

Endangered Scholars Worldwide

GOOD NEWS

We are delighted to announce some good news:

- ▶ **MOHAMMED MALECKI** and **KIAN TAJBAKSH**, Iranian scholars who were featured in our Summer 2009 issue, have been recently released on bail from Evin prison in Tehran. **BIJAN KHAJEPOUR**, also featured in the Summer 2009 issue, was released in Fall 2009.
- ▶ On January 19, 2010, United States Secretary of State Hillary Clinton rescinded the ban prohibiting scholars **ADAM HABIB** and **TARIQ RAMADAN** from traveling to the United States.

In all these cases we believe international support was crucial to the success of their campaigns for justice.

CURRENT CASES

CAMEROON

On September 3, 2009, **JUSTICE M. MBUH**, a lecturer at the National Polytechnic Bambui in Bamenda, Cameroon, was arrested on charges of “treason.” The charges appear to be based on documents found in his possession relating to the independence of the Ambazonia region of Cameroon (formerly British Southern Cameroon). Justice is a specialist in Cameroonian politics and has published a number of books, including *Inside Contemporary Cameroun Politics* (2005) and *International Law and Conflicts: Resolving Border and Sovereignty Disputes in Africa* (2004). He remains in prison awaiting sentence.

Please send appeals to:

Information current, to the best of our knowledge, as of March 25, 2010.

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

IRAN

In spite of the recent releases of **MOHAMMED MALECKI** and **KIAN TAJBAKSH**, the situation for students and scholars in Iran has worsened in recent months. A general climate of fear has intensified with the murder by car bomb of physics professor **MASOUD ALI MOHAMMADI** on January 12, 2010; the continuing unwarranted arrests of many citizens; and the threatening comments, on March 4, 2010, by Iranian Minister of Science Kamran Daneshjoo, that professors critical of the regime would be expelled from their posts. On December 28, 2009, **EMADED-DIN BAGHI** (featured in our Spring 2008 issue) was rearrested, along with hundreds of people suspected of being pro-reform, following widespread protests in Tehran and other cities marking the Shi'a religious observance of Ashoura. Also arrested was **DR. NOOSHIN EBADI**, a professor of medicine and the sister of Nobel Prize-winning reform activist **SHIRIN EBADI**. They join countless students and activists who are still languishing in prison in the wake of the waves of arrests that followed the contested election last June. Among them is student leader **MAJID TAVAKKOLI**, who was arrested December 7, 2009, after giving a speech at Amir Kamir University. Majid, who had previously spent 15 months in jail for his student activism, was sentenced in January to eight and half years in prison. His charges include insulting the Supreme Leader, insulting the president, and spreading propaganda against the regime. Amnesty International has warned that he, along with all other imprisoned activists in Iran, is at risk of torture.

Scholars featured in previous issues who remain in prison in Iran include: **SAEED LAYLAZ**, a professor of economics sentenced in December 2009 to nine years in prison (reduced to six in March) for maintaining ties with foreigners and "seeking to overthrow the govern-

ment”; **FARZAD KAMANGER**, a Kurdish Iranian teacher sentenced to death in February 2008 on charges of “endangering national security”; **DR. MOSTAFA ALAVI**, an Iranian doctor and researcher sentenced to 15 years’ imprisonment in August 2008 for “plotting against the regime”; **DRS. ARASH** and **KAMIAR 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 arrested in 2005 for membership in an illegal organization. All of these people are being held in life-threatening conditions 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

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

Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi
Head of the Judiciary
Howzeh Riyasat-e Qoveh Qazaiyeh /
Office of the Head of the Judiciary

Gholam Hossein Mohseni Ejeie
Minister of Intelligence
Ministry of Intelligence
Second Negarestan Street,
Pasdaran Avenue
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Salutation: Your Excellency

MOROCCO

In May 2008, 11 students from Cadi Ayyad Marrakesh University in Morocco were arrested following clashes between police and student protestors demanding better conditions and greater freedom of expression, association, and assembly. In July 2009, the students received jail terms of four years each. They now face an appeals hearing on March 31, 2010. The students have been named by Amnesty International as **ZOHR** **BOUDKHOUR**, **GALAL AL-QITBI**, **ABDELALLAH AL-RASHIDI**, **ALAA AL-DIRBALI**, **MOHAMED GAMILI**, **YOUSSEF MASHDOUFI**, **MOHAMED AL-ARABI GADI**,

YOUSSEF AL-ALAWI, KHALED MOUFTAH, MOURAD AL-CHOUNI and OUSMAN AL-CHOUNI. Amnesty reported that they showed signs of injury in court and said they were tortured during detention.

Appeals to:

Abbas El Fassi
Le Premier Ministre
Palais Royal
Touarga
Rabat
Morocco
Fax : 212 037 768656

M. Abdelwahad Radi
Le Ministre de la Justice
Place El Mamoumia
Rabat
Morocco

UPDATES

The following previously featured scholars remain in prison:

BURMA (MYANMAR)

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

Appeals to:

Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman, State Peace and Development
Council
Ministry of Defense
Naypyitaw Union of Myanmar
(for US 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

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 in China, 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 in China, 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 Nhaihai
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

IRAQ

USSAMA AL-MULLA, a professor of dentistry at Baghdad University, arrested without charge February 2008.

Appeals to:-

His Excellency Nouri Kamal al-Maliki
Prime Minister
c/o Embassy of the Republic of Iraq
1801 P Street NW
Washington DC, 20036

Good news: Word has reached us as we go to press that Dr. al-Mulla has been released and has returned to work in Baghdad.

RUSSIA

DR. IGOR SUTYAGIN, a researcher at the U.S. and Canada Institute in Moscow, arrested in Russia in Spring 2004 and sentenced to 15 years' hard labor for treason and espionage.

Appeals to:

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

VIETNAM

TRAN KHAI THANH THUY, a novelist and essayist 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

Lê Doan Hop
Minister of Culture and Information
1 Hoang Hoa Tham Street
Hanoi
Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Nguyễn Tấn Dũng
Prime Minister
1 Hoang HoaTham Street
Hanoi
Socialist Republic of Vietnam

—Written by John Clegg