Join Global Dialogue about Threats to Academic Freedom in China

Two weeks ago, SAR released *Obstacles to Excellence*, a new report urging higher education communities, governments, and civil society worldwide to consider threats to academic freedom that jeopardize China’s ambitions for world-class universities and threaten the future of global academic exchange with the country.

The report raises important questions about the role of the university in modern society and the ability of universities to truly thrive without pro-academic freedom conditions. Quoted in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, SAR Executive Director Rob Quinn said, “To be a world-class university, you have got to have the widest notion of academic freedom. I don’t think that should be debatable.”

SAR calls on member institutions, partner networks, academic associations, and societies to place this report on the agendas of conferences, meetings, and other convenings for nuanced dialogue regarding academic freedom, institutional autonomy, and related values, and their relation to China’s higher education goals and activities. SAR further welcomes opportunities to speak with SAR members and partners, privately and publicly, to discuss the report and how universities can respect and promote university values at home and abroad.

Share your thoughts on the report and note your interest in these discussions by emailing scholarsatrisk@nyu.edu.

Call for Courage to Think Nominations!
We are accepting nominations for the **Scholars at Risk Courage to Think Award**. The Courage to Think Award recognizes individuals, groups or institutions that have demonstrated an exemplary commitment to protecting scholars and promoting academic freedom, whether through their professional work, private or community service, or by facing personal risk. The **2018 Courage to Think Award** was given to Turkey’s Academics for Peace (Barış İçin Akademisyenler) for their “extraordinary efforts in building academic solidarity and in promoting the principles of academic freedom, freedom of inquiry, and the peaceful exchange of ideas.”

The 2020 Courage to Think Award will be presented at the **Scholars at Risk Network 2020 Global Congress** in Baltimore on March 27, 2020. To attend, register for the Global Congress today

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**Scholars of the Month**

**SAR scholars are at-risk higher education professionals that exemplify the pursuit of academic freedom, freedom of expression, and university values. If your institution is interested in hosting a SAR scholar, please email** [apply.scholarsatrisk@nyu.edu](mailto:apply.scholarsatrisk@nyu.edu).

**A Scholar of Nutrition Science from Yemen**

This scholar specializes in food chemistry and herbal medicine research, and has several years of experience teaching and researching at universities in the Middle East, Asia, and Europe. She has published numerous articles in peer-reviewed journals in her field as well as obtained patents for her work.

**A Scholar of Gender and Development Studies from Iran**

This junior scholar has several years of experience instructing university-level courses on religion, sociology, and gender in Iran. She has also published academic articles in regional journals on issues of gender identity, minority populations, and power and resistance, among other topics.

**A Scholar of Agricultural Economics from Syria**

This scholar has more than a decade of experience conducting agricultural research in the Middle East and has held short-term research fellowships at universities in North America and Europe. Her work focuses on development, gender, and economic empowerment.
findings. She reports facing threats due to the ongoing, situational violence in Yemen and seeks teaching and/or research opportunities in a safe location beginning November 2019. (Yemen 550)

topics. Complementing this, she has experience working on gender and development issues in the non-profit sector. She reports risk of arrest, violence, and discrimination in Iran and seeks research opportunities in a safe location beginning immediately. (Iran 745)

and she has published several articles in regional and national journals. She reports risk due to the ongoing situational violence in Syria and seeks research opportunities in a safe location beginning January 2020. (Syria 785)

SAR Spotlight on Jewher Ilham

“My father was trying to be a peaceful bridge between Han Chinese and Uyghurs,” said Jewher Ilham. “He never advocated for independence, never advocated for violence.” In this SAR Spotlight, we feature Jewher, the daughter of imprisoned scholar Ilham Tohti.

Join the Network!

Scholars at Risk invites higher education institutions to join our network. Please reach out to madeline.everett@nyu.edu if your university is interested in a Scholar at Risk membership. Not sure if your university is already a member? Check out our Membership Directory to look at the 500 higher education institutions that have already pledged to protect academic freedom.

Support SAR! Make Your Gift Today!
As we transition into the fall season and a new academic year, we ask you to consider the importance of academic freedom and free inquiry and how it has affected your pursuit of knowledge. SAR works to protect everyone’s right to think, question, and share ideas and we need your help to continue this important work. Consider making a gift today.

Events

**Universities: Their Freedoms and Responsibilities: The Challenge of the Future** I Oct. 16-17 I Hamilton, Canada

Join SAR Canada for the Annual Conference of the Magna Charta Observatory, 16 and 17 October 2019. The focus will be on academic freedom and the responsibilities which universities have for helping to achieve the UN sustainable development goals, particularly those relevant to sustainable cities.

**UARRM Second Annual Event: Engaging Student Voices to Support the Global Compacts** I Nov. 1 I Washington, D.C.

Scholars at Risk is pleased to take part in the second annual event of the University Alliance for Refugees and At-Risk Migrants (UARRM) at George Washington University. SAR staff will lead a discussion about SAR’s Student Advocacy Seminars alongside Student

**Jewhar Ilham, Activist and Daughter of Imprisoned Uyghur Scholar Visits Roger Williams University** I Nov. 16 I Bristol, Rhode Island

Jewhar Ilham, activist and daughter of imprisoned Uyghur scholar Ilham Tohti, will speak at the Mary Tefft White Cultural Center as part of their Lecture Series on Wednesday, November 6, 2019, at 4:30pm in the Roger Williams University Library, Mary Tefft White Cultural Center.

Save the date! Scholars at Risk invites you to the SAR Network 2020 Global Congress on March 25-28, 2020, convened in partnership with Johns Hopkins University and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

Connect with Us

Scholars at Risk is an independent not-for-profit corporation, hosted at New York University. Our international network of institutions and individuals shares a mission to protect threatened scholars, promote academic freedom, and prevent attacks on higher education communities around the world.

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