violence, Disappearances / Imprisonment

Institution: University of Toronto

Date of incident: June 16, 2014

Date of report: June 20, 2014

Description: Alexander Sodiqov, a Tajik PhD candidate studying at the University of Toronto, disappeared in Khorog, Tajikistan on June 16, 2014, while doing fieldwork on conflict resolution and civil society in Central Asia. At the time of his arrest, Sodiqov was reportedly conducting an interview with civil society activist Alim Sherzamonov, an opposition leader in Tajikistan. The Tajik secret police, the GKNB, initially confirmed that they had detained Sodiqov on June 16, claiming that he was engaged in espionage on behalf of an unnamed government. Sodiqov reportedly was able to contact his family by phone on the same day, but could not state who had detained him or where he was. Since that time, however, Sodiqov's family and colleagues have not heard from him; authorities have refused to disclose his location, or to indicate whether he remains in custody. According to reports, Sodiqov has appeared on local Tajik state television twice since his arrest, each time appearing pale and confused, with his speech apparently edited in a manner designed to discredit the political opposition. Scholars at Risk is concerned about the apparent incommunicado detention -- without access to counsel or family -- of a scholar, apparently as a result of scholarly research. State officials are obligated to comply with internationally recognized standards of due process and fair trial, including the right to counsel and the right to a fair and public hearing. State officials also have a responsibility not to interfere with the right to free expression, so long as it is exercised peacefully and responsibly. Intimidation, detention or prosecution aimed at limiting free expression undermine academic freedom and democratic society generally.

Update: According to reports, Alex Sodiqov was released on bail on July 22, and, as of this report, was at home in Tajikistan with family. As of this report, Sodiqov remained under investigation for charges related to treason, a crime carrying a maximum prison sentence of 20 years, and was prohibited from leaving the country. He was also not permitted to continue his research.

See: <http://monitoring.academicfreedom.info/reports/2014-06-16-university-toronto>

Country/Territory: **VENEZUELA**

Types(s): Killings, Violence, Disappearances

Institution: Catholic University of Táchira and National Experimental University of Táchira

Date of incident: June 2, 2014

Date of report: July 3, 2014

Description: On June 2, 2014, student protests on the campuses of the Catholic University of Táchira, as well as the National Experimental University of Táchira, led to clashes with Venezuelan security officers. The students were reportedly demanding the release of several other student protesters from a jail in Caracas, as well as protesting what they alleged was the arbitrary arrest of the mayor of San Cristobal, Venezuela. During the protests, the students reportedly erected barricades, blocking roads. The National Bolivarian Guard and National Bolivarian Police reportedly attempted to disperse the demonstrations using tear gas and rubber bullets. The clashes resulted in two injuries to police, and four injuries to students. Student demonstrators claimed that their

protests were infiltrated by violent, hooded individuals to make their protest appear to be violent and provide government troops with a pretext for the use of force. Scholars at Risk is concerned about violence on university campuses. While State and university authorities have a legitimate interest in maintaining order and protecting property, they must do so in ways that are proportional to the situation, that respect peaceful expression, and that minimize the risk of physical injury. Use of excessive force in response to campus unrest unnecessarily increases risks of physical harm to individuals and undermines higher education functions, academic freedom and institutional autonomy. Similarly, while students have the right to free expression, that right does not extend to violence or the destruction of property; on-campus expression must be undertaken in a manner that is consistent with university values including social responsibility. Student violence against persons or property also creates unnecessary risks of physical harm to individuals and undermines higher education functions, academic freedom and institutional autonomy.

See: <http://monitoring.academicfreedom.info/reports/2014-06-02-catholic-university-t%C3%A1chira-ucat-national-experimental-university-tachira-unet>

Country/Territory: **VENEZUELA**

Types(s): Killings, Violence, Disappearances

Institution: Metropolitan University, Santa Maria University

Date of incident: June 4, 2014

Date of report: July 3, 2014

Description: On June 4, 2014, violent clashes between student protesters and state security agents broke out just outside the campus of the Metropolitan University in Caracas. Students from both Metropolitan University and nearby Santa María University had assembled to protest alleged police repression and arbitrary detention of their fellow students. The students burned tires and erected barricades blocking traffic. State security agents responded by firing tear gas and rubber bullets at the students, while the students launched fireworks, stones and debris at the officers. Five students were injured in the clashes. The protests are part of an ongoing pattern of unrest throughout Venezuela. Scholars at Risk is concerned about violence on university campuses. State and university authorities, while they have a legitimate interest in maintaining order and protecting property, must do so in ways that are proportional to the situation, that respect peaceful expression, and that minimize the risk of physical injury. Use of excessive force in response to campus unrest unnecessarily increases risks of physical harm to individuals and undermines higher education functions, academic freedom and institutional autonomy. Similarly, while students have the right to free expression, that right does not extend to violence or the destruction of property; on-campus expression must be undertaken in a manner that is consistent with university values including social responsibility. Student violence against persons or property also creates unnecessary risks of physical harm to individuals and undermines higher education functions, academic freedom and institutional autonomy.

See: <http://monitoring.academicfreedom.info/reports/2014-06-04-metropolitan-university-santa-mar%C3%ADa-university>

Country/Territory: **VENEZUELA**

Types(s): Travel Restrictions

Institution: University of Los Andes, Merida

Date of incident: June 9, 2014

Date of report: July 3, 2014

Description: On June 9, 2014, student leader Gaby Arellano was reportedly prevented from boarding a flight from Caracas to Merida, on the Venezuelan state airline CONVIASA. According to Ms. Arellano, she had booked her ticket and checked in for the flight, and was in the boarding area when airline workers informed her that her name had appeared on a no-fly list, maintained by CONVIASA, that includes social leaders, journalists and students who have publicly expressed controversial political views. Scholars at Risk is concerned about apparent restriction on a student's mobility based on non-violent expressive activity or her status as a student leader. State authorities have a responsibility not to interfere with a student's right to free expression, so long as that activity is undertaken peacefully and responsibly.

See: <http://monitoring.academicfreedom.info/reports/2014-06-09-university-los-andes-m%C3%A9rida>

Country/Territory: **VENEZUELA**

Types(s): Killings, Violence, Disappearances

Institution: University Fermín Toro Barquisimeto

Date of incident: June 12, 2014

Date of report: July 3, 2014

Description: On the morning of June 12, 2014, unknown assailants set off tear gas canisters on the campus of the University Fermín Toro, in Barquisimeto, Venezuela, injuring fourteen people, and affecting students as they took exams. As of this report, no group has taken responsibility for the attack. Scholars at Risk is concerned about violence on university campuses. Such actions threaten the lives and well-being of members of higher education communities; undermine higher education functions and values, including autonomy and

academic freedom; and impair the ability of higher education to serve its public mission. State authorities have a responsibility to ensure the security of academic communities, to prevent future attacks, and to hold perpetrators of violent attacks accountable.

See: <http://monitoring.academicfreedom.info/reports/2014-06-12-university-ferm%C3%ADn-toro-barquisimeto>

Country/Territory: **VENEZUELA**

Types(s): Killings, Violence, Disappearances / Other

Institution: Santa María University, Caracas

Date of incident: June 12, 2014

Date of report: July 3, 2014

Description: On June 12, 2014, a public bus leaving the campus of Santa Maria University, in Caracas, was boarded by armed individuals posing as students. The individuals robbed the driver and several of the passengers, and shot and wounded two students during the robbery. The incident sparked on-campus demonstrations in which students complained of the administration's failure to provide sufficient on-campus security, and demanded that further security measures be implemented. Scholars at Risk is concerned about violent attacks against students, and attacks on or in the vicinity of university campuses. In addition to the harm to the immediate victims, such attacks create insecurity which undermines higher education functions. State and university authorities have a responsibility to ensure the security of academic communities, to prevent future attacks, and to investigate and hold perpetrators of violent attacks accountable.

See: <http://monitoring.academicfreedom.info/reports/2014-06-12-santa-mar%C3%ADa-university-caracas>

Country/Territory: **YEMEN**

Types(s): Killings, Violence, Disappearances

Institution: University of Sana'a-College of Dentistry

Date of incident: July 5, 2014

Date of report: July 24, 2014

Description: On July 5, 2014, a group of unidentified gunmen reportedly attempted to assassinate Professor Al-Qasim Mohammad Abbas Sharaf al-Din, the Dean of the Dentistry College at Sana'a University, in Sana'a's city center. Security forces reported that roughly 18 gunmen approached Professor Sharaf al-Din's car at a security point and opened fire on him. When the professor's driver drew a pistol and began firing back, the gunmen reportedly fled. Professor Sharaf al-Din suffered minor injuries, and was treated at a nearby hospital. No one has claimed responsibility for the crime. Scholars at Risk is concerned about an apparently targeted attack on a professor. In addition to the harm to the immediate victim, such incidents have a chilling effect on academic freedom and institutional autonomy. State officials have a responsibility to ensure the security of higher education communities, to prevent future attacks, and to hold perpetrators accountable.

See: <http://monitoring.academicfreedom.info/reports/2014-07-05-university-sanaa-college-dentistry>

*Scholars at Risk (SAR) is an international network of higher education institutions and individuals in countries working to protect threatened scholars, prevent attacks on higher education communities, and promote academic freedom and human rights. SAR is hosted by New York University. Information about the network is available at www.scholarsatrisk.org. SAR coordinates the production and circulation of the Academic Freedom MONITOR. Alleged incidents are based on publicly available sources, including media reports, as well as other primary and secondary research sources, whenever practical. SAR works within available resources to corroborate and/or verify alleged incident reports, and welcomes submissions of additional corroborating, clarifying or contradictory information which may be used to further research or otherwise improve data reported. Incident reports and links or references to corroborating or source material are provided to assist users in evaluating alleged reports and do not necessarily represent the views of SAR, participating monitors or respective members and partners of the Scholars at Risk Network. To communicate information about a particular incident, report a new incident or learn how you and your institution might participate in monitoring activities, email sarmonitoring@nyu.edu. To unsubscribe from this list, [click here](#).

Academic Freedom Media Review

August 30 - September 5, 2014

Compiled by Scholars at Risk

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Plugging Iran's 'Brain Drain'

Dr. Jeffrey H. Toney, *The Huffington Post*, 09/04

Even those who are severely math-challenged have been mesmerized by the recent news of Iranian mathematics dynamo Maryam Mirzakhani, the first woman and the first Iranian to be awarded the prestigious Fields medal. [Read more.](#)

Maryam al-Khawaja, the Inconvenient Activist

Samia Errazzouki, *Foreign Policy*, 09/04

"They keep saying I'm not a citizen," tweeted human rights defender (and FP Global Thinker) Maryam al-Khawaja early on the morning of Aug. 30. A few hours earlier she had stepped off a plane in her home country of Bahrain, where she hoped to pay a visit to her ailing father, Abdulhadi al-Khawaja. [Read more.](#)

Uyghur Scholar Tohti 'Humiliated' in Prison, Shackled Again

Qiao Long, Parameswaran Ponnudurai, Luisetta Mudie, *Radio Free Asia*, 09/04

Detained Uyghur scholar Ilham Tohti has claimed that several inmates in his prison in northwestern China's Xinjiang region ganged up on him and humiliated him, forcing a confrontation that led to him being shackled again, his lawyer said Thursday. [Read more.](#)

Imprisoned Student Denied Medical Treatment despite Severe Illness

International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran, 09/04

Omid Kokabi, an exceptional student serving a 10-year sentence, has not been allowed medical treatment outside Evin Prison despite his worsening kidney stone condition and stomach ailment, a source told the International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran. [Read more.](#)

Ariel University professor given formal dismissal notice in contravention of regulations

Yarden Skop, *Haaretz*, 09/04

Ariel University yesterday informed Prof. Amir Hetsroni, who on August 27 was told of his dismissal from the institution, that his salary would not be paid after that date. That decision, as well as the dismissal itself, is in apparent contravention of university regulations as well as a ruling by a labor court on the case. [Read more.](#)

Iraqi intellectuals start campaigns to end bloodshed

Shukur Khilkhal, *Al Monitor*, 09/03

Security instability and the increasing number of terror victims in Iraq have pushed Iraqi intellectuals to take on new and unfamiliar roles. They have entered the political scene by organizing campaigns, cultural and social events to promote several objectives, gaining the support of citizens all over Iraq. [Read more.](#)

Azmi vows to fight charge, saying it is a blow to academic freedom

V. Anbalagan, *The Malaysian Insider*, 09/02

A defiant Azmi Sharom (pic), who was charged with sedition this morning, said he would fight the charge as it was a blow to academic freedom and freedom of expression. Azmi, 45, said he was shocked to learn that the charge was over comments he had made on the Perak constitutional crisis in 2009. [Read more.](#)

Cairo University professors protest against colleague's arrest

Adham Youssef, *Daily News Egypt*, 09/02

A number of university professors protested Monday in front of Cairo University demanding the immediate release of their colleagues from prison, according to state-run Al-Ahram. The protest was organised by the group "An Independent University", set up this year and advocating an entirely independent university system. [Read more.](#)

3 Universities Pledge to Uphold Party Ideals on Campus

Vanessa Piao, *The New York Times*, 09/02

The Communist Party committees of three prestigious Chinese universities have pledged to uphold ideological controls over their students and faculty. Separate statements by Peking University in Beijing, Fudan University in Shanghai and Sun Yat-sen University in Guangzhou were published Sunday under the headline "How to carry out ideological work at universities under new historical conditions" in the party journal Qiushi, which means "seeking truth." [Read more.](#)

Cairo University Bans Politically Affiliated Student Groups

Sarah Lynch, *Al-Fanar Media*, 09/02

When the academic year kicks off in Egypt, Cairo University professors and students will face a significant policy shift: Politically-affiliated student activities and groups will be banned from the university's campus. [Read more.](#)

Tajikistan: Academic's Future Still Unclear as Government Prolongs Investigation

Chris Rickleton, *Inside the Cocoon*, 09/01

Alexander Sodiqov, the Tajikistan-born academic arrested on espionage charges in June, still does not know if or when he will be free to leave his native country and resume his studies abroad. [Read more.](#)

Scholars at Risk calls for letters on behalf of Malaysian law professor facing prosecution on sedition charges

September 11, 2014

Scholars at Risk is gravely concerned by reports that Dr. Azmi Sharom, an associate professor of law, faces prosecution on charges relating to his academic profession.

SAR calls for letters, faxes and emails respectfully urging authorities to investigate and drop any charges stemming from Prof. Azmi's exercise of academic freedom and free expression.

[Click here to share your concern with the Prime Minister of Malaysia and other concerned authorities.](#)

Further information:

Professor Azmi Sharom is an associate professor in the Faculty of Law at the University of Malaya. Scholars at Risk understands that, on September 2, 2014, Prof. Azmi was charged in Kuala Lumpur Session Court with sedition. Under Malaysian law, sedition is defined as speech that “would bring into hatred or contempt or to excite disaffection against” the government. The charges apparently stem from an interview Prof. Azmi gave on August 14 regarding an ongoing political crisis in Selangor state. In the interview, Prof. Azmi compared the current crisis to a situation in the Malaysian state of Perak in 2009, stating, “[y]ou don’t want a repeat of that, where a secret meeting took place” and “I think what happened in Perak was legally wrong. The best thing to do is do it as legally and transparently as possible.” Prof. Azmi pleaded not guilty to the charge against him and was released on bail pending trial. He spoke publicly about the prosecution, stating, “I was shocked to learn that I am being charged under the Sedition Act because of comments I made on the Perak crisis of 2009. My statements were based on established case law and democratic principles. They were given in my capacity as a law lecturer of 24 years standing.” Reports indicate that his next hearing is set for October 3, 2014.

Scholars at Risk welcomes any additional information that may clarify our understanding of these events. Absent this, the facts as described suggest that Prof. Azmi’s comments were protected expression related to his professional competence as a legal scholar. Prosecution for such expression would violate internationally recognized standards of academic freedom and the right to freedom of opinion and expression.

Scholars at Risk therefore invites letters, emails and faxes be sent to the appropriate authorities, respectfully urging:

- intervention to ensure a full, impartial, timely investigation and public reporting on the incident as early as possible;
- dropping any charges or proceedings against Prof. Azmi which stem from his exercise of academic freedom and the right of freedom of opinion and expression; and
- firm, clear and public demonstration of Malaysia's commitment to academic freedom, free inquiry and freedom of opinion and expression as fundamental to quality higher education and as essential elements of free, stable and prosperous societies.

Academic Freedom Media Review

September 06 - 12, 2014

Compiled by Scholars at Risk

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Sydney University bows to request from Sri Lankan military and police

Oliver Laughland, *The Guardian*, 09/12

The University of Sydney has withdrawn invitations for two Sri Lankan human rights organisations to an international conference at the request of the Sri Lankan military, angering campaigners. The university is due to host a two-day event in Bangkok from Monday along with the University of Colombo, which will see delegates from around the world discuss the enhancement of human rights in the Asia Pacific region. [Read more.](#)

Tajikistan Lets Scholar Accused of Espionage Leave Country

David Trilling, *Inside the Cocoon*, 09/12

The Tajik scholar whose June arrest on espionage charges ignited an international outcry has been allowed to leave Tajikistan. Alexander Sodiqov arrived in Canada on September 10, his thesis advisor at the University of Toronto, Edward Schatz, has confirmed. Sodiqov's wife and infant daughter joined him late on September 11. [Read more.](#)

Academics pledge to help students who boycott classes

Luisa Tam, *South China Morning Post*, 09/12

The announcement by mainland officials of new rules ensuring that only hand-picked candidates will be allowed to run for Hong Kong's top leadership position in 2017 was, not surprisingly, condemned by democracy activists. But this latest setback in the struggle for genuine universal suffrage has brought to the surface a growing undercurrent of support among academics for the Occupy Central movement. [Read more.](#)

Thai coup leader warns against insulting the monarchy

Agence France-Presse, 09/12

Thai junta leader Prayut Chan-O-Cha Friday said his regime would use legal, psychological and technological measures to protect the monarchy against defamation in his first official policy speech as premier. The warning came as Amnesty International said an "unprecedented" number of people have been charged with insulting the royals since the coup, with 14 Thais indicted under the controversial lese majeste law in less than four months. [Read more.](#)

What's Next in the Steven Salaita Dispute?

Peter Schmidt, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, 09/12

Thursday's 8-to-1 vote by the University of Illinois Board of Trustees to deny a tenured professorship to Steven G. Salaita over his inflammatory Twitter posts about Israel hardly settles the controversy over the university's dealings with him. [Read more.](#)

Wofford Hosts Performance Banned Elsewhere

Inside Higher Ed, 09/11

The University of South Carolina Upstate, under legislative pressure, in April called off a planned appearance by a lesbian humorist. This week Wofford College, a private liberal arts institution in South Carolina, held the performance banned at South Carolina Upstate, an appearance by Leigh Hendrix of her one-woman show "How to be a Lesbian in 10 Days or Less." [Read more.](#)

Students, lecturers march in solidarity with UM's Azmi Sharom

Lee Shi-lan, *The Malaysian Insider*, 09/10

More than 400 Universiti Malaya students and lecturers called on Putrajaya to drop all charges against law professor Dr Azmi Sharom and repeal the Sedition Act 1948, as they participated in the "hartal" (strike) today to press for academic freedom. [Read more.](#)

Detained Uighur activist appears in China court

World Bulletin, 09/09

Detained Uighur scholar Dr. Ilham Tohti has appeared in a Chinese court for the first time since being arrested eight months ago charged with separatism. The Pekin International University professor and human rights activist was detained on January 15 and has not been seen in public since. [Read more.](#)

The Problem With Civility

Colleen Flaherty, *Inside Higher Ed*, 09/09

Will 2014 be the year of civility in faculty conduct? It seems to be shaping up that way, with administrators and even courts recently weighing in on the concept – to the dismay of many faculty members who see expectations of civility as incompatible with academic freedom. It's not that critics want everyone to be rude, but they say that civility can be used as grounds to squelch unpopular ideas that deserve a home in academe. [Read more.](#)

AAUP Condemns Trigger Warnings As A 'Threat To Academic Freedom'

Tyler Kingkade, *The Huffington Post*, 09/09

The American Association of University Professors, one of the nation's leading college faculty groups, announced this week it formally opposes the use of "trigger warnings" in classrooms and on class syllabi. In a lengthy statement outlining the AAUP's position, the group called trigger warnings -- whether mandatory or voluntary -- a "threat to academic freedom." [Read more.](#)

Moon Festival Shines Spotlight on China's Prisoners of Conscience

Tian Yi and Grace Kei Lai-see, *Radio Free Asia*, 09/08

Most political prisoners in China, including Nobel laureate Liu Xiaobo, were again deprived of being with their families at the traditional Mid-Autumn festival, which fell on Monday, as people in the country lighted lanterns, ate moon cakes and appreciated the round moon to mark the auspicious occasion, relatives and fellow activists said. [Read more.](#)

Foreign Powers Buy Influence at Think Tanks

Eric Lipton, Brooke Williams and Nicholas Confessore, *The New York Times*, 09/06

The agreement signed last year by the Norway Ministry of Foreign Affairs was explicit: For \$5 million, Norway's partner in Washington would push top officials at the White House, at the Treasury Department and in Congress to double spending on a United States foreign aid program. [Read more.](#)

Good news! Travel restriction lifted for Alex Sodikov

September 12, 2014

Scholars at Risk welcomes the news that Alexander Sodikov, a PhD candidate studying conflict resolution at the University of Toronto, was permitted to leave Tajikistan and arrived in Canada, where he will continue his studies, on Wednesday. His wife and daughter joined him on Thursday.

Mr. Sodikov was arrested and detained in Khorog, Tajikistan on June 16 while conducting fieldwork on conflict resolution and civil society in Central Asia. Mr. Sodikov was released on bail on July 22. SAR understands that Mr. Sodikov remains under investigation for charges related to treason, a crime carrying a maximum prison sentence of 20 years.

Scholars at Risk will continue to monitor developments in this case. We joined many others in advocating on Mr. Sodikov's behalf, and are grateful to the many members of our network who responded to our call for letters of appeal to be sent to the authorities in Tajikistan. For information on SAR's advocacy work, please visit our [Scholars in Prison](#) page. For more information on Scholars at Risk, please visit: www.scholarsatrisk.org.

Dear friends,

Following are the 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.

- [Eritrean scholar of mathematics and higher education](#)
- [Iranian scholar of human rights and gender studies](#)
- [Syrian scholar of marketing](#)
- [Syrian scholar of archaeology](#)
- [Iranian scholar of psychology](#)

More information is available from the SAR network office at scholarsatrisk@nyu.edu and +1 212 998-2179. Thank you for your help.

ERIT-529

Field: Mathematics, Higher Education
Risk: Imprisonment/ Discrimination (displaced)
Language: Tigrigna (native), English (fluent), Dutch (basic)
Education: PhD (The Netherlands)
Seeking: Opportunities beginning **immediately** to continue his research and teaching

IRAN-695

Field: Human Rights, Gender Studies
Risk: Threat of Imprisonment (displaced)
Language: Persian (native), English (fluent)
Education: MA
Seeking: Research or doctoral study opportunities **in the Netherlands**

SYRI-528

Field: Marketing; Management; Tourism
Risk: Threat of arrest/violence
Language: English, Arabic (fluent)
Education: MBA (UK)
Seeking: PhD study, research, and/or teaching beginning **immediately**

SYRI-567

Field: Archaeology
Risk: Threat to life; Risk of arrest and violence (displaced)
Language: English (fluent), German (intermediate), Akkadian (proficient)
Education: PhD (UK)
Seeking: Opportunities beginning **Fall 2015** to continue her teaching and research **in the United States or the United Kingdom**

IRAN-562

Field: Psychology
Risk: Harassment/Intimidation (displaced)
Language: Persian (fluent), English (fluent)
Education: PhD
Seeking: Opportunities beginning **Spring 2015** to continue his research and teaching in the **United States**

Academic Freedom Media Review

September 13 - 19, 2014

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Crimean Tatar Scholar Attacked, Library Shut As Pressure Mounts

Radio Free Europe, 09/19

A Crimean Tatar scholar says masked assailants dragged him from his car and took his passport in an attack meant to prevent him from attending a UN conference in New York. The attack on Nadir Bekir late on September 18 came hours after Russian authorities moved to seize the Crimean Tatar assembly, the Mejlis, piling pressure on the Turkic-speaking Muslim minority group that largely opposed Moscow's annexation of the Black Sea peninsula from Ukraine. [Read more.](#)

Syrian refugees in Jordan – From camps to campus

Daniela Z Kaisth and James R King, *University World News, 09/19*

The United Nations recently registered its three millionth Syrian refugee. In this group and among the nearly seven million Syrians internally displaced is a population neglected and ignored: tens of thousands of university students and scholars. [Read more.](#)

A Pakistani Scholar Accused of Blasphemy Is Shot Dead

Zia ur-Rehman, *The New York Times, 09/18*

A liberal Muslim scholar who had been accused of blasphemy for a speech he gave during a visit to the United States was shot and killed in Karachi on Thursday, the city police said. The scholar, Muhammad Shakil Auj, was the dean of Islamic studies at the state-run University of Karachi. [Read more.](#)

Carleton Partners with the University of Ottawa to Join Scholars at Risk Network

Carleton University, 09/18

Carleton University and the Carleton University Academic Staff Association (CUASA), in partnership with the University of Ottawa, will be joining the Scholars at Risk (SAR) network in the 2014-'15 academic year. [Read more.](#)

Shia rebels in Yemen besiege university run by Sunni radicals

Associated Press, 09/18

Security officials say Shia rebels have reached a suburb of Yemen's capital, Sana'a, where they are fighting Sunni militias and besieging a university run by one of the nation's best-known Sunni radicals. The officials say Thursday's fighting in Shamlan has forced thousands to flee their homes, but they have no word on casualties. [Read more.](#)

Bahrain activist Maryam al-Khawaja released

Al Jazeera, 09/18

Authorities in Bahrain have released Shia political activist Maryam Abdulhadi al-Khawaja but the charges against her still stand, the Gulf state's interior ministry said in a statement. Al-Khawaja, arrested after arriving at Manama airport last month and accused of assaulting a police officer, was released dependent on a guarantee of her place of residence and is banned from travelling, Thursday's statement said. [Read more.](#)

Uighur scholar's daughter laments China's 'ridiculous' charges against her father

Simon Denyer, *The Washington Post*, 09/16

In February 2013, Jewher Ilham was due to accompany her father to the United States for a month, to help him settle in as he took up a new job as a visiting scholar at Indiana University. But as they prepared to leave China, her father, the prominent Uighur scholar Ilham Tohti, was detained, beaten and forbidden to leave the country. [Read more.](#)

Boko Haram: Nigeria teacher training college attacked

BBC, 09/17

The attackers exchanged fire with police outside the college before running inside. Another 34 people were injured. It is not clear who was responsible, although suspicion will fall on militant Islamist group Boko Haram, which has been waging an insurgency in Nigeria since 2009. [Read more.](#)

Myanmar Teachers Back Student Opposition to Education Draft Law

Wai Mar Tun and Yadanar Oo, *Radio Free Asia*, 09/15

A key group representing Myanmar's teachers said Monday it had joined students in opposing a proposed law aimed at revamping the country's education system, saying strong government controls under the draft law contradicted reforms that have been implemented by President Thein Sein's administration. [Read more.](#)

Loved and Hated, Former Premier of Thailand Is Erased From Textbook

Thomas Fuller, *The New York Times*, 09/15

His legacy is inseparable from the past decade of political tumult in Thailand, but high school students will not find the name Thaksin Shinawatra in the history textbooks that the country's military junta recently ordered schools to use. [Read more.](#)

What Education Is Like Under the Islamic State

Gilgamesh Nabeel, *Al Fanar Media*, 09/14

As the Islamic State tightens its rule on Mosul, Iraq's second largest city, the militant group has begun to turn its eyes on education, casting a shadow over the start of the school year. Islamic State leaders want students, staff members and administrators segregated by gender. They have imposed a dress code that requires men to wear wide-legged pants and women to cover up their faces and hair. [Read more.](#)

Dear SAR Representative,

Scholars at Risk is pleased to announce the launch of the 2014-2015 Speakers Series.

This year's Speaker Series lists include an incredible selection of **academics, writers and human rights activists** from **Syria, Ethiopia, and around the globe**. 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 network office at scholarsatrisk@nyu.edu and +1-212-998-2179.

Thank you,
Scholars at Risk

**Scholars at Risk calls for letters on behalf of
professor sentenced to life in prison in China**
September 24, 2014

Scholars at Risk is gravely concerned over reports that Professor Ilham Tohti, a public intellectual and economics professor, was convicted on charges of separatism and sentenced to life in prison.

SAR calls for letters, emails, and faxes respectfully urging authorities to ensure that Prof. Tohti receives a fair opportunity to appeal this sentence before an impartial tribunal and that any charges or convictions related to his academic activities are lifted.

**Click here to share your concern with the President of China
and other concerned authorities**

Further information:

Professor Tohti is a professor of economics at the Central Minzu University in Beijing and advocate for the rights of the Chinese Uighur minority. Scholars at Risk understands that on the afternoon of January 15, 2014, police raided Professor Tohti's family home; seized computers, cell phones, passports and student essays; and arrested Professor Tohti. According to reports, he was held incommunicado until late June, after which he was denied regular access to family. On July 30, Professor Tohti was formally charged with separatism, charges that reportedly stem from his teachings at the university and writings published on his former website, Uighur Online.

On September 16 and 17, 2014, Professor Tohti underwent a two-day trial in the Urumqi Intermediate People's Court, which was closed to the public. Professor Tohti's lawyers have

reported that they were denied access to evidence in advance of trial and were not allowed to call defense witnesses. Evidence presented by prosecutors reportedly included Professor Tohti's teaching materials, as well as material taken from the Uighur Online website. Professor Tohti reportedly maintained his innocence throughout trial, rejecting the charge of separatism and stating "There is nothing wrong with voicing one's thoughts. And there is nothing wrong with doing academic research."

Following trial, on September 23, 2014, the court found Professor Tohti guilty of separatism and sentenced him to life in prison. In addition, the court ordered that all of Professor Tohti's assets be confiscated, which could leave his family in severe economic distress.

Scholars at Risk welcomes any additional or contrary information that may clarify our understanding of these events. Absent this, the facts indicate that Professor Tohti was arrested, convicted and sentenced as a result of scholarly and nonviolent expressive activity, conduct that is expressly protected under international human rights instruments including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which China is a signatory. Therefore, in the absence of any clearly legitimate, publicly expressed grounds for doing so, the arrest and conviction of Professor Tohti raises serious concerns for his well being and for the ability of intellectuals generally in China to conduct world-class scholarship under such circumstances. Scholars at Risk finds the situation particularly distressing given the important role that China and Chinese universities and scholars in particular should play in the development of knowledge, research and scholarship in the 21st century.

Scholars at Risk therefore invites letters, emails and faxes be sent to the appropriate authorities, respectfully urging:

- that Prof. Tohti receives a fair opportunity to appeal this sentence before an impartial tribunal,
- that any charges or convictions related to his academic activities are lifted, and
- that in the interim, his case is addressed in a manner consistent with internationally recognized standards of due process, fair trial and detention, in accordance with China's obligations under international law.

Academic Freedom Media Review

September 20 - 26, 2014

Compiled by Scholars at Risk

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Nobel laureates call for release of Iranian physicist

Michele Catanzaro, *Nature*, 09/26

Eighteen Physics Nobel laureates have signed an open letter addressed to Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, calling for the release of Omid Kokabee, a 32-year-old physicist who has spent the last 3 years and 8 months in a Teheran prison. [Read more.](#)

University of Chicago pulls out of Confucius Institute

Stuart Leavenworth, *McClatchy*, 09/26

China's soft diplomacy push hit a speed bump this week when the University of Chicago decided to pull the plug on renewing a controversial Beijing-funded Confucius Institute at the campus. [Read more:](#)

An Internet Where Nobody Says Anything

David Wertime, *Foreign Policy*, 09/25

Here is what a court in Urumqi, the capital of China's western Xinjiang region, concludes Ilham Tohti, a balding, thick-set, 44-year-old professor, did: "Using 'Uighur Online' as a platform, and taking advantage of his role as a university professor," Tohti "spread separatist notions" and "bewitched and coerced" seven of his students to join into an eight-person, web-powered splittist clique with international reach. [Read more.](#)

Islamic State plunges research in Iraq into darkness

Kira Walker, *Nature Middle East*, 09/25

Five days before Iraq's second largest city fell to the Islamic State (IS), the militant group formerly known as ISIS, Mohammad Al-Attraqchi, an electrical engineering professor at the University of Mosul, went to work for the last time. He has not been back since and does not plan to return. [Read more.](#)

Jailed Uyghur Scholar Remains Strong Despite Life Sentence

Hai Nan and Qiao Long, *Radio Free Asia*, 09/24

Uyghur scholar Ilham Tohti said Wednesday that he remained strong despite the life sentence imposed for "separatism" a day earlier by a court in northwestern China's troubled Xinjiang region, expressing optimism that justice will prevail. [Read more.](#)

PM denies ban on academic forums Just don't talk politics, regime leader warns

Bangkok Post, 09/24

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha has insisted he has not restricted academic freedom nor banned academic seminars, but says politics must not be discussed at such events. He was commenting Tuesday following a protest by a group of university scholars against the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) ban on their academic forum on dictatorship last Thursday. [Read more.](#)

Students found guilty amid spate of sedition cases

Emilia Tan, *University World News*, 09/23

The clamour of voices calling for the Malaysian government to repeal its controversial Sedition Act grew louder as a law student last week received a one-year jail term under the Sedition law – the second student to be found guilty of sedition this month. [Read more.](#)

Violence in Yemen Blocks Universities From Opening

Faisal Darem, *Al-Fanar Media*, 09/23

Clashes between armed insurgents and Yemeni government forces have compelled three universities and all schools in the capital to shut down their doors until further notice. The government and Houthi militants, members of a Shiite sect distinctive to Yemen, have been fighting since 2005. The Houthis have been battling to seize northern areas and lately have been capturing more territory. [Read more.](#)

How Alexander Sodiqov was freed following espionage charges

Jennifer Clibbon, *CBC News*, 09/23

Many graduate students will tell you your relationship with your PhD supervisor can make or break your career. In Alexander Sodiqov's case, his supervisor may have saved him from years in prison. Edward Schatz, a professor in political science at the University of Toronto, led the global campaign to free [Read more.](#)

Defamation Law Reminds Critics of Indonesia's Past

Joe Cochrane, *The New York Times*, 09/22

When an Indonesian law student posted an online rant saying the historic city of Yogyakarta in Central Java was “poor, stupid and uncultured,” she earned more than the ire of its residents. She ended up in a police detention cell, charged with cyberdefamation. [Read more.](#)

What Will Become of Syria's Students and Scholars?

Allan E. Goodman and Jorge Sampaio, *The Huffington Post*, 09/22

Education is the orphan of any war. It is true in Iraq, where ISIL recently yanked any studies of literature, history, art, or music from public school curriculums in areas it controls. The academic crisis is even more dire in war-torn Syria, where universities have been occupied or destroyed and thousands of students and professors have been displaced, threatened, or killed. [Read more.](#)

Dear friends,

Following are the 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.

- Ethiopian scholar of literature and folklore
- Azerbaijani scholar of history and politics
- Congolese scholar of political science
- Pakistani scholar of human rights, religion and political science
- Iranian scholar of physical chemistry
- Pakistani scholar of development economics

More information is available from the SAR network office at scholarsatrisk@nyu.edu and +1 212 998-2179. Thank you for your help.

Scholars of the Week

ETHI-557

Field: Ethiopian Literature and Folklore; Anthropology

Risk: Threat of arrest/violence (displaced)

Language: Amharic, Oromo, English (fluent)

Education: PhD (ABD)

Seeking: Opportunities beginning **Summer 2015** to continue his research, writing, and/or teaching **in the United States**

AZER-505

Field: History; Politics

Risk: Threat to life/person; Threat of arrest/violence

Language: Azeri (native), English (fluent)

Education: PhD

Seeking: Opportunities beginning **immediately** to continue his research and writing **in the United States**

DRCO-570

Field: Political Science, Sociology, Conflict Resolution

Risk: Threat to life/person

Language: French, Kiswahili (fluent)

Education: MA

Seeking: Opportunities beginning **immediately** to continue his teaching or research **in French-speaking Africa, Europe, or North America**

PAKI-545

Field: Human Rights, Religion, Political Science

Risk: Threat to life/person

Language: Urdu, Hindi, Punjabi, Seraiki, Farsi, Arabic (fluent), English (advanced)

Education: MA

Seeking: Opportunities beginning **immediately** to continue his research and writing **in Europe**

IRAN-684

Field: Physical Chemistry

Risk: Threat to life; Loss of position (displaced)

Language: Farsi (native), English (intermediate)

Education: MSc

Seeking: Opportunities beginning **immediately** to continue his research and teaching **in Europe**

PAKI-558

Field: Human Rights; Development Economics

Risk: Harassment/Intimidation (displaced)

Language: English, Urdu (fluent)

Education: MS (US), MA

Seeking: Opportunities beginning **Summer 2015** to continue his research

New Members

- Uppsala University, Sweden
- The European Association for International Education (EAIE) joined SAR as an affiliate member
- Southampton Solent University joined SAR as part of the CARA-SAR UK Universities Network

New Hosts

- New members of the SAR-Canada section, University of Ottawa and Carleton University, announce their joint efforts to host a SAR scholar in the 2015-16 academic year: <http://newsroom.carleton.ca/2014/09/18/carleton-partners-university-ottawa-join-scholars-risk-network/>.
- University of Agder, Norway offered a one year position to a Syrian scholar.
- Harvard University, USA welcomed a Chinese scholar to campus for the 2014-15 academic year.
- Centennial College, Canada extended a one year contract, beginning this fall, to a Zimbabwean scholar.
- An Eritrean scholar arrived at Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Norway for the 2014-2015 academic year.
- University of Nantes, France welcomed a Congolese scholar to campus for an MA program. This position was organized together with the Erasmus Mundus Action 2 partnership project CARIBU. For further information about the CARIBU project, please visit: <http://www.caribu.be/the-project/about-project-caribu/>
- An Ethiopian scholar has arrived to take up a visiting scholar position at California State University – San Bernardino, USA for the 2014-15 academic year.
- University of York, UK welcomed a Syrian scholar to campus for the 2014-2015 academic year. This position was organized in cooperation with SAR's partner in the UK, the Council for At-Risk Academics.

The following positions were organized in cooperation with SAR's partner in the Netherlands, the Foundation for Refugee Students/University Assistance Fund:

- Tilburg University, the Netherlands welcomed a Rwandan scholar to campus for a year-long position.
- Utrecht University, the Netherlands welcomed a Syrian scholar to campus for the 2014-2015 academic year.
- The Technical University of Twente, the Netherlands welcomed an Iranian scholar to campus for a one year guest researcher position.
- Leiden University, the Netherlands welcomed an Iranian scholar to campus for a year-long position.
- The Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study welcomed a Cameroonian scholar to campus for a 10 month-long research position.

One of the above scholars is in receipt of a fellowship from the Institute of International Education's Scholar Rescue Fund.

Events

SAR Speaker Series

Scholars at Risk is pleased to announce the launch of the 2014-2015 Speakers Series. This year's Speaker Series lists include an incredible selection of academics, writers and human rights activists from Syria, Ethiopia, and around the globe. 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>.

Upcoming SAR and SAR partner events:

- **October 2, Netherlands:** The annual meeting of the UAF-Scholars at Risk network in the Netherlands and Belgium will take place in Utrecht. SAR scholars in the Netherlands and Belgium and representatives of all member institutions in both countries are encouraged to participate along with those interested in getting involved. For further information, please contact t.curri@uaf.nl
- **October 2, United Kingdom:** The Council for At-Risk Academics (CARA), SAR's partner organization in the UK, will host the lecture "Syria Today: Health & Politics" at the Garwood Lecture Theatre in London. In this lecture, Mr Omar Gabbar, consultant surgeon and medical lead for Hand in Hand For Syria, will talk about the work he has done in Syria and the challenges of providing healthcare in a conflict zone. Dr Talal Al-Mayhani, a Syrian academic, will outline the region's political situation to shed understanding on the current Syrian healthcare crisis. For more information, please see: <http://www.cara1933.org/events/51/syria-today-health-and-politics>
- **October 22, United Kingdom:** The Council for At-Risk Academics (CARA), SAR's partner organization in the UK, will host the lecture "Berlin to Britain" at The Goethe- Institut London. Accompanying the Migration Museum Project's new Germans in Britain exhibition, this event delves into the world of 1920s Berlin, exploring childhood experiences of the city, and of migration. Speakers include Lord Moser KCB CBE FBA, Carl Miller and Susie Harries, with a solo violin performance by Mandhira de Saram. For more information, please see: <http://www.cara1933.org/events/52/berlin-to-britain>
- **October 28, USA:** Through the SAR Speaker Series, a SAR scholar from Syria will visit George Mason University to share his experiences and expertise with the campus community. Entitled "Syria: From Peaceful Revolution to Humanitarian Catastrophe," his talk will examine Syria's history in the context of current events.
- **November 7, Norway:** The SAR-Norway section will hold its annual membership meeting and general assembly at University of Tromsø - Arctic University of Norway. On the evening prior, November 6th, the SAR-Norway section will hold a public event dedicated to academic freedom. More details to follow.
- **December 3-5, Sweden:** SAR Speaker Series events will take place in Gothenburg, Malmö and Lund featuring a scholar from Pakistan, a representative from the SAR-Norway section, SAR's European Director, and representatives from the host institutions in 3 cities. More information forthcoming.

News

Scholars at Risk's **Academic Freedom Monitor** identifies alleged threats or attacks on higher education communities and their members worldwide, with the aim of raising awareness and mobilizing action to protect vulnerable individuals, promote accountability and prevent future attacks. Between June and August 2014, SAR identified **25 new incidents**, which included killings/violence/disappearances, wrongful imprisonment, wrongful prosecution, travel restrictions, and retaliatory discharge/loss of position. For more information on the Academic Freedom Monitor, please visit:

<http://monitoring.academicfreedom.info/> . To report a new incident, provide updated information on a listed incident, or learn how you and your institution might participate in monitoring activities, email sarmonitoring@nyu.edu.

New Resources

- The 2014 Annual Report of the Network of Concerned Historians (NCH) is now available online at: <http://www.concernedhistorians.org/content/ar.html>. The report details developments regarding the censorship of history and the persecution of historians, archivists, and archaeologists around the globe.
- UNESCO recently launched their Right to Education Global Database, which is designed to be a practical tool for monitoring, research and advocacy on the fundamental human right to education. The database contains profiles of 195 countries in English and French languages, and hosts a library of over 1,000 documents including constitutions, legislations and policies on education in countries around the world. The database is available at: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/education/themes/leading-the-international-agenda/right-to-education/database/>.

New Alerts

Scholars at Risk recently circulated alerts or information updates on the following scholars. For more information on SAR's efforts on behalf of imprisoned scholars, please visit: <http://scholarsatrisk.nyu.edu/Education-Advocacy/Alerts-Scholars-in-Prison.php>.

- Ilham Tohti of China (Economics): Sentenced to life in prison
- Azmi Sharom of Malaysia (Law): Facing prosecution
- Alexander Sodiqov of Tajikistan (Political Science): Good news: Travel restriction lifted

Gifts to SAR Since September 1

Jonathan Cole

Academic Freedom Media Review
September 27 - October 03, 2014

Compiled by Scholars at Risk

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No hope for rights, Thai professors say after junta halts democracy seminar

Associated Press, 10/03

The university students who organised a seminar in Thailand on the demise of dictatorships knew that one particularly sensitive topic had to stay off-limits: their own country. Since overthrowing an elected government in May, the nation's military rulers have jailed opponents who dared to speak out and silenced the rest with the threat of prosecution.

[Read more.](#)

Azmi Sharom 'chased out' of UKM campus

Anisah Shukry, The Malaysian Insider, 10/02

A programme aimed at raising awareness on the hazards of the Sedition Act turned into a "life lesson" for Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) students after the invited speaker, law lecturer Associate Professor Dr Azmi Sharom, was "chased out" of the venue by security guards. [Read more.](#)

Another U.S. University Severs Ties to Confucius Institute

Andrew Jacobs and Jess Macy Yu, The New York Times, 10/02

Pennsylvania State University has terminated its partnership with the Confucius Institute, the global learning network sponsored by the Chinese government, delivering a fresh setback to China's soft-power push on American college campuses. [Read more.](#)

Double Standard at Illinois

John K. Wilson, Inside Higher Ed, 10/02

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign officials have argued that they were justified in refusing to hire Steven Salaita because his bigoted comments indicated a bias that would deprive students of their right to be "comfortable" (a right that does not and should not exist at any college committed to the discussion of ideas that may lead to uncomfortable truths).

[Read more.](#)

Versions of Academic Freedom: From Professionalism to Revolution, by Stanley Fish

Thomas Docherty, Times Higher Education, 10/02

Who cares about academic freedom? What marks the academic out for such special consideration? On what basis can we assert rights and freedoms that are unavailable to other professions or citizens? Is the academic's work properly oriented towards more general freedoms? [Read more.](#)

Thousands of Iman University Students, Faculty Displaced During Clashes

Ali Saeed, *Yemen Times*, 09/30

About 6,000 Iman University students, faculty, and their families have been displaced from their homes on Iman University's campus following the Houthi takeover. One week prior to the clashes at the university, about 380 families were evacuated. [Read more.](#)

University boycott extended as democracy movement escalates

Yojana Sharma, *University World News*, 09/30

Hong Kong university students – part of a huge, often spontaneous pro-democracy movement that has occupied the streets of central Hong Kong in recent days – said on Monday that they would extend their week-long boycott of classes to an indefinite one. “We urge students to boycott classes indefinitely and teachers to boycott teaching,” said the statement by Hong Kong University Students' Union and Scholarism and other groups. [Read more.](#)

Suggested amendments to university laws are severe violation of academic freedom: AFTE

Adham Youssef, *Daily News Egypt*, 09/29

The Association for Freedom of Thought and Expression (AFTE) condemned Monday the suggested amendments to the law regulating university affairs, describing it as a severe violation to the independence of universities and academic freedom. [Read more.](#)

Efforts to Help Syria's “Lost Generation” Disappointing So Far

Benjamin Plackett, *Al-Fanar Media*, 09/29

The victims of a cruel civil war, many Syrian students still want to go to university. The lucky few who find a place overseas and the means to attend have an arduous journey, peppered with aggressive bureaucratic checkpoints to navigate. [Read more.](#)

Academic Freedom Media Review

October 04 - 10, 2014

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Enlightened leadership needed to secure academic freedom

Michael Chapman, *Mail and Guardian*, 10/10

John Higgins poses two interrelated questions in his book. What is or could be or should be academic freedom, both in South Africa and, by implication, globally; and what is or could be or should be the role of the humanities? [Read more.](#)

Offering refuge to endangered scholars

Mark A. Angelson and Allan E. Goodman, *Los Angeles Times*, 10/09

The application from an Iraqi university professor to the Scholar Rescue Fund was chilling. It described how he had been pressured relentlessly by a local militia to promote its agenda in his publications. He had received multiple death threats, he wrote, including a message left in his classroom saying simply: "We are waiting for you." [Read more.](#)

Education bill becomes law despite autonomy concerns

Naw Say Phaw Waa, *University World News*, 10/09

Myanmar's overarching National Education Bill has finally been passed into law after being approved at the end of September by the Union Parliament – despite concerns from many groups about lack of autonomy for higher education institutions. [Read more.](#)

Turkey lacks academic freedom, not financing freedom: Harvard professor

Sefer Levent, *Hürriyet Daily News*, 10/08

Turkey does not have freedom in academic research and is also lacking in academic quality rather than financial resources, according to Harvard Professor Dr. Gökhan Hotamışlıgil, who will continue his research with the \$24 million donation recently made by Turkey's Yıldız Holding. [Read more.](#)

Rouhani urges Iran universities to open up, dismisses spy fears

Michelle Moghtader, *Reuters*, 10/07

President Hassan Rouhani called on Tuesday for Iran's universities to admit more foreign students and lecturers, dismissing conservatives' fears that more interaction with the outside world would encourage espionage. [Read more.](#)

Malaysia's Deplorable Sedition Act

The Editorial Board, *The New York Times*, 10/06

The Malaysian government has increasingly employed the Sedition Act, a British colonial era law, to intimidate and silence political opponents. The law criminalizes speech uttered

“to excite disaffection” against the government and defines sedition so broadly that it is an invitation to authoritarian abuse. [Read more.](#)

43 Missing Students, a Mass Grave and a Suspect: Mexico’s Police

Randal C. Archibold, *The New York Times*, 10/06

They were farm boys who did well in school and took one of the few options available beyond the backbreaking work in the corn and bean fields of southern Mexico: enrolling in a local teachers college with a history of radicalism but the promise of a stable classroom job. [Read more.](#)

How political tensions play out in Iran's universities

The Guardian, 10/06

When Iranian students began classes on 23 September, the ministry of science, research, and technology – which oversees higher education – had no minister. Iran’s parliament sacked the incumbent Reza Farajidana in August, reflecting anxiety among conservative deputies over renewed political unrest among students. [Read more.](#)

For Gaza’s New Academic Year, A Fitful Start

Rasha Faek and Janelle Dumalaon, *Al-Fanar Media*, 10/05

Most Arab students have already enrolled at university and are buckling down with new assignments. But many of their counterparts in Gaza are taking their seats in damaged—or overflowing—classrooms more than a month after the Gaza conflict ended. [Read more.](#)

Policing University Partnerships in Authoritarian Countries

Karin Fischer, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, 10/05

A year ago, Wellesley College found itself embroiled in a debate about academic freedom in China. Led by Thomas Cushman, a sociology professor at the college, a group of faculty members rallied support for a Peking University professor who said he was under fire for his political views. [Read more.](#)

Dear friends,

Following are the 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.

- Togolese scholar of educational administration
- Chinese scholar of mathematics
- Eritrean scholar of mathematics and higher education
- Ivorian scholar of religion
- Syrian scholar of marketing
- Iraqi scholar of political science

More information is available from the SAR network office at scholarsatrisk@nyu.edu and +1 212 998-2179. Thank you for your help.

Scholars of the Week

TOGO-506

Field: Educational Administration

Risk: Harassment/Intimidation (displaced)

Language: English, French (fluent), German (basic)

Education: PhD (United States)

Seeking: Opportunities beginning **immediately** to continue his teaching and research **in the United States** **CHIN-590**

Field: Mathematics

Risk: Re-imprisonment, Harassment/intimidation (displaced)

Language: Chinese (fluent), English (Intermediate)

Education: PhD

Seeking: Opportunities beginning **immediately** to continue his research and teaching **in the United States**

ERIT-529

Field: Mathematics, Higher Education

Risk: Imprisonment/ Discrimination (displaced)

Language: Tigrigna (native), English (fluent), Dutch (basic)

Education: PhD (The Netherlands)

Seeking: Opportunities beginning **immediately** to continue his research and teaching

IVOR-518

Field: Religion, History, Sociology, Francophone Studies

Risk: Threat to life/person (displaced)

Language: French (native), English (intermediate)

Education: PhD (France)

Seeking: Opportunities beginning **immediately** to continue teaching or research in a safe and stable environment

SYRI-528

Field: Marketing; Management; Tourism

Risk: Threat of arrest/violence

Language: English (fluent), Arabic (fluent)

Education: MBA (UK)

Seeking: PhD study, research, and/or teaching beginning **immediately**

IRAQ-758

Field: Political Science

Risk: Threat to life/person (displaced)

Language: Arabic (fluent), English (fluent)

Education: PhD (Italy)

Seeking: Opportunities beginning **Summer 2015** to continue teaching, researching, and/or writing **in the United States**

Academic Freedom Media Review

October 11 -17, 2014

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U.S. Journalism Seminar Disrupted by Russian Immigration Officials

Anna Dolgov, *The Moscow Times*, 10/17

A journalism workshop led by two prominent U.S. speakers in St. Petersburg has been canceled after immigration officials charged that he men had violated the terms of their visas and tried to get them deported from the country. [Read more.](#)

Female students from Darfur arrested and beaten in Sudan, says HRW

Zeinab Mohammed Salih, *The Guardian*, 10/17

Sixteen female students are being held without charge in Sudan amid fears that they could face the death penalty after the government accused them of supporting Darfur rebel groups. The students, all from Darfur, were arrested in a police raid on their dormitory earlier this month. [Read more.](#)

Welsh minister amends bill over academic freedom fears

Chris Havergal, *Times Higher Education*, 10/17

Amendments have been tabled to the Higher Education (Wales) Bill in a bid to safeguard institutional autonomy, in response to concerns expressed by Welsh Assembly members and universities that the legislation would hand “disproportionate” authority to the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales. [Read more.](#)

For Venezuelan academics, speaking out is risky business

Lizzie Wade, *Science*, 10/16

When Ángel Sarmiento discovered that eight patients had died of an unidentified fever in the capital of Aragua state in Venezuela, he did what he was supposed to do: sound the alarm. But instead of heeding the announcement, Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro accused the physician of fomenting “psychological terrorism.” [Read more.](#)

Hong Kong’s students ask: if not now, when?

Bruce Macfarlane, *Times Higher Education*, 10/16

I recently found myself in the curious position of teaching a session on academic freedom as part of a master’s course on higher education at the University of Hong Kong. I say curious because my session took place at the same time as a student-led pro-democracy protest took place in the downtown area demanding the right to freely choose Hong Kong’s leader. [Read more.](#)

Mexico universities call strike in solidarity with missing students

Renee Lewis and Débora Poo Soto, *Al-Jazeera America*, 10/15

Students from major Mexico City universities have called a two-day strike and were set to

hold a rally Wednesday at the national attorney general's office to call for the safe return of dozens of rural students who disappeared after clashes with police in Guerrero state last month, leading to public outrage. [Read more.](#)

Student Protests Continue in Egypt Despite Crackdown

Robert Mackey, *The New York Times*, 10/14

Apparently undeterred by scores of recent arrests and the threat of expulsion, Egyptian students continued to protest Tuesday against the military-backed government that seized power last year, according to Aswat Masriya, an Egyptian news site sponsored by the Thomson Reuters Foundation. [Read more.](#)

Anita Sarkeesian cancels Utah State speech after mass-shooting threat

Ryan Parker, *Los Angeles Times*, 10/14

Video game critic, feminist and blogger Anita Sarkeesian canceled a Wednesday speech at Utah State University after the college received an email threatening violence if she lectured, school officials said. Sarkeesian is a pop culture critic whose series of videos under the Feminist Frequency banner analyze sexism in mainstream video games. Her series has drawn death threats in the past. [Read more.](#)

Retrial Granted for Omid Kokabee, Raising hope for his release

International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran, 10/13

The request for a retrial for the imprisoned young scientist, Omid Kokabee, has been accepted by Branch 36 of the Supreme Court, according to Kokabee's lawyer, Saeed Khalili, who posted the update on his Facebook page. "Acceptance of the retrial request means that the top judicial authority has deemed Dr. Omid Kokabee's [initial] verdict against the law," he wrote. [Read more.](#)

China detains scholar, bans books in crackdown on moderate voices

Sui-Lee Wee and Megha Rajagopalan, *Reuters*, 10/13

China has detained a prominent scholar who helped blind dissident Chen Guangcheng flee to the United States two years ago and has banned books by eight writers in an escalating crackdown on dissent. [Read more.](#)

Academics are silenced, YÖK head says

Today's Zaman, 10/12

Higher Education Board (YÖK) President Gökhan Çetinsaya, who spoke to Al Jazeera Turkey on Saturday, said academics in Turkey are silenced and not able to share with the public what they believe is true. In response to the question of why academic freedom could not be thoroughly achieved in Turkey, Professor Çetinsaya said the issue can only be resolved by consensus rather than new laws. [Read more.](#)

We Will Stop Here and Go No Further: Syrian University Students and Scholars in Turkey (2014)

Institute for International Education

The crisis in Syria continues to have a devastating impact on professors, university students, and the education sector, not only in Syria but also in the neighboring countries that are hosting so many displaced Syrians. In this report, the Institute of International Education (IIE) and its Syria Consortium for Higher Education in Crisis look at the

conditions and educational needs of Syrian university students and scholars in Turkey.
[Read more.](#)

Last month Professor Ilham Tohti, an economics scholar and advocate for the rights of the Chinese Uighur minority community, was sentenced to life in prison for allegedly promoting separatism during his university lectures. During his two-day trial, the defense was not allowed to call any witnesses and foreign observers were barred from attending. The verdict sparked widespread international criticism, including by U.S. President Barack Obama, who stated that Professor Tohti deserves to be free.

“From Russia to China to Venezuela, you are seeing relentless crackdowns, vilifying legitimate dissent as subversive... We stand in solidarity with those who are detained at this very moment... in China, Liu Xiaobo; and now Ilham Tohti... And so many others. They deserve to be free. They ought to be released.”

And Professor Tohti is not alone. Right now hundreds of scholars around the world face similar risks, and it is our mission to stand up for their right – for everyone’s right – to be free to think.

Without the support of our network members the world would never know about many of these scholars’ stories. That is why your support is so important.

Barack Obama
President, United States of America

Our network is advocating for the rights of Professor Tohti and helping hundreds of other at-risk scholars. By assisting these scholars we are working to create a space where everyone can be free to think and where difficult questions can be discussed and debated without the use of intimidation or force.

These are touchstone values of a free and democratic society and we are asking you to stand with us in defending them. With your \$50 donation, you can help us protect the right to be free to think.

We need you,

[DONATE NOW](#)

Rob Quinn

Executive Director

Academic Freedom Media Review

October 18-24, 2014

Compiled by Scholars at Risk

Scholars at Risk monitors reports of threats to academic freedom and higher education communities worldwide, including media articles, blogs, opinion pieces and other announcements. Unless otherwise indicated (such as in articles written by SAR), the language and views contained in the search results reflect those of the originating author and/or publication and do not necessarily represent the views of Scholars at Risk or its members, affiliates, board or staff. Archived media reviews are available [on our website](#).

Plan To Move Women Out of Baghdad University is Halted

Gilgamesh Nabeel, *Al-Fanar Media*, 10/23

Ongoing protests from students and faculty may have forced the Iraqi government to back off a controversial plan to carve out a new female-only institution from Baghdad University, the country's oldest establishment of higher learning. [Read more.](#)

Beijing Formally Charges Writer Who Published Memoirs of Victims of Mao Era

Chris Buckley, *The New York Times*, 10/23

The police in Beijing have formally charged an 81-year-old writer, Tie Liu, for privately publishing the testimony of aged or dead victims of Mao Zedong's wrath and for writing scathing essays about Mao and present-day Communist Party leaders, Mr. Tie's wife and his lawyer said on Thursday. [Read more.](#)

Universities see an edge in openness as they seek international advantage

Oliver Chou, *South China Morning Post*, 10/23

Universities must hold firmly to the principals of academic freedom and to their international character in order to stay competitive in the challenging years ahead, leaders of local institutions have advised. [Read more.](#)

Bomb Outside Cairo University Wounds 10

Merrit Kennedy, *Associated Press*, 10/22

A bomb exploded outside Egypt's largest and most prominent university in the country's capital on Wednesday, wounding 10 people, including six policemen, the Interior Ministry said. [Read more.](#)

Universities under siege as academics and students flee

University World News, 10/22

Scores of students and professors have left Iraqi universities as the militants of the self-styled Islamic State, or ISIS, continue to advance in Iraq and Syria. But now the group may want researchers to return. [Read more.](#)

Private university sacks professor over complaint against Erdoğan

Today's Zaman, 10/22

According to the diken.com.tr news website, Professor Hayrettin Ökçesiz was sacked by

the administration at Aydın University after a series of disciplinary proceedings. The university took disciplinary action against the professor shortly after he filed the complaint against Erdoğan. The complaint aimed to have Erdoğan investigated for his infraction of the regulations. [Read more.](#)

Ousted Vice-Chancellor Returns to His Post

Albert Schram, *University Values Bulletin*, 10/21

I never thought in my career as an academic, I would be persecuted by a State for no other reason than doing my job. My case in Papua New Guinea (PNG) was not part of a systematic persecution of academics, but was as a result of my activities as Vice-Chancellor of the Papua New Guinea University of Technology starting in 2012. [Read more.](#)

Barred Iranian Human Rights Lawyer Stages Public Protest

Radio Free Europe, 10/21

Iranian human rights lawyer Nasrin Sotoudeh staged a sit in on October 21 in Tehran in front of the country's Bar Association to protest a decision to ban her from practicing law for three years. [Read more.](#)

University blasts professor who called for annihilation of Palestinians

Yarden Skop, *Haaretz*, 10/21

Bar-Ilan University yesterday condemned a Facebook post by a professor emeritus that called for annihilating the Palestinians. [Read more.](#)

Police forces return to Al-Azhar University

Menna Zaki, Hend Kortam and Joel Gulhane, *Daily News Egypt*, 10/21

Demonstrations at Al-Azhar University and Ain Shams University took place Tuesday morning inside the university campuses were ended when security forces stormed in and broke them up. [Read more.](#)

Thai scholar faces royal insult charge over mediaeval king

Reuters, 10/20

A prominent Thai intellectual has been accused of insulting a mediaeval king, a government spokesman said on Monday, and faces up to 15 years in jail if convicted. [Read more.](#)

Freedom of the press? Not for student newspapers

Anna Fazackerley, *The Guardian*, 10/20

As the editor of Plymouth University's student union paper, the Knowledge, Katie French felt she had a duty to hold her university to account. But four weeks before the deadline for her final-year dissertation she was threatened with expulsion when she printed a story that made Plymouth look bad. [Read more.](#)

Dear friends,

Following are the 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.

- Ethiopian scholar of literature and folklore
- Azerbaijani scholar of history and politics
- Congolese scholar of political science
- Pakistani scholar of human rights, religion and political science
- Syrian scholar of marketing
- Syrian scholar of archaeology

More information is available from the SAR network office at scholarsatrisk@nyu.edu and +1 212 998-2179. Thank you for your help.

Scholars of the Week

ETHI-557

Field: Ethiopian Literature and Folklore; Anthropology

Risk: Threat of arrest/violence (displaced)

Language: Amharic, Oromo, English (fluent)

Education: PhD (ABD)

Seeking: Opportunities beginning **Summer 2015** to continue his research, writing and/or teaching in the **United States**

AZER-505

Field: History; Politics

Risk: Threat to life/person; Threat of arrest/violence

Language: Azeri (native), English (fluent)

Education: PhD

Seeking: Opportunities beginning **immediately** to continue his research and writing in the **United States**

DRCO-570

Field: Political Science, Sociology, Conflict Resolution

Risk: Threat to life/person

Language: French, Kiswahili (fluent)

Education: MA

Seeking: Opportunities beginning **immediately** to continue his teaching or research in **French-speaking Africa, Europe, or North America**

PAKI-545

Field: Human Rights, Religion, Political Science

Risk: Threat to life/person

Language: Urdu, Hindi, Punjabi, Seraiki, Farsi, Arabic (fluent), English (advanced)

Education: MA
Seeking: Opportunities beginning **immediately** to continue his research and writing **in Europe**

SYRI-528

Field: Marketing; Management; Tourism
Risk: Threat of arrest/violence
Language: English, Arabic (fluent)
Education: MBA (UK)
Seeking: PhD study, research, and/or teaching opportunities beginning **immediately**

SYRI-567

Field: Archaeology
Risk: Threat to life; Risk of arrest and violence (displaced)
Language: English (fluent), German (intermediate), Akkadian (proficient)
Education: PhD (UK)
Seeking: Opportunities beginning **Fall 2015** to continue her teaching and research **in the United States or the United Kingdom**

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PAKI-545

Field: Human Rights, Religion, Political Science

Risk: Threat to life/person

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Education: MA

Seeking: Opportunities beginning **immediately** to continue his research and writing **in Europe**

SYRI-528

Field: Marketing; Management; Tourism

Risk: Threat of arrest/violence

Language: English, Arabic (fluent)

Education: MBA (UK)

Seeking: PhD study, research, and/or teaching opportunities beginning **immediately**

SYRI-567

Field: Archaeology

Risk: Threat to life; Risk of arrest and violence (displaced)

Language: English (fluent), German (intermediate), Akkadian (proficient)

Education: PhD (UK)

Seeking: Opportunities beginning **Fall 2015** to continue her teaching and research **in the United States or the United Kingdom**

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Language: English (fluent), German (intermediate), Akkadian (proficient)

Education: PhD (UK)

Seeking: Opportunities beginning **Fall 2015** to continue her teaching and research **in the United States or the United Kingdom**

Dear SAR members and friends,

We are pleased to share the following position openings with Scholars at Risk for immediate applications. We would appreciate your sharing these with your lists and especially appreciate your recommendations of highly qualified candidates.

Sincerely,

Rob Quinn
Executive Director

For immediate applications: Scholars at Risk position openings (6)

Scholars at Risk (SAR) is an international network of higher education institutions and individuals working to promote academic freedom and the human rights of members of higher education communities worldwide. Scholars at Risk's mission is to protect scholars including professors, writers, artists, human rights defenders and other leaders around the world facing grave threats because of who they are and what they do. Scholars at Risk provides temporary sanctuary for threatened intellectuals at network member institutions, helping save lives and important, courageous voices. Scholars at Risk also helps with counseling, referrals and campaigns for scholars who are imprisoned or otherwise silenced, and conducts training, education and advocacy to promote university values worldwide. Information at www.scholarsatrisk.org and <http://monitoring.academicfreedom.info>.

Scholars at Risk seeks immediate applications for the following openings. **Candidates interested in more than one position are invited to explain their interests in a single submission.** All positions are based in the SAR offices at New York University, NY, USA.

1. Program Officer, Membership and University Relations

This position offers primary responsibility for managing SAR's relationships with participating member universities and associations, SAR sections, and SAR partner networks. It is a full-time, temporary position posted as a maternity cover for up to 10 months, with the possibility of extension or conversion into a regular, full-time staff position. The position reports to SAR's Executive Director and European Director. [Click here for full position description.](#)

2. Program Associate, Protection Services

This position supports SAR's protection services, including reviewing, researching and assessing applications for assistance from scholars facing threats to their lives; providing support for placement efforts at SAR network member universities; communicating with scholars assisted by the network; providing scholars with advice and referrals; compiling nomination documents for SAR staff to share with network representatives; and supervising

casework interns. It is a full-time, temporary position posted as a maternity cover for up to 10 months, with the possibility of extension or conversion into a regular, full-time staff position. The position reports to SAR's Director for Protection Services. [Click here for full position description.](#)

3. Program Associate, External Relations

This position provides primary support to the Executive Director and board in all membership outreach, communications and fundraising activities including coordinating meeting schedules for the board, board committees and Executive Director; preparing letters, emails and other communications; tracking follow-up; drafting and editing outreach materials; researching contacts and cultivation opportunities. It is a full-time, temporary position posted as a maternity cover for up to 10 months, with the possibility of extension or conversion into a regular, full-time staff position. The position reports to SAR's Executive Director and requires regular communication with other SAR staff, board members, advisory group members and donors. [Click here for full position description.](#)

4. Program Assistant, Administration

This position provides primary administrative support to the Executive Director for all program operations, including processing, tracking and reporting on revenue and expenses; processing and tracking invoices and reimbursements; assistance with scheduling meetings, travel and events; generating reports; compliance with all relevant host campus (NYU) procedures; general office administration; and maintenance and administration of program contact database entries, website, email and social media platforms. The position reports to SAR's Executive Director and Program Officer for Membership and University Relations, and requires regular communication with other SAR staff, board members, advisory group members and donors. [Click here for full position description.](#)

5. P/T student worker, Protection Services (up to 20 hours per week):

This position provides primary support to the Protection Services team, including reviewing, researching and assessing applications for assistance from scholars facing threats to their lives; providing support for placement efforts at SAR network member universities; communicating with scholars assisted by the network; and compiling nomination documents for SAR staff to share with network representatives. The position reports to a Program Officer for Protection Services. [Click here for full position description.](#)

6. P/T student worker, External and university relations (up to 20 hours per week):

This position provides primary support to the External Relations and Membership staff in all membership outreach, communications and fundraising activities. The position reports to a Program Officer/Associate, and requires regular communication with other SAR staff, board members, advisory group members and donors. [Click here for full position description.](#)

HOW TO APPLY: PLEASE APPLY IMMEDIATELY (no phone calls or email inquiries, please) by emailing in a single document: (1) a letter of interest, (2) resume, (3) list of references or letters of reference, and (4) a brief, unedited writing sample. Please use "[Position title]-[Your last name]" as the subject of your email. Applications accepted on a rolling basis until the positions are filled. Submit to scholarsatrisk@nyu.edu. SAR-NYU does not discriminate due to race, color, creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender and/or gender identity or expression, marital or parental status, national origin, ethnicity, citizenship status, veteran or military status, age, disability, unemployment status or any other legally protected basis, and to the extent permitted by law. Qualified candidates of diverse ethnic and racial backgrounds are encouraged to apply. (Regrettably, SAR is not able to sponsor work-eligible visas for these positions.)

Academic Freedom Media Review

October 25 - 31, 2014

Compiled by Scholars at Risk

Scholars at Risk monitors reports of threats to academic freedom and higher education communities worldwide, including media articles, blogs, opinion pieces and other announcements. Unless otherwise indicated (such as in articles written by SAR), the language and views contained in the search results reflect those of the originating author and/or publication and do not necessarily represent the views of Scholars at Risk or its members, affiliates, board or staff. Archived media reviews are available [on our website](#).

Toronto School District Cancels Plans for Confucius Institute

Austin Ramzy, *The New York Times*, 10/30

The Toronto District School Board's vote to cancel plans for a Confucius Institute marks the latest setback for China's language- and culture-based soft-power initiative. [Read more.](#)

As Syria's War Rages Next Door, Students Violently Clash At Turkey's Oldest University

Sophia Jones, *The Huffington Post*, 10/30

Forty years ago, Istanbul University was a battleground for clashes between leftist and far-right student activists, leading up to the Turkish military's brutal takeover in the 1980 coup. Now, it seems the spirit of revolt is back: Syria's war has come to the classroom. [Read more.](#)

Egypt Targets Universities As Last Haven For Political Expression

Mahmoud Mourad, *Reuters*, 10/30

Hundreds of police surround its walls, patrolling in armored vehicles with sirens blaring, while muscle-bound security guards man metal detectors, searching all who enter. But this is not a military barracks or police station, it is Cairo University, where the government has tightened security as it seeks to avert another year of unrest on university campuses, among the last bastions of protest and dissent in Egypt. [Read more.](#)

Iran MPs reject Rouhani's nominee for science minister

BBC News, 10/29

The Iranian parliament has rejected the government's choice for science minister, in a new setback for reformist President Hassan Rouhani. Lawmakers voted 160 to 79 against the nomination of Mahmoud Nili-Ahmadabadi. The previous minister was sacked by parliament for what critics claimed were his sympathies to the opposition. [Read more.](#)

Civil servants barred from China study after spies row

Mimi Leung and Yojana Sharma, *University World News*, 10/29

Taiwanese civil servants involved in national security work will be barred from pursuing advanced studies in mainland China, Taiwan's Interior Minister Chen Wei-Zen announced last Wednesday, saying the ban would become effective from 30 October. [Read more.](#)

China Seizes Jailed Uyghur Scholar's Savings, Sparking Fears Over Family Home

Qiao Long, *Radio Free Asia*, 10/28

Nearly U.S.\$140,000 in savings have been drained from the bank account of jailed Uyghur scholar Ilham Tohti, as the ruling Chinese Communist Party enforces its seizure of his assets, sparking fears that his young family may be evicted from their Beijing apartment, his wife said on Tuesday. [Read more.](#)

Human Rights in Iran Worsen, U.N. Investigator Says

Somini Sengupta, *The New York Times*, 10/27

Executions have surged in Iran and oppressive conditions for women have worsened, a United Nations investigator said on Monday, drawing attention to rights abuses just as Iran's president is pushing for a diplomatic breakthrough with the West. [Read more.](#)

Guns on Campus Have Already Curtailed Free Speech

Jennifer Sinor, *Chronicle of Higher Education*, 10/27

Earlier this month, the feminist and media critic Anita Sarkeesian was scheduled to speak to students on the campus of Utah State University. The day before her talk, emails were sent to staff and faculty threatening violence if Sarkeesian was allowed to proceed. [Read more.](#)

Suspended for Irony and Sighing

Scott Jaschik, *Inside Higher Ed*, 10/27

While American universities debate whether "civility" is an appropriate way to evaluate faculty members, a British institution has faced intense criticism for punishing a faculty member for sighing, unfriendly body language and the use of irony. [Read more.](#)

Singapore Film Ban Creates Free Speech Issue

Voice of America, 10/26

The documentary, "To Singapore, with Love," has screenings planned this month from Britain to India to Malaysia. One place it won't be playing: Singapore. The government here banned the film, which presents vignettes of Singaporean dissidents who fled decades ago "to escape the prospect of detention without trial," as the film's website says. [Read more.](#)

New Members

- University of Guelph, Canada
- Lund University, Sweden
- The European University Association (EUA) joined SAR as a partner network.

Scholar in Prison Alerts

Scholars at Risk recently circulated alerts or information updates on the following scholars. For more information on SAR's efforts on behalf of imprisoned scholars, please visit:

<http://scholarsatrisk.nyu.edu/Education-Advocacy/Alerts-Scholars-in-Prison.php>.

- Omid Kokabee (Physics): Good news! Retrial granted

University Hosts

- The University of Oslo, Norway, welcomed to campus a Pakistani scholar for the 2014-2015 academic year.
- The University of Bergen, Norway, offered an Iranian scholar a one-year extension of his position.
- Freie Universität Berlin, Germany, welcomed a Syrian scholar to campus for the 2014-2015 academic year.
- New York University, USA, invited a Syrian scholar to campus for Spring and Summer 2015. *One of the above scholars is in receipt of a fellowship from the Institute of International Education's Scholar Rescue Fund.*

Events

Past events

October 2, Netherlands: The annual meeting of the UAF-Scholars at Risk network in the Netherlands and Belgium took place in Utrecht, with 30 SAR scholars and university representatives in attendance. Length and quality of SAR placements were discussed, and SAR-Norway representative Karen-Lise Knudsen shared experiences with implementing the Scholars at Risk program at universities in Norway. SAR Program Officer Lauren Crain also joined via Skype to share with scholars best practices for planning ahead during their academic placement, including networking and job search advice.

October 2-3, California: SAR Executive Director Robert Quinn participated in the meeting of law deans of the Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU), held at SAR university member UC Davis. Rob spoke about the importance of promoting higher education values in quality international partnerships, and extended an invitation to all APRU members to join the SAR network.

October 9-10, Italy: SAR Executive Director Robert Quinn was a panelist in the Human Rights session of the La Pietra Dialogues on "Public Humanities." The event took place at the Villa La Pietra on the campus of NYU Florence. Copies of Rob's remarks are available [here](#).

October 14th, Washington, D.C.: SAR Executive Director Robert Quinn was part of a delegation representing the Higher Education Working Group (HEWG) of the Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack (GCPEA), of which Scholars at Risk is a part. The group met with representatives of higher education associations and networks regarding the HEWG's project

promoting formal, inter-state recognition of four "Principles of State Responsibility to Protect Higher Education from Attack." The meetings followed previous consultations in Brussels in December 2013 and Amsterdam in April 2014 (in conjunction with the SAR Network Congress).

October 24, New York: The Institute of International Education's Scholar Rescue Fund held its inaugural summit, "Protecting Threatened Scholars: Collective Action during Repression, Crisis and Conflict." SAR Executive Director Robert Quinn participated in a panel discussion on "Protector or Perpetrator? – Government Response to and Complicity in Attacks Against Scholars". Copies of Rob's remarks are available [here](#).

October 28, Virginia: Through the SAR Speaker Series, a scholar from Syria visited George Mason University to share his experiences and expertise with the campus community. Entitled "Syria: From Peaceful Revolution to Humanitarian Catastrophe," his talk examined Syria's history in the context of current events.

Upcoming events

November 7, Norway: The SAR-Norway section will hold its annual membership meeting and general assembly at University of Tromsø - Arctic University of Norway. On the evening prior, November 6th, the SAR-Norway section will hold a public event dedicated to academic freedom.

November 20, United Kingdom: CARA, SAR's partner organization in the UK, invites you to the Science & Civilisation Annual Lecture at The Royal Society, commemorating Albert Einstein's Royal Albert Hall speech on the 5 October 1933 against the persecution of academics. Professor Sir George Radda CBE will be giving a talk on Biomedical Knowledge in the Service of Man: Social Responsibility of the Scientist. The talk will be chaired by CARA President, Professor Sir Malcolm Grant CBE. To register click [here](#).

December 2-3, Azerbaijan: SAR Advocacy Officer Jesse Levine will participate in the annual meeting of the European Students Union (ESU), a representative body composed of 47 student unions across Europe. Jesse will present information on the SAR Academic Freedom Monitoring Project and invite participation in the project by constituent ESU unions.

December 2-3, Belgium: SAR European Director, Sinead O'Gorman, will participate in a workshop in Brussels organized by the European Commission on "Enhancing Coordination between Programmes for Temporary Relocation of Human Rights Defenders".

December 3-5, Sweden: SAR Speaker Series events will take place in Gothenburg, Malmö and Lund featuring Dr. Shirin Zubair from Pakistan, Marit Egner from the SAR-Norway Section, Sinead O'Gorman, SAR's European Director, and representatives from the host institutions in three cities. More information forthcoming.

December 10, Ireland: Universities Ireland in partnership with Scholars at Risk will hold an event at Trinity College Dublin to launch a new SAR-Ireland section coordinating committee and to mark Human Rights Day. More details forthcoming.

SAR Academic Freedom Monitor

The SAR Academic Freedom MONITOR focuses on developing greater understanding of the volume and nature of attacks on higher education communities in order to develop more effective protection responses. The MONITOR aims to identify, assess and track incidents involving conduct which may constitute violations of academic freedom and/or the human rights of members of higher education communities.

In October, SAR reported on how feminist media critic Anita Sarkeesian had to cancel a speaking engagement at Utah State University, after the school received an anonymous email threatening "the

deadliest school shooting in American history” if the event went forward. For full report, please see <http://monitoring.academicfreedom.info/reports/2014-10-14-utah-state-university> .

SAR Media Review

Each week, SAR compiles articles pertaining to academic freedom and higher education communities worldwide.

The most read Media Review articles in October were:

- “Double Standard at Illinois” by John K. Wilson, Inside Higher Ed. <https://www.insidehighered.com/views/2014/10/02/essay-sees-double-standard-how-u-illinois-responds-controversial-professors>
- “Freedom of the press? Not for student newspapers” by Anna Fazackerley, The Guardian. <http://www.theguardian.com/education/2014/oct/21/student-newspapers-clash-universities-students-unions-gags>
- “Another U.S. University Severs Ties to Confucius Institute” by Andrew Jacobs and Jess Macy Yu, The New York Times. http://sinosphere.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/10/02/penn-state-severs-ties-to-confucius-institute/?_php=true&_type=blogs&partner=rss&emc=rss&r=0

Archived academic freedom news can be found [here](#).

New Resources from Partners

- The Institute of International Education and its Syria Consortium for Higher Education in Crisis released a new report which examines the conditions and educational needs of Syrian university students and scholars in Turkey. The report entitled “We Will Stop Here and Go No Further: Syrian University Students and Scholars in Turkey” is available [here](#).
- An LSE podcast on ‘Academics in Exile’ talks about what happens when academics turn enemy of the state. Stephen Wordsworth, Executive Director of CARA, SAR's partner organization in the UK, talks about the beginnings the charity first created to assist academics escaping the Holocaust, and how, 80 years later, academics in harm's way from Zimbabwe to Syria, still rely on CARA's support. Refugees from Algeria and Uzbekistan also discuss their journey from academics to exiles and how CARA helped them to rebuild their professional lives in the UK. To listen click [here](#).

Academic Freedom Media Review

November 1 - 7, 2014

Compiled by Scholars at Risk

Scholars at Risk monitors reports of threats to academic freedom and higher education communities worldwide, including media articles, blogs, opinion pieces and other announcements. Unless otherwise indicated (such as in articles written by SAR), the language and views contained in the search results reflect those of the originating author and/or publication and do not necessarily represent the views of Scholars at Risk or its members, affiliates, board or staff. Archived media reviews are available [on our website](#).

(Non) Peer Review

Kaitlin Mulhere, *Inside Higher Ed*, 11/07

It's not every day that a university president shares concerns with the public about a faculty study. And in Nevada, some are wondering whether doing so is appropriate, especially following complaints in private communications with business leaders. [Read more.](#)

Military trials for students spark concerns

Ashraf Khaled, *University World News*, 11/06

A new law in Egypt allowing military trials for students accused of attacking university facilities has raised concerns among academics and rights advocates about freedoms in the country. Earlier this month President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, who temporarily holds legislative power, issued the controversial law authorising the army to join the police in protecting state institutions, including public universities. [Read more.](#)

Thai Man Convicted of Defaming King on Facebook

Associated Press, 11/04

A Thai court sentenced a university student to 2 1/2 years in prison on Tuesday for posting a message on Facebook that the court said insulted the country's king. A Criminal Court judge found 24-year old Akkaradet Eiamsuwan guilty of violating Thailand's lese majeste law, which punishes people who defame, insult or threaten the monarchy. [Read more.](#)

'UnKoch My Campus'

Kaitlin Mulhere, *Inside Higher Ed*, 11/04

Students on nearly 30 campuses around the country called for a separation of college and corporation in protests Monday. Although the events highlighted financial influence from the Koch brothers, organizers said the campaign is a response to a broader trend of corporate influence. [Read more.](#)

Jailed Uyghur Scholar Tohti Gets Award Despite Beijing's Intervention

Arslan Tash and Mihray Abdilim, *Radio Free Asia*, 11/04

Journalists in Turkey have awarded a freedom prize to jailed Uyghur scholar Ilham Tohti, rejecting demands by the Chinese authorities not to confer the award on the outspoken

professor. The Bartın Province Journalists Association and International Journalism Association For Turkic-Speaking Countries gave Tohti the “Ismail Gaspirali Turkic World Freedom Award” at a ceremony at the small province in northern Turkey on the Black Sea Saturday. [Read more.](#)

Think tanks face hurdle in answering Xi Jinping's call

Cary Huang, *South China Morning Post*, 11/03

In calling for a new type of Chinese think tank, President Xi Jinping wants institutions that can compete with American ones in spreading soft power abroad and help refine policies at home, analysts say. But the leadership at the same time is demanding greater political fidelity from researchers. [Read more.](#)

Scholars in Danger Join World's Refugees

Aisha Labi, *Chronicle of Higher Education*, 11/03

Their stories are grim. A Syrian engineer flees the country after being detained and tortured by government forces. A writer and human-rights activist escapes following threats from members of a far-right political group in Greece. In Thailand, a military coup forces an outspoken anthropologist to seek refuge abroad. [Read more.](#)

Hong Kong, Ferrets and the Future of Academic Freedom

Andrys Onsman, *Inside Higher Ed*, 11/02

In her excellent book on education hubs Jane Knight offers a lot of interesting points and analyses. There are a number of cities and regions that are actively promoting themselves as education hubs, often investing money, real estate and personnel to attract HE providers with a recognised brand — Singapore, Hong Kong, Qatar, Seoul, UAE, Botswana, Panama City, Monterey and new entrants such as Sri Lanka, Mauritius and Bahrain. [Read more.](#)

Academic Freedom Media Review

November 8 - 14, 2014

Compiled by Scholars at Risk

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Mexico's 43 missing students: Who are they?

Catherine E. Shoichet and Rafael Romo, *CNN*, 11/14

It's a staggering statistic: 43 college students from the same school, all hoping to become teachers someday -- all missing and feared dead. Their disappearance became a flashpoint for national protests. Mexico's President met their parents. The Pope sent them prayers. Mexico's attorney general says they were captured by police on the orders of a local mayor, handed over to a drug gang and executed. [Read more.](#)

U. of Illinois Board Clears Way for Rehiring of Ex-Terrorist as Instructor

Peter Schmidt, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, 11/14

The University of Illinois's Board of Trustees on Thursday left academic units on the system's Urbana-Champaign campus free to make their own decision about rehiring as a part-time instructor James W. Kilgore, a former member of the Symbionese Liberation Army who served time for his role in a 1975 bank robbery that resulted in a murder. [Read more.](#)

Politics strain Turkey's first Kurdish-language institute

Fehim Taştekin, *Al-Monitor*, 11/13

The Institute of Living Languages, founded in 2010 at Artuklu University in Turkey's southeastern city of Mardin, was one of Ankara's most tangible steps in efforts to resolve the Kurdish problem. It became Turkey's first Kurdiology department and the first to teach the Syriac language. Described as a "revolution" by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the institute has been a glimmer of hope amid the many snags hampering the Kurdish peace process. [Read more.](#)

Thai police ban Scot's book for 'insulting' royal family

BBC News, 11/13

Thai police have banned imports of a book by a Scottish journalist because it is "insulting to the country's monarchy". *A Kingdom In Crisis*, by Andrew MacGregor Marshall, was released last week by British publishers Zed Books. Thai police chief General Somyot Poompanmoung said its contents "might affect national security and order". [Read more.](#)

Anti-coup academics taking refuge in the United States

Pravit Rojanaphruk, *The Nation*, 11/13

The United States has become a safe haven for anti-coup academics from Thailand with Yukti Mukdawijitra, an Thammasat University anthropologist, the latest to escape perceived political repression here. [Read more.](#)

'The Ideal and the Real'

Elizabeth Redden, *Inside Higher Ed*, 11/12

A new report from the American Council on Education highlights the challenges involved when U.S. universities establish dual and joint degree programs with institutions abroad. While joint and dual degree programs are often described as mechanisms for achieving deep internationalization of the curriculum, the reality is often different, the report suggests. [Read more.](#)

Talk, Not Tear Gas: Colleges Soften Their Approach to Student Protests

Mary Bowerman and Peter Schmidt, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, 11/12

When students staged a sit-in at Colgate University's admissions office in September to protest racial intolerance on the campus, perhaps the biggest news was what didn't happen. No students were arrested or removed from the building. No one accused the campus police of heavy-handedness or administrators of trampling free-speech rights. [Read more.](#)

'No Room' For Further Dialogue With Students: Hong Kong Government

Radio Free Asia, 11/11

The Hong Kong government on Tuesday ruled out further dialogue with student leaders of a mass pro-democracy protest that has blocked major roads in the former British colony for six weeks, as a court gave the green light to police to arrest anyone blocking roads it has ordered cleared. [Read more.](#)

Franz Kafka: Meet the Islamic State

John Dyer and Gilgamesh Nabeel, *Al-Fanar Media*, 11/09

Students can wait at a Kurdish checkpoint for up to six hours. Students can wait at a Kurdish checkpoint for up to six hours. Iraqi university students living in Islamic-State controlled areas are finding themselves in an Arabic version of a Kafka tale, with a war-zone atmosphere and plot twists centered on checkpoints. But for the students, their arduous journeys to get their diplomas are all too real. [Read more.](#)

Venezuela to educate 1,000 Palestinians through scholarship program

Haaretz, 11/09

At least 1,000 Palestinians will receive a free university education in Venezuela. The president of the Republic of Venezuela, Nicolas Maduro, welcomed 119 Palestinian students who will be trained in the field of medicine through the new Yasser Arafat Scholarship Program, and announced the expansion of the program. [Read more.](#)

This weekend the [New York Times](#) chronicled the dire situation confronting academics in Iraq and Syria, noting that the situation for higher education in these countries and around the region has reached a crisis point not seen since WWII. **If higher education leaders and institutions in safe countries around the world don't act now, we risk losing an entire generation.**

Scholars at Risk members are responding to the crisis and we are helping many from the conflict zones already. We must help more! We can help more! We will help more! But we need your help:

- **Will you/your institution pledge to sponsor/host at least 1 scholar or student in 2015?** [Click here to send your pledge to sponsor/host.](#)
- **Will you/your institution join the Scholars at Risk network, or help encourage friends at other institutions to join and do their part?** [Click here to join the network.](#)

The need is urgent. Please help us. Together we can save a generation.

Number of Academic Refugees Grows

Aisha Labi | Nov. 16, 2014

Their stories are grim.

A Syrian engineer escapes the country after being detained and tortured by government forces. A writer and human rights activist flees Greece following threats from members of a far-right political group. In Thailand, a military coup forces an outspoken anthropologist to seek refuge abroad. [Read more.](#)

Academic Freedom Media Review

November 15 - 21, 2014

Compiled by Scholars at Risk

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Chinese court rejects Ilham Tohti appeal

Associated Press, 11/21

A Chinese court has upheld the separatism conviction and life sentence for a noted scholar from China's Muslim Uighur minority who frequently criticised the government while advocating ethnic pride and greater economic opportunity. Ilham Tohti was accused of fomenting unrest in the far western region of Xinjiang during a closed-door trial in September in the regional capital of Urumqi. [Read more.](#)

Sector urged to put brakes on Confucius Institutes' expansion

Chris Parr, Times Higher Education, 11/20

Confucius Institutes are a threat to the principles of academic freedom and incidences of scholarly malpractice are "disturbingly common", according to a new book about the Chinese government-funded centres. The institutes, which have branches on hundreds of university campuses, are under the control of Hanban, a branch of China's Ministry of Education that supplies funds to cover the cost of set-up and provision of Chinese language instructors, an arrangement that ostensibly benefits everyone. [Read more.](#)

A Conversation With an Advocate For Academic Freedom

Sarah Lynch, Al-Fanar Media, 11/18

A road that snakes through hillside towns in northern Istanbul leads to one of Turkey's most exclusive higher learning institutions: Koç University. There, the university's president, Umran Inan, governs with a hands-off approach from his office overlooking a campus courtyard on the edge of the Bosphorus. The fans of his style say that it should serve as an example for the region. [Read more.](#)

Newspaper Calls on Chinese Academics to Cut the Criticism

Austin Ramzy, The New York Times, 11/17

A Chinese newspaper's look into university professors' criticism of China has triggered an online debate about academic freedom and whether scholars have a patriotic duty to refrain from making overly negative comments about the country, its society and its political system. Liaoning Daily, a Communist Party-run newspaper in northeast China, published

the article, “Teacher, Please Don’t Talk About China Like That: An Open Letter to Teachers of Philosophy and Social Science,” last week in response to a comment it received from a university student who complained about how “talking bad about China and cursing our society has become fashionable” in class. [Read more.](#)

Harvard researcher harassed after speaking out against AKP

Pinar Tremblay, *Al-Monitor*, 11/17

On May 31, then-Turkish President Abdullah Gul visited Harvard University. The event coincided with the one-year anniversary of the Gezi Park protests. Emrah Altindis, a research fellow at Harvard Medical School, dared to remind Gul of the anniversary and asked whether he was embarrassed to be the president of Turkey. [Read more.](#)

Bangladesh Police Detain 20 After Killing of University Professor

Syed Zain Al-Mahmood, *Wall Street Journal*, 11/17

Police in Bangladesh detained 20 people over the weekend after the killing of a university professor was linked to what is possibly a previously unknown Islamic militant group. Shafiul Islam, who taught sociology at the University of Rajshahi in northern Bangladesh, was fatally stabbed Saturday afternoon near his home on a campus where political feuds have turned violent in the past, police said. [Read more.](#)

Steven Salaita files lawsuit against the University of Illinois

Jodi S. Cohen, *Chicago Tribune*, 11/17

Controversial professor Steven Salaita, whose job offer at the University of Illinois was rescinded after he made anti-Israel comments on social media, filed a lawsuit Monday alleging that the university has violated the state's open records law. The lawsuit, filed in Champaign County court, contends the university failed to comply with the Illinois Freedom of Information Act by refusing to produce documents that Salaita's attorneys requested. [Read more.](#)

Students Hold Fourth Day of Protests Against Myanmar Education Law

Radio Free Asia, 11/17

Hundreds of Myanmar students on Monday held a fourth consecutive day of protests against a new education law they say will limit academic freedom, as the leader of a prominent democracy group called for the government to open new talks with the demonstrators. The students marched through the commercial capital Yangon to City Hall, where they displayed signs and shouted slogans calling for amendments to the National Education Law, which restricts the formation of student unions and creates a commission to oversee the country’s education system. [Read more.](#)

Dear friends,

Following are the 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.

- **Cameroonian scholar of political philosophy and human rights**
- **Syrian scholar of marketing and tourism**
- **Syrian scholar of archaeology**
- **Eritrean scholar of sociology**
- **Pakistani scholar of applied linguistics and education**
- **Chinese scholar of mathematics**

More information is available from the SAR network office at scholarsatrisk@nyu.edu and +1 212 998-2179. Thank you for your help.

Scholars of the Week

CAME-537

Field: Political philosophy; Human rights

Risk: Harassment/Intimidation (displaced)

Language: French, English (fluent)

Education: PhD

Seeking: Opportunities beginning **Summer 2015** to continue his teaching and research

SYRI-528

Field: Marketing; Management; Tourism

Risk: Threat of arrest/violence

Language: English, Arabic (fluent)

Education: MBA (UK)

Seeking: PhD study, research, and/or teaching opportunities beginning **immediately**

SYRI-567

Field: Archaeology

Risk: Threat to life; Risk of arrest and violence (displaced)

Language: English (fluent), German (intermediate), Akkadian (proficient)

Education: PhD (UK)

Seeking: Opportunities beginning **Fall 2015** to continue her teaching and research

ERIT-005

Field: Sociology

Risk: Risk of arrest/violence (displaced)

Language: Saho, Tigre, Tigrigna, Arabic, German (fluent), English (fluent)

Education: PhD (Germany)

Seeking: Opportunities beginning **January 2015** to continue his teaching and research **in Norway**

PAKI-569

Field: Applied linguistics; Education

Risk: Threat to life/person with academic trigger (displaced)

Language: Urdu (native), English (fluent)

Education: PhD (UK)

Seeking: Opportunities beginning **Fall 2015** to continue teaching and researching **in the United States**

CHIN-590

Field: Mathematics

Risk: Re-imprisonment, Harassment/intimidation (displaced)

Language: Chinese (fluent), English (Intermediate)

Education: PhD

Seeking: Opportunities beginning **immediately** to continue his research and teaching **in the United States**

