

Student arrested in New Delhi; scholar set free in Malaysia

On February 12th, Kanhaiya Kumar, the head of the student union at Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi, was arrested and charged with sedition for allegedly using anti-Indian slogans during a protest earlier that week. On the same day, Malaysia's Attorney General dropped the sedition charges that had been leveled against law lecturer Dr. Azmi Sharom in September 2014.

> While SAR celebrates the end of Azmi's prosecution and hopes that [his case](#) will set a precedent of greater respect for academic freedom in Malaysia, we are deeply concerned about the arrest and prosecution of Kumar, as well as the reported suspension of students from academic activities and cancellation of student events in retaliation for their non-violent exercise of the rights to academic freedom, freedom of expression, and freedom of association.

> We know that the network shares in this concern, and we will continue updating our [incident report](#) as the situation unfolds. For more information on key incidents and trends over the last three months, take a look at the most recent [Academic Freedom Monitor](#) and [sign up to receive next quarter's digest](#).



> Scholars of the Week

SYRI-606

- > Field: Human Resource Management
- > Risk: Threat to life/person (Displaced)
- > Language: Arabic, French (Fluent), English (Advanced)
- > Education: PhD (Egypt)
- > Seeking: Research and/or teaching positions (Francophone) beginning immediately

This scholar is a professor of human resource management with over 16 years of teaching experience who previously served in a leadership position at his university department in Syria. He has published over 20 books and manuals on human resources and administrative development.

BANG-535

- > Field: Communications; Social Anthropology; Gender Studies
- > Risk: Threat to Life/Person (Displaced)
- > Language: Bengali (Native), English (Fluent)
- > Education: PhD (UK)
- > Seeking: Research and/or teaching positions beginning immediately

This scholar of communications, social anthropology and gender studies has over a decade of teaching experience in the UK and Bangladesh. She is the author of several books in her field and has published numerous articles in peer-reviewed international sociology journals. Her

research intersects communications, sociology, public health and gender, and recent projects have included a sociological analysis of female garment workers in Bangladesh.

IRAQ-782

- > Field: Anatomy; Surgery
- > Risk: Threat to life/person
- > Language: Arabic, English (Fluent)
- > Education: MBChB
- > Seeking: Research and/or teaching opportunities in a safe location beginning immediately

This scholar is a medical doctor who has taught for nearly 25 years at a university in Iraq, including courses on surgery and anatomy, and supervised students' surgical theses. He has been published in international journals, and his recent research focuses on obesity management and Islets cell transplantation.

SYRI-629

- > Field: Software Engineering
- > Risk: General/situational risk (Displaced)
- > Language: Arabic (Native), English (Advanced), Dutch (Basic)
- > Education: MA
- > Seeking: Research and/or postgraduate opportunities in the Netherlands beginning immediately

This scholar holds an MA in software engineering from a university in Syria, where he also completed the majority of his PhD studies in the same subject. The scholar has five years of experience as an assistant lecturer and researcher at two Syrian universities where he taught courses in software engineering, programming languages, data structure, algorithms, and web design.

[All Scholars Seeking Assistance »](#)

> Upcoming Events

> **March 9, Gothenburg, Sweden:** The SAR Sweden Section will celebrate its formal launch at the University of Gothenburg. SAR Sweden is currently made up of nine universities. Please [RSVP](#) if interested in attending.

> **March 12, New York City, USA:** A Syrian SAR scholar of theatre will present on "Theatre as a site of raising people's awareness about their social-political conditions" at the NYU Kevorkian Center's Outreach Workshop on Art in the Middle East. A workshop on "Syrian creative resistance movement as a tool of surviving and challenging the violence" will follow.

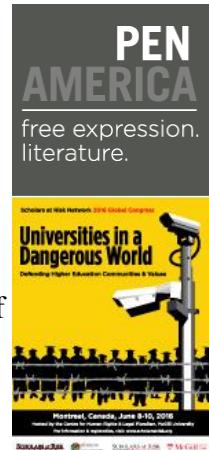
> **April 6-8, Atlanta, GA, USA:** SAR staff will participate in the Forum on Education Abroad's 12th annual conference, "Navigating the Intersections: The Cultures of Education Abroad." [Contact SAR](#) to arrange a meeting.

> **April 19-20, Berlin, Germany:** Launch of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation's [Phillip Schwartz Initiative](#), a fellowship program allowing threatened scholars to continue their research at German institutions. The event will include a workshop to share best practices related to hosting scholars and to discuss a potential SAR-Germany Section.



> **April 26, New York City, USA:** [PEN World Voices](#) Panel, "Country of Nowhere: The Refugee Crisis," at the Nuyorican Poets Cafe. Join a conversation with writers (including a SAR scholar) whose work contributes to an understanding of displacement, dislocation, and collective responsibility.

> **June 8-10, Montreal, Canada:** The 2016 Global Congress, **Universities in a Dangerous World**, hosted by the McGill University Centre for Human Rights & Legal Pluralism. Join the global SAR community in a discussion of how best to protect universities and scholars in these challenging times and strengthen the capacity of the university sector to contribute to a more peaceful, just, and sustainable world. [Registration is now open!](#)



[All Events »](#)

> Academic Freedom Media Review

Each week, SAR compiles articles pertaining to academic freedom and higher education communities worldwide. Here are the most-read articles of the past two weeks. [Read the full review.](#)

> **Spate of student violence hits South African universities**

> *Agence de Presse Africaine*, 02/19

South Africa's leading universities are on high alert after a spate of violence at some campuses which have forced some of the universities to suspend their academic programmes.

[Read More »](#)

> **'Patriotic' move threatens academic freedom**

Jan Grabowski, *University World News*, 02/17

Jan T Gross, a professor of history at Princeton University and one of the leading scholars of the Holocaust, is threatened with being stripped of a high state decoration, the Knight's Cross of the Order of Merit, which he has held since 1996.

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> **Turkish Academe Under Attack**

Elizabeth Redden, *Inside Higher Ed*, 02/12

More than 1000 Turkish scholars are under criminal investigation after signing a petition calling for an end to the military campaign against Kurdish separatists in southeastern Turkey.

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