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 September 9, 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 scholar **MAHDI 'ISSA MAHDI ABU DHEEB,** former president of the Bahrain Teachers' Association (BTA), had a request for temporary release denied by a court on July 1, 2013. Lawyers acting on his behalf, as well as on behalf of fellow BTA board member and previously featured scholar **JALILA AL-SALMAN,** had requested that his sentence not be implemented until the pair's allegations of being tortured while in detention were investigated. As a result of the rejection, Mahdi Abu Dheeb will remain in prison. He was sentenced to five

years in jail on October 21, 2012, on charges of "inciting hatred against the regime" and "calling to overthrow and change the regime by force." Al-Salman will complete her six-month sentence in November 2013.

A previously featured scholar from Bahrain who remains in prison is **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.

Appeals to:

His Majesty Sheikh Hamad bin Issa Al-Khalifa
Office of His Majesty the King
P.O. Box 555
Rifa'a Palace
Kingdom of Bahrain
Fax: +973 176 64 587

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
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
Cameroon
Phone: +237 22 22 61 17
Fax : +237 22 22 60 82
Email: cndhl@iccnet.cm

CHINA

ZHANG XUEZHONG, a professor of constitutional law at East China University of Political Science and Law in Shanghai, has been banned from teaching by government officials following the publication of his article on constitutional reform in June 2013. Officials stated that the article was "in violation of laws on teachers' behavior," a reference to a directive from Beijing's central propaganda department to universities banning, among other topics, discussion of Western constitutional democracy. Zhang had been openly critical of these restrictions on his blog in May 2013.

LIU HUI, the brother-in-law of imprisoned human rights activist and 2011 Nobel Peace Prize laureate **LIU XIAOBO,** has lost an appeal and will serve 11 years in prison on charges of financial fraud over a real estate dispute. According to lawyers, the dispute was resolved months prior to the arrest and the criminal charges are unfounded. Liu Xiaobo, who has been featured numerous times previously in Endangered Scholars Worldwide, has been held in Jinzhou Prison since his arrest in December 2008 for "inciting subversion of state power." His wife, Liu Xia, has been under house arrest since Liu Xiaobo was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2010. Family friend and lawyer Pu Zhiqiang has stated that the intimidation of Liu Xiaobo's family members represents a wider pattern of selective use of the law by Chinese authorities to keep dissidents in line.

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; and **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."

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 65292345 (c/o Ministry of Communication)

Salutation: Dear President

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

EGYPT

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, were arrested by police in Cairo on August 16, 2013. 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. Through a partnership with his university and the hospital, Loubani was going to help train emergency-care doctors at the hospital while Greyson was to commence work on a documentary about the hospital. According to the *Chronicle of Higher Education,* Egyptian officials may have charged the pair with involvement in the Muslim Brotherhood, an Islamist group targeted as a result of Egypt's recent military overthrow. Official charges have yet to be announced, and both remain in detention.

Appeals to:

Silvana 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

INDIA

AMINA WADUD, an Islam scholar and former professor of philosophy and religion at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond Virginia, was prevented from delivering a lecture on gender equality in Islam to students at the University of Madras in July 2013. Police contacted university officials requesting that the lecture be canceled, citing the possibility of violent protests. Police refused to

provide security at the event, saying that the university's department of Islamic studies would be held responsible for any harmful consequences. In her research, Wadud argues against patriarchal interpretations of the Qur'an and has been a controversial figure as a result of her leading prayer groups without gender separation. She plans to relocate to the United States from India as a result of the incident.

Appeals to:

Ambassador Nirupama Rao
Indian Embassy to the United States
2107 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20008
USA

His Honorable Ambassador Asoke Kumar Mukerji
Indian Permanent Representative to the United Nations
Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations
235 East 43rd Street
New York 10017
USA

IRAN

ABDOLREZA GHANBARI, a teacher of Persian literature who was arrested following the 2009 presidential election protests, has been sentenced to 15 years of imprisonment and exile to the south of Iran following the commutation of his former death sentence in June 2013. He was originally sentenced to death on January 30, 2010, on charges of "enmity against God" for his alleged involvement in an armed opposition group. According to reports from Amnesty International, Ghanbari was forced to make false confessions under duress and was unable to be represented by his lawyer, who was also serving a prison sentence during his trial. Previously featured scholar **SAEED MADANI,** a sociologist and member of the Nationalist-Religious Front, was sentenced on June 21, 2013, to six years in prison and ten years in exile. He had previously been held without charge since January 7, 2012, without access to a lawyer.

Scholars from Iran who remain in prison include **ARZHANG DAVOODI**, a poet, teacher, and cofounder of the pro-Western Confederation for Iranian Students (CIS), 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
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
The Presidency
Palestine Avenue
Azerbaijan Intersection
Tehran
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. Amnesty International issued a statement claiming that the academic is being held in order to deter other left-wing Palestinian activists. He suffers

from undiagnosed ailments causing nausea and fainting, but has been barred from seeing a doctor.

Appeals to:

Benjamin Netanyahu
Prime Minister's Office
3 Kaplan St., POB 187
Kiryat Ben-Gurion
Jerusalem 91919
Israel
Email: pm_eng@pmo.gov.il

Tziporah Livni
Ministry of Justice
29 Salah A-din St.
Jerusalem 91010
Israel

Ambassador Ron Prosor
Israeli Permanent Representative to the United Nations
800 Second Avenue
New York, NY 10017
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, including **ENZO BOSCHI, FRANCO BARBERI, BERNARDO DE BERNARDIS, GIULIO SALVAGI, CALVI GIANMICHELE,** and **CLAUDIO EVA.**

Appeals to:

Silvana Bastianello
Vice Director
Ministry of Justice
via Arenula 70
00186 Rome
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.

Appeals to:

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

RUSSIA

DR. LEV PONOMAREV, a prominent Russian physicist and human rights activist, was severely beaten by private guards hired by city officials as he was evicted from the Moscow offices of his organization, For Human Rights, on June 22, 2013. He and five others were taken by ambulance to a first aid clinic, where they were treated for bruises and cuts. Police were present at the beating but did not intervene. The Committee of Concerned Scientists reports that fellow human rights activists in Russia have pointed out the eviction was the result of a dispute over the lease of the offices, which should have been handled through the courts. Ponomarev has been arrested several times previously for his involvement in protests against the government and is an outspoken critic of Vladimir Putin.

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:

Dmitry Medvedev
President of Russia
Ilinka Str, No. 23
103132 Moscow
Russia

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

Mr. Yuriy Chaika
General Public Prosecutor of the Russian Federation
GSP-3, 15a B. Dimitrovka Street
125993 Moscow

SAUDI ARABIA

DR. ABDUL KAREEM YOUSEF AL-KHODER, a professor of comparative jurisprudence at Qassim University, was sentenced to eight years'

imprisonment and a ten-year travel ban on June 24, 2013. He had been on trial since January 2013 on charges of disobeying the ruler, inciting disorder by organizing demonstrations, disseminating false information to foreign groups, and taking part in an unlicensed organization. The charges came after he founded a human rights organization called the Saudi Civil and Political Rights Organization.

Previously featured scholars from Saudi Arabia who remain in prison include **DR. SA'UD MUKHTAR AL-HASHIMI,** a medical doctor and faculty member at the King Abdulaziz University, sentenced in November 2011 to 30 years in prison, which is to be followed by a 30-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 professors **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; they were arrested on February 16, 2011.

Appeals to:

His Royal Highness Prince Naif bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud
Ministry of the Interior
P.O. Box 2933
Airport Road
Riyadh 11134
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
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
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
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

TURKEY

The trial of previously featured scholar **BÜSRA ERSANLI,** a constitutional law expert and professor of political science at Marmara University in Istanbul, recommenced on May 27, 2013, after a pause since July 2012. She faces charges of "leadership of an illegal organization," punishable under Turkey's Anti-Terrorism Laws for her membership in the constitutional commission of the Peace and Democracy Party (BDP), a political party that Turkish authorities allege is linked to the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), which is banned in Turkey. Several organizations, such as Scholars at Risk, have claimed that Ersanli is being targeted for peaceful expressive activities and have urged that any charges related to these activities be dismissed.

Previously featured scholars from Turkey who remain in prison are **AYSE BERKTAY,** a historian, translator, and women's activist, arrested in October 2011 as part of a crackdown on the BDP, and **FATIH HILMIOGLU,** former rector of Inönü University in Malatya, arrested in April 2009 and serving a 23-year sentence on charges of attempting to violently overthrow the government.

Appeals to:

Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan
Office of the Prime Minister
06573 Basbakanlik
Ankara, Turkey
Fax: +90 312 417 04 76

Minister of Justice Sadullah Ergin
06669 Kizilay
Ankara, Turkey
Fax: +90 312 419 3370

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
Office of His Majesty the King
P.O. Box 555
Rifa'a Palace
Kingdom of Bahrain
Fax: +973 176 64 587

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
Bahrain
Fax: +973 175 31 284

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

CHINA

In July 2013, police in Beijing ordered the closure of the **LI XIANTING FILM SCHOOL,** China's only independent film school, on the grounds that it promoted "anti-social ideology." The school was founded in 2009 as an alternative to state-run university film programs, which consider independent film a form of dissent. On the first day of classes, police and other government officials rounded up the students, told them the school was illegal, and brought them to train stations where they were asked to go home. Nevertheless, instructors arranged for courses to be taught in alternative locations around Beijing.

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

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 six-month 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 two-year 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 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 Hassan Rouhani
The Presidency
Palestine Avenue
Azerbaijan Intersection
Tehran
Islamic Republic of Iran

LAOS

Students protestors **THONGPASEUTH KEUAKOUN, SENG-ALOUN PHENGPHANH,** 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

TURKEY

Police withheld access to legal counsel for students arrested following mass protests in Istanbul in July 2013. Citing terrorism laws, police issued a temporary order denying detainees access to lawyers and family. Under the same laws, police are not required to release the identities of or charges against those arrested. Among the arrested was **ISMAIL CEM BAKIR,** a computer engineering student at Istanbul Technical University. He was arrested on July 16, 2013 by masked police officers who confiscated computers, books, and magazines from his home.

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:

Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan
Office of the Prime Minister
06573 Basbakanlik
Ankara, Turkey
Fax: +90 312 417 04 76

Minister of Justice Sadullah Ergin
06669 Kizilay
Ankara
Turkey
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

TURKEY

KEMAL GÜRÜZ, a former university rector and retired professor at Middle East Technical University in Ankara, was released on probation pending trial on September 5, 2013. He was arrested on June 25, 2012, on charges related to the political transition in Turkey in 1997. He attempted suicide while imprisoned in June 2013.

DR. MEHMET HABERAL, founder and dean of Baskent University in Ankara and an expert on organ transplants, was released from prison after time served on August 5, 2013. Haberal had been held in detention since 2009 on charges of involvement with a terrorist organization.

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*