

Endangered Scholars Worldwide

BELGIUM

According to the Network for Education and Academic Rights (NEAR), **MARIANNE MAECKELBERGH**, a U.S. scholar based in the Netherlands, has accused Belgian police of abusing her along with many other arrestees at a “No Borders” protest camp in Brussels. Maeckelbergh, an assistant professor of cultural anthropology at the University of Leiden, was reportedly arrested on October 1, 2010, while taking pictures of the arrest of activists at the protest camp. A statement by her publisher, Pluto Press, claims that “when Marianne began taking pictures, she was arrested. She was taken into police custody where she was violently dragged by her hair, chained to a radiator, hit, kicked, spat upon, and threatened with sexual assault by the police. She also witnessed the torture of another prisoner also chained to a radiator.” She has since been released, but has yet to have her property, including her camera with photos, returned by the police. Maeckelbergh is the author of *The Will of the Many: How the Alterglobalisation Movement is Changing the Face of Democracy*, and focuses her academic research on the anthropology of globalization, democracy, and social movements. She was due to observe decision-making structures within the No Borders camps on October 2-3, but was arrested before this took place.

Appeals to:

Monsiuer Yves Leterme
Prime Minister
16 Rue de la Loi /Wetstraat
1000 Brussels
Belgium

sophie.pieters@premier.fed.be
(secretary to the Prime Minister)

Madame Annemie Turtelboom
Minister of the Interior
2 Rue de la Loi
1000 Brussels
Belgium
min.annemie.turtelboom@ibz.fgov.be
Fax : 02 504 85 00 – 02 504 85 80

Information current, to the best of our knowledge, as of January 30, 2011.

IRAN

AHMAD GHABEL, a prominent Iranian religious scholar, was arrested on September 8, 2010, and sentenced to three years' imprisonment, three years' exile from his city of residence, and a three-year ban on speeches. This is the maximum sentence for the crime of acting against national security. After spending almost four months in prison, Gabel was released on a \$50,000 bail on January 4, 2011; the remainder of his sentence was converted into a fine of \$4,000. He had previously been arrested in December 2009 and held for five months without charge in Vakilabad prison. According to the International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran, Ghabel was rearrested because, following his release, he gave reports and interviews regarding his detention and secret mass executions in Vakilabad prison. Gabel is currently awaiting the release of his appeal court's ruling.

We are sorry to announce that **JA'FAR KAZEMI**, a scholar featured in our previous issue, was executed on January 24, 2011. The execution took place without notification of his family or lawyer, and came shortly after he refused to give a television interview for the authorities. Kazemi was arrested in September 2009 and charged with *Moharebeh* (enmity against God) for his alleged contact with the banned organization the People's Mujahideen of Iran.

Scholars featured in previous issues who remain in prison in Iran include **EMADEDIN BAGHI**, a well-known Iranian scholar and human rights defender serving a total of seven years in prison on charges related to the formation of an organization to defend prisoners' rights and for recording an interview with a reformist cleric; **MAJID TAVAKOLI**, **BAHAREH HEDAYAT**, and **MILAD ASADI**, distinguished student activists sentenced to eight-and-a-half, nine-and-a-half, and seven years, respectively, for their involvement in 2009 anti-government protests; **DR. MOSTAFA ALAVI**, an Iranian doctor and researcher sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment in August 2008 for "plotting against the regime"; **DRS. ARASH** and **KAMIER ALAEI**, two AIDS researchers who were sentenced to three and six years, respectively, in January 2009 for "seeking to overthrow the government"; and **BEHROOZ JAVID-TEHRANI**, a student

activist and prisoners' rights campaigner sentenced to seven years in jail in 2005. All of these individuals are at risk of torture and need your support.

Appeals to:

His Excellency Ayatollah Sayed
'Ali Khamenei
Leader of the Islamic Republic
The Office of the Supreme Leader
Islamic Republic Street–
Shahid Keshvar Doust Street
Tehran
Islamic Republic of Iran
E-mail: info@leader.ir
Salutation: Your Excellency

Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi
Head of the Judiciary
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
E-mail: info@dadgostary-tehran.ir
(In the subject line write:
FAO Ayatollah Shahroudi)
Salutation: Your Excellency

RUSSIA

Scholars at Risk has reported that two professors at Baltic State Technical University in St. Petersburg, Russia, **SVYATOSLAV BOBYSHEV** and **YEVGENY AFANASYEV**, were arrested on March 16, 2010, on accusations of espionage. They have since been held in pretrial detention, which was extended another 4 months in September 2010. The accusations relate to collaboration between Baltic State Technical University and Harbin Engineering University in China, in which the professors are accused of revealing state secrets. The chairman of the two professors' academic department has denied the accusations. Their arrest and detention without trial comes at a time when scholars across Russia are becoming increasingly threatened with state and parastate forms of repression.

Appeals to:

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

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

THE FOLLOWING PREVIOUSLY FEATURED SCHOLARS REMAIN IN PRISON:

BAHRAIN

'ABDUL-JALIL AL-SINGACE, a professor of engineering at the University of Bahrain, arrested on August 13, 2010, and reportedly tortured along with other members of the Haq Movement for Civil Liberties and Democracy. He is currently held in detention awaiting trial.

Appeals to:

Shaikh Khaled bin Ali al-Khalifa
Minister of Justice and Islamic Affairs
P.O. Box 450
al- Manama
Bahrain
Fax: +973 1753 6343
Salutation: Your Excellency

His Majesty Shaikh Hamad bin Issa Al
Khalifa
King of Bahrain
Office of His Majesty the King
P. O. Box 555
Rifa'a Palace
Kingdom of Bahrain
Fax:+ 973 1766 8884
Salutation: Your Majesty

BURMA (MYANMAR)

KO AUNG HTUN, a writer and former student activist arrested in Burma in the winter of 1998, sentenced to 17 years' imprisonment on charges of violating state censorship and unlawful association.

Appeals to:

Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman, State Peace and Development
Council
Ministry of Defense
Naypyitaw Union of Myanmar
(for U.S. Postal Service, "Burma" should
appear in parentheses after "Myanmar"
on envelope only, not in the letter
itself)
Salutation: Dear Senior General

Minister Counselor U Myint Lwin
Chargé d'Affaires
Ad Interim Embassy of Myanmar
2300 S Street NW
Washington DC 20008
Salutation: Dear Sir

CAMEROON

JUSTICE M. MBUH, a lecturer at the National Polytechnic Bambui in Bamenda Cameroon, arrested in September 2009 following accusations of “treason.” He remains in prison awaiting trial.

Appeals to:

His Excellency Paul Biya
President of the Republic of Cameroon
Yaoundé, Cameroon

Fax: (237) 22 20 33 06
Email: cellcom@prc.cm
Salutation: Your Excellency

CHINA

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.”

LU XIAOBO, a Chinese writer and human rights activist, arrested in December 2008 for “inciting subversion of state power.”

LÜ GENGSONG, a Chinese writer, activist, and former university teacher, arrested in the summer of 2007 on charges of “incitement to subvert state power” and “illegally possessing state secrets.”

ZHENG YICHUN, professor of English at Liaoning University, arrested in the winter of 2004 and charged with “suspicion of inciting subversion of state power.”

XU ZERONG, a professor affiliated with the Provincial Academy of Science and Zhongshan University, arrested in 2002 and charged with revealing state secrets for his use of historical materials in researching the Korean War.

Appeals to:

His Excellency Hu Jintao
President of the People’s Republic of
China
Zhong Naihai
Beijing 100032
People’s Republic of China
Salutation: Your Excellency

Mr. Xiao Yang
President of the 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

VIETNAM

PHAM MINH HOANG, a mathematics lecturer at Ho Chi Minh City Polytechnic Institute, arrested on August 13, 2010, on charges of participating in a banned pro-democracy opposition group, the Viet Tan. He was officially charged on September 29, 2010, with “carrying out activities with intent to overthrow the socialist government” and is currently awaiting trial.

TRAN KHAI THANH THUY, a novelist and essayist, was arrested in October 2009 after she publicly defended six dissidents facing trial. In February 2010 she was sentenced to 42 months in prison.

Appeals to:

His Excellency Nguyễn Minh Triết
President of the Socialist Republic of
Vietnam
c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Hanoi
Socialist Republic of Vietnam
Salutation: Your Excellency

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

—*Written by John Clegg*

HELP SUPPORT

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Professor Arien Mack, Project Organizer and Director
New School University, Journal Donation Project
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New York, NY 10011
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Fax: 212 229 5476
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