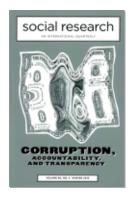


Endangered Scholars Worldwide

Matt Congdon

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https://muse.jhu.edu/article/541981/summary

Endangered Scholars Worldwide

Social Research was founded by a group of scholars known as the University in Exile, refugees from Nazi Europe who found a home at the New School. In each issue we publish the names and details of scholars, researchers, and students who have been threatened or imprisoned, along with ways to offer them support. We see this effort as consistent not only with our own history as a journal but with the need to call attention to the increasing and often brutal attempts to silence our colleagues around the world.

If you are aware of a scholar or student whose case you believe we should investigate, please contact us at socres@newschool.edu.

The information in this report is current, to the best of our knowledge, as of December 1, 2013. Additional information and more recent information about many of these cases may be available on our website at http://www.newschool. edu/cps/endangered-scholars/.

SCHOLARS AND RESEARCHERS: NEW AND CONTINUING CASES

BAHRAIN

Previously featured scholars from Bahrain who remain in prison include MAHDI 'ISSA MAHDI ABU DHEEB, former president of the Bahrain Teachers' Association (BTA), sentenced to five years' imprisonment on October 21, 2012, on charges of "inciting hatred against the regime" and "calling to overthrow and change the regime by force"; and DR. ABDUL-JALIL AL-SINGACE, professor of engineering at the University of Bahrain, sentenced to life in prison on charges of training and financing a terrorist organization.

His Majesty Sheikh Hamad bin Issa

Al-Khalifa

Office of His Majesty the King

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Kingdom of Bahrain

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Dr. Fatima Al-Balushi

Minister of Human Rights and Social Development, Acting Minister of Health

Ministry of Human Rights and

Development Manama

Kingdom of Bahrain

Sheikh Khalid bin Ali Al-Khalifa Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs

P.O. Box 450 Al-Manama

Kingdom of Bahrain Fax: +973 175 31 284

CAMEROON

Previously featured scholar **ENOH MEYOMESSE**, a writer, political activist, historian, and founder of the Cameroon Writers Association, remains in prison. He was sentenced to seven years in prison on December 27, 2012, on charges of illegally trafficking gold.

Appeals to:

His Excellency Paul Biya

President of the Republic of Cameroon

Office of the President

P.O. Box 100

Yaoundé Republic of Cameroon Dr. Chemuta Divine Banda

Chairman

National Commission on Human Rights

and Freedoms

B.P. 20317 Yaounde Republic of Cameroon

Phone: +237 22 22 61 17 Fax: +237 22 22 60 82

Email: cndhl@iccnet.cm

CHINA

On November 4, 2013, a spokesperson for Toyo Takuen University near Tokyo, Japan, confirmed that one of the university's professors of Sino-Japanese affairs, Chinese scholar ZHU JIANRONG, has been held incommunicado by Chinese authorities since mid-July 2013. He went missing in mid-July while on a trip to Shanghai and was unable to communicate with family until over three months later when a

letter penned by Zhu made it to his brother in Shanghai. The letter only confirms that he is being detained by Chinese authorities and does not specify when he will be released. Prior to his disappearance, Zhu had been engaged in a research project involving interviews with officials of the Chinese military.

XIA YELIANG, a professor of economics at Peking University, was dismissed from his position on October 15, 2013, following publications in which he expressed liberal views and criticized the Chinese government. Although university officials released a statement claiming that the dismissal was due to a poor teaching record, several organizations and universities throughout the world, including Scholars at Risk, have expressed concern that the move was politically motivated. Xia was one of the first to sign Charter 08, a call for democratic reforms and respect for human rights, coauthored by previously featured scholar and Nobel Peace Prize laureate, LIU XIAOBO.

Scholars featured in previous issues who remain in prison in China include writer and editor TASHI RABTEN (pen name TE'URANG), sentenced to four years' imprisonment on June 2, 2011, for his critical political writings; GUO QUAN, a former literature professor at Nanjing Normal University, sentenced to ten years in prison and three years of deprivation of political rights in October 2009 on charges of "inciting subversion of state power"; and LIU XIAOBO, a scholar and Nobel Peace Prize laureate, held in Jinzhou Prison since his arrest in December 2008 for "inciting subversion of state power."

Appeals to:

His Excellency Xi Jinping

President, People's Republic of China

Zhong Naihai Beijing 100032

People's Republic of China

Salutation: Your Excellency

Mr. Wang Shengjun

President, Supreme People's Court No. 27 Dongjiaominxiang Dongcheng District

Beijing 100745

People's Republic of China

Fax: +86 10 6529 2345 (c/o Ministry of

Communication)

Salutation: Dear President

Facebook group in support of Liu Xiaobo: http://www.facebook.com/Free.Liu

IRAN

Scholars from Iran who remain in prison include ABDOLREZA GHAN-BARI, a teacher of Persian literature arrested following the 2009 presidential election protests, sentenced to 15 years of imprisonment and exile to the south of Iran in June 2013; SAEED MADANI, a sociologist and member of the Nationalist-Religious Front, sentenced on June 21, 2013, to six years in prison and ten years in exile; ARZHANG DAVOODI, a poet, teacher, and cofounder of the pro-Western Confederation for Iranian Students, imprisoned since October 2003; MASSOUD SEPEHR. a political science lecturer at Shiraz Azad University, detained without charge since his arrest on November 17, 2011; seven people connected to the Baha'i Institute for Higher Education, following coordinated attacks on the Institute in May 2011, including KAMRAN MORTEZAIE and VAHID MAHMOUDI, each sentenced to five years; and RAMIN ZIBAIE, MAHMOUD BADAVAM, FARHAD SEDGHI, RIAZ SOBHANI, and NOUSHIN KHADEM, each sentenced to four years; two cultural figures, educator FARHAD VAKILINIA serving three years and NAEEM NAJAFI, a student, serving four years, both charged with "acting against national security" through supporting Kurdish opposition groups in August 2011; saeed leilaz, a journalist and professor of economics at Shahid Beheshti University, convicted in 2009 of violating public order, planning to undermine the country's security, and insulting Iran's Supreme Leader; and DR. MOSTAFA ALAVI, an Iranian doctor and researcher sentenced to fifteen years in August 2008 for "plotting against the regime." All are at risk of torture and need your support.

Appeals to:

His Excellency Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamenei The Office of the Supreme Leader Shoahada Street Qom Islamic Republic of Iran Ayatollah Sadeqh Larijani Howzeh Riyasat-e Qoveh Qazaiyeh (Office of the Head of the Judiciary) Pasteur St., Vali Asr Ave., south of Serah-e Jomhouri Tehran 1316814737 Islamic Republic of Iran His Excellency Mahmoud Ahmadinejad Azerbaijan Intersection

The Presidency Tehran

Palestine Avenue Islamic Republic of Iran

ISRAEL

A previously featured scholar who remains imprisoned in Israel is **AHMED QATAMESH**, a political scientist and Palestinian activist. He has been detained without trial since his arrest on April 21, 2011.

Appeals to:

Benjamin Netanyahu 29 Salah A-din St. Prime Minister's Office Jerusalem 91010

3 Kaplan St., POB 187 Israel

Kiryat Ben-Gurion

Jerusalem 91919 Ambassador Ron Prosor

Israel Israeli Permanent Representative to the

Email: pm_eng@pmo.gov.il United Nations

800 Second Avenue

Tziporah Livni New York, NY 10017

Ministry of Justice USA

ITALY

Previously featured scholars from Italy who remain in prison include six scientists convicted in October 2012 on charges of manslaughter for failing to predict an earthquake that devastated the city of L'Aquila in 2009: ENZO BOSCHI, FRANCO BARBERI, BERNARDO DE BERNARDIS, GIULIO SALVAGI, CALVI GIANMICHELE, and CLAUDIO EVA.

Appeals to:

Silvana Bastianello via Arenula 70 Vice Director 00186 Rome

Ministry of Justice Italy

MONGOLIA

Previously featured scholar **ROLMAAJIDIIN TSENGEL**, a southern Mongolian historian and translator, remains in prison. He was arrested on May 6, 2012, and has been subject to torture during his detention and barred from having visitors.

Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs Kuhdaldaany Street 6/1

Chingeltei District 210646

Ulaanbaatar Mongolia Ambassador Od Och

The Permanent Mission of Mongolia to

the United Nations 6 East 77th Street New York, NY 10075

USA

PAKISTAN

PROFESSOR SYED SHABBIR HUSSAIN SHAH, director of student services at the University of Gujrat, was shot and killed on November 19, 2013. A note found at the scene claimed the murder was carried out by Lashkare-Jhangvi, an extremist group active in Pakistan that often targets professors. Shabbir Shah belonged to Pakistan's Shia minority and, according to a spokesperson from his university, had a reputation as a progressive thinker. He had received death threats in the past and his murder is part of a pattern of threats and violence against Shia academics in Pakistan.

Appeals to:

Mr. Aftab Ahmed Khan Sherpao

Minister for the Interior

Room 404, 4th Floor, Block R, Federal

Secretariat Islamabad Pakistan

Fax: +92 51 9202624

Email: minister@interior.gov.pk

secretary@interior.gov Salutation: Dear Minister Mr. Muhammad Wasi Zafar

Minister of Law, Justice and Human Rights

Room 305, S-Block, Pakistan Secretariat

Islamabad Pakistan

Fax: +92 51 9202628

Email: minister@molaw.gov.pk

Salutation: Dear Minister

RUSSIA

Previously featured scholars from Russia who remain in prison are **SVYATOSLAV BOBYSHEV** and **YEVGENY AFANASYEV**, both professors at Baltic State Technical University in St. Petersburg, who were sentenced at a closed trial in June 2012 to 12 years in prison on charges of passing secret information to the Chinese government.

Appeals to:

Vladimir Putin President of Russia Ilinka Str. No. 23 103132 Moscow, Russia Mr. Yuriy Chaika General Public Prosecutor of the Russian Federation GSP-3, 15a B. Dimitrovka Street 125993 Moscow, Russia

Ambassador Sergey I. Kislyak Russian Embassy to the United States 2650 Wisconsin Avenue, NW Washington DC 20007

SAUDI ARABIA

Previously featured scholars from Saudi Arabia who remain in prison include DR. ABDUL KAREEM YOUSEF AL-KHODER, a professor of comparative jurisprudence at Qassim University, sentenced to eight years' imprisonment and a ten-year travel ban on June 24, 2013; DR. SA'UD MUKHTAR AL-HASHIMI, a medical doctor and faculty member at the King Abdulaziz University, sentenced in November 2011 to thirty years in prison, which is to be followed by a thirty-year travel ban; DR. YUSUF AL-AHMAD, an Islamic scholar who teaches at Imam Muhammad bin Sa'ud University in Riyadh, arrested after posting a YouTube video critical of long-term detentions of security suspects without due juridical process, sentenced to five years' imprisonment and a five-year travel ban on April 11, 2012; NADHIR AL-MAJID, a teacher and writer, detained on April 17, 2011, soon after the appearance of an article in which he criticized the Saudi government; and university profes-SOTS SA'UD AL-DUGHAITHIR, MUHAMMAD BIN NASIR AL-GHAMIDI, and ABD AL-KARIM AL-KHADHAR, all members of a group of nine intellectuals who drafted a party proposal seeking to create what would have been the first political party in Saudi Arabia, arrested on February 16, 2011.

Appeals to:

His Royal Highness Prince Naif bin Abdul Airport Road Aziz Al-Saud Riyadh 11134

Ministry of the Interior Kingdom of Saudi Arabia P.O. Box 2933 Fax: +966 1 403 1185

His Royal Highness Prince Saud al-Faisal

bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud Minister of Foreign Affairs

Nasseriya Street Riyadh 11124

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Fax: +966 1 403 0645

Mr. Turki bin Khaled Al-Sudairy

President

Human Rights Commission

P.O. Box 58889 Riyadh 11515 King Fahad Road Building No. 373

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Fax: +966 1 4612061

SUDAN

On October 29, 2013, nine professors at Ahfad University in Khartoum were detained after a university meeting was raided by officials. They were meeting to discuss taking a unified stand against government crackdowns on student protestors, which have become increasingly brutal in recent months as the result of the use of force by security officials. The professors were released later the same day. Sources have not released the names of the professors or whether any of them were charged with crimes prior to their release.

Appeals to:

His Excellency Lt. Omar Hassan Ahmed

Al-Bashir

President of the Republic of Sudan

President's Palace

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His Excellency Mohamed Boshara Dosa Minister of Justice and Attorney General,

Ministry of Justice,

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His Excellency Ambassador Daffa-Alla

Elhag Ali Osman

Permanent Representative to the UN

Permanent Mission of the Republic of

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Email: mission.sudan@bluewin.ch,

mission.sudan@ties.itu.int

TURKEY

AYSE BERKTAY, a historian, translator, and women's activist, is one of two previously featured scholars from Turkey who remains in prison. Berktay was arrested in October 2011 as part of a crackdown on the pro-Kurdish Peace and Democracy Party. FATIH HILMIOGLU, former rector of Inönü University in Malatya, was arrested in April 2009 and is serving a 23-year sentence on charges of attempting to violently overthrow the government.

Appeals to:

Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan Minister of Justice Sadullah Ergin

Office of the Prime Minister 06669 Kizilay 06573 Basbakanlik Ankara, Turkey

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ENDANGERED STUDENTS: NEW AND CONTINUING CASES

BAHRAIN

Previously featured students who remain in jail include student activist AHMED AOUN, arrested by authorities when he sought treatment at a hospital following an eye injury inflicted by police during protests on May 13, 2012; and six students, all sentenced to 15 years in prison at a trial on March 5, 2012, as part of a crackdown on student involvement in pro-democracy demonstrations, including JAWAD AL-MAHARY, SHAWQI RADHI, JASSIM AL HULAINI, JASSIM AL-MUKHODHER, and YOUSIF AHMED.

Appeals to:

His Majesty Sheikh Hamad bin Issa

Al-Khalifa Sheikh Khalid bin Ali Al-Khalifa
Office of His Majesty the King Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs

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Rifa'a Palace Al-Manama
Kingdom of Bahrain Bahrain

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Dr. Fatima Al-Balushi Minister of Human Rights and Social Development, Acting Minister of Health Ministry of Human Rights and Development Manama Kingdom of Bahrain

BELARUS

A previously featured student from Belarus who remains in prison, ALEXANDER OTROSCHENKOV (also transliterated as ALIAKSANDER ATROSCHCHANKAU), is an international law student at the European Humanities University. He was sentenced in the spring of 2011 to four years in prison on charges of inciting rioting following protests over the disputed Belarusian presidential election in December 2011.

Appeals to:

President of the Republic of Belarus Alyaksandr G. Lukashenka Karl Marx Str. 38

220016 g. Minsk Belarus

Fax: +375 (172) 26 06 10 or

+375 (172) 22 38 72

Tel: +375 (172) 22 38 72

Email: pres@president.gov.by Salutation: Dear President

BENIN

On November 4, 2013, peaceful student protestors at Abomey-Calavi University were attacked by security forces, who fired tear gas at protestors and arrested student leaders. Students were protesting the introduction of new tuition fees. According to Scholars at Risk, dozens of students were injured as the result of the violent crackdown. On November 12, 2013, student leader **DAMIEN DÉGBÉ** was arrested following his involvement in the organization of a two-day student strike on campus. The campus has remained under police surveillance since the initial protests.

Appeals to:

President Yayi Boni c/o Embassy of the Republic of Benin 2737 Cathedral Avenue, NW Washington, D.C. 20008 Fax: +202-265-1996

CHINA

Previously featured scholar **WANGCHUK DORJE**, a Tibetan student leader at the Middle School of Humanities in Rebkong County, remains imprisoned. He was sentenced in June 2013 to four years of imprisonment for his alleged role in organizing student protests.

Appeals to:

His Excellency Xi Jinping

President of the People's Republic of

China

Zhong Naihai

Beijing 100032 People's Republic of China

Salutation: Your Excellency

Mr. Wang Shengjun

President, Supreme People's Court No. 27 Dongjiaominxiang Dongcheng District

Beijing 100745

People's Republic of China

Fax: +86 10 6529 2345 (c/o Ministry of

Communication)

Salutation: Dear President

EGYPT

On November 16, 2013, security forces used batons, tear gas, and smoke bombs to disperse protestors at the school of engineering at Zagazig University. Students were protesting the military coup of July 2013, as well as the previous arrests of 23 student protestors earlier in the month. Protestors called on fellow students to boycott midterms until the students were released.

Appeals to:

Ambassador Mohamed M. Tawfik Egyptian Embassy to the United States 3521 International Ct. NW

Washington DC 20008

USA

Ambassador Mootaz Ahmadein Khalil Egyptian Permanent Representative to the

United Nations 800 Second Avenue New York, NY 10017

USA

ETHIOPIA

On March 28, 2013, MANYAZEWAL ESHETU, a student at Addis Ababa University, was charged with criminal defamation for allegedly posting criticisms of university and city officials for corruption on his Facebook page. He remains held without charge.

Prime Minister
His Excellency Hailemariam Desalegn

Office of the Prime Minister

PO Box 1031

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia Fax: +251 11 1552020

E-mail: national.parliament@telecom.net.

et, national.parliament@ethionet.et Salutation: Dear Prime Minister Mr Getachew Ambaye Ministry of Justice PO Box 1370

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Fax: +251 11 5517775 / 5520874 Email: ministry-justice@telecom.net.et

Salutation: Dear Minister

IRAN

Previously featured students from Iran who remain in prison include: ASHKAN ZAHABIAN and AFSHIN KESHTKARI, student activists arrested on, respectively, May 27 and 18, 2013, serving eight-month and sixmonth sentences on charges of "acting against national security," "spreading propaganda against the system," and "forming an illegal group with intention of harming national security"; OMID KOKABEE, a PhD student in physics, sentenced to ten years' imprisonment in July 2012 on charges of communicating with a hostile government and taking illegal earnings; student activist JAVAD ALIKHANI, arrested on May 28, 2010, and charged with "propagating against the regime," "acting against national security," "blasphemy" and "insulting the Supreme Leader"; ABDOLLAH MOMENI, a student activist and spokesman for Iran's largest reformist student organization, in Evin Prison since 2009 serving a nine-year sentence; soroush sabet, serving a twoyear sentence since September 2012 in connection with his involvement in protests in 2007; LEVA KHANJANI, a member of the persecuted Baha'i religious minority, banned from receiving further education and serving a two-year sentence in connection with her involvement in protests in 2009; SAYED ZIAODDIN (ZIA) NABAVI, serving a ten-year sentence after attending protests following the 2009 elections; NASIM SOLTAN BEIGI, serving a six-year sentence for "propaganda against the regime" and "assembly and collusion against national security"; and MAJID TAVAKOLI and BAHAREH HEDAYAT, distinguished student activists sentenced to eight-and-a-half and nine-and-a-half years, respectively, for their involvement in antigovernment protests in 2009. All are at risk of torture and need your support.

Appeals to:

His Excellency Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Jomhouri

Khamenei Tehran 1316814737 The Office of the Supreme Leader Islamic Republic of Iran

Shoahada Street

Qom His Excellency Hassan Rouhani

Islamic Republic of Iran The Presidency
Palestine Avenue

Ayatollah Sadegh Larijani Azerbaijan Intersection

Howzeh Riyasat-e Qoveh Qazaiyeh (Office Tehran

of the Head of the Judiciary) Islamic Republic of Iran

Pasteur St., Vali Asr Ave., south of Serah-e

LAOS

Student protestors THONGPASEUTH KEUAKOUN, SENG-ALOUN PHENG-PHANH, and BOUAVANH CHANHMANIVONG remain in prison following their arrest on charges of treason in 1999 for displaying posters during a demonstration that called for economic, political, and social change.

Appeals to:

President Choummaly Sayasone Office of the President Vientiane, Laos

NIGERIA

On September 29, 2013, gunmen believed to be from the Islamist militant group Boko Haram attacked the College of Agriculture in Yobe state, setting fire to classrooms and killed dozens of students, shooting them as they slept. At least 42 students were killed and 18 others were injured. Boko Haram, whose name means "Western education is forbidden," has targeted educational facilities as part of its efforts to overthrow government control in northeastern Nigeria.

President Goodluck Jonathan c/o Prof. Adebowale Ibidapo Adefuye Embassy of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 3519 International Court, NW Washington, DC 20008

SYRIA

As of November 2013, scores of students who have fled Syrian universities are living in refugee camps in Jordan and other Middle Eastern countries, according to a survey conducted by US researchers. Since conflict began in March 2011, universities have been targeted in retribution for student and faculty participation in protests. In the past year, universities in Aleppo and Damascus have been bombed, killing students and destroying university classrooms, dormitories, and labs (reported in our Spring 2013 feature). The Syria Consortium for Higher Education in Crisis, a program led by the Institute of International Education, is bringing together universities throughout the world to establish scholarships for displaced Syrian students, with the goal of providing 600 scholarships starting in 2014.

ANAS SHUGHRI, a third-year economics student, continues to be held without charge in prison since March 2011, after his participation in protests.

For information on the Syria Consortium for Higher Education, please visit: http://www.iie.org/en/Programs/Syria-Scholarships.

Appeals to:

President Bashar al-Assad

Presidential Palace al-Rashid Street

Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Fax: +963 11 332 3410

Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Walid al-Mu'allim

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

al-Rashid Street

Damascus

Syrian Arab Republic Fax: +963 11 214 6251/2/3 Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Defense

His Excellency General Dawood Rajiha

Ministry of Defense

Omayyad Square Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Fax: +963 113110554

Salutation: Your Excellency

TURKEY

On October 18, 21, and 26, 2013, riot police used water canons, stun grenades, plastic bullets, and tear gas to disperse student protests at Middle East Technical University in Ankara. The students were protesting the building of a highway that would cut through the campus and involve the removal of approximately 3,000 trees. Several students were injured by police as well as individuals wearing civilian clothes who attacked the students. According to Amnesty International, one student suffered a severe head injury and second and third degree burns when a police officer threw him into a burning barricade.

Previously featured scholar PINAR SELEK, a writer, feminist, and PhD candidate in political science at the University of Strasbourg, remains in exile after being convicted in absentia on January 24, 2013, and sentenced to aggravated life imprisonment for her alleged role in a 1998 explosion at an Istanbul market.

Appeals to:

His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdogan

His Excellency Sadullah Ergin Prime Minister of Turkey

Office of the Prime Minister 06669 Kizilay 06573 Basbakanlik Ankara Turkey Ankara, Turkey

Fax: +90 312 417 04 76 Fax: +90 312 419 3370

VIETNAM

Previously featured students who remain in prison in Vietnam include DINH NGUYEN KHA and NGUYEN PHUONG UYEN, sentenced to eight and six years in prison, respectively, on charges of "conducting propaganda against the state" at a trial in May 2013. The two were arrested in October 2012 for handing out leaflets critical of the government.

Appeals to:

His Excellency Troang Tan Sang President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs Hanoi Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Salutation: Your Excellency

Nguyên Tân Dung Prime Minister 1 Hoang HoaTham Street Hanoi Socialist Republic of Vietnam Salutation: Your Excellency

RELEASES

EGYPT

We are happy to report that on October 11, 2013, two Canadian academics, TAREK LOUBANI, an emergency room physician and assistant professor of medicine at the University of Western Ontario, and JOHN GREYSON, associate professor of film at York University, returned home to Canada after their release from imprisonment in Cairo. The pair were arrested by police in Cairo on August 16, 2013, and held for 50 days without formal charges. They had stopped temporarily in Cairo on their way to al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza, where both were to engage in projects related to their research.

SOURCES:

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/

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

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

Human Rights Watch (HRW) http://www.hrw.org/

The International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran http://www. iranhumanrights.org/

Islamic Human Rights Commission http://www.ihrc.org/

Scholars at Risk (SAR) http://scholarsatrisk.nyu.edu/ Southern Mongolian Human Rights Information Center http://www. smhric.org/

—Written by Matt Congdon

