Human Rights session

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For links and further details: http://ian.jauslin.org/talks/25hr-smm128/
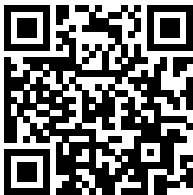
The existence and validity of human rights are not written in the stars. The ideals concerning the conduct of men toward each other and the desirable structure of the community have been conceived and taught by enlightened individuals in the course of history. Those ideals and convictions which resulted 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.

<div align="right">– Albert Einstein</div>

Unjustly imprisoned scholars

- Abdul Jalil Al-Singace (Bahrain), Mechanical egineer, 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]

- Nasser bin Ghaith (United Arab Emirates), Economist, jailed since 2015 for criticizing Egypt's human rights record. Sentenced to 10 years in 2017, and life in 2024.[3]

Unjustly imprisoned scholars

- Ahmadrezza Djalali (Iran), Medical researcher, jailed since 2016, on death row, for refusing to cooperate with Iranian intelligence.[4]

- Narges Mohammadi (Iran), Engineer, jailed since 2021 (in addition to earlier periods) for her human rights activism.[5]

- Rahile Dawut (China), Ethnographer, jailed since 2017, secretly sentenced to life in prison. Only acknowledged publicly in 2023.[6]

Unjustly imprisoned scholars

- Russia: Researchers on hypersonic flight[7]
  - ▶ In Prison: Anatoly Maslov (2022-)[8], Alexandr Shiplyuk (2022-)[8], Alexandr Kuranov (2021-)[9], Anatoly Gubanov (2020-)[10], Valery Golubkin (2021-)[11]
  - ▶ Awaiting trial: Vladislav Galkin (2023-)[7],
  - ▶ Died in custody: Viktor Kudryavtsev (2018-2021)[12], Dmitry Kolker (2022)[7], Roman Kovalyov (2018-2022)[13]
  - ▶ Released: Vladimir Lapygin (2016-2020)[14]
  - ▶ House arrest: Valery Zvegintsev (2022-)[8]

Unjustly imprisoned scholars
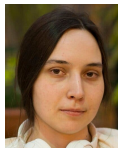
- USA: imprisoned international students and postdocs:

  ▶ In jail: Kseniia Petrova (02/16-)[15], Mahmoud Khalil (03/08-)[16],
    Alireza Doroudi (03/25- soon to be released)[17], Doğukan Günaydın
    (03/27-)[18]

  ▶ Released pending charges: Badar Khan Suri (03/17-05/14)[19] Rümeysa
    Öztürk (03/25-05/09)[20], Mohsen Mahdawi (04/14-04/30)[21]

Governments controlling academic activity

- USA: Restrictions on federal research on topics such as diversity, gender, inequality, climate change[22]; withholding federal grant money on such topics[23]. Exerting control on universities by withholding funding[24].[25] 1,879 student visas revoked (later reinstated)[26]. Travel restrictions for Texan academics to China, Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Russia, Venezuela[27].

- China: Comprehensive push to enforce an ideological bias in universities.[28]: "Patriotic Education Law"[29], enforcing the policies of the CCCP at the Chinese Academy of Science.[30]

- Canada: Restricting scientific collaboration in certain fields with China, Iran, and Russia[30], and imposing restrictions on admissions of foreign students[31]

Scholars caught up in political upheaval

- Israeli-Palestinian conflict ($\geq$ 96 professors killed[32][33], 12 universities damaged or destroyed[34]).

- Sudanese civil war.

- Taliban takeover of Afghanistan.

- Russian invasion of Ukraine ($\geq$ 9 universities destroyed, 59 damaged[35]).

- 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, 1,927 awards have been granted to 1,155 scholars.

- List of endangered scholars supported by SRF (currently 15 entries from Afghanistan, Cameroon, Iran, Myanmar, Pakistan, 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

SCHOLARS AT RISK
N E T W O R K
🤝 protection 📢 advocacy 🧑‍🤝‍🧑 learning

- List of endangered scholars seeking a short term position (currently 64 entries from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Colombia, Ethiopia, Haiti, Iran, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Palestine, Russia, Sudan, Türkiye, Ukraine, Vietnam, 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-2024/

- 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