

Human Rights session

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Unjustly imprisoned scholars



- Abdul Jalil Al-Singace (Bahrain), Mechanical engineer, jailed since 2011 for pro-democracy and human rights activism.
- Ahmadrezza Djalali (Iran), Medical researcher, jailed since 2016, on death row, for refusing to cooperate with Iranian intelligence.
- Nasser bin Ghaith (United Arab Emirates), Economist, jailed since 2017 for criticizing Egypt's human rights record.

Unjustly imprisoned scholars



- Niloufar Bayani (Iran), Biologist, jailed since 2018 on trumped up espionage charges.
- Fariba Adelkhah (Iran), Anthropologist, jailed since 2019 for “propaganda against the state”.
- Şebnem Korur Fincancı (Turkey), Medical doctor, jailed in 2022 for accusing the Turkish government of using Chemical weapons against Kurds.

Governments controlling academic activity

- China: Sep 2021 law enforcing the teaching of “Xi Jinping thought”; pro-government curricula in Hong Kong; mandatory “guidelines” to teach the Ukraine invasion in a way that favors Russia.
- USA: multiple state laws (notoriously in Florida) banning discussions of race, gender or sexuality.
- India: Cancellation of conference on Kashmir.
- Government appointing university leadership and deciding on hirings in Kenya and Nicaragua.

Scholars caught up in political upheaval

- Iranian protests (> 300 killed).
- Taliban takeover of Afghanistan (women denied education, female professors barred from teaching and travel, professor assassinated...)
- Russian invasion of Ukraine (death and destruction, multiple arrests due to criticism of war).
- Contested 2020 election in Belarus (multiple arrests in connection with protests).
- Mass incarceration of Uyghurs in Xinjiang, China.
- Failed 2015 coup in Turkey (firings, arrests and travel bans en masse).
- Occupied Palestinian Territories (arrests, killings, restrictive visas).

Scholar Rescue Fund



- Awards fellowships to at-risk Scholars. They are 1 to 2 years long. SRF provides up to \$25 000 a year, and requires a matching donation from the host institution.
- So far, 1,626 awards have been granted to 1,020 scholars.
- List of endangered scholars supported by SRF (currently 10 entries from Afghanistan, Cameroon, Cuba, Ethiopia, Myanmar, Syria, Venezuela):
<https://www.scholarrescuefund.org/hosts-partners/fellows-seeking-placement/>
- To participate, an institution can join the IIE-SRF alliance by visiting
<https://www.scholarrescuefund.org/>

Scholars at Risk

SCHOLARS AT RISK

N E T W O R K



- List of endangered scholars seeking a short term position (currently 46 entries from Afghanistan, China, Ethiopia, Pakistan, Syria, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, Yemen; in many different fields):

<https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/actions/host-a-scholar/>

- Free to Think: yearly report by the Academic Freedom Monitoring Project:

<https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/resources/free-to-think-2022/>

- Institutions can join the SAR network by visiting

<https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/>

Local initiatives

- UK: [Council for At-Risk Academics \(CARA\)](#).
- Germany: [Philip Schwartz Initiative](#) of the [Alexander von Humboldt Foundation](#).
- France: [Programme national d'Accueil en Urgence des Scientifiques en Exil \(PAUSE\)](#).

Committee of concerned scientists



- Advocacy group for the protection of the human rights of scholars.
- Looking for new members (Council of Young Scholars)!

<https://concernedscientists.org>

Tuna Altınel (Turkey)



- Imprisoned in May 2019 for having translated a meeting in France for an opposition Turkish politician.
- After much international outcry, he was released on July 30, 2019, but forbidden from leaving the country (Altınel works in France).
- Acquitted on January 20, 2020, but his passport was held.
- After more public outcry, his passport was returned in May 2021.

Further reading

- Scholar Rescue Fund: <https://scholarrescuefund.org>
- Council for At-Risk Academics: <https://cara.ngo>
- Schwartz: <https://www.humboldt-foundation.de>
- Scholars at Risk: <https://www.scholarsatrisk.org>
- Committee of Concerned Scientists: <https://concernedscientists.org>