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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 October 10, 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 or follow us at 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.



SPECIAL DELIVERY

On September 16, 2019, Endangered Scholars Worldwide transmitted a letter of appeal to the Iranian Government and the European Parliament regarding the ongoing detention, persecution, and conviction of University of Melbourne lecturer and researcher Kylie Moore-Gilbert, who has been detained since August 2018 by the Islamic Republic of Iran and was sentenced to 10 years in an Iran prison for undisclosed reasons.

Letter of Appeal on Behalf of Kylie Moore-Gilbert Sentenced to Ten Years in Iran Prison

Endangered Scholars Worldwide is compelled to express its outrage at the arrest and conviction of University of Melbourne lecturer and researcher Kylie Moore-Gilbert, who has been detained since August 2018 by the Islamic Republic of Iran and was sentenced to 10 years in an Iran prison for undisclosed reasons.

Moore-Gilbert, a British-Australian citizen and a Islamic studies student, has been held in Evin prison in Tehran. While the charges against her have not been disclosed, 10-year terms are routinely given in Iran for spying charges.

We at Endangered Scholars Worldwide consider Kylie Moore-Gilbert's detention a flagrant and unjust violation of the freedom, security, and safety of an academic who has been caught up in the political tension between the United Kingdom and Iran—arrested without cause, held for weeks in solitary confinement and without access to a lawyer, and subjected to physical mistreatment and psychological abuse.

Endangered Scholars Worldwide strongly deplores and condemns the ongoing detention, persecution, and conviction of Kylie Moore-Gilbert 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 and condemn this arbitrary incarceration; to ask for her immediate and unconditional release; and to urge the officials of the Iranian government to end the tactic of taking of foreign nationals and dual citizen scholars and students hostage for political gains and to respect, guarantee, and implement the provisions and principles of human rights.

NEW AND CONTINUING CASES

BAHRAIN

Scholars and Researchers: ABDUL-JALIL AL-SINGACE, 57, 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 report published on October 8, 2019 by

Human Rights Watch, Al-Singace has been experiencing severe chest pain, numbness in his fingers, and shaking in his left hand since August 22, 2019. According to his daughter, the prisoner of conscience saw the prison doctor on August 28, for the first time since 2017. The prison doctor recommended on August 28 that he should see a heart specialist in the Bahrain Defense Forces (BDF) Hospital. On the day of the appointment, prison authorities told Al-Singace that they would not take him there.

Students: ALI MOHAMED HAKEEM AL-ARAB, 23, a nursing student, was arrested on February 9, 2017, with his cousin, AHMED AL-ARAB, 27, 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.’” Ali 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, security officers tortured and mistreated the two men to force them to sign a confession. On May 6, 2019, the Court of Cassation upheld the two men’s convictions and death sentences. The two remain at risk of further torture and mistreatment. The death sentences will now go to the king for ratification. In a December 2018 letter, a group of United Nations experts stated that they were “extremely concerned by allegations that confessions implicating several defendants were obtained under torture and used as evidence in court.”

According to a report published by Bahrain Center for Human Rights, Al-Arab has not been permitted to visit a doctor or receive medication since he tried to escape from prison in 2017. The family member said that Al-Arab suffers from severe pain in his leg and his back, as well as several broken teeth, which they alleged were the result of torture.

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 Abdul-Jalil Al-Singace and Ahmed Al-Arab access to all necessary medical care as a matter of urgency, and we continue to call for their 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.

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 continuous 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: On October 9, 2019, Endangered Scholars Worldwide learned that the Chinese authorities would imminently carry out the execution of Tashpolat Tiyip, a prominent Uyghur academic, renowned scholar of geography, and former president of Xinjiang University (XJU). Tiyip was convicted in a secret and grossly unfair trial. Kidnapped in 2017, he has been arbitrarily detained since then. On March 2017, XJU announced that Tiyip had been removed from his position as president. According to the reports published by Amnesty International, Tiyip had been detained at Beijing airport en route to Germany for a conference. No information has been made available about charges and proceedings against him, and his current whereabouts remain unknown. ESW calls on the Chinese authorities to immediately halt plans to carry out the execution of Tashpolat Tiyip and release him unconditionally.

As we have reported, since April 2017, authorities in northwest China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR) have held an estimated 1.5 million Uyghurs and other Muslim ethnic minorities accused of harboring "strong religious views" and "politically incorrect" ideas in "re-education" camps, which China claims are an effective tool to protect the country from terrorism and provide vocational training. According to a new report released by the Uyghur Human Rights Project (URHP), as of August 29, 2019, the Chinese government has interned, imprisoned, or forcibly disappeared at least 386 intellectuals, among them "an alarming 77 university professors" and 101 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 intel-

lectuals 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 having been set up for “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 January, UHRP gave details on 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 the Xinjiang Medical University Hospital, has been detained in an undisclosed location since November 2017. Former president of Xinjiang University, TASHPOLAT TIYIP, was reportedly sentenced to death with a two-year reprieve on “separatism” charges.

ABDULQADIR JALALEDDIN, a professor, philosopher, and poet at Xinjiang Normal University, was also reported among those detained and disappeared by UHRP.

According to a report by RFA’s Uyghur Service published on May 20, 2019, detainees in “re-education camps” are given an hour or so to “cry” every two weeks, according to a young ethnic Kazakh woman who was held at one of the facilities.

Endangered Scholars Worldwide deplores the Chinese government’s pervasive and ongoing crackdown on the Uyghur people. We believe the internment of more than a million and a half Uyghurs is one of the most serious human rights violations in the world today. 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.

On October 1, 2019, jailed Uyghur scholar, ILHAM TOHTI, who has been in prison since September 23, 2014 following a two-day trial, became the first Chinese dissident to win the Vaclav Havel Human Rights Prize—one of Europe’s top human rights prizes—awarded by the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. An outspoken economics professor who regularly highlighted the religious and cultural persecution of the mostly Muslim Uyghur ethnic minority in northwest China’s Xinjiang region, Tohti, 49, was arrested on charges of promoting separatism. He is now serving a life term behind bars in China. ESW is particularly concerned by reports that his wife and children have not been allowed to visit him at all since 2018. In a January 17, 2018 statement, Reporters Without Borders (RSF) 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.

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 Nhaihai
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

IRAN

Scholars and Researchers: On August 14, 2019, the wife of British-Iranian anthropologist KAMEEL AHMADY confirmed that her husband had been arrested on August 11 and that authorities told her he faces “unspecified charges in connection with his activities.” Ahmady is the latest dual national to be arrested in Iran, less than a month after the previous arrest. Ahmady is an internationally renowned scholar known for his research on female genital mutilation in rural Iran for which he published a study in June 2015. Before the study, Iran had not been recognized as a country affected by female genital mutilation; however, according to Reuters, Ahmady’s research, which was based on 4,000 interviews, showed that such acts are performed in the “secret pockets” of four Iranian provinces: West Azerbaijan, Kurdistan and Kermanshah in the west, and Hormozgan in the south.

Ahmady joins a string of dual nationals to be detained in Iran, most sharing citizenship with Western countries, and many arrested on arbitrary espionage charges. Last month, the French president called on Tehran to allow consular access to FARIBA ADELKHAH, an anthropologist and author of several books on Iran who had been detained in June on unknown charges. Adelkhah, 60, is a director of research at Sciences Po’s Centre for International Studies (CERI). She is a well-known anthropologist and researcher on Iran and Shiite Islam. Other detainees include AHMADREZA DJALALI, a Swedish-Iranian professor of Disaster Medicine (EMDM). Djalali, 45, is a professor, physician, and researcher focused on crisis management affiliated with the Karolinska

Institute near Stockholm. He 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, 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 (approximately 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 Ahmadreza 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 “accord him an enforceable right to compensation, as per the recommendation of the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention in his case,” as well as to respect, guarantee, and implement the provisions and principles of human rights as specified in international conventions and treaties.

In another well-publicized case, a group of UN experts on human rights requested in May 7, 2019, that Iran immediately release American academic XIYUE WANG, whose arbitrary detention for three years is a clear violation of fundamental rights guaranteed under international



law. 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 UN experts’ statement follows the opinion of the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention who 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, Iranian news media reported that the Iranian Minister for Education had ruled that if students mention that they belong to an officially unrecognized religion, like the Baha’i faith, this can be considered as propaganda and the students would be banned from school.

ANAHITA HERR, 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 has been 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.

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 June 2018, Sadeghi underwent a biopsy and was diagnosed with chondrosarcoma, a rare form of cancer that causes bone tumors. "After the biopsy, the assigned doctor prescribed monthly hospital visits to check his tumor and stop its growth," said the source, who spoke on the condition of

anonymity for security reasons. However, authorities at Raja'i Shahr Prison in Karaj, a city northwest of Tehran, have since repeatedly impeded Sadeghi's access to his urgently needed medical care.

According to a report published on April 2019 by the Center for Human Rights in Iran (CHRI), Sadeghi has lost the ability to move his right arm due to an infection in his shoulder that was left untreated.

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>

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
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>

SAUDI ARABIA

Scholars and Researchers: On March 25, 2019, Endangered Scholars Worldwide learned that the health of MOHAMMED FAHAD AL-QAHTANI, a prominent Saudi economist, 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 trans-

ferred 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 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. A leaked medical document published by the Guardian Newspaper revealed that Saudi political prisoners suffer torture and malnutrition. The medical reports are understood to have been prepared for the king along with recommendations that include potential pardoning or early release due to health concerns. Al-Fassi was reportedly examined for the review.

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, though the case was later overturned. Authorities later retried Al-Khodr in the Specialized Criminal Court on the same charges and in October 2015 sentenced him to 10 years in prison and a 10-year ban on foreign travel. Another imprisoned scholar is SA’UD MUKHTAR AL-HASHIMI, a faculty member at the King Abdulaziz University who was sentenced in November 2011 to 30 years in prison.

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 Vitavas Srivihok
Permanent Mission of Thailand to the
United Nations
351 East 52nd Street, New York NY 10022
Fax 212-688-3029

Thailand@un.int
Website: [http://www.thaiembassy.org/
unmissionnewyork/](http://www.thaiembassy.org/unmissionnewyork/)

TURKEY

Scholars, researchers, and students: On July 26, 2019, Turkey's Constitutional Court held a meeting to examine individual applications from 10 academics who had been sentenced to between 15 months to 3 years in prison for having signed Academics for Peace petition, including ZUBEYDE FUSUN USTEL, who has been in prison since May 8, 2019. The high court has ruled that the trial of the Academics for Peace based on charges of terrorist propaganda as per the Anti-Terror Law was a violation of their freedom of expression and overturned the lower courts' rulings with a request of retrial. Since the announcement of the high court's landmark decision, 171 of 193 peace academics who were sentenced to prison have been acquitted of terrorism charges.

Following 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, and some 1,000 penal court hearings have been held for 794. While the courts have filed cases against scholars outside the country, those who remain in Turkey following their dismissals 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.

Endangered Scholars Worldwide welcomes this news with great relief. ESW has been monitoring the struggle of academics in Turkey for three years, making inquiries on a daily basis. The ongoing tensions in Turkey have a profoundly unsettling effect on academic freedom and pose a grave threat to higher education on a national scale. We at ESW consider the Constitutional Court decision a significant development and hope to share the news of full acquittal and reinstatement of those who were dismissed from their positions due to peaceful exercise of

their freedom of expression and association, 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 Turkey is party.

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
The Office of the President
Cumhurbaşkanlığı Külliyesi
06560 Bestepe, Ankara
Turkey
Fax: +90 312 525 58 31

Abdulhamit Gül
Minister of Justice
06669 Kizilay, Ankara
Turkey
Fax: +90 312 419 3370
Email: info@adalet.gov.tr

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

On September 5, 2017, the United States Department of Justice 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:

William Barr

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 lost over 20 kilograms (approximately 45 pounds) and is now unable to walk without assistances. 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

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
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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 done 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 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
President of the Socialist Republic of
Vietnam

Ba Đình District,
Hanoi,
Vietnam

RELEASES

IRAN

On August 7, 2019, 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" was released from prison after completing his sentence. Throughout his incarceration, Babaei repeatedly stated that he was imprisoned for refusing to operate as an informant in Belgium for Iran's Intelligence Ministry.

TURKEY

On May 29, 2019, Turkey released SERKAN GOLGE, a Turkish-American dual citizen and a physicist with the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration, from İskenderun Prison, where he was held since his arrest in July 2016. Golge was found guilty of being a member of the Gulen Movement, which is considered by the Turkish authorities an armed terrorist organization and subsequently sentenced to seven and a half years in prison. After the diminution of his sentence to five years in September 2018, Golge has been released under judicial control with an international travel ban and will have to regularly report to local authorities.

On July 22, 2019, Turkey released ZUBEYDE FUSUN USTEL, professor of political science at Galatasaray University and a signatory of Academics for Peace petition, from Eskisehir Women's Prison. USTEL was sentenced to prison in April 2019 under Article 7/2 of the Anti-Terror Act for carrying out terrorist propaganda and submitted herself to prison on May 8.

On July 30, 2019, following the Constitutional Court verdict on July 26, the Balıkesir 2nd Heavy Penal Court released TUNA ALTINEL, professor of mathematics at Lyons 1 University and a signatory of Academics for Peace petition. ALTINEL was arrested in Balıkesir, Turkey, on May 11, 2019, due to his participation as a simultaneous interpreter at a conference held in France in February on the "Cizre basements," where 189 people died in a military operation in 2015. ALTINEL was also on trial for having signed the peace declaration. On September 10, 2019, he was acquitted of all charges.

For the past three years, Endangered Scholars Worldwide has been monitoring the struggle of academics in Turkey. The ongoing tensions in Turkey have a profoundly unsettling effect on academic freedom and pose a grave threat to higher education on an international scale. ESW hopes to share the news of the full acquittal and reinstatement of those who were dismissed from their positions due to their peaceful exercise of the freedoms of expression and association,

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, both to which Turkey is party.

SOURCES

Al Jazeera English. <http://www.aljazeera.com>

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

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

Bianet. <https://bianet.org/>

Birgun. <https://www.birgun.net/>

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

Council for Assisting Refugee Academics.

<http://www.academic-refugees.org>

Endangered Scholars Worldwide.

<http://www.endangeredscholarsworldwide.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>

The International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran.

<http://www.iranhumanrights.org>

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

The New York Times. <http://www.nytimes.com>

Radio Free Europe. <http://www.rfa.org>

Scholars at Risk. <http://scholarsatrisk.nyu.edu>

Southern Mongolian Human Rights Information Center.

<http://www.smhric.org>

UN Watch. <http://blog.unwatch.org>

—Written by Ebby Abramson and Dolunay Bulut