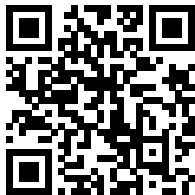


Human Rights session

Ian Jauslin, Joel L. Lebowitz

For links and further details: <http://ian.jauslin.org/talks/24hr-smm126/>



Unjustly imprisoned scholars



- Abdul Jalil Al-Singace (Bahrain), Mechanical engineer, jailed since 2011 for pro-democracy and human rights activism. Life imprisonment.^[1]
- Ilham Tohti (China), Economist, jailed since 2014, sentenced to life imprisonment for “splitting the state”.^[2]
- Ahmadrezza Djalali (Iran), Medical researcher, jailed since 2016, on death row, for refusing to cooperate with Iranian intelligence.^[3]

Unjustly imprisoned scholars



- Narges Mohammadi (Iran), Engineer, jailed since 2021 (in addition to earlier periods) for her human rights activism.^[4]
- Rahile Dawut (China), Ethnographer, jailed since 2017, secretly sentenced to life in prison. Only acknowledged publicly in 2023.^[5]
- Fan Yuntao^[6], Hu Shiyun^[7], Yuan Kegin^[8] (China), Political Scientists (F.Y. and Y.K.) and Language teacher (H.S.): Chinese professors working in Japan. Arrested on espionage charges. Yuntao and Shiyun: disappeared. Kegin: sentenced to 6 years in prison.

Released



- Niloufar Bayani (Iran), Biologist, jailed from 2018 to 2024 on trumped up espionage charges. 10 year sentence. Pardoned on April 8, 2024. Reported sexual and psychological harassment in prison. [\[9\]](#)

Governments controlling academic activity

- 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.^[10]
- USA: multiple state laws banning discussions of race, gender or sexuality, including book bans. Politically motivated denials of tenure.^[10]
- Nicaragua: government taking over university leadership.^[10]
- Russia: Moscow free university labeled as “Undesirable” and forced to close.^[10]

Scholars caught up in political upheaval

- 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



- 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 1,108 scholars.
- List of endangered scholars supported by SRF (currently 10 entries from Afghanistan, Cameroon, Iraq, Palestine, Russia, Sudan):
<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 61 entries from Afghanistan, China, Ethiopia, India, Iran, Nigeria, Pakistan, 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). (Website is outdated.)

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>

- 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>

