

# Endangered Scholars Worldwide

## BAHRAIN

**DR. ABDUL-JALIL AL-SINGACE**, a professor of engineering at the University of Bahrain, was arrested on August 13, 2010 on his way back to Bahrain from the United Kingdom, where he had given a speech about the human rights situation in his country. He was subsequently held incommunicado for two weeks, during which time he claims he and other detainees were severely tortured. Al-Singace is the spokesman and director of the Human Rights Bureau of the Haq Movement for Civil Liberties and Democracy, an opposition political organization with support from the Shiite community in Bahrain. According to Human Rights Watch, several other members of the Haq Movement were arrested shortly after al-Singace, and when finally given access to their lawyers on August 27 and 28, they all reported being tortured. The torture, which the lawyers claimed was visible on their bodies, included severe beatings, being forced to stand for long periods, being suspended by their hands, application of electric shocks, and deprivation of food, water, and sleep. The Bahrain Center for Human Rights has reported that the government has issued a ban on publications about the case of Dr. al-Singace and the other detainees.

### Appeals to:

Shaikh Khaled bin Ali al-Khalifa  
Minister of Justice and Islamic Affairs  
P.O. Box 450  
al- Manama  
Bahrain  
Fax: +973 17536343  
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

---

Information current, to the best of our knowledge, as of September 7, 2010.

## **IRAN**

**EMADEDDIN BAGHI**, a well-known Iranian scholar and human rights defender whom we have often featured in previous issues, was sentenced in July and September 2010 to 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, Baghi, who was only just released on June 23, 2010. After spending five months in solitary confinement without charge, Baghi will now return to jail. He is at grave risk due to a heart condition for which he has been refused treatment during previous imprisonments.

**JA'FAR KAZEMI**, a textbook lithographer at Amir Kabir University in Tehran, was arrested in September 2009 for participating in the protests that followed the disputed presidential elections, and for his alleged contact with the banned organization the People's Mojahedin of Iran. In April 2010 he was sentenced to death for "enmity against God" and "propaganda against the regime" and according to Amnesty International his last appeal to this sentence was rejected by the Supreme Court in July. He is now at imminent risk of being executed. An online petition on his behalf can be accessed through the Endangered Scholars Worldwide website.

Scholars featured in previous issues who remain in prison in Iran include **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 **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 who was sentenced to seven years in jail in 2005. All of these people 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

**LIBYA**

**RASHEED MOHAMMAD OMAR EL-MEHEESY**, a professor of law at Misurata University in Zilten City, Libya, was arrested on May, 19, 2010, accused of sexual harassment by several students. Mr. El-Meheesy was the head of a committee investigating the issuance of fake diplomas at the university and, in that capacity, had expelled several students and fired 11 faculty members. Among those accusing him of sexual assault were some of the recently expelled students. According to the newspaper OEA Libya, on June 1st, one of the students withdrew the claim that she was harassed and another stated that the claim was made under the coercion of fellow students. On the 19th of May, Mr. El-Meheesy was placed in an overcrowded cell without access to his heart medication. While in jail he suffered a stroke, but was not taken to the hospital until he lost consciousness, and was handcuffed to his bed while in hospital. He was released on bail on June 21st and his trial is due for September 20th.

**Appeals to:**

His Excellency Mu'ammr al-Gaddafi  
Leader of the Revolution  
Office of the Leader of the Revolution  
Tripoli  
Great Socialist's People's Libyan Arab  
Jamahiriya  
Salutation: Your Excellency

His Excellency Muhammad Misrati  
Secretary of the People's Committee for  
Justice and General Security  
Secretariat of the People's Committee for  
Justice and General Security  
Tripoli  
Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab  
Jamahiriya  
Salutation: Your Excellency

## **RUSSIA**

**IGOR SUTYAGIN**, the imprisoned Russian scientist we have supported since our first Endangered Scholars feature (Fall 2007), was released on July 9, 2010 as part of a “spy swap” between the United States and Russia. Throughout his 11-year imprisonment Sutyagin consistently denied the accusation of espionage made against him, pointing out that the information he was accused of passing to foreign companies was from open sources, and since his release the US government has confirmed that that they have never considered him an agent. Sutyagin, currently staying in the UK, has vowed to clear his name and return to Russia.

## **VIETNAM**

**PHAM MINH HOANG**, a mathematics lecturer at Ho Chi Minh City Polytechnic Institute, was arrested on August 13, 2010, on charges of participating in a banned pro-democracy opposition group, the Viet Tan. According to media reports, the arrest followed the interrogation two days earlier of Professor Hoang and his wife at a police station in Ho Chi Minh City, where he was told that he would be arrested if he did not confess to belonging to the Viet Tan. Scholars at Risk has reported that Professor Hoang was taken to an undisclosed location, where he has been since held without access to family or his lawyer.

A previously featured scholar who remains in jail in Vietnam is **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  
Salutation: Your Excellency

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

## **MOROCCO**

Three Moroccan teachers, **AZEDDINE SLIMANI**, **ABDELLAH BELLA**, and **MOHAMED TLEMCANI**, were arrested on June 28, 2010, for allegedly kidnapping and threatening a former member of the Islamic organization Justice and Spirituality. Human Rights Watch and the Network for Education and Academic Rights have reported that the three men, along with four others taken into custody, claim to have been kept naked and without food in individual cells, and that the police have beaten and sexually abused them, and shocked them with electricity. Human Rights Watch has noted that these arrests appear to be part of a wave of repression carried out against Justice and Spirituality, a large religious opposition group in Morocco whose legality is contested by the government.

### Appeals to:

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

M. Abdelwahad Radi  
Le Ministre de la Justice  
Place El Mamoumia  
Rabat  
Morocco  
Salutation: Your Excellency

## **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	Minister Counselor U Myint Lwin
Chairman, State Peace and Development Council	Chargé d'Affaires
Ministry of Defense	Ad Interim Embassy of Myanmar
Naypyitaw Union of Myanmar	2300 S Street NW
(for US Postal Service, "Burma" should appear in parentheses after "Myanmar" on envelope only, not in the letter itself)	Washington DC 20008
Salutation: Dear Senior General	Salutation: Dear Sir

**CAMEROON**

**JUSTICE M. MBUH**, a lecturer at the National Polytechnic Bambui in Bamenda Cameroon, was arrested in September 2009 following accusations of "treason." He remains in prison awaiting sentencing.

**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 Nhai  
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

—Written by John Clegg

# social research

AN INTERNATIONAL QUARTERLY

*Forthcoming this winter from Social Research:*

## **From Impunity to Accountability Africa's Development in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

**Befekadu Degefe, Guest Editor    Arien Mack, Journal Editor**  
**Volume 77 No. 4 (Winter 2010)**

---

Introduction by **Befekadu Degefe** on Accountability for Development in Africa  
**William Easterly** on Democracy, Accountability and Economic Development  
**Mark Haugaard** on Democracy, Political Power, and Authority  
**Paul Collier** and **Anke Hoeffler** on Elections and Accountability in Africa  
**Robert Bates** on Democracy in Africa: A Very Short History  
**Thandika Mkandawire** on Aid, Accountability and Democracy in Africa  
**George Ayittey** on Traditional Institutions and the State of Accountability in Africa  
**Agnès Callamard** on Accountability, Transparency and Freedom of Expression in Africa  
**Clement Adibe** on Accountability in Africa and the International Community  
**Mueni Wa Muii** on Colonial And Post-Colonial State And Developments In Africa  
**Nicolas van de Walle** and **Kristin McKie** on Accountability Issues in New Democracies  
**Mwangi Kimenyi**, **John Mukum Mbaku**, and **Nelipher Moyo** on Reconstituting Africa's Failed States: The Case of Somalia  
**Kelechi Kalu** on Nigeria: Learning from the Past to Meet Challenges of the 21st Century  
**Berhanu Nega** on Ethiopia: From Authoritarian Tradition to Democracy  
**Mwangi wa Gĩthĩnji** and **Frank Holmquist** on Transparency without Accountability: The Case of Political Reform in Kenya

Visit [www.socres.org](http://www.socres.org) for information on seventy-five years of our back issues.

ISBN 978-1-933481-23-4, ISSN 0037-783X. \$18 ind/\$45 inst. Annual subscription print + online: \$50 ind/\$170 inst./\$36 students with valid ID. Print only: \$44 ind/\$155 inst. Foreign postage: \$22/year or \$8 for first back issue plus \$5 each additional issue. Order online for electronic-only. Agent/bookseller discounts available. To order, contact our editorial and business office: 80 5th Avenue, 7<sup>th</sup> fl., New York, NY 10011. Phone (212) 229-5776; Fax (212) 229-5476. [socres@newschool.edu](mailto:socres@newschool.edu)

VISIT US AT [WWW.SOCRES.ORG](http://WWW.SOCRES.ORG)