

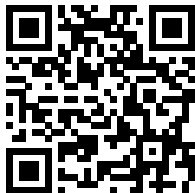
Human Rights session

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For links and further details: <http://ian.jauslin.org/talks/24hr-icmp21/>



Unjustly imprisoned scholars



- Bahrain: Abduljalil Al-Singace, Mechanical engineer (University of Bahrain).^[1]
 - ▶ Jailed 2010-2011, then again since 2011 (life imprisonment).
 - ▶ Human rights and pro-democracy activism. Participated in the “Arab Spring” uprising.
 - ▶ On a fluids-only hunger strike since July 8, 2021, in protest of the confiscation of a manuscript he was writing.^[2]

Unjustly imprisoned scholars



- China: Ilham Tohti, Economist (Minzu University, Beijing)^[3].
 - ▶ Jailed since 2014 (life imprisonment).
 - ▶ Uyghur scholar, researched social and economic issues in Xinjiang.^[4]
 - ▶ Tried secretly over 2 days.

Unjustly imprisoned scholars



- Iran: Ahmadreza Djalali, Medical researcher (Karolinska Institute, Sweden)^[5].
 - ▶ Jailed since 2016 (death sentence).
 - ▶ Was reportedly asked to use his position to spy on behalf of Iran, he refused.^[6]
 - ▶ Unfair trial: denied right to appeal, forced confession, torture.

Unjustly imprisoned scholars



- China: Rahile Dawut, Ethnographer (University of Xinjiang).^[7]
 - ▶ Arrested in 2017, secretly tried in 2018, sentenced to life.
 - ▶ Her career focused on documenting Uyghur folklore and traditions.
 - ▶ She was held incommunicado until her sentence was revealed in 2023.

Unjustly imprisoned scholars



- Russia: Azat Miftakhov, Mathematician (Moscow State University).^[8]
 - ▶ Arrested in 2019 on hooliganism charges, sentenced to 6 years.
 - ▶ Irregularities at trial: unreliable witnesses, confessions under torture, lack of evidence.
 - ▶ Released in September 2023, and immediately re-arrested. Sentenced in March 2024 to a further 4 years for “justifying terrorism”.^[9]

Unjustly imprisoned scholars



- Russia: Researchers on hypersonic flight^[10]
 - ▶ In Prison: Anatoly Maslov (2022-)^[11], Alexandr Shiblyuk (2022-)^[11], Alexandr Kuranov (2021-)^[12], Anatoly Gubanov (2020-)^[13]
 - ▶ Waiting trial: Vladislav Galkin (2023-)^[10], Valery Golubkin (2021-)^[14]
 - ▶ Died in custody: Viktor Kudryavtsev (2018-2021)^[15], Dmitry Kolker (2022)^[10], Roman Kovalyov (2018-2022)^[16]
 - ▶ Released: Vladimir Lapygin (2016-2020)^[17]
 - ▶ House arrest: Valery Zvegintsev (2022-)^[11]

Unjustly imprisoned scholars



- China: Chinese professors working in Japan
 - ▶ Fan Yuntao^[18], Political Scientist, disappeared in 2024.
 - ▶ Hu Shiyun^[19], Language teacher, disappeared in 2023.
 - ▶ Yuan Kegin^[20] Political Scientist sentenced to 6 years in 2020 on espionage charges.

Released



- Iran: Niloufar Bayani, Biologist (Persian Wildlife Heritage Foundation)^[21]
 - ▶ Arrested doing fieldwork with 8 other scientists.^[22]
 - ▶ Jailed from 2018 to 2024 (10 year sentence).
 - ▶ Pardoned on April 8, 2024.
 - ▶ Reported sexual and psychological harassment in prison.^[23]

Governments controlling academic activity

- China: Comprehensive push to enforce an ideological bias in universities. ^{[24][25]}
 - ▶ 2023: “Patriotic Education Law” ^[26] that restricts how the history and ideology of modern China should be taught.
 - ▶ 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.
 - ▶ Hong Kong universities instructed to promote “love” for China. ^[27]
- USA: multiple state laws banning discussions of race, gender or sexuality, including book bans. ^[25] For instance the StopWOKE act in Florida.

Governments controlling academic activity

- Nicaragua: government closed 6 universities in 2018 in connection with student protests. In 2023, it closed 3 more universities linked to the Catholic Church. One of these, the Central American University in Managua (UCA) was re-opened with a different leadership and a different name.^[25]
- Russia: Moscow free university labeled as “Undesirable” and forced to close.^[25]

Scholars caught up in political upheaval

- Israeli-Palestinian conflict (\geq 96 professors killed^{[28][29]}, 12 universities damaged or destroyed^[30]).
- Sudanese civil war.
- Taliban takeover of Afghanistan.
- Russian invasion of Ukraine (\geq 9 universities destroyed, 59 damaged^[31]).
- February 2021 coup in Myanmar, followed by repression and arrests.
- Mass incarceration of Uyghurs in Xinjiang, China starting in 2017.
- Failed 2015 coup in Türkiye (firings, arrests and travel bans en masse).
- Yemen civil war.

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, 1,807 awards have been granted to 1,122 scholars.
- List of endangered scholars supported by SRF (currently 10 entries from Afghanistan, Cameroon, Iran, Nicaragua, Sudan, Syria):
<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



- List of endangered scholars seeking a short term position (currently 59 entries from Afghanistan, China, Ethiopia, Iran, Nigeria, Palestine, Russia, Sudan, Syria, Türkiye, Uganda, 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

- 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

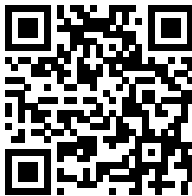


- Advocacy group for the protection of the human rights of scholars.
- Looking for new members (Council of Young Scholars)!

<https://concernedscientists.org>

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



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