Endangered

Scholars

Vorldwide

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.

We urge readers to write letters on behalf of these scholars, researchers, and students. Sample letters can be found on our website at www.newschool.edu/ cps/endangered-scholars.

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

The information in this report is current, to the best of our knowledge, as of March 20, 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 JALILA AL-SALMAN and MAHDI 'ISSA MAHDI ABU DHEEB, both board members of the Bahrain Teachers' Association, sentenced to six months and five years, respectively, on October 21, 2012, on charges of "inciting hatred against the regime" and "calling to overthrow and

change the regime by force"; 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; and RULA AL-SAFFER, assistant professor at the College of Health Sciences and head of the Bahrain Nursing Society, sentenced on September 29, 2011, to 15 years in prison.

Appeals to:

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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

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CAMEROON

ENOH MEYOMESSE, a writer, political activist, historian, and founder of the Cameroon Writers Association, was sentenced to seven years in prison on December 27, 2012, on charges of illegally trafficking gold. During his trial Meyomesse was not allowed to testify on his own behalf and no witnesses or evidence were presented. Meyomesse's home was searched and he was arrested in November 2011, one month after he had unsuccessfully run for president of Cameroon with the opposition party, the United National Front, challenging President Paul Biya's 30-year rule. He was held in solitary confinement and complete darkness for 30 days, which has left him partially blind. In June 2012, given the lack of evidence, all charges against Meyomesse were dropped, but in July 2012 a judge ordered a six-month extension of his detention to allow the prosecution to gather more evidence. He was then charged with theft and ille-

gal trafficking of gold, despite lack of witnesses or evidence. Meyomesse maintains his innocence and alleges that his arrest is the result of his political writings.

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

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Cameroon

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

CHINA

PROFESSOR ILHAM TOHTI, a public intellectual and professor of economics at the Central Minorities University in Beijing, was denied permission by government authorities to take a visiting scholar position at Indiana University in the United States. He and his daughter were prevented from boarding their departing flight to the United States on February 2, 2013, when police stopped them during security checks at Beijing Capital International Airport. While Tohti's daughter was permitted to depart on a later flight, Tohti was held in an interrogation room for 10 hours and sent back to his apartment without explanation. Since then he has been put on 24-hour watch with police stationed outside his home. Tohti has been detained several times before and is an outspoken critic of the government's treatment of China's Uyghur minority.

According to reports on December 11, 2012, WANG PEIJIAN, a professor of law at China Jiliang University in Hangzhou, had his classes suspended and was forced by university security personnel to enter a psychiatric facility after speaking with his students about the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre. According to a report from China Human Rights Defenders, "Wang believed that this was because he had spoken to students about his views on, among other topics, the Chinese Communist Party's monopoly on power, the 1989 massacre around Tiananmen Square, and suppression of human rights lawyers."

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; LIU XIAOBO, a human rights activist and 2011 Nobel Peace Prize laureate, held in an undisclosed location in Beijing since his arrest in December 2008 for "inciting subversion of state power"; and GUO QUAN, a former literature professor at Nanjing Normal University, sentenced to 10 years in prison and 3 years of deprivation of political rights in October 2009 on charges of "inciting subversion of state power."

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

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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 ARZHANG DAVOODI, a poet, teacher, and cofounder of the pro-Western Confederation for Iranian Students (CIS), imprisoned since October 2003; two academics and members of the Iranian Writers Association (IWA), MANIJEH NAJM ERAGHI and DR. FARIBORZ RAIS DANA, arrested on June 3, 2012, and May 21, 2012, respectively, for their membership in the IWA, a group that promotes writers' rights in Iran, and sentenced to one year in prison; SAEED MADANI, a sociologist and member of the Nationalist-Religious Front, held without charge since January 7, 2012; ABDOLREZA GHANBARI, a teacher of Persian literature currently awaiting execution

(execution date undisclosed) following political protests on December 27, 2009; 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; four cultural figures, all charged with "acting against national security" through supporting Kurdish opposition groups, including poet JAMAL KHANI, serving a two-year sentence; educator FARHAD VAKILINIA, serving three years; NAEEM NAJAFI, a student, serving four years, and Kurdish author and scholar SAJJAD JAHANFAR, serving one year; 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; DR. MOHAMMAD MALEKI, former chancellor of Tehran University, held in Evin Prison since August 2009 on charges of "propaganda against the regime"; and DR. MOSTAFA ALAVI, an Iranian doctor and researcher sentenced to 15 years in August 2008 for "plotting against the regime."

Appeals to:

His Excellency Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali His Excellency Mahmoud Ahmadinejad

Khamenei The Presidency The Office of the Supreme Leader Palestine Avenue Shoahada Street Azerbaijan Intersection

Qom Tehran

Islamic Republic of Iran Islamic Republic of Iran

Ayatollah Sadeqh Larijani Office of the Head of the Judiciary Pasteur St., Vali Asr Ave., south of Serah-e Iomhouri Tehran 1316814737 Islamic Republic of Iran

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 via Arenula 70 Vice Director 00186 Rome Ministry of Justice Italv

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:

Dmitry Medvedev Mr. Yuriy Chaika

General Public Prosecutor of the Russian President of Russia

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Russia 125993 Moscow

Russia

SAUDI ARABIA

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; 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:

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Ministry of the Interior

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bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Minister of Foreign Affairs Fax: +966 1 4612061

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TURKEY

Previously featured scholars from Turkey who remain in prison are KEMAL GÜRÜZ, a former university rector and retired professor at Middle East Technical University in Ankara, arrested on June 25, 2012, on charges related to the political transition in Turkey in 1997; BÜSRA ERSANLI, a constitutional law expert and professor of political science at Marmara University in Istanbul, currently facing charges of "leadership of an illegal organization," which is punishable under Turkey's Anti-Terrorism Laws; and DR. MEHMET HABERAL, founder and dean of Baskent University in Ankara and an expert on organ transplants, held in detention without trial since 2009, on charges of involvement with a terrorist organization.

Appeals to:

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His Excellency Sadullah Ergin Minister of Justice 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. To our knowledge the name of the sixth student has not been released.

Appeals to:

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BELARUS

ALEXANDER OTROSCHENKOV (also transliterated as ALIAKSANDER ATROS-CHCHANKAU), a previously featured student from Belarus, remains in prison. He is an international law student at the European Humanities University, 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 Alvaksandr 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

IRAN

PANIZ FAZL-ALI, a civil engineering student at the University of Science and Technology in Tehran, was expelled from the university after it emerged that she is a member of the Baha'i religious community in February 2013. Baha'i is a banned religious minority in Iran, and its members are prohibited from receiving higher education. Fazl-Ali had just successfully finished her third year and was on schedule to complete her degree the following year.

Previously featured students from Iran who remain in prison include: OMID KOKABEE, a PhD student in physics, sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment in July 2012 on charges of communicating with a hostile government and taking illegal earnings; MOHSEN SANATI-POUR, a student activist and journalist, sentenced to one year in prison in the spring of 2012; ABOLFAZL TABARZADI, a civil engineering student and human rights activist, serving nine months since October 2011 after being convicted of "acting against national security" and "contact with foreign media"; 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, currently in Evin Prison; SOROUSH SABET, serving a two-year sentence in connection with his involvement in protests in 2007; LEVA KHAN-JANI, 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 ZIAOD-DIN (ZIA) NABAVI, serving a 10-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 BAHA-REH 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:

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LAOS

Students 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

Four unnamed students were shot dead during protests at Nasarawa State University on February 25, 2013, with seven other students suffering gunshot wounds. The students were participating in a demonstration protesting scarcity of water and electricity on campus. Police and soldiers were deployed by authorities to suppress the protests, though both denied involvement in the shootings. Since the protests, the university has been closed indefinitely.

Appeals to:

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

SUDAN

Four students, ADIL MOHAMED AHMED, MOHAMED YOUNIS NIL, ALSA-DIG YAGOUB ABDALLAH, and NOUMAN AHMED KOREISHI, were killed following a peaceful sit-in at Al Jazeera University on December 3, 2012. The four were found dead in a canal near their university, their bodies showing signs of beatings, following their arrest by National Security Service officers. The students had been protesting the university administration's refusal to allow the students to enroll without paying full tuition. According to the Darfur Peace Agreement, students of Darfur origin are exempt from tuition fees. Protests continued after the deaths of the students, accompanied by continued police violence, including beatings and the use of tear gas to disperse protestors.

Appeals to:

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Ahmed Al-Bashir

President of the Republic of Sudan His Excellency Mohamed Boshara Dosa President's Palace Minister of Justice and Attorney General

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SYRIA

Two explosions caused by either airstrikes or bombs hit Aleppo University in Syria on January 15, 2013, killing 82 people and wounding 192, most of whom were students, faculty, and staff at the university. The explosions occurred while students were taking exams at the university. Aleppo, a city in northern Syria, has been a contested battleground in the struggle for political control between the government and opposition forces. Responsibility for the attack remains unclear, with both loyalist and opposition forces blaming each other for the explosions.

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Minister of Defense

His Excellency General Dawood Rajiha

Ministry of Defense Omayyad Square

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Syrian Arab Republic Fax: +963 11 311 0554 Salutation: Your Excellency

TURKEY

Previously featured scholar PINAR SELEK, a writer, feminist, and PhD candidate in political science at the University of Strasbourg, was 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. This was her fourth retrial after being acquitted three times of the same charges. Selek was charged in connection with a 1998 explosion in the Istanbul Spice Bazaar, which a team of experts later concluded was

the result not of a bomb but of an accidental gas ignition. As the result of her sociological research on Kurdish issues she was charged with "membership in an illegal organization" under Turkey's Anti-Terror Law. Previously she had been arrested in July 1998, when she was tortured and interrogated concerning her research. Selek fled Turkey prior to the trial, and a warrant for her arrest has been issued and sent to Interpol.

Appeals to:

His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdogan His Excellency Sadullah Ergin

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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/

Network for Education and Academic Rights (NEAR) http://www. nearinternational.org/>

Scholars at Risk (SAR) http://scholarsatrisk.nyu.edu/

—Written by Matt Congdon



HELP SUPPORT

EJOURNAL DONATION PROJECT



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