freedom to THINK, responsibility to ACT

Universities, academic freedom and human rights

Scholars at Risk Network 2014 Global Congress, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, in partnership with

SCHOLARS AT RISK NETWORK · UAF · UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM · VU UNIVERSITY AMSTERDAM · Hogeschool van Amsterdam

Summary report

The Scholars at Risk Network 2014 Global Congress was held in Amsterdam on April 9-10, 2014, in partnership with the Foundation for Refugee Students (UAF), the University of Amsterdam (UvA), the VU University Amsterdam (VU), and the Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences (HvA). Together we welcomed **155 participants** from **69 universities, partner organizations and associations** in **30 countries** (including Belgium, Belarus, Canada, Switzerland, Germany, France, Great Britain, Croatia, Israel, Ireland, Iraq, Iran, Jordan, Burma, Malaysia, Nigeria, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Russia, Sweden, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United States, Venezuela, South Africa, and Zimbabwe). Scholars at Risk thanks all participants for sharing your experiences and for all you do to support threatened scholars and promote higher education values. Because of you, all network members and partners, and the scholars we work with, we left Amsterdam energized and inspired to do even more. Thank you!

The highlights of the two day event included:

- Pre-Congress meetings for SAR partner networks and SAR sections
- Pre-Congress meetings of SAR's Academic Freedom Monitoring Projects
- Opening keynote by Dr. Craig Calhoun of the London School of Economics & Political Science
- 'Courage to Think' Dialogues featuring discussants from around the world
- Performance of the 'Courage to Think' Monologues
- Workshops on protecting scholars and preventing attacks on higher education
- Plenary session on incorporating higher education values in international partnerships
- Scholars at Risk Network meeting

Key suggestions for follow-up to the Congress include:

- Increase advisory services for scholars and host institutions including workshops on best practices
- Continue building new SAR sections and partner networks, especially in the Global South
- Reinforce SAR sections and partners networks with a coordinating committee and focus groups
- Enhance SAR's social media presence
- More attention on the role of States in protecting scholars, preventing attacks and promoting values
- Develop SAR's proposal for an MOU on higher education values in international partnerships

Wednesday April 9, 2014, VU University Amsterdam

Pre-Congress meetings

Meeting for SAR sections and partner networks

Before the Congress opened on April 9, SAR held a private meeting for representatives from current and prospective SAR sections and partner networks. (SAR 'sections' are groups of higher education institutions, associations and researchers, generally nationally or regionally focused, organized specifically to coordinate participation in SAR activities. A SAR 'partner network' is a cooperation agreement between SAR and another, pre-existing network of higher education institutions that shares SAR's interest in the protection and promotion of academic freedom, institutional autonomy and related higher education values.) Over 20 representatives participated in the meeting, including from SAR sections in Norway, the Netherlands, Ireland and Canada and from SAR's partner network UNICA, alongside representatives from prospective SAR sections in South Africa, Sweden, Germany, Poland and Croatia and a representative from the European University Association (EUA).

Representatives met each other, heard updates from each of the existing sections and networks, and learned about developments towards new sections and networks. The meeting was also an opportunity for those in the early stages of building a national SAR section to learn those who are experienced in building national support for SAR activities. Participants reported finding the discussions helpful and, as a next step, SAR proposed forming a committee of representatives from the various SAR sections and partner networks and organizing a conference call twice a year to continue the sharing of information. It was agreed that while the current priority for most SAR sections and partner networks is to continue their work on a national level or within their own networks, as the global SAR network continues to grow representatives will have much to learn from peers in other countries dealing with similar issues. In the coming months, SAR will work with section and partner networks representatives to develop the committee and schedule a first conference call.

Meeting of SAR's Academic Freedom Monitoring Project

SAR's Academic Freedom Monitoring Project held its annual meeting on April 7-8 in Amsterdam, to coincide with the Congress. The project currently involves 18 researchers around the world documenting and reporting with SAR on defined types of attacks on higher education in over 60 countries. Twenty-one participants joined the meeting including current monitors, prospective monitors, and prospective project partners. The agenda focused on expanding monitoring coverage and launching country-specific advocacy projects. Co-scheduling also allowed SAR to present the monitors and their work on the monitoring project as one of three major workshops at the Congress, where SAR invited network member universities, research centers and individual researchers to join the project and serve as monitors for particular countries. The meeting also discussed an early draft of a monitoring report to be released in the fall.

Congress opening remarks and keynote

SAR's European Director, Sinead O'Gorman served as Master of Ceremonies for the first day. The events opened with greetings and introductions by the co-organizers. **Frank van der Duyn Schouten**, the Rector of VU University Amsterdam, host of the first day's events, welcomed participants and described VU's participation in SAR activities as a natural extension of the university's unique history and the central role of academic freedom in its mission and identity. **Maarten den Heijer**, UAF board member provided opening remarks on behalf of the Foundation for Refugee Students (UAF) which leads SAR activities in the Netherlands and which has, since 2009, arranged 57 temporary positions in the Netherlands and Belgium for 37 scholars. **Jonathan Fanton**, Chair of SAR's board, thanked the co-hosts and participants for their support for SAR's work to deepen the culture of academic freedom and autonomous universities as "our best hope for a more just, humane and peaceful world with opportunity for all."

Radwan Ziadeh, a scholar from Syria who has been targeted for his work for more than a decade, introduced a video presentation about SAR (http://vimeo.com/27342882). SAR's Executive Director, **Robert Quinn**, then provided an overview of the Congress program and reflections on the theme, *"Freedom to think, responsibility to act."* He described Scholars at Risk's work as meeting the responsibility to act by protecting "the space in society for everyone to exercise their right to think, question and share ideas, freely and safely."

Professor **Craig Calhoun**, Director of the London School of Economics and Political Science, then provided the keynote on *"Academic responsibility in global higher education"*. Professor Calhoun's lecture was introduced by **Hans-Georg van Liempd**, President of the European Association for International Education (EAIE) who emphasized EAIE's important role as a platform for sharing knowledge and expertise including on academic freedom and responsibility issues.

In his keynote, Professor Calhoun reflected on the reasons why universities, such as his own institution, defend threatened scholars. In his view, it is partly empathy, partly solidarity but the more basic element is responsibility. By participating in intellectual life, we take responsibility for the shared space. Universities should not be taken for granted, they are not eternal; academic life is a privilege and there is a responsibility to defend it. Professor Calhoun pointed to a need for greater reflection on the conditions necessary for free intellectual exchange. As academics, we depend on these conditions for our work. He expressed concerns about "oblivious globalization" in which we get caught up in "our" international projects without thinking of those who cannot participate in the global intellectual community. The role of SAR, in his view, is to make us attentive to those who cannot be a part of that circuit and to remind us of our global responsibility to open this space to others. When we invite scholars to our campuses, we also have a responsibility to listen and to engage. SAR is a reminder to us all never to be complacent.

***Courage to Think* dialogues**

During the "Courage to Think" Dialogue sessions, participants had an opportunity to hear from individuals who are actively working to expand the space in society for creativity, inquiry, and expression. The theme of the sessions, "Courage to Think," reflects the courage of the discussants and the many colleagues they represent. The discussants and moderators were encouraged to skip formal presentations, and instead have a conversation in front of the audience.

The first session was on "Increasing protection for higher education values in Iran," with **Dr. Ahmed Shaheed**, UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, in conversation with **Professor Rik Torfs**, Rector of KU Leuven. Dr. Shaheed is a former diplomat, a government minister, an advocate for open society and human rights, and now a visiting research scholar at a UK university. He has won a number of awards for his work, and was made UN Special Rapporteur in June 2011. During the dialogue, he shared his views on the current situation in Iran regarding academic freedom and human rights within the higher education community, highlighting the problem of the brain drain for Iranian academia, the continuing lack of access for members of the Baha'i community, and the continuing detention or exclusion of students. During the Q&A with the audience, there were questions and discussion on the impact of sanctions on universities in Iran and ways in which universities outside of Iran can assist Iranian students in advancing their careers without increasing their risk upon return.

The second dialogue was on "Higher education during transitions: What roles? What responsibilities?", with **Dr. Myint Oo**, General Practitioners' Society, Myanmar, and **Ielyzaveta Shchepetylnykova**, Chair, Ukrainian Association of Student Self-Government, in conversation with **Professor Alex Geert Castermans**, Leiden University School of Law. Dr. Oo is a medical practitioner and leader in medical ethics training in Myanmar, in a context in which for many decades operating freely within the university system was very difficult and in which for extended periods many of the universities were closed by the military government in response to student protests. Dr. Oo discussed the situation for advocates for a human rights-based approach to public health in this context, reform opportunities within Myanmar and steps the international higher education sector can take to promote higher education values in Myanmar. Ms. Shchepetylnykova chairs an independent and democratic national union that brings together student and community groups to protect the rights and interests of the Ukrainian student community. She described the role of her organization and student groups in the recent protests in Maidan Square, calling for greater openness and integration with Western Europe and ways in which Scholars at Risk and the international community can help, including in the provision of more opportunities for international student exchange. During the Q&A with the audience, there were questions and discussion on higher education reform in Myanmar, bribery and corruption in universities in Ukraine and the role of universities in times of democratic transition.

The final dialogue was on "Violence on campus: How do we move forward?", with **Habib Kazdaghli**, Dean of the Faculty of Letters, Arts & Sciences, the University of Manouba, Tunisia and **Kholoud Saber**, Association for Freedom of Thought and Expression (AFTE), Egypt, in conversation with **Melanie Adrian**, Carleton University. Dean Kazdaghli was the head of his faculty when demonstrators occupied his office and administration building, blocked the entrance to the campus and physically intimidated faculty and students, resulting in canceling of classes and exams. During the dialogue, Dr. Kazdaghli explained how he came to be a very visible figure because of his defense of his university. The protests were on local and international television and in the papers. His name and photo appeared on an extremist website, alongside dozens of others prominent defenders of liberal society. At least two of those on the site were later assassinated, acts which shocked many inside and outside of Tunisia. Dr. Kazdaghli discussed how it felt to be in the middle of that kind of pressure on the university, where he turned for help, the role of the government, and how the international higher education community can help in the reform process in Tunisia. Kholoud Saber leads AFTE's academic freedom project. In this role she is documenting the campus protests in Egypt, which have often turned violent. Thousands of students have been arrested and hundreds remain in custody. Several have received long prison sentences and some have been killed. Several professors also are being prosecuted on serious charges, including treason. During the dialogue Ms. Saber discussed the situation for intellectual freedom and free expression in Egypt with violence on the rise on Egyptian campuses and what the international higher education sector can do to help, including supporting individuals and communicating solidarity, so that higher education communities in Egypt will know the world is watching.

***Courage to Think* celebration**

The Courage to Think Celebration featured a performance of the *Courage to Think Monologues*, a series of dramatic monologues based on the stories of scholars assisted by the SAR network, and presentation of the 2014 *'Courage to Think Award'*. Featured speakers included **Mardjan Seighali**, Director of the Foundation for Refugee Students-UAF and **Pieter Hilhorst**, former Deputy Mayor of Amsterdam and Councilor for Education and Finance who co-authored one of the monologues.

Scholars at Risk inaugurated the 'Courage to Think' award in 2011 to recognize individuals, groups or institutions that have demonstrated exemplary commitment to protecting scholars and promoting academic freedom and the human rights of higher education communities, whether through the nature and impact of their professional work or private or community service, or by withstanding physical, emotional, professional or other personal risk. **Jonathan Fanton**, Scholars at Risk Board Chair and former president of the John D. & Catharine T. MacArthur Foundation and the New School University in New York, announced the presentation of the 2014 award to **Dr. Habib Kazdaghli**, Dean of the Faculty of Letters, Arts and Humanities at the University of Manouba, Tunisia, for his courage and dedication to academic freedom and university autonomy. Dr. Fanton noted that when his faculty and other members of the campus community were confronted with physical intimidation, the Dean was not intimidated. He stood face to face with the aggressors, without returning their aggression. When he was prosecuted on false testimony and threatened with years in prison, he did not relent. He fought the charges and won. When he received death threats, and when colleagues were murdered, he still refused to surrender his values. He continued to speak openly about the importance of the values of the university, to the university itself and to the emerging society in which education and educated young people will play a critical part. "Forced to live his life under the protection of bodyguards simply because of the ideas he articulates and the values he represents," Dr. Fanton concluded, "he has carried on. He has traveled and talked about the importance of the university and its values, especially to the Arab Spring countries, at events in the region, in North America, and here in Europe. By this example and his courage, he has become Tunisia's unofficial ambassador of intellectual freedom." The award was presented by Dr. Fanton and **Irving Epstein**, SAR Board member and Chair of SAR's Program & Policy Committee.

The Dean accepted the award on behalf of his faculty, all the members of Tunisian higher education, and those in Tunisian society generally who are working to secure a better future for all Tunisians; a future that respects the vital role of higher education and the values of the university.

Thursday April 10, University of Amsterdam (UvA)

Welcome and opening remarks

Robert Quinn, SAR's Executive Director, was Master of Ceremonies for the second day's proceedings which took place at the University of Amsterdam. Professor **Alexander Rinnooy Kan** welcomed participants and provided opening remarks on behalf of the University of Amsterdam, noting its history as part of the inspiration for UvA's involvement in SAR activities to protect scholars, and reflecting on the Congress' theme, *"Freedom to Think Responsibility to Act,"* as a celebration of the important role that intellectuals play in society.

Workshops: Protecting scholars and preventing attacks

The second day of the Congress was dedicated to workshops and plenary sessions on the three broad programmatic areas of SAR's work: protecting threatened scholars, preventing attacks on higher education and promoting academic freedom.

Protecting scholars

The protection workshops were an opportunity for prospective, new and experienced SAR members to learn more about how to get involved in activities to protect threatened scholars. During the discussion, SAR staff, scholars and representatives from SAR member institutions and partner organizations shared information and best practices with regard to hosting scholars for temporary visits, organizing SAR Speaker Series events and advocating on behalf of scholars in prison or otherwise facing restrictions. Workshop discussants included **Ragnhild Øien Guldvog**, SAR-Norway section; **Adam Braver**, Roger Williams University; **Irving Epstein**, Illinois Wesleyan University and SAR Board member; **Karin Vlietstra**, the University of Amsterdam; **Sarah Willcox** and **Martha Bloem**, the IIE Scholar Rescue Fund (SRF); **Stephen Wordsworth**, the Council for Assisting Refugee Academic (CARA); **Berend Jonker** and **Ella de Lange**, the Foundation for Refugee Students-UAF; **Elisabeth Dyvik**, International Cities of Refuge

Network (ICORN); **Kari Anette Lindemann**, the Norwegian Students' and Academics' Assistance Fund (SAIH); and **Lauren Crain** and **Sinead O'Gorman** from Scholars at Risk.

Discussion highlights:

- Several participants were interested to learn more about SAR's definitions of risk and scholarship and its vetting and selection process for scholars.
- There was much discussion around the question of longer-term support for scholars, the frequent need for follow-up placements for scholars, and the need to work with the scholar on follow-up plans very soon after his/her arrival in their first safe haven.
- It was noted that there was scope for more collaborative work with states around the question of visas for scholars—short and longer-term.
- Several scholars expressed a desire for more opportunities to meet other at-risk scholars in SAR's network and suggested setting up a Facebook group for scholars to meet one another. It was agreed that security concerns were a major obstacle with regard to these efforts and any shared platform would have to be very carefully organized.
- It was suggested that SAR provide more in-depth advisory services to scholars applying for open positions once they are already in their first temporary placement.
- It was suggested that SAR should have a greater social media presence to raise its profile with new audiences, especially students.

Preventing attacks

The prevention workshops were an opportunity for prospective, new and experienced SAR members to learn more about participation in research and advocacy activities of SAR and its partners, including especially the SAR Academic Freedom Monitoring Project. The discussants included SAR staff and monitoring project participants, and **Dija Njihowne**, Director of the Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack (GCPEA).

SAR's Advocacy Officer **Jesse Levine** provided an overview of the SAR Academic Freedom Monitoring Project and invited individual researchers and research centers, especially in law, human rights, journalism, regional studies and related fields, to help SAR document attacks on higher education around the world. The project tracks incidents involving physical violence, killings, and disappearances; wrongful imprisonment or detention; wrongful prosecution; restrictions on travel or movement; retaliatory discharge, loss of position or expulsion from study; and other significant events. Researchers monitor a specific country or group of countries using a framework provided by SAR, working alone or in groups, often serving as lead researchers supervising teams of students. Researchers corroborate incidents from media reports and interviews, where practical, and submit reports to SAR. SAR consolidates, verifies and disseminates reports, and conducts data-driven advocacy aimed at raising awareness, demanding investigations of incidents, and holding perpetrators accountable, which can help to deter future attacks. SAR also organizes information-sharing and workshops for participating researchers to share experience. Participants in the monitoring project from Pakistan and Zimbabwe provided examples of incidents reported in their regions and opportunities for advocacy work around such violations.

Diya Njihowne, Director of the Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack (GCPEA) described the coalition, an inter-agency body formed in 2010 to address the problem of targeted attacks on education during armed conflict. SAR is an active member of the Coalition's Higher Education Working Group which is developing a proposed new campaign articulating 'Principles of State Responsibility to Protect Higher Education from Attack'. Ms. Njihowne described the proposed campaign which contemplates inviting higher education institutions and associations to

- demonstrate public support for the Principles and for higher education that is safe and free from intimidation, including by communicating support to their associations, networks and members;
- encourage their States to support the Principles domestically and in inter-State relations;
- assist their States in reviewing national policies and laws, with due respect for the values essential to quality higher education, to ensure that higher education communities are physically secure, free from intimidation, and free from improper external influence; and
- to encourage their respective States to take all reasonable measures to assist victims and help deter future attacks by documenting and reporting attacks to appropriate State and civil society partners, and pressing States to conduct prompt, thorough and transparent investigations and to hold perpetrators accountable.

Discussion highlights:

- There was discussion about States' responses to the findings and advocacy by SAR's Academic Freedom Monitoring Project and the importance of tracking such responses (or lack of response).
- Discussion about how students might get involved in SAR's monitoring project as researchers.
- It was noted that the context in which attacks are occurring is important, vital to "use the right voice", with different methodologies being more effective in different contexts.
- It was suggested that it would be wise to develop a strategy of engagement with wider policy arena, in particular within international development, in which education is already firmly on the agenda but higher education is still marginal.
- Comments supporting the principle that documenting the problem is important because people do not yet understand the scale and severity of attacks on higher education, but also that documentation alone is not the end goal of the monitoring: we need to use the information to advocate for protection for victims and improvements in conditions overall.

Plenary: Promoting higher education values in international partnerships

During this session chaired by **Jonathan Fanton**, SAR's Board Chair, **Robert Quinn**, SAR's Executive Director, presented a proposal for the voluntary development and standard use of a model MOU on university values in international partnerships between higher education institutions. Dr. Fanton introduced the three primary points for discussion: Would an MOU be a good thing? Is it feasible for universities to implement? And what are the obstacles and suggestions for overcoming these? Representatives from several higher education networks and from the government of The Netherlands were invited to respond to the proposal, including **Lionel Veer**, Human Rights Ambassador, Government of the Netherlands; **Sijbolt Noorda**, President of the Magna Charta Observatory; **Olusola Oyewole**, President of the Association of African Universities; and **Sultan Abu-Orabi**, Secretary General of the Association of Arab Universities.

Mr. Quinn's proposal is for the standard inclusion of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on higher education values in all international partnerships between higher education institutions. Such an MOU could be drafted independently by the institutions entering into the partnership or based on a model MOU drafted and endorsed by influential higher education leaders, institutions, and associations. Institutions employing a model MOU would, as a standard part of establishing their international partnerships, invite prospective partners to agree to terms of an MOU, which in all cases should define the core higher education values related to the partnership in a fashion that is consistent with internationally recognized standards, and include a transparent process for regular exchange of information, including public input and discussion of findings or recommendations. Such an MOU on values is not envisioned as legally binding but as a voluntary code of conduct whose goal is to establish a constructive framework for sustained dialogue. It is based on a belief that increasing dialogue and understanding between equal partners to an international higher education exchange is the best and most sustainable way to promote creative, context appropriate strategies for improving understanding and respect for higher education values. Mr. Quinn invited partners in the international higher education community, especially associations and networks of institutions, to explore with their constituents willingness to participate in a dialogue about inclusion of an MOU on higher education values in their international partnerships, including the possibility of developing a model MOU.

Discussion highlights:

- Extended discussion which was generally supportive of the idea, but with broad consensus that any model or process would be "more than another piece of paper". Actual implementation and forward-looking action are most important.
- One discussant was of the view that the MOU would indeed be difficult to implement but perhaps it had to be difficult, otherwise it would be empty.
- It was noted that many inter-institutional partnerships fail when the institutions do not share a common set of values, and therefore explicit negotiations about values questions in the early stages of partnerships may be beneficial either to clarify and strengthen a partnership that does go forward, or to help identify early on reasons why the partnership may be ill advised.
- It was suggested that it is time for higher education institutions to see values as criteria for quality and to implement processes for evaluating values as with other quality dimensions.
- It was suggested that SAR explore the topic further with network members and leading higher education associations, with the possibility of forming a working group to draft a model.

Network Meeting

Scholars at Risk holds a Network Meeting at every Congress. It is open to SAR members, affiliates and invited guests. The Amsterdam Network Meeting was chaired by **Robert Quinn**, SAR's Executive Director, and included updates and reports from SAR staff, SAR sections and partner networks, including **Sinead O'Gorman**, SAR's European Director; **Ragnhild Øien Guldvog**, Chair of the SAR-Norway Section; **Ruth Taillon**, Universities Ireland; **Kris Dejonckheere**, UNICA; **Stephen Wordsworth**, CARA; and **Berend Jonker**, UAF.

After hearing updates from staff and the different regions and networks, Mr. Quinn opened the floor to questions, comments and discussion from participants.

Discussion highlights:

- SAR is working increasingly through national and regional sections and partner networks, to reach more people and to enable the development and sharing of local expertise (e.g. visa-related questions, accommodation, family support), but it was emphasized that SAR's goal is not growth for growth's sake but to help more scholars.
- There were questions on how best to articulate the benefits of hosting a scholar.
- It was noted that more participation in SAR activities is needed from institutions in the regions from which SAR receives applications, especially developing countries.
- Discussants addressed the question of common obstacles to participation in SAR activities including in particular a perception that large amounts of funding are required (low-cost options for involvement are outlined in SAR's new menu of activities), and overcoming initial fear of hidden commitments.
- It was suggested that SAR organize a workshop for partner organizations working on similar issues to share best practices in vetting and selecting candidates for assistance.

Follow-up suggestions

Key suggestions for follow-up arising out of discussions with participants and partners before, during and after the Congress include:

- **Increase advisory services:** In order "to help more scholars to help themselves," it was recommended that SAR provide a greater level of advisory services to scholars who have already reached their first position of safety within the network and who are seeking to apply for open positions either in their new host country or in a country closer to home (if safe return is still not possible). While SAR's priority will remain to assist those in need of urgent protection services, we recognize the need for and value of longer-term support and the need for SAR to continually improve our services for scholars.
- **Continue building SAR sections and partner networks:** The Congress was an excellent opportunity to bring together representatives from SAR sections, partner networks, and especially prospective SAR sections in Switzerland, South Africa, Sweden, Croatia, Germany and other countries. Over the coming months, SAR will continue work in each of these countries to organize Speaker Series events, workshops and other events, arrange hosts for scholars where possible, and encourage participation in SAR prevention and promotion activities. More participants in SAR activities in these countries and regions will mean more support for threatened scholars and more support for activities to prevent future attacks on higher education communities.
- **More participation by institutions in developing countries and the global south:** The need for more global representation in the institutional membership of the SAR network was emphasized by several participants at the Congress. SAR has already begun work to increase participation in SAR activities by institutions in the global south, including work to form national and regional SAR sections and to include more researchers and research centers in the monitoring project. SAR will continue to focus efforts in this area and invites SAR members and partners to get in touch if interested in assisting in these efforts, particularly by building SAR-related outreach and activities into existing north-south relationships.
- **Reinforce the work of existing SAR sections and partner networks:** In the pre-Congress meeting for SAR sections and partner networks, it was agreed that SAR should form a committee of represent-

atives from SAR sections and partner networks and organize a conference call twice a year (to begin with) to share updates and discuss important developments. It was agreed that while the current priority for most SAR sections and partner networks is to continue their work on a national level/within their own networks, as the global SAR network continues to grow, representatives will have much to learn from those in neighboring countries dealing with similar issues. In the coming months, SAR will work with sections and partner networks to develop the idea of a committee and schedule a first conference call.

- **Develop SAR partner network focus groups:** During the Congress, the UNICA network proposed setting up a focus group on academic freedom within UNICA. Such a focus group might serve to map UNICA members' activities to promote academic freedom; raise awareness about SAR activities and opportunities for participation; share best practices for hosting scholars, fundraising for placements, and establishing national and regional sections; facilitate discussion and follow up in relation to SAR's proposal for an MOU on higher education values; cooperate with other higher education networks to build further support for SAR; and explore preparing an EU funding proposal for activities related to promoting academic freedom. SAR looks forward to working closely with UNICA on next steps, and invites other partner networks to consider a similar step within their own internal structures.
- **Organize a workshop for partner organizations:** It was suggested that SAR organize a workshop for the sharing of best practices between partner organizations on issues relating to the vetting and selection of candidates for assistance. SAR invites further discussion with partner organizations on this idea and agrees that we would all benefit from a greater sharing of best practices in relation to our work on behalf of threatened scholars.
- **Enhance SAR's social media presence:** Several participants suggested that SAR's work would benefit from an increased social media presence. SAR agrees and are developing a plan to bring our work to wider audiences through channels such as Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn.
- **Greater attention to the role of states:** In several sessions participants emphasized a need for academics and advocates to place greater emphasis on the role of States in protecting threatened scholars, preventing attacks and promoting academic freedom. SAR's activities on behalf of scholars in prison, the SAR monitoring project, and SAR's work with GCPEA's proposed 'Principles of State Responsibility' are steps in this direction. SAR invites interest from member institutions, partners and researchers in all of these activities.
- **Develop SAR's proposal for an MOU on higher education values:** There was consensus that SAR should continue to discuss and develop the proposal for standard use of an MOU on higher education values, within the network and with other higher education partners. With this in mind, SAR and EAIE cooperated on a blog post about the plenary discussion (http://www.eaie.org/blog/mou-on-values/) and on a panel on this topic at the upcoming EAIE conference in Prague in September 2014. In the coming months, SAR will reach out to partners in the international higher education community, especially associations and networks of higher education institutions, to explore with their constituents their willingness to participate in a dialogue about the proposal and the possibility of developing a model MOU. SAR invites interest from SAR members and partners in joining these efforts.

SAR invites additional suggestions or comments at any time at scholarsatrisk@nyu.edu. If you have not already done so, participants in the Congress are invited to complete the online evaluation form at: (http://salsa4.salsalabs.com/o/50943/p/salsa/web/questionnaire/public/?questionnaire_KEY=87).

Acknowledgments

The Network Meeting ended with expressions of appreciation and thanks for all the participants, sponsors, and co-organizers who contributed to the pre-meetings, Congress and Network Meeting.

These include all pre-meeting and Congress speakers, discussants, presenters, SAR scholars, SAR monitoring project researchers, especially those who travelled long distances to take part in the discussions, and the producers and artists in the *Courage to Think Monologues* performance.

This included at **VU Amsterdam** the Rector Magnificus **Frank van der Duyn Schouten**, **Rien Kool**, and **Aukje Schep**; at **University of Amsterdam** the Executive Board and Rector Magnificus **Dymph van den Boom**, **Alexander Rinnooy Kan**, **Karin Vlietstra**, **Joost van Tilburg**, and **Corina de Boer**; at **Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences (HvA)** the Executive Board and Rector **Huib de Jong** (for agreeing to co-host/co-sponsor, **Dymph van Outersterp**, and **Susanne Okkes**.

This included the sponsoring partners, including **Stichting Democratie en Media**, **Gieskes Strijbis Fonds**, **Amsterdam University Foundation**, **Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts & Sciences (KNAW)**, **Sigrid Rausing Trust**, **Open Society Foundations**, **Vivian G. Prins Foundation**, **National Endowment for Democracy**, and **New York University**, **ETH Zurich** and **Freie Universitat Berlin** (sustaining members).

Special thanks were offered for the extraordinary efforts of the partners and staff in the Netherlands, including UAF board members, staff and volunteers especially **Leonie van der Stijl**, and including **Maarten den Heijer**, **Mardjan Seighali**, **Kaveh Pour**, **Berend Jonker**, **Ella de Lange**, **Teuta Curri**, **Matthijs Weststeijn**, **Imke Vunderink**, **Mariette Flipse**, **Steffie van Gils**, **Rosa den Engelsman**, and **Moniek Lucassen**.

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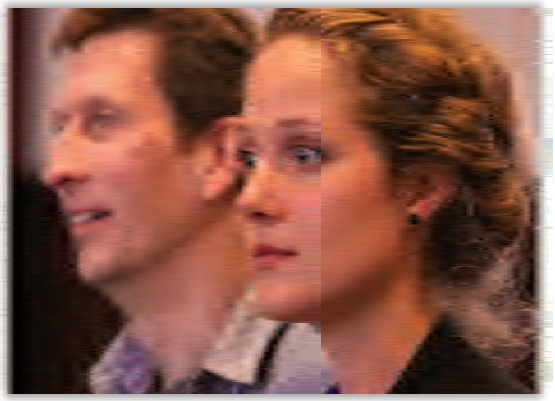
SAR thanks all participants, network members and partners for your support. We look forward to continuing this important work together in the years ahead.



Additional resources

Congress presentations & related materials

- Opening remarks by Jonathan Fanton, SAR Board Chair, (http://scholarsatrisk.nyu.edu/Documents/SARAMS_JFanton_Opening_Remarks.pdf)
- "Freedom to think, responsibility to act", Overview by Robert Quinn, SAR Executive Director (http://scholarsatrisk.nyu.edu/Documents/SARAMS_RQuinn_Opening_Remarks.pdf)
- Presentation of the 2014 SAR Courage to Think Award to Dean Habib Kazdaghli of Tunisia (http://scholarsatrisk.nyu.edu/Documents/SARAMS_JFanton_Presentation_C2T_Award.pdf)
- Remarks of Dean Habib Kazdaghli of Tunisia on receiving the Scholars at Risk 2014 Courage to Think Award (in French) (http://scholarsatrisk.nyu.edu/Documents/SARAMS_Kazdaghli_Remarks_FR.pdf)
- Membership information (http://scholarsatrisk.nyu.edu/The-Network/Join-the-Network.php)
    - Menu of SAR activity options for institutions, researchers and students (http://scholarsatrisk.nyu.edu/Documents/SAR_Activities_Menu.pdf)
    - Higher education institution membership information/form (http://scholarsatrisk.nyu.edu/Documents/SAR_Institutional_Membership_Agreement_2014.pdf)
    - Higher education associations and societies affiliate membership information/form (http://scholarsatrisk.nyu.edu/Documents/SAR_Affiliate_Membership_Agreement_2014.pdf)
    - Partner network information/form (http://scholarsatrisk.nyu.edu/Documents/SAR_Partner_Network_Agreement_2014.pdf)
- Protection workshop: Invitation to join the SAR Student Advocacy Seminar (http://scholarsatrisk.nyu.edu/Documents/Get_Involved--Student_Advocacy_Seminars.pdf)
- Prevention workshop: Invitation to join the SAR Academic Freedom Monitoring Project (http://scholarsatrisk.nyu.edu/Documents/SAR_AF_Monitoring_Project.pdf)
- EAIE blog post on proposal for an MOU on values (www.eaie.org/blog/mou-on-values/)
- Congress evaluation form (http://salsa4.salsalabs.com/o/50943/p/salsa/web/questionnaire/public/?questionnaire_KEY=87)

Congress-related media *(partial list)*

- "Academic Values Often Give Way as Universities Expand Overseas Programs", Paul Hockenos, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, 04/15 (http://chronicle.com/article/Academic-Values-Often-Give-Way/145921/)
- "Habib Kazdaghli: honoured by Scholars at Risk," Matthew Reisz, *Times Higher Education,* 04/10 (http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/news/habib-kazdaghli-honoured-by-scholars-at-risk/2012520.article)
- "Tunisie: Le doyen de la Faculté des lettres de la Manouba récompensé à Amsterdam pour son 'courage'," Rebecca Chaouch, *HuffPost Maghreb,* 04/10 (http://www.huffpostmaghreb.com/2014/04/10/doyen-de-la-faculte-manouba_n_5126864.html)
- "Habib Kazdaghli sacré doyen du ''Courage'' par un Congrès mondial," Habib Trabelsi, *Leaders*, 04/10 (http://www.leaders.com.tn/article/scholars-at-risk-habib-kazdaghli-sacre-doyen-du-courage-par-un-congres-mondial?id=13790)

Websites & videos

- Scholars at Risk website (www.scholarsatrisk.org)
- SAR Academic Freedom Monitoring Project website (http://monitoring.academicfreedom.info)
- Video introduction to the Scholars at Risk Network (http://vimeo.com/27342882)
- 2014 Global Congress videos (http://scholarsatrisk.nyu.edu/share.php)

Social media

- SAR Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/pages/Scholars-at-Risk/228730320487174)
- SAR Twitter (@ScholarsAtRisk) (https://twitter.com/ScholarsAtRisk)
- Rob Quinn, SAR Ex. Director, Twitter (@RobQ_SAR) (https://twitter.com/RobQ_SAR)

About Scholars at Risk

Scholars at Risk (SAR) is an international network of higher education institutions, associations and individuals acting together to protect threatened scholars, promote academic freedom, and defend everyone's right to think, question and share ideas freely and safely.

Scholars at Risk members save lives by providing sanctuary to professors, lecturers, researchers and other intellectuals who suffer threats in their home country. Through temporary academic positions, SAR members help scholars to escape dangerous conditions and to continue their important work. In return, scholars contribute to their host campuses through teaching, research, lectures and other activities. Many scholars return to their home countries after their visit. When safe return is not possible, SAR works with scholars to identify opportunities to continue their work abroad. The benefits are clear: scholars are free to live and work without fear. SAR members gain talented academics and inspiring, courageous educators. The world benefits from solidarity among higher education institutions, greater awareness of current threats to academic freedom, and deeper appreciation of the vital role of higher education and scholarship in free societies.

Scholars at Risk also educates the public about attacks on scholars and higher education communities through the SAR website, email bulletins, publications and events. The SAR Speaker Series brings threatened scholars to member campuses to engage directly with students, faculty, alumni and the community. SAR also advocates on behalf of imprisoned scholars and undertakes research aimed at promoting understanding and respect for academic freedom and related values.

Join the network

Higher education institutions, associations and other like-minded organizations in any country are invited to contact Scholars at Risk to inquire about membership. By joining the network, participating institutions and their members, researchers and students gain access to Scholars at Risk services and opportunities to participate in network activities. They also send a powerful message of solidarity and support for higher education values; support that helps SAR protect more scholars. Membership information is available at http://scholarsatrisk.nyu.edu/The-Network/Join-the-Network.php.

Donate

Scholars at Risk depends on the generous financial support of participating member institutions, partner network members and friends inside and outside higher education. Institutions are asked for an annual sustaining membership subscription (US$5,000) or regular level subscription (US$800).

Gifts from individuals of any size are gratefully appreciated, including gifts in honor or memory of others, matching gifts and legacies. To give today visit www.scholarsatrisk.org/donate or write to:

SCHOLARS AT RISK NETWORK

c/o New York University, 194 Mercer Street, 4th Floor, New York, NY 10012 USA
www.scholarsatrisk.org, +1-212-998-2179, scholarsatrisk@nyu.edu