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## Endangered Scholars Worldwide

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# Endangered Scholars Worldwide

*The information in this quarterly print report is current as of April 9, 2019. The situation of scholars and students around the world changes on a daily basis. For the most up-to-date information and ways in which you can be involved in calling for the freedom of endangered scholars and students, please visit us online at [www.endangeredscholarsworldwide.net](http://www.endangeredscholarsworldwide.net) or follow us at [www.facebook.com/endangeredscholars](https://www.facebook.com/endangeredscholars). In these pages we introduce new cases that have come to our attention over the past three months and provide basic information about continuing cases—a description of charges and potential or actual reported sentences. If you are aware of a scholar or student whose case you believe we should investigate, please contact us at [esw@newschool.edu](mailto:esw@newschool.edu).*



## **SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT**

### **New University in Exile Consortium**

The New University in Exile Consortium is an initiative created by The New School, home of the first University in Exile, which was formed in 1933 as a response to the rise of Nazism. The New University in Exile Consortium is our response to the alarming current increase in persecution of scholars worldwide and in attacks on academic freedom.

Founded by Dr. Arien Mack, Alfred and Monette Marrow Professor of Psychology and editor of *Social Research*, the New UIE Consortium is an expanding group of 14 like-minded colleges and universities publicly committed to the belief that the academic community has both the moral responsibility and capacity to defend academic freedom and assist threatened scholars and to help protect the intellectual capital that is jeopardized when universities and scholars are under

assault. The New School is the convener, organizer, and administrative base of the New UIE Consortium, which includes Amherst College, Arizona State University, Barnard College, Brown University, Columbia University, Connecticut College, Georgetown University, George Mason University, The New School, Rutgers University-The State University of New Jersey, Trinity College, University of Pittsburgh, Wayne State University, Wellesley College, and Yale University as of April 9, 2019.

The mission of the New University in Exile Consortium is to create a sense of intellectual community among exiled scholars and to lessen the profound loss of identity and dislocation that severely impacts their intellectual lives. It is this condition we hope to alleviate through our Consortium activities.

To this end we have organized a series of programs and projects, some of which include a scholar seminar (led by The New School's Professor Richard Bernstein), a lecture series, opportunities for scholastic publishing, a summer retreat, and other events that bring exiled scholars together, highlight them and their work, and raise awareness of threats to academic freedom and free inquiry. With the help of Off-University in Germany, we are also organizing tuition-free online seminars, team-led by a Consortium scholar and an exiled scholar overseas, which will be available to students who otherwise face obstacles to continuing their education.

For more information about the Consortium, including how to join, please visit <https://newuniversityinexileconsortium.org/>.

## NEW AND CONTINUING CASES

### BAHRAIN

*Scholars and Researchers:* ABDUL-JALIL AL-SINGACE, 56, the former head of the Department of Engineering at the University of Bahrain, has been in Jau Prison since 2011 on a life sentence for allegedly “plotting to overthrow the government” during the Arab Spring protests. Throughout his time in detention, Al-Singace has been subjected to torture and

various other forms of mistreatment. Since March 2013, Bahraini officials have consistently ignored Al-Singace's requests for medical attention despite his long-term poliomyelitis, which has left him paralyzed since childhood. According to a family member, Al-Singace has refused to attend medical appointments, including a March 12 appointment with a hematologist and an appointment earlier in March for a shoulder infection, because of the prison authorities' insistence on shackling him during the transfer.

Whether deliberately or through indifference, Bahraini authorities are wielding the denial of adequate medical care as a weapon against their dissidents, both academic and other. ESW urges the authorities to grant Abduljalil Al-Singace access to all necessary medical care as a matter of urgency, and we continue to call for his immediate and unconditional release, as well as for the release of all those detained in Bahrain in violation of Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Bahrain is party. ESW asks for letters, emails, and faxes respectfully urging authorities to reconsider any convictions related to this scholar's peaceful exercise of free speech and association and to ensure his well-being and access to medical attention while in custody, in accordance with international human rights standards.

*Students:* ALI MOHAMED HAKEEM AL-ARAB, 23, a nursing student, was arrested on February 9, 2017 with his cousin, AHMED AL-ARAB, who is also a nursing student. Both men were consequently sentenced to death by the Fourth High Criminal Court in Bahrain on charges including "forming and joining a 'terrorist group'." Al-Arab, along with several other prisoners, escaped from Jau Prison on January 1, 2017, resulting in the death of a policeman. The Bahrain Ministry of Interior issued a statement in February identifying Ali Al-Arab as "the main suspect" in the police officer's death, after being "found to be in possession of two Kalashnikov rifles and three firearms." According to a report by Amnesty International dated March 15, 2018, Al-Arab claims he was

tortured throughout the 26 days of his interrogation and forced to sign a confession. He remains at risk of further torture and mistreatment.

Five other students, JAWAD AL-MAHARY, SHAWQI RADHI, JASSIM AL-HULAINI, JASSIM AL-MUKHODHER, and YOUSIF AHMED, were sentenced to 15 years in prison at a trial on March 5, 2012 for their involvement in prodemocracy demonstrations. According to information received by ESW, Ahmed Auon lost his right eye when he was struck by a metal pellet fired from a police shotgun following the demonstration. The authorities at Dry Dock Detention Center, where Auon is being held, have denied him proper medical treatment.

ESW is deeply concerned about the continued mistreatment of scholars and students in Bahrain. We call on the United States, the United Kingdom, the United Nations, the European Union, and other international institutions to put pressure on Bahraini authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Ahmed Al-Arab and all other detainees held on politically motivated charges due to the ongoing popular movement for freedom and democracy.

Please send appeals to the following:

Sheikh Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa  
Office of the King  
The Amiri Court  
PO Box 555  
Rifa'a Palace  
Al-Manama  
Kingdom of Bahrain  
Fax: +973 176 64 587  
Website: <http://www.mofa.gov.bh/>

Sheikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa  
Deputy Prime Minister  
Diplomatic Area  
PO Box # 450  
Al-Manama  
Kingdom of Bahrain  
Fax: +973 175 13 333

## CHINA

*Scholars and Researchers:* According to a new report released by Uyghur Human Rights Project (URHP), the Chinese government has interned, imprisoned, or forcibly disappeared at least 338 intellectuals, among them “an alarming 61 university professors” and some 96 students, as part of its intensified assault on Uyghurs and the extermination of their

culture in East Turkestan. By the publication date of the report, five deaths in custody had been confirmed, but the true number of intellectuals who have died in the camps or immediately after release is unknown due to the veil of secrecy and fear. Dozens of intellectuals are also serving harsh sentences handed down prior to April 2017.

From Xinjiang University alone, 21 people have been incarcerated in “re-education camps” that the Chinese government describes as “vocational training” exercises. The report notes that faculty from Xinjiang University “have been a focus for the Chinese authorities given their prominence in Uyghur-produced scholarship conducted in the region.”

In a previous report released in October, UHRP gave details of some of those who had disappeared, including RAHILE DAWUT, a leading expert on Uyghur folklore and traditions at Xinjiang University whose work had previously been sponsored by the Chinese State. She left Urumchi for Beijing in December 2017 and has not been heard from since.

The names of Kashgar University’s president, ERKIN OMER; the vice president, MUHTER ABDUGHOPUR; and professors QURBAN OSMAN and GULNAR OBUL have been deleted from the institution’s website, and their whereabouts are unknown. HALMURAT GHOPUR, the president of the Xinjiang Food and Drug Administration’s Department of Inspection and Supervision and former president of Xinjiang Medical University Hospital, has been detained in an undisclosed location since November 2017. Former president of Xinjiang University, TASHPOLAT TIYIP, has reportedly received a heavy sentence on “separatism” charges.

Endangered Scholars Worldwide deplores the Chinese government’s pervasive and ongoing crackdown on the Uyghur people. We urge the Chinese authorities to stop harassing the Uyghur population immediately, and we call on the Chinese government to respect, guarantee, and implement the provisions and principles of human rights as specified in international conventions and treaties in accordance with China’s obligations under international law.

It has been over four years since the Uyghur professor of economics ILHAM TOHTI, 49, was arrested on charges of promoting separatism. He is now serving a life term behind bars in China. Tohti, an outspoken economist who regularly highlighted the religious and cultural persecution of the Muslim Uyghur ethnic minority in China's Xinjiang region, was sentenced in September 2014 by the Xinjiang People's High Court following a two-day show trial. ESW is particularly concerned by reports that his wife and children were not allowed to visit him at all in 2018. In a January 17, 2018, statement, Reporters Without Borders described Tohti's situation as, "typical of the massive human rights violations taking place under [Chinese] President Xi Jinping." The detention and imprisonment of such an important intellectual and cultural leader and voice of moderation should be seen as a major part of China's grave repression of the Uyghurs.

Also remaining in prison is GUO QUAN, 50, a literature professor at Nanjing Normal University who was sentenced to 10 years in prison in October 2009 on charges of "inciting subversion of state power."

*Students* who remain in prison on charges of "separatism" and their connection to Ilham Tohti are PERHAT HALMURAT, SHOHRET NIJAT, LUO YUWEI, MUTELLIP IMIN, ABDUQEYUM ABLIMIT, ATIKEN ROZI, and AKBAR IMIN.


Please send appeals to the following:

Xi Jinping  
President of the People's Republic of  
China  
Zhong Naihui  
Beijing 100032  
People's Republic of China

Zhou Qiang  
Chief Justice, Supreme People's Court  
No. 27 Dong Jiao Min Xiang  
Beijing 100745  
People's Republic of China  
Fax: +86 10 6529 2345 (c/o Ministry of  
Communication)  
Website: [www.court.gov.cn](http://www.court.gov.cn)

## IRAN

*Scholars and Researchers:* It has been over 30 months since AHMADREZA DJALALI, an Iranian-Swedish citizen and scholar of disaster medicine, was arrested in Iran. On October 19, 2018, Djalali underwent an operation



in Tehran’s Taleghani Hospital. This operation took place after Djalali suffered a month of severe pain and denial of medical treatment. The 45-year-old professor, who taught at the European Master in Disaster Medicine (EMDM) in Italy—a joint master’s program of the Università degli Studi del Piemonte Orientale and the Vrije Universiteit Brussel—was arrested in April 2016 on charges of “collaboration with a hostile government” while visiting his family in Tehran. Djalali was later accused of providing information to Israel to aid in the assassination of several senior nuclear scientists and, following a closed trial, was sentenced to death on October 20, 2017. The Iranian government has disclosed no evidentiary basis for the allegations, and Djalali has denied them, declaring that his ties to the international academic community are the real reasons for his incarceration. Recent reports and interviews with Djalali’s wife indicate that his health has deteriorated in prison. He has, for example, lost over 25 kilograms (~55 pounds). Despite Djalali’s poor health, however, his medical furlough request has been repeatedly denied.

In December 2018, 124 Nobel Laureates sent a joint letter to the Iranian Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, requesting him to intervene personally in this case and to assure Djalali receives a fair trial and subsequent exoneration and release.

Endangered Scholars Worldwide calls upon the Iranian government to end the practice of deliberately depriving political prisoners of medical care. We condemn the ongoing detention, persecution, and conviction of Djalali in the strongest terms and ask all international organizations, academic and professional associations, and other groups and individuals devoted to the promotion and defense of human rights to protest this arbitrary incarceration; to call for Djalali’s immediate and unconditional release; and to urge the officials of the Iranian government to respect, guarantee, and implement the provisions and principles of human rights as specified in international conventions and treaties.





XIYUE WANG, 38, a fourth-year doctoral candidate in late nineteenth and early twentieth century Eurasian history at Princeton University, was sentenced by an Iranian court on July 17, 2017, to 10 years in prison for “spying under the cover of research.” Wang, a Chinese-born US citizen, was arrested last summer while conducting research in Iran for his doctoral dissertation. Fars News reported that Wang was “gathering secret and top secret [intelligence]” for the US State Department, Harvard Kennedy School, and the British Institute of Persian Studies. He was accused of “infiltrating Iran’s national archive and building a 4,500-page digital archive” for “the world’s biggest anti-Iran spying organization.”

The United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention recently found no legal basis for Wang’s arrest and imprisonment, stating, “Mr. Wang was peacefully exercising his right to seek and receive information for academic purposes in the form of historical records held by a public body, and that this falls within the boundaries of freedom of expression.”

Endangered Scholars Worldwide deplors and condemns the ongoing detention, persecution, and conviction of XiYue Wang and calls upon all international organizations, academic and professional associations, and other groups and individuals devoted to the promotion and defense of human rights to protest this arbitrary incarceration; to ask for Wang’s immediate and unconditional release; and to urge the officials of the Iranian government to end the tactic of imprisoning dual citizen scholars and students as hostages for political gains and to respect, guarantee, and implement the provisions and principles of human rights as specified in international conventions and treaties in accordance with Iran’s obligations under international law.

**Students:** In the latest wave of oppression against Baha’i students in Iran, ANAHITA HARR, an undergraduate at the School of Architecture at Rasam Institute of Higher Education in Karaj, was expelled from her university and barred from continuing her education because she is Baha’i.

Baha'i students in Iran have long been denied the right to higher education. They are often banned from registering for university altogether during the processing of their results on the nationally-competitive college entrance exam known as "Concours." Those who do succeed in enrolling are often summarily expelled. According to SIMIN FAHANDEJ, a representative of the Baha'i International Community's Office in Geneva to the United Nations, 50 Baha'i students have been expelled from Iranian universities in the current Iranian year (beginning March 21, 2018) because of their religious beliefs. The systematic exclusion of Baha'is in Iran was accelerated by a policy memorandum drafted in 1991 by the office of the then-president (now Supreme Leader), which blocks the development of the Baha'i community.

Endangered Scholars Worldwide urges Iranian authorities to stop harassing members of the Baha'i community immediately. We call on President Hassan Rouhani to defend Baha'i students' right to freedom by ensuring that universities allow them to register for college and graduate programs. ESW asks the officials of the Iranian government to respect, guarantee, and implement the provisions and principles of human rights as specified in international conventions and treaties in accordance with Iran's obligations under international law.

In August 2018 a University of Tehran photography student was sentenced to seven years behind bars by Tehran's Revolutionary Court. PARISA RAFIEI, 21, was arrested on February 25, 2018 by Iran's Intelligence Ministry for allegedly attending protests that swept through Tehran and various other Iranian cities in December 2017 and January 2018. She was later accused of "assembly and collusion against national security" and "propaganda against Islamic Republic," Rafiei's defense attorney, Saeed Khalili, said in a note published by Ensaf News on August 13, 2018. Rafiei was interrogated for three weeks without legal representation before being released on bail.

Students who remain in prison in Iran include ARASH SADEGHI, 32, a student rights activist sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment in September 2009 on charges of "collusion against the regime" and

“insulting the Supreme Leader of Iran.” Sadeghi was arrested on September 6, 2014, at his stationery store in Tehran by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps’ intelligence organization. In September Sadeghi was diagnosed with a cancerous bone tumor. However, authorities at Raja’i Shahr Prison in Karaj, a city northwest of Tehran, have since repeatedly impeded his access to potentially lifesaving medical care.

Other students still in prison include HAMID BABAEI, 36, a PhD student at the University of Liege in Belgium, who was detained in August 2013 shortly after his return to Tehran and sentenced to six years in prison on charges of “communicating with hostile foreign governments and spying.” Babaei has repeatedly said that he was imprisoned for refusing to operate as an informant in Belgium for Iran’s Intelligence Ministry. Recent reports suggest that he is being refused hospital treatment by the prison authorities.

At least 19 students arrested for joining the December/January protests earlier this year have been sentenced to harsh prison terms, and their sentences are being upheld by Iran’s appeals courts.

Endangered Scholars Worldwide urges the Iranian authorities to release all students behind bars arrested for their peaceful activities. ESW calls on the Iranian president, Hassan Rouhani, to defend students’ right to freedom of expression.

Please send appeals to the following:

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei  
The Office of the Supreme Leader  
Jomhouri Street  
Tehran  
Islamic Republic of Iran  
Fax: +98 21 644 11  
Website: <http://www.leader.ir/langs/en/>  
Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/  
www.Khamenei.ir](https://www.facebook.com/www.Khamenei.ir)

Ayatollah Sadeq Larijani  
Howzeh Riyasat-e Qoveh Qazaiyeh  
(Office of the Head of the Judiciary)  
Pasteur St., Vali Asr Ave., south of  
Serah-e Jomhouri  
Tehran  
Islamic Republic of Iran  
  
President Hassan Rouhani  
The Office of the President  
Palestine Avenue, Azerbaijan Intersection  
Tehran  
Islamic Republic of Iran

Javad Zarif  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
The Minister's Office  
Imam Khomeini Square  
Tehran

Islamic Republic of Iran  
Fax: +98 21 66743149  
Website: <http://www.mfa.gov.ir>  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/jzarif>

## LAOS


**Student:** protestors THONGPASEUTH KEUAKOUN, SENG-ALOUN PHENGPHANH, and BOUAVANH CHANHMANIVONG, along with three others, were imprisoned in 1999 following their arrest on charges of treason for displaying at demonstrations posters that called for economic, political, and social change. According to a report from the Amnesty UK, even after 19 years, the prison in which the three students named are being held or if they are still alive remains unknown.

Please send appeals to the following:

President Bounnhang Vorachith	Thongloun Sisoulith
Presidential Palace	Prime Minister's Office
Thanon Setthathirat	Lane Xang Avenue
Ban Xiengyeun Tha, Muang Chanthaburi	Vientiane
Vientiane	Lao People's Democratic Republic
Laos	Fax: + 856 21 213560

## SAUDI ARABIA

**Scholars and Researchers:** On March 25, 2019, Endangered Scholars Worldwide learned that MOHAMMED AL-QAHTANI, a prominent Saudi economist's, health is deteriorating due to conditions in the Al-Ha'ir criminal prison in Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia, where he is serving a 10-year sentence for his human rights activities. According to The Gulf Centre for Human Rights (GCHR), Al-Qahtani was transferred from his cell in the prison to a new wing on March 20, 2019. On December 18, 2018, he was placed in solitary confinement for a day. Al-Qahtani was awarded the 2018 Right Livelihood Award, along with Abdullah Al-Hamid and Waleed Abu Al-Khair, who are also in prison in Saudi Arabia. He and Al-Hamid cofounded the Association for Civil Rights and Political Rights (ACPRA).



Endangered Scholars Worldwide joins GCHR and other like-minded human rights organizations to call on the Saudi government to end the imprisonment and mistreatment of Al-Qahtani and other human rights defenders on account of their peaceful work.

HATOON AJWAD AL-FASSI, a prominent women’s rights advocate and a writer at the *Riyadh* paper who was arrested on June 27, 2018, was among ten Saudi women brought to a closed-door hearing at Riyadh’s criminal court on March 13, 2019, nearly a year after her arrest without charge. Al-Fassi joins more than a dozen women targeted in a recent government crackdown on women’s rights activism, occurring even as the country ended its ban on women driving in June 2018. Family members of the women—some of whom allegedly faced torture and sexual harassment during interrogation—were permitted to attend the opening court session, but foreign journalists and western diplomats were barred from entering. A renowned scholar and an associate professor of women’s history at King Saud University, Al-Fassi’s work focuses on gender studies and politics. She has long been advocating for the right of women to participate in municipal elections.

In March 2016 ALI ABDULLAH AL-HAJI, a professor at King Saud University in Riyadh, was arrested along with 31 others on charges of spying for Iran. According to Saudi news outlets, Al-Haji was sentenced to five years of imprisonment. Others accused include a student at Imam Muhammad Bin Saud Islamic University and an academician who held the job of “development researcher” at the Ministry of Education for more than 25 years. Endangered Scholars Worldwide has still been unable to obtain the names of the latter two defendants.

Scholars and researchers who remain in prison include ABDUL KAREEM YOUSEF AL-KHODER, a professor of comparative jurisprudence at Qassim University, who was sentenced in June 2013 to 8 years’ imprisonment and a 10-year travel ban, and SA’UD MUKHTAR AL-HASHIMI, a faculty member at the King Abdulaziz University who was sentenced in November 2011 to 30 years in prison. Even though Al-Khoder has had his conviction and prison sentence overturned by the Court of Appeals, he remains behind bars.

Please send appeals to the following:

Ibrahim Abdulaziz Al-Assaf  
Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Nasseriya Street  
Riyadh 11124  
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
Fax: +966 1 403 0645

Walid bin Mohammed bin Saleh  
Al-Samaani  
Minister of Justice  
PO Box 58889, Bldg. 373  
King Fahad Road  
Riyadh 11515  
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
Fax: +966 1 4612061

## THAILAND

*Scholars and Researchers:* On August 21, 2017, CHAYAN VADDHANAPHUTI, director of the Regional Centre for Social Science and Sustainable Development at Chiang Mai University, who organized the thirteenth International Conference on Thai Studies along with four other Thai academics, was charged with violating the country's military junta's ban on political gatherings of more than four people. Also charged were four delegates at the conference, PAKAWADEE VEERAPATPONG, CHAIPONG SAMNIENG, NONTAWAT MACHAI, and THIRAMON BUA-NGAM, all of whom committed the same offense: holding posters reading, "An academic forum is not a military barrack," to protest the military's surveillance of participants during the conference. If convicted, they face up to one year of imprisonment.

ESW urges Thai authorities to drop these unreasonable charges and repeal the military decree that outlaws peaceful public assemblies of five or more persons.

*Students:* On Thursday, August 3, 2017, a court in Thailand began the closed-door trial of JATUPAT "PAI DAO DIN" BOONPATTARARAKSA, an activist and law student arrested for sharing an article posted on Facebook by the BBC Thai-language service about the country's new king. The student was arrested in December 2016 and convicted on lese majeste charges that landed him behind bars for two and a half years. Jatupat is a prominent member of Dao Din, a small student organization that has protested Thailand's military government. While in detention, he

was given the Gwangju Prize, a human rights award from the May 18 Memorial Foundation in South Korea.

Endangered Scholars Worldwide believes that the lese majeste law is being used in Thailand to silence academics, students, and political dissidents. The military regime that took power in 2014 has cracked down primarily on Internet commentary. According to iLaw, a group that tracks royal defamation cases, 82 people have been charged under the lese majeste law since the coup three years ago. ESW urges the officials of the Thai government to respect, guarantee, and implement the provisions and principles of human rights as specified in international conventions and treaties and to drop any charges against the accused arising from the nonviolent exercise of the rights to expression, association, and assembly.

Please send appeals to the following:

Ambassador Virachai Plasai

Thailand Embassy to the United States

1024 Wisconsin Avenue, NW

Washington, D.C. 20007

United States

Fax: +1 202 640 2632

Website: [thaiembdc.org](http://thaiembdc.org)

## TURKEY

*Scholars, researchers, and students:* Endangered Scholars Worldwide continues to be extremely concerned about the Turkish government's systematic targeting of the country's scholars and professors. Since the signing of the Academics for Peace petition in January 2016 and the coup attempt in July of that year, Turkey's courts and Council of Higher Education (YOK) have taken a series of actions against academics, including the dismissal of all university deans and four university presidents, and the shutting down of 15 universities. As this issue goes to press, some 6,000 academics have lost their jobs and passports in an effort to prevent them from leaving the country to seek jobs abroad. While the courts have filed cases against scholars outside the country, those who remain in Turkey have established solidarity and street academies in a number of cities to bring dismissed scholars together and to create an environment for them and their students to connect and produce knowledge.

ESW expresses our solidarity with the thousands of Turkish academics who have lost their jobs and are facing criminal charges as a result of their peaceful activities and the exercise of their freedom of speech. We are deeply distressed by the Turkish government's actions, which irreversibly harm the entire educational community by undermining universities' abilities to meet scientific and ethical standards as well as to fulfill intellectual, educational, social, and institutional responsibilities.

For full coverage of the crisis in higher education in Turkey and to sign our letter of protest, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/turkey-esw>.

Please send appeals to the following:

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan	Abdulhamit Gül
The Office of the President	Minister of Justice
Cumhurbaşkanlığı Külliyesi	06669 Kızılay, Ankara
06560 Bestepe, Ankara	Turkey
Turkey	Fax: +90 312 419 3370
Fax: +90 312 525 58 31	Email: <a href="mailto:info@adalet.gov.tr">info@adalet.gov.tr</a>

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

On September 5, 2017, United States Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced that the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program (DACA) was being rescinded. As numerous accounts indicate, the majority of DACA recipients are students enrolled in higher education institutions. Ending DACA would, therefore, put the lives of thousands of committed students in the United States in jeopardy, denying them the ability to pursue their education and returning them to a life of anxiety and doubt.

We at Endangered Scholars Worldwide were relieved to learn that on November 8, 2018, a US appeals court blocked President Donald Trump from immediately ending the Obama-era program that shields young immigrants from deportation, saying the administration's decision was based on a flawed legal theory. We believe that upholding DACA will ensure the mission of higher learning institutions to provide safe environments in which everyone is respected and teaching and learning are fostered.



Please send appeals to the following:

Rod J. Rosenstein

Deputy Attorney General

U.S. Department of Justice

950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20530-0001

Tell: +1 202 514 2000

Website: <http://www.justice.gov/ag>

## UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Reports suggest that Emirati professor and economist NASSER BIN GHAITH's health is severely deteriorating as he continues his hunger strike, which has lasted over 90 days. He has, for example, lost over 20 kilograms (~45 pounds) and is now only able to walk with the assistance of others. The economist, who taught at the Abu Dhabi branch of Paris-Sorbonne University, is serving a 10-year sentence handed down in March 2017 for tweets critical of UAE authorities. During his trial, the Emirati authorities restricted his access to his lawyer, and he was unable to prepare a proper defense. Bin Ghaith is being held at the Al-Razeen maximum security prison in Abu Dhabi, which is home to a number of Emirati dissidents and where he claims to have experienced torture at the hands of officials.

Endangered Scholars Worldwide condemns the ongoing detention, persecution, and conviction of Nasser bin Ghaith and asks all international organizations, academic and professional associations, and other groups and individuals devoted to the promotion and defense of human rights to protest this arbitrary incarceration; to call for bin Ghaith's immediate and unconditional release; and to urge the officials of the UAE government to respect, guarantee, and implement the provisions and principles of human rights as specified in international conventions and treaties.

Please send appeals to the following:

Sheikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al

Maktoum

Prime Minister's Office

PO Box: 212000

Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Fax: +971 4 330 404

[info@primeminister.ae](mailto:info@primeminister.ae)

Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan

Minister of Interior

Zayed Sport City, Arab Gulf Street, Near to

Shaikh Zayed Mosque

PO Box: 398, Abu Dhabi  
United Arab Emirates  
Fax: +971 2 402 2762 / +971 2 441 5780  
moi@moi.gov.ae

Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Al Bateen, King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz Al  
Saud Street  
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates  
Fax +971 02 444 7766  
info@mofa.gov.ae

## VIETNAM

A *student* who remains in prison is DINH NGUYEN KHA, who was sentenced to eight years' imprisonment on charges of "conducting propaganda against the state" in May 2013. He was arrested in October 2012 for handing out leaflets critical of the government. According to a report by Amnesty International, Dinh Nguyen has been denied medical treatment following an operation in December 2016 to remove a tumor from his stomach.

ESW calls upon the Vietnamese government to end the practice of deliberately depriving political prisoners of medical treatment and to ensure that detainees receive proper care and parole in time to properly attend to their illnesses.

Please send appeals to the following:

Nguyễn Phú Trọng	Ba Đình District,
President of the Socialist Republic of	Hanoi,
Vietnam	Vietnam

## RELEASES

### EGYPT

On December 20, 2018, WALID SALEM, a University of Washington doctoral student imprisoned for months in Egypt on suspicion of spreading false news and belonging to a terrorist group, was released from prison. Salem was conducting research on Egypt's judiciary system when he was detained in Cairo on June 3, 2018. Family and friends learned days after his disappearance that Salem had been apprehended by police and jailed. He is now living with family at home in Egypt.

Graduate students and professors, who for months feared for Salem's safety and quietly advocated for his release, were relieved by this news. What the future holds for Salem, however, is uncertain, and his detention highlights broader concerns for academics abroad as countries like Egypt increasingly limit freedom of expression.

## IRAN

On December 25, 2018, ABBAS EDALAT, a professor of computer science and mathematics at Imperial College London and a political activist who was arrested by Iran's Revolutionary Guards on April 15, 2018, returned to the United Kingdom. At the time of Edalat's arrest, an Iranian news agency reported that he was part of a "network" of British spies whose members had been identified and arrested.

## SOURCES

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Amnesty International. <http://www.amnesty.org/>

Bahrain Center for Human Rights. <http://www.bahrainrights.org/en>

Committee of Concerned Scientists. <http://concernedscientists.org/>

Council for Assisting Refugee Academics. <http://www.academic-refugees.org/>

Endangered Scholars Worldwide. <http://www.endangeredscholars-worldwide.net/>

English PEN. <http://www.englishpen.org/writersinprison/>

Human Rights in China. <http://www.hrichina.org/>

Human Rights Watch. <http://www.hrw.org/>

*Hurriyet*. <http://www.hurriyet.com.tr/>

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