

Endangered Scholars Worldwide

CHINA

LIU XIAOBO is a prominent writer and human rights advocate who wrote for the “China in Transition” issue of *Social Research* (73:1, 2006). Liu was arrested on December 8, 2008 on suspicion of “inciting subversion of state power” after coauthoring Charter 08, a declaration initially signed by over 300 individuals that outlines political reforms and calls for greater human rights and democracy in China. If convicted, Liu could face at least three years in prison. He is currently being held at an undisclosed location in Beijing. We are gathering signatures on Liu’s behalf and we urge our readers to add their names to the following petition by visiting www.socres.org/endangeredscholars:

We, the undersigned, call for Chinese authorities to release Liu Xiaobo, prominent writer and human rights advocate, who has been detained since December 8, 2008 for signing Charter 08, a declaration calling for political reforms and human rights. We believe Liu Xiaobo is being held solely for the peaceful exercise of his right to free expression, and therefore in violation of Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which China is a signatory, as well as Article 35 of the Chinese Constitution.

The petition will be delivered to appropriate authorities in China and to the Chinese Embassy to the United States.

Information current, to the best of our knowledge, as of March 26, 2009.

THAILAND

GILES JI UNGPAKORN, a professor of political science at Chulalongkorn University in Thailand, was charged on January 20, 2009 under Thailand's *lèse majesté* laws for numerous comments in his book on the 2006 coup in Thailand, *A Coup for the Rich*. These laws carry a jail term of between three and fifteen years for "whoever defames, insults or threatens the king, the queen, the heir to the throne or the Regent." On February 8, 2009, Giles fled Thailand, believing he would not receive a fair trial. He is currently residing in the United Kingdom.

We urge our readers to send appeals demanding that the charges against Ungpakorn be dropped to:

Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva,
Government House
Pitsanulok Road,
Dusit District Bangkok
10300 THAILAND
Fax: +66(0)29727751.
E-mail: spokesman@thaigov.go.th

Ambassador
Royal Thai Embassy
1024 Wisconsin Ave., N.W.,
Washington, D.C. 20007.

IRAN

On February 23, 2009, Iranian government forces violently attacked student demonstrators at Amir Kabir University in Tehran and arrested over 70 students. According to the International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran, most of the arrested students were released in the following days, but subsequently several alleged student organizers were arrested, including Sanaz Allahyari, Nasim Roshana'I, Maryam Sheikh, and Amir Hossein Mohammadi-Far. Amnesty International reports that these four, associated with the organization Students for Freedom and Equality, are being held at Evin Prison and are at risk of torture.

Appeals to:

Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi
Shahrudi
Head of the Judiciary

Howzeh Riyasat-e Qoveh Qazaiyeh
(Office of the Head of the
Judiciary) (*address continues on next
page*)

Pasteur St., Vali Asr Ave.,
south of Serah-e Jomhouri,
Tehran 1316814737,
Islamic Republic of Iran
Email: shahroudi@dadgostary-
tehran.ir
Salutation: Your Excellency

Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamenei
Leader of the Islamic Republic
The Office of the Supreme Leader
Islamic Republic Street, Tehran,
Islamic Republic of Iran
Email: info_leader@leader.ir
Salutation: Your Excellency

Mohammad Javad Larijani
Director, Human Rights
Headquarters of Iran
Howzeh Riyasat-e Qoveh
Qazaiyeh (Office of the Head
of the Judiciary)
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UPDATES

DOCTORS ARASH AND KAMIAR ALAEI were sentenced on January 21, 2009 to three and six years in prison, respectively, after a one-day secret trial. According to Physicians for Human Rights, Iran's struggle against AIDS has already suffered as a result of the doctors' detention last June. We continue to urge our readers to contact the Iranian Mission to the United Nations at +1-212-687-2020, making the following appeals:

1. calling on the Iranian authorities to immediately release the doctors and explain in more detail the reasons for their arrest and trial;
2. reminding the authorities that Iran is a signatory to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which requires the government to protect all citizens from arbitrary arrest or detention and to declare the reasons for an arrest and the charges that will be brought;
3. seeking assurances that Iran remains committed to effective treatment and prevention of HIV as promoted by Doctors Arash Alaei and Kamiar Alaei.

—Written by John Clegg