

January 20, 2016

Turkish authorities have reportedly placed more than 1100 Turkish scholars under investigation after they signed a petition calling on the government to end its crackdowns targeting Kurdish rebels in the southeastern part of the country.



According to reports, signatories have been investigated, arrested, interrogated, charged with terrorism and related crimes, and suspended and/or forced to resign their positions. Scholars at Risk is preparing a public letter to Turkish authorities expressing grave concern over these reports in order to clearly demonstrate the solidarity of the higher education sector worldwide with colleagues in Turkey. [Learn more about the situation in Turkey](#) and [contact SAR](#) with any questions regarding the network's response.

Upcoming Events

April 19-20, Berlin, Germany: Scholars at Risk is partnering with the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation to launch the Phillip Schwartz Initiative, a fellowship program allowing scholars and scientists threatened by war and persecution to continue their research at German higher education institutions. In cooperation with the Humboldt Foundation, SAR will organize a workshop for participating institutions to share best practices related to hosting scholars and to discuss a potential SAR-Germany Section.



May 5, New York City, USA: At 6 pm, Naila al Atrash, Syrian director and human rights activist, will give a talk at the Godwin-Ternbach Museum, Queens College on the Syrian exodus followed by an artistic recitation by students of writings by Syrian refugees and a discussion linking the current Syrian crisis with the mid-century Jewish experience.



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 celebration of the network's accomplishments and a discussion of how best to both 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.

[All Events »](#)

Scholars of the Week

IRAN-707

Field: Philosophy; Ethics

Risk: Threat of Violence, Harassment/Intimidation (Displaced)

Language: Persian, English (Fluent), Arabic (Fluent)

Education: PhD (UK)

Seeking: Post-doctoral research and/or teaching opportunities beginning immediately

This scholar of philosophy specializes in cognitive science and has experience teaching undergraduate ethics courses. He was previously a senior scholar at a research institute in Iran and has published dozens of academic and media articles in English and Persian.

SYRI-550

Field: Civil Engineering; Poetry

Risk: Threat to life/person (Displaced)

Language: Arabic, English (Fluent), Polish (Fluent)

Education: PhD (Poland)

Seeking: Research opportunities beginning Spring 2016

This scholar of civil engineering specializes in water resources management, has nearly 20 years of teaching experience, and has published over a dozen academic articles and several textbooks. This scholar is also a published poet who has won awards for his writing. He is currently hosted at a university in the Netherlands.

IRAQ-782

Field: Anatomy; Surgery

Risk: Threat to life/person

Language: Arabic, English (Fluent)

Education: MBChB

Seeking: Research and/or teaching opportunities 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-619

Field: Civil Engineering

Risk: General/situational risk (Displaced)

Language: Arabic, English (Fluent)

Education: PhD

Seeking: Teaching and/or research opportunities beginning immediately

This scholar specializes in pavement rehabilitation and design and has eight years of experience teaching courses in road construction, airport engineering, and the rehabilitation

and maintenance of pavement. He has over a decade of experience in transportation and highway research and has published several studies on flexible pavements and asphalt.

[All Scholars Seeking Assistance »](#)

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.](#)

Turkey's Take Back

Elizabeth Redden, *Inside Higher Ed*, 12/22

A controversial institute supporting research in Turkish studies has lost its funding from Turkey's government, raising questions about whether an institute long perceived by some in the field as pushing the Turkish state's agenda had grown too independent for the government's liking.

[Read More »](#)

The case of the missing Hong Kong book publishers

Jiayang Fan, *The New Yorker*, 01/08

When a politically problematic figure disappears or is disappeared-in China, a dark uneasiness falls, though usually accompanied by a glum sense of the inevitable. This is the cost of living within an authoritarian regime with diminishing patience for deviance.

[Read More »](#)

Academics arrested, threatened for signing a petition

Brendan O'Malley, *University World News*, 01/15

Eighteen lecturers from Kocaeli University in North-Western Turkey have been arrested for criticizing ongoing military operations against Kurdish militants in the south-east of the country and 130 others face criminal charges, according to reports.

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