

# Human Rights session

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For links and further details: <http://ian.jauslin.org/talks/23hr-smm125/>



## Unjustly imprisoned/prosecuted scholars

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- Abdul Jalil Al-Singace (Bahrain), Mechanical engineer, jailed since 2011 for pro-democracy and human rights activism. Life imprisonment.
- Ilham Tohti (China), Economist, jailed since 2014, sentenced to life imprisonment for “splitting the state”.
- Ahmadrezza Djalali (Iran), Medical researcher, jailed since 2016, on death row, for refusing to cooperate with Iranian intelligence.

## Unjustly imprisoned/prosecuted scholars

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- Niloufar Bayani (Iran), Biologist, jailed since 2018 on trumped up espionage charges. 10 year sentence.
- Valery Golbukin and Anatoly Gubanov (Russia), Physicists, sentenced to 12 years in 2023 on dubious espionage charges.
- Cihangir Erem (Türkiye), Endocrinologist, sentenced to 7.5 years in 2023 for alleged affiliation with Gülen movement.

## Governments controlling academic activity

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- China: April 2023: Ministry of Education released plans to establish an “Ideology and Politics Index” that ranks universities according to their promotion of political and ideological education.
- USA: multiple state laws banning discussions of race, gender or sexuality, including book bans. Firings of professors.
- Nicaragua: government taking over university leadership.
- Russia: Moscow free university labeled as “Undesirable” and forced to close.

## Scholars caught up in political upheaval

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- Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
- Sudanese civil war.
- Iranian protests.
- Taliban takeover of Afghanistan.
- Russian invasion of Ukraine.
- February 2021 coup in Myanmar, followed by repression and arrests.
- Mass incarceration of Uyghurs in Xinjiang, China.
- Failed 2015 coup in Türkiye (firings, arrests and travel bans en masse).
- Yemen civil war.

# Scholar Rescue Fund

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- 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, 1,752 awards have been granted to 1,081 scholars.
- List of endangered scholars supported by SRF (currently 15 entries from Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, Palestine, Ukraine, 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

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**SCHOLARS AT RISK**  
N E T W O R K

 protection  advocacy  learning



- List of endangered scholars seeking a short term position (currently 74 entries from Afghanistan, China, Ethiopia, India, Iran, Mexico, Myanmar, Nigeria, Pakistan, Syria, Türkiye, Ukraine, Yemen):  
<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-2023/>
- Institutions can join the SAR network by visiting  
<https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/>

## Local initiatives

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- 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). (Website is outdated.)



## Committee of concerned scientists

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

<https://concernedscientists.org>

- Scholar Rescue Fund: <https://scholarrescuefund.org>
- Council for At-Risk Academics: <https://cara.ngo>
- Schwartz: <https://www.humboldt-foundation.de>
- PAUSE:  
<https://www.campusfrance.org/en/pause-program-urgent-aid-scientists-exile>
- Scholars at Risk: <https://www.scholarsatrisk.org>
- Committee of Concerned Scientists: <https://concernedscientists.org>



The existence and validity of human rights are not written in the stars. The ideals concerning the conduct of men toward each other and the desirable structure of the community have been conceived and taught by enlightened individuals in the course of history. Those ideals and convictions which resulted from historical experience, from the craving for beauty and harmony, have been readily accepted in theory by man – and at all times, have been trampled upon by the same people under the pressure of their animal instincts. A large part of history is therefore replete with the struggle for those human rights, an eternal struggle in which a final victory can never be won. But to tire in that struggle would mean the ruin of society.

– Albert Einstein