ON THE COVER: Parwiz Mosamim (left), Marvi Sirmed (center), and Hadi Mohammadi (right). You can read their stories on page 27, 10, and 4 respectively.

## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Executive Director’s Message</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Network</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAR Sections, Partners &amp; Hubs</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protection</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hosts 2020–2021</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholars Hosted</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advocacy</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research &amp; Learning</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAR Europe</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporters</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stats &amp; Financials</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Give Today</td>
<td>BACK</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WE WILL NOT STOP. Despite historic challenges, we learned this year that our network is stronger than ever. We have helped more scholars than ever find safety. More institutions are coming forward, saying “Yes, we can do more.” More individuals are asking “How can we help?” And we are just getting started.

Last year began for SAR responding to the tragedy in Afghanistan, where the Taliban has worked to erase two decades of educational progress. They have since all but banned women and girls from education, and driven thousands into exile, including many scholars and students. SAR added staff and expedited processing; we have arranged more than 60 positions for Afghans so far—along with 178 dependents—and we won’t stop until we have created opportunities for everyone we can.

Mid-year SAR responded to the Russian invasion by preparing to meet the needs of scholars and students fleeing the war in Ukraine, as well as Russians opposed to the war fleeing the Putin regime’s domestic crackdown. Learning from prior crises, SAR Europe together with the Philipp Schwartz Initiative and European University Association launched MSCA4Ukraine, a new EU-funded fellowship scheme to support hundreds of Ukrainian scholars in exile in Europe, including support for them to return and to rebuild Ukraine as soon as conditions permit.

Of course, throughout the year we continued to support colleagues attacked by governments and non-state actors around the world, including Yemen, Myanmar, Ethiopia, Cameroon, and beyond. And as the year came to a close, massive protests were just beginning in Iran. Scholars, students, and university campuses were again targeted with tear gas, bullets, and mass arrests, all because the regime is afraid of young women thinking and sharing their ideas. And as with earlier crises, SAR will be there when we are inevitably called to help.

Throughout the year, SAR members and partners responded to these challenges, and we are so grateful. Together, we helped arrange 171 positions for threatened colleagues—more than any prior year. Faculty and student advocates helped win the release of imprisoned students and scholars in Egypt and Bahrain, while ensuring that those still detained are not forgotten. With partners in the new Coalition for Academic Freedom in the Americas (CAFA), we pressed the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) to adopt new Principles of Academic Freedom and Autonomy, a milestone document that will anchor regional advocacy for years to come.

We strengthened and grew our network, and together demonstrated through our words and our deeds that we will not stop, we will persist in doing everything we can to defend the right to think, question, and share ideas.

It is with the deepest gratitude to all our SAR network members, partners, and supporters that I share with you this summary of our collective accomplishments over this past year. We could not do this without you, and I look forward to doing even more together in the years ahead.

In solidarity and with deep gratitude,

ROB QUINN
THE NETWORK

SAR is an international network of over 650 higher education institutions and associations in 43 countries, 16 national sections (with several more forming), and 14 partnerships with leading higher education networks, that all voluntarily associate themselves with SAR and help extend SAR-related activities to every region of the world.

All network members share SAR’s mission of protecting threatened scholars and promoting academic freedom. Together, we meet this mission through three core activity areas: protection (casework or direct assistance); advocacy (campaigns for individuals and academic freedom generally); and research and learning (publications, conferences, workshops, and trainings). Some network members and partners are active in all three areas, while others might be active in only one area (for example, by hosting a threatened scholar or by leading a SAR-affiliated student seminar), but SAR is the only group that combines these three areas of work under a single, self-identified community of institutions and individuals.

The need for SAR’s work has increased tremendously, placing growing demands on our services. Populist and authoritarian regimes continue to grow in number and are actively working to restrict academic freedom, while ongoing refugee crises, armed conflicts, and climate disasters contribute to record...
numbers of scholars seeking help, with over 1,000 requests under review or receiving services.

The higher education community is responding and our global network continues to grow, meaning more opportunities to help scholars, raise awareness, and demand greater protection for universities, scholars, students, and academic freedom.

**SAR Sections, Partners & Hubs**
The SAR network is increasingly organized into national “sections”—geographic groupings of higher education institutions organized for the specific purpose of participating in SAR-related activities.

These are joined by partner networks—formal associations between SAR and pre-existing networks of higher education institutions. All of these are represented through SAR’s International Advisory Committee (IAC), which is the voice of the network membership to SAR’s governing board. The IAC embeds an international perspective into SAR’s structure and governance and provides a forum and communication channel for all involved. This allows for greater coordination of activities across regions, more sharing of best practices leading to improved support for scholars, and more opportunities to advance academic freedom worldwide. Most recently, these have been joined by regional advocacy “hubs” in Africa and Latin America, made up of researchers and academic staff collaborating on projects aimed at increasing awareness and protection of academic freedom.

---

**SAR SECTIONS & PARTNER NETWORKS**

**SAR SECTIONS** | Network members are increasingly organized into national “sections.”

- SAR Germany
- SAR Finland
- SAR Ireland
- SAR Netherlands
- SAR Flanders (with Flemish Interuniversity Council (VLIR))
- SAR Norway
- SAR Sweden
- SAR Switzerland
- UK-SAR universities network (with the Council for At-Risk Academics (Cara))
- SAR Canada
- SAR United States
- SAR Denmark
- SAR Italy
- SAR Slovakia
- SAR Greece
- SAR Australia

**PARTNER NETWORKS** | SAR has arrangements with many major higher education associations including, for example, the European University Association and the European Association for International Education.

**INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (IAC)** | The IAC is comprised of representatives of the sections and partner networks; it serves as the voice of the network membership and advises the SAR staff and board on SAR policies and programming.
It was a terrible day when I witnessed the unexpected fall of Kabul. On the 15th of August 2021, I was teaching at Kateb University when two of my students received repeated calls from their parents about the arrival of the Taliban in Kabul and that they should leave the university and return home as soon as possible. The fear, apprehension, and worry that appeared in the eyes of those two students and the news of the fall of Kabul made all my students worried and scared. It was at the end of the first half of my class that several students left the class and returned home, especially female students due to their greater vulnerability and frequent calls from their family members. I finished my class normally but with a deep fear and worry.

As the last person to leave the class, I saw that the university campus, which used to be difficult to find a way out because of the high concentration of students, was completely empty and I saw only two university guards who called out “Teacher, leave, the Taliban have arrived at the gates of Kabul!” After leaving the gate of the university campus and seeing the roaring flood of a wandering nation in the streets of Kabul, I trembled and lost the power to move. I could hardly walk back to my room.

It was a very sad and fearful day and with the knowledge I had about the previous dark period of the Taliban and living in the shadow of their oppression, terror, and violence, I unconsciously imagined a dangerous and dark future for all the people, especially for the scientific community of Afghanistan. As a university lecturer and a Ph.D. candidate, everything was almost over for me that day and I thought that all my efforts and dreams for the development of Afghanistan’s education and scientific community were destroyed. But I never lost hope and started looking for options to continue my career and academic activities, and luckily, I found SAR.

I will never forget how the SAR Network rushed to help Afghanistan’s scholar community and stood by us with all its strength. The SAR network in cooperation with Brandeis University not only gave me hope for better days in that difficult time of my life in Kabul, but also provided me with their comprehensive and non-stop support to continue my studies and work in a safe environment here in the United States.
My country has been in a state of war for more than ten years now. The upheaval of the war in Syria, has caused me great hardship. Unable to return to my country, I was desperate and in a difficult position. After learning about SAR’s work I applied in the hopes that they could help me as I work to establish myself as a leader in my field.

SAR offered a unique and much-needed opportunity to pursue my academic career by securing a place where I could enhance my skills and build my resume. This has allowed me to work in an educational environment that is more stable, provides a platform for creativity, freedom of speech, and the free flow of ideas. My host university has accommodated me and given me access to facilities that have helped me achieve my goals until the time comes for me to safely return to Syria.

Academics living in a war-torn country face many challenges that can affect their personal and professional life, ranging from life-threatening incidents under repressive regimes to discrimination in the workplace. There are limits to what they can do and say. Also, being in such a situation of insecurity and continuous fear about the future is not easy to manage and has a severe impact on a person’s mental health. They need every support available.

While it is difficult to keep working in the midst of such hardships, we need to keep trying and never give up on our dream of a better future for ourselves, our families and our countries. We should always be ready to support others as we know how much it means to have a helping hand in such difficult situations.

My experience since contacting SAR has been very positive and encouraging. I felt I had the support I very much needed. SAR and its team were never reluctant to help with any inquiry or request. They were very kind and understanding of my academic and personal needs and they were happy to listen to them and act on my behalf. Without SAR support, none of what I am achieving today would have been possible.

My work matters because it aims to improve the experience of refugees and immigrants in their host countries. SAR has helped me continue this work by offering different forms of support, not limited to financial support or finding a suitable host institution. SAR has helped make my academic journey smoother and more fruitful. I do not know what the future would have looked like without SAR’s support.
Being an academic, specifically in the field of humanities, compels me to voice my opinion and take a stand against the oppression of the most vulnerable people. Remaining silent would be synonymous with being an accomplice of the oppressor. I have promised myself to live by this standard knowing very well the risks I was facing, even though I could not measure the extent of the danger up until I was forced to face the “monster” in my own country.

I was lucky to get in touch with SAR. At a time when I needed a life vest, SAR provided one via the University of Bergen, Norway. Besides providing shelter for me, the University of Bergen and SAR helped me develop my career by building on my experience. This has been crucial for the jobs I have applied for and will apply for in the future.

I wish that others could understand just how dire circumstances can be for some scholars. To know that it can cost you your life to be an intellectual who is not afraid to stand against a regime. Many have lost their livelihood, their lives, for simply voicing an opinion against the numerous injustices of a decades-long regime. Every day, journalists, teachers, professors, researchers, members of civil society, and others opposed to injustice face the brutality of the regime simply for speaking out. Many of those who successfully left the country live with the fear of what could happen to them should they return home, which might be unavoidable, given that many—if not all—still have close family there.

I would tell other academics in a similar situation to apply to the SAR program in time and get the protection they need. It is simple: gather the evidence of the threats you are exposed to, and send in your application. The first step might be difficult to make because of one’s individual situation. But, once you’ve overcome the challenge of taking that initial first step, you will get the help you need all the way through, until you are in a safe space.

“I will never forget the notification from SAR that my application had been accepted. In an instant, I went from hopeless to happy—I could apply for a visa and have a decent life at last. Moreover, I got the opportunity to work at the university where I studied. I could not have hoped for better.”
SAR’s core protection work provides direct assistance to threatened scholars, including arranging temporary research and teaching positions at SAR member institutions, advising on careers and transitions, and a range of other services.

**Scholars Seeking Assistance**
Due to spreading conflicts and pressures on academics and universities around the world, SAR has continued to receive an elevated number of requests for help; this year receiving **1,770 new applications** from 45 countries, including a high volume from Afghanistan. Other **top five countries include Ukraine, Ethiopia, Turkey, and Yemen.**

**Higher Education Communities Respond**
The global SAR Network is responding to these pressures on academic freedom by assisting scholars who are directly affected. Together, we helped 300 scholars this year, including arranging 171 positions. These positions represent over US $8 million contributed by host campuses and partners that directly supports at-risk scholars and their families. Since SAR’s inception in 2000, our network has helped over **1,800 scholars** and helped arrange over **1,700 positions at 300 host campuses**, representing over US $42 million of support for colleagues under threat.

**Other Services**
Beyond arranging positions, SAR provides scholars with advice, legal referrals, career advisement, and other services. SAR has provided these to **276 scholars** this year. SAR staff lead training workshops for scholars and hosts, with over **500 participants in the last five years**. The trainings share best practices for hosts and prepare scholars to graduate from SAR support by identifying next opportunities, in exile or upon return.

**Emergency Assistance Grants**
SAR also provides gap-filling emergency assistance grants. This year SAR provided 80 emergency grants to scholars for in-country needs; travel for interviews, conferences, or to take up new positions; visa fees; legal costs; family support for those detained or facing charges; or supplemental support to address challenges presented by the pandemic and related travel restrictions. SAR also provides support to public intellectuals, activists, writers, artists, and other “practitioners at risk” who suffer attacks or restrictions because of their work defending free inquiry, free expression, human rights, and democratic values.

**SAR Helped This Year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>SAR Helped This Year</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>300</strong> 171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scholars Assisted</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Positions Arranged</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hosts 2021–2022
SAR is grateful to the universities that have created positions for scholars throughout our history, and especially those listed below who created positions last year. The list includes positions that commenced last year, remote positions, positions arranged that will be taken up shortly, as well as positions offered which have not yet been commenced due to arrest, visa denials, COVID-19 or other travel restrictions, visa denials, or other external factors.

Alice Salomon Hochschule Berlin
Arizona State University
Barnard College
Brandeis University
Carleton College
Carleton University
Carnegie Mellon University
Clark University
Columbia University
Danish Institute for International Studies
Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne-EPFL
Emory University
ETH Zürich
Florida Atlantic University
Forum Transregionale Studien
Friedrich—Alexander University Erlangen—Nürnberg
Georgetown University
Ghent University
Goethe University Frankfurt
Grand Valley State University
Hasselt University
Haverford College
Heidelberg University
Hochschule Trier
Humboldt University of Berlin
Jagiellonian University
Johns Hopkins University
Julius Kühn-Institute
Karolinska Institutet
KU Leuven
Leibniz Universität Hannover
Leipzig University
Linköping University
Linnaeus University
Lund University
Malmo University
Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg
Maynooth University
Memorial University of Newfoundland
New York University
Nord University
Norwegian University of Life Sciences
Norwegian University of Science & Technology
Oslo Metropolitan University
Pennsylvania State University
Philips-Universität Marburg
Roger Williams University
Ruhr University Bochum
Saint Mary’s University
Simon Fraser University
Stockholm University
Technische Hochschule Lübeck
Technische Universität Bergakademie Freiberg
Technische Universität Chemnitz
Technische Universität Dresden
Technische Universität München
Tufts University
Tulane University
Università della Svizzera italiana (Lugano)
University of Aged
University of Antwerp
University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Western Switzerland
University of Bern
University of Bonn
University of Bremen
University of California at Berkeley
University of California, Davis
University of California, Irvine
University of Canterbury
University of Coimbra
University of Cologne
University of Connecticut
University of Duisburg-Essen
University of Düsseldorf
University of Florida
University of Freiburg
University of Geneva
University of Gothenburg
University of Göttingen
University of Groningen
University of Hamburg
University of Hildesheim
University of Hohenheim
University of Kassel
University of Lausanne
University of Münster
University of New South Wales
University of Oslo
University of Ottawa
University of Portsmouth
University of Rochester
University of Siegen
University of South-Eastern Norway
University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg
Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Wesleyan University
Western Norway University of Applied Sciences
Western University
Wheaton College
Whitman College
Wilfrid Laurier University
Williams College
Xavier University of Louisiana
York University

Scholars Hosted
During the 2021–2022 academic year, host campuses and other partners created positions for the scholars listed below by their discipline and country. The list includes positions commenced that year, positions arranged that will be taken up shortly, and remote positions, as well as positions offered which have not yet been commenced due to arrest, visa denials, COVID-19 or other travel restrictions, visa denials, or other external factors.

Arts & Humanities (23)
Archaeology (Iran)
Archaeology (Sudan)
Comparative Education (Yemen)
Education (Afghanistan)
Education (Pakistan)
Education (Turkey)
Educational Administration (Turkey)
Language and Linguistics (Syria)
Literature (Afghanistan)
Literature (Afghanistan)
Music (Afghanistan)
Music (Nigeria)
Painting (Turkey)
Persian Literature (Afghanistan)
Persian Literature (Afghanistan)
Philosophy (Turkey)
Science Education (Turkey)
Special Needs Education (Afghanistan)
Social Studies Education (Turkey)
Theatre Studies (Afghanistan)
Theatre Studies (Iran)
Threatre and Cinema (Afghanistan)
Translation Studies (Syria)
Journalism & Writing (5)
Journalism and Poetry (Afghanistan)
Journalism (Afghanistan)
Journalism (Afghanistan)
Journalism (Afghanistan)
Political Satire and Journalism (Iran)
Business & Finance (4)
Business and Management (Turkey)
Finance (Afghanistan)
Gender Equity and Finance (Afghanistan)
Management (Turkey)
Law & Human Rights (8)
International Law (Ethiopia)
Law (Afghanistan)
Law (Afghanistan)
Law (Afghanistan)
Law (Afghanistan)
Law (Uganda)
Sustainable International Development Law (Afghanistan)
Medicine & Public Health (16)
Cardiology (Afghanistan)
Epidemiology (Afghanistan)
Food and Nutrition (Afghanistan)
Genetics (Turkey)
Health (Myanmar)
Histology (Turkey)
Medical Physiology (Afghanistan)
Medical Physiology (Afghanistan)
Medicine (Turkey)
Medicine (Turkey)
Medical Science (Afghanistan)
Neuroscience (Turkey)
Nursing and Midwifery (Ethiopia)
Pediatric Medicine (Turkey)
Public Health (Afghanistan)
Public Health (Afghanistan)

Physical & Life Sciences (60)
Agriculture (Syria)
Agriculture (Yemen)
Agricultural Engineering (Syria)
Agriculture Engineering (Afghanistan)
Agriculture Engineering (Afghanistan)
Agriculture Engineering (Afghanistan)
Agriculture Engineering (Afghanistan)
Agriculture Engineering (Afghanistan)
Agriculture Engineering (Afghanistan)
Agronomy (Afghanistan)
Analytical Chemistry (Turkey)
Animal Science (Ethiopia)
Biochemistry (Afghanistan)
Biology (Afghanistan)
Biology (Myanmar)
Botany (Myanmar)
Chemistry (Afghanistan)
Chemistry (Afghanistan)
Chemistry (Turkey)
Chemistry (Turkey)
Chemistry (Turkey)
Chemistry (Yemen)
Civil Engineering (Afghanistan)
Civil Engineering (Afghanistan)
Civil Engineering (Turkey)
Environmental Engineering (Afghanistan)
Environmental Engineering (Turkey)
Environmental Science (Afghanistan)
Genetics and Plant Breeding (Afghanistan)
Geography (Afghanistan)
Geography (Turkey)
Geography (Yemen)
Geology (Afghanistan)
Geology (Myanmar)
Horticulture (Syria)
Industrial Engineering (Turkey)
Industrial Engineering (Turkey)
Materials Engineering (Turkey)
Materials Engineering (Turkey)
Mechanical Engineering (Iran)
Mechanical Engineering (Syria)
Mechanical Engineering (Syria)
Medicinal Chemistry (Syria)
Molecular Medicine (Iran)
Nuclear Physics (Belarus)
Nutritional Sciences (Yemen)
Organic Chemistry (Syria)
Organic Chemistry (Turkey)
Pharmacology (Palestine)
Pharmacy (Afghanistan)
Pharmacy (Afghanistan)
Pharmacy (Ethiopia)
Physics (Afghanistan)
Physics (Turkey)
Physics (Turkey)
Physics (Turkey)
Plant Breeding (Ethiopia)
Toxicology (Afghanistan)
Veterinary Science (Myanmar)
Water Engineering (Afghanistan)
Water & Environmental Research (Afghanistan)

Social Sciences (41)
African Political Sociology (Cameroon)
Communication Sciences (Turkey)
Criminal Justice (Turkey)
Criminology (Turkey)
Development Policy (Afghanistan)
Economics (Afghanistan)
Economics (Ethiopia)
Economics (Ethiopia)
Economics (Syria)
Economics (Tanzania)
Economics (Turkey)
Economics (Turkey)
Gender Studies (Afghanistan)
Gender Studies (Afghanistan)
Gender Studies (Iran)
Geography (Hong Kong)
History (Belarus)
History (Egypt)
History (Egypt)
Human Geography (Syria)
Human Geography (Turkey)
Human Rights (Egypt)
International Relations (Myanmar)
Linguistics (Ukraine)
Political Archaeology (Iran)
Political Archaeology (Iran)
Political Science (Afghanistan)
Political Science (Afghanistan)
Political Science (Belarus)
Political Science (Egypt)
Political Science (Turkey)
Political Science (Turkey)
Psychology (Afghanistan)
Psychology (Afghanistan)
Psychology (Afghanistan)
Public Administration (Turkey)
Sociology (Colombia)
Sociology (Turkey)
Sociology (Turkey)
Sociology (Turkey)
Sociology (Turkey)
In my line of work, especially in countries where democracy is weak, and the rule of law is inadequate, journalists often find themselves in dangerous situations. As a journalist focused on human rights, I had to withstand pressure through social media bullying, disinformation campaigns, death and rape threats, unwarranted raids at my house, and even an assassination attempt. I was already in the US for a fellowship with the National Endowment for Democracy when I was accused of blasphemy back home. That was when I decided not to return to a possible lynching in Pakistan. It was not an easy decision. The thought that kept me awake at night was my possible inability to continue my journalistic work. But when SAR placed me in residency with the University of Connecticut, not only did I get an opportunity to share and refine my ideas as an adjunct professor, but I also was able to continue writing and researching.

During the NED fellowship, I learned about SAR, but I never knew that SAR also had a Practitioners at Risk track. This program allowed me to keep myself alive, not just physically but in spirit too. When I got this residency, I began working on my book, documenting the cases of brazen censorship and media manipulation in South Asian countries, focusing on Pakistan and India. My host institution, the University of Connecticut, welcomed me with open arms and extended a helping hand in every aspect of my job and even in my personal life. The transition from working as an activist and a journalist in Pakistan to working in US academia felt complicated until I met colleagues at UConn, who made it a point to be there whenever I needed guidance, advice, or just a friendly chat that made me feel I belonged and my work was valued. At UConn, I also had the opportunity to get to know other academics doing excellent work.

SAR also connected me to the New University in Exile Consortium, which is a great platform for the community of academics in exile. I would not have been able to continue my writing had I not discovered SAR’s practitioner track. So my advice to the scholars and practitioners already in residency would be to remain active in the network and offer mentorship to other scholars who are at risk. If you feel you cannot continue your scholarly or professional work as a practitioner due to the threats you face, you must explore how SAR can help you.
I worked as a university professor in Kabul, Afghanistan for eight years. I was the dean of my department, and enjoyed working in an academic environment with the hardworking students of my country. Seeing my past students as graduate and doctoral students in the best universities in the world, and as high-ranking government and non-government employees, strongly motivated me to stay in my country and do my duty. With all my heart, I devoted myself to the education of students whom I thought would play a very important role in the future of Afghanistan. In addition to facilitating knowledge production, I always tried to foster an environment that promoted insightfulness and awareness about the issues the country was facing. Open discussions were always a part of my classes and I had no qualms about talking about political issues and challenging the beliefs (religious and non-religious) of my students. Many times I was threatened by some of my students to not raise such discussions in my classes. But since I saw the great interest of most of the students in these issues, I did not take these threats very seriously.

But after some university professors were killed in Kabul and other provinces of Afghanistan in suicide and terrorist attacks, my concerns intensified. I felt extremely threatened when the Taliban came to power in August 2021. Then, my wife received an official threat letter from the Taliban due to her work with government and international projects, and was forced to resign from her job. When the Taliban entered Kabul, they threatened to harm me and my family and we could not leave the house for many days. At the end of August 2021, in the middle of the night, we left our house and all of our possessions and were evacuated to Europe. I am currently working as a visiting scholar at a university in Canada, and I would like to thank the great teams of SAR and IIE-SRF that helped me.

Currently, freedom of expression has been completely destroyed in Afghanistan and university professors experience many restrictions. The smallest protests are severely suppressed and many of my colleagues (especially those from religious and ethnic minorities) have lost their jobs.

By saving the lives of academics, scientists, and university professors, SAR helps them to reach their great goal of spreading science, awareness, and insight to their communities. I think that such an activity is right against the terrorist and dictatorial regimes in many countries of the world.
Thu Zar | MYANMAR

I am a PhD student from Myanmar, studying at the Institute of Plant Sciences (IPS), University of Bern, Switzerland. My PhD was originally funded by the Swiss Government Excellence scholarship programme, but the funding ran out in August 2020. Then, on the 1st of February 2021, the military junta overthrew the democratically elected government. Since then, the country has been in very bad shape and is now in the middle of a civil war. Because of the military coup, I was in constant fear and worried for my family and for the people of Myanmar (Burma). I watched the news everyday until I had a mental breakdown which negatively affected my studies. I sought therapy, and other help for my condition and took a break from news, social media and everything that was having an impact on my mental health.

Before February 1st 2021, my plan was to finish my PhD from Myanmar by defending my dissertation online, but it was not possible to go back home. I have been participating in the civil disobedience movement (CDM) since the onset of the military coup and took part in some demonstrations in Switzerland in solidarity with the people of Myanmar. These are the reasons why I cannot renew my passport. Many of the people who participated in the CDM who went back to Myanmar were immediately arrested at the airport by the junta.

Therefore, my supervisor and co-supervisor introduced me to Scholars at Risk. In January 2022, my host university provided the funding for one year when I needed financial support to continue working on my PhD. My family in Myanmar is in no situation to support me financially and I even had to support them from time to time because almost all the businesses are shut down and it is not safe to continue running them.

With the help of SAR, I have a chance to present at a conference, write papers for international publications, attend courses, and most importantly I have been able to continue my PhD study without financial issues. I would like to thank Scholars At Risk (SAR) with all my heart for your support in my PhD journey.
SAR’s advocacy work increases protection for at-risk scholars by documenting the global phenomenon of attacks on higher education communities and seeking implementation of additional protections for academic freedom.

Monitoring and Reporting

Free to Think 2022, the annual report of SAR’s Academic Freedom Monitoring Project, documents 391 attacks on university communities in 65 countries and territories, from September 1, 2021, to August 31, 2022.

The online-only report highlights violent attacks on higher education communities, wrongful prosecutions of scholars, pressures on student expression, and restrictions on travel, among other global pressures. It features two dozen profiles of countries where SAR reported concerning trends in attacks on higher education communities within the reporting year: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, Ethiopia, Ghana, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Occupied Palestinian Territories, Pakistan, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Philippines, Russia, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Ukraine, United States, and Venezuela.

Volunteer monitors throughout SAR’s global network contribute by submitting data and by supporting advocacy around the report. Since 2011, SAR has documented 2,481 incidents involving 3,247 attacks on higher education in 123 countries. SAR-affiliated legal clinics increase monitoring coverage while training students on academic freedom and human rights. Students produce reports on specific incidents involving attacks on higher education and analyze country conditions relating to academic freedom. Over the last seven years, students in 43 SAR clinics helped prepare academic freedom reports on Bahrain, Belarus, Colombia, Côte d’Ivoire, Ethiopia, Hungary, India, Iran, Israel, Thailand, Turkey, and Venezuela for submission to national and international human rights bodies.

Efforts to nurture increased monitoring, advocacy, and organizing in different regions continue. Exceptional progress...
has been made this year in the Americas. Our previously established “Americas hub” helped draft and supported the adoption by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) of a new set of Principles of Academic Freedom and Autonomy. The hub has since reconstituted itself as the **Coalition for Academic Freedom in the Americas** (CAFA), underscoring the solidarity among current and future coalition partners. As CAFA, the group was selected by the IACHR to serve as a member of a Specialized Academic Network to support and inform the IACHR’s efforts to implement protections for academic freedom in the region. This Specialized Network was established in 2021, with SAR and CAFA coalition partners as inaugural members. The invitation to engage for a second year and maintain our partnership with the IACHR is a significant positive sign for CAFA.

**UN Universal Periodic Review**

The United Nations Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is the process by which the record of each of the 193 UN Member States is reviewed by the other Member States, with formal and informal opportunities for input from civil society. SAR routinely participates in the UPR process in an effort to establish greater awareness within the international community of the problem of attacks on higher education. This past year, SAR made submissions, based on monitoring project data, regarding Brazil, India (in partnership with the SAR clinic at McGill University’s Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism), Indonesia (in partnership with the Indonesian Caucus for Academic Freedom (KIKA)), and Pakistan. In August 2022, SAR attended the 41st UPR pre-sessions at the Human Rights Council in Geneva and, joined by a colleague from KIKA, presented remarks about a pattern of repression targeting outspoken scholars and students in Indonesia.

**Students**

Students participating in Student Advocacy Seminars play an increasingly important role in SAR’s advocacy work. Seminar students develop research and leadership skills while advocating on behalf of scholars and students identified by SAR’s Scholars in Prison Project.

Over the last eight years, students at 42 institutions in Austria, Bangladesh, Canada, Germany, Ghana, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, the Netherlands, Norway, the United Kingdom, and the United States helped SAR campaign for 20 imprisoned scholars and students from Bahrain, Belarus, China, Egypt, India, Iran, Nicaragua, Saudi Arabia, South Sudan, and the United Arab Emirates. Over that same period, SAR has seen the release or improvement in conditions of detention for subjects from Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Nicaragua, Saudi Arabia, and South Sudan.

Seminar participants put their advocacy skills into practice at SAR’s annual Student Advocacy Day events, which took place in Canada, Europe, and the United States. In Canada and Europe, where events were organized by
University of British Columbia, Canada, and Ruhr University Bochum, Germany, respectively, students presented their research to peers and civil society, and participated in online workshops on best practices in advocacy. In the United States, 31 students and faculty held 17 meetings with members of U.S. Congressional staff in Washington, D.C., regarding wrongfully imprisoned scholars Ahmadreza Djalali, Ahmed Samir Santawy, Ilham Tohti, Marfa Rabkova, Nasser bin Ghaith, Rahile Dawut, and Patrick Zaki. In meetings, the students first shared case history, described SAR’s work, and explained why they, as students, care about these scholars’ well-being. They then presented specific recommendations and asked for their elected representatives to act on behalf of these scholars themselves.

In all, over 320 students at 16 universities in eight different countries participated in the seminars during the 2021–22 academic year. They raised awareness about 10 Scholars in Prison Project cases, ranging from East Asia to Central Europe to the Middle East. During the year, seminars ran social media campaigns, held public events, and organized meetings with public officials to demand global action.

**Scholars in Prison**

**Scholars Released**

This past year, SAR welcomed the release from prison of three Scholars in Prison. In December 2021, Patrick George Zaki, a postgraduate student researching Women and Gender Studies at the University of Bologna, Italy, was released from prison in Egypt, but is still barred from leaving the country due to still pending charges relating to his human rights research. In February 2022, electrical engineering scholar Khalil al-Halwachi was released after serving seven years of a ten-year prison sentence in Bahrain. And in July, Ahmed Samir Santawy was released on a presidential pardon; he had been held for 18 months. Santawy is a postgraduate student at Central European University, Austria and studies women’s reproductive rights in Egypt. Many SAR network members and partners, including student advocacy seminars, legal clinics, and sections took part in advocating on Santawy’s behalf.
Key Actions

> **Global:** In November 2021, SAR participated in a Congressional briefing on Imprisoned Writers, Scholars, and Journalists, organized by the US Congress’s Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission. The briefing featured witnesses from PEN America, Reporters Without Borders, and SAR (all partners in the Defending Freedoms Project, housed within the Lantos Commission) and provided an opportunity to urge Members of Congress to act in support of prisoners of conscience.

> **Bahrain:** In July, Bahraini scholar Dr. Abduljalil Al-Singace marked one year on hunger strike. Dr. Al-Singace was arrested in 2011 and has since been held in Bahrain’s Jau Prison. He began refusing sustenance to protest his ill-treatment, and to demand the return of confiscated research. Dr. Al-Singace’s health has deteriorated rapidly while on hunger strike, and Bahraini authorities have not provided him with appropriate medical care. SAR continues to call for Dr. Al-Singace’s immediate release so he can receive the medical care he urgently needs. In August, SAR joined 14 organizations in calling Bahraini authorities to release Dr. Al-Singace as he reached the 400th day of his hunger strike.

> **Belarus:** SAR sent a letter to authorities in Belarus expressing grave concern over the sentencing of Marfa Rabkova and calling for her immediate release. After nearly two years in pretrial detention, on September 6, 2022, the Minsk city court sentenced Ms. Rabkova, a student at European Humanities University in Lithuania, to 15 years in prison on 13 charges for her nonviolent expressive activity and work monitoring nationwide protests calling for Alexander Lukashenko’s resignation.

> **China:** SAR’s Advocacy Director wrote an afterword for Jewher Ilham’s recently-released book, *Because I Have To*, about maintaining strength while advocating for her father, wrongfully imprisoned scholar Ilham Tohti.

> **Iran:** Dr. Ahmadreza Djalali’s case remains of grave concern to the SAR network. In May, the spokesperson for the Iranian judiciary stated that Dr. Djalali would be hanged once the review of his case has been completed. We sent a letter to the United Nations, European Union, and other officials urging them to do everything in their power to halt the imminent execution and secure Dr. Djalali’s immediate release.

> **Egypt:** SAR has taken numerous actions in support of wrongfully imprisoned Egyptian scholars Ahmed Samir Santawy and Patrick George Zaki. Zaki, a University of Bologna postgraduate
student, he was released from pretrial detention in December 2021. On January 25, SAR gave a presentation at the Central European University conference on Ahmed Samir Santawy, a CEU postgraduate student serving a four-year prison sentence in Egypt. We signed a joint statement with over 60 organizations calling on President Abdelfattah Al-Sisi to quash the verdicts against Santawy and six other human rights defenders. In advance of Zaki’s trial on February 1, we sent a letter to Egyptian authorities and organized a social media campaign, in coordination with the release of SAR’s Free to Think podcast episode 19, which discusses the cases of both Zaki and Santawy.

> **Ukraine:** In March, as part of a SAR-wide effort to support members of the higher education community impacted the war in Ukraine, SAR together with SAR sections and partner networks issued a statement of solidarity with the people of Ukraine and with people around the world, including in Russia, condemning the ongoing acts of aggression against the Ukrainian people and territory by the agents and armed forces of the Russian Federation. SAR signed an open letter, endorsed by nearly 50 NGOs, calling on Member States of the United Nations to take action to suspend the rights of the Russian Federation as a member of the UN Human Rights Council for committing widespread, gross, and systematic violations of international human rights law in Ukraine and in Russia.

“The Lack of Clarity...Creates a Climate of Fear” discusses the cases of both Patrick George Zaki and Ahmed Samir Santawy. You can listen to this episode and others through SAR’s Free to Think podcast (available on most podcast platforms).
Anonymous | TURKEY

I was one of the Academics for Peace in Turkey who was detained and prosecuted for demanding a peaceful solution to the Kurdish problem, and was eventually dismissed from academic life and public service by the decree-laws. The state violence we have been subjected to has been briefly defined as a “civil death” usurping not only our academic identity, but also our right to live by working in any public job. As a sociologist, lecturer and feminist activist, I have witnessed by experience that peace, the most valuable principle making human society possible, is also the most necessary condition and natural environment of academic freedom. However, my personal story, neither new nor unique (like many similar stories around the world), has become a story of finding ways to build solidarity and responsibility to defend academic freedoms through SAR.

SAR has allowed me to re-experience the healing power of work in a collaborative and supportive academic environment that values the fundamental principles of scientific work and carries a rich culture of discussion. Moreover, I have been met with a friendship and kindness that gives importance to my needs not only academically, but also individually. Given the devastating professional and emotional effects of dismissal, being in an academic environment which recognizes and acknowledges vulnerabilities has been a vital experience for me. It gave me the strength to keep fighting and dream again.

“SAR has allowed me to re-experience the healing power of work in a collaborative and supportive academic environment that values the fundamental principles of scientific work and carries a rich culture of discussion.”
As a professor of law, I discussed the topic of human rights abuses and breaches of the laws of war in Tigray, a state in northern Ethiopia, during lectures of my December 2020 International Human Rights Law class. The discussions centered on claims of human rights breaches, including the targeting of civilians (murders, imprisonment), and the racial profiling of Tigrayans, which was also being covered by international news sources and human rights groups as a high profile topic at the time. The University administration accused me of acting against the federal government’s actions in Tigray and sympathizing with the regional authority. Consequently, I was warned to stop referring to the situation in Tigray. This had the unintended consequence of self-censoring my lectures in subsequent classes. After I completed teaching the human rights course, I was not given any more teaching responsibilities for the semester that followed. As long as I was under monitoring and severe pressure, it was evident that I would not be able to continue teaching, and was gradually being removed from my academic position. Consequently, I was compelled to leave my position in February 2021. I then joined a think tank, where the harassment persisted. Unable to pursue my academic career, I fled the country and finished my postdoctoral research at an American university. Due to my risk of persecution, it was unsafe for me to return to Ethiopia. With the help of SAR, I was able to obtain a position at a university in the United States, where I continue to publish, and speak often at conferences and public events on human rights, the rule of law, and African studies. My research focuses on the increasing importance of, and threat to, supranational institutions including human right mechanisms and international courts.

I will never forget the day I received the news from SAR that the university where I worked as a postdoc had agreed to host me. I am thankful and appreciative for the persistent effort that SAR made to help me. The constant hard work of SAR to help is not ordinary to find. Because of SAR, I am able to continue my research.

“I will never forget the day I received the news from SAR that the university...had agreed to host me. I am thankful and appreciative for the persistent effort that SAR made to help me.”
RESEARCH & LEARNING

SAR’s research and learning work aims to increase security for scholars and universities by strengthening collective understanding of academic freedom and related higher education values among states, higher education communities, and the public.

This year SAR brought together its first cohort of academic freedom fellows, through the Mellon Foundation supported Mellon/SAR Academic Freedom Fellowship. The fellowship program provides a research stipend and supportive professional community for researchers to develop and share related work on academic freedom and/or related higher education values leading to a publishable article; new course offering; workshop, webinar, or conference presentation; or other identified end product. The 2021–2022 fellowship supported projects investigating the relationship between academic freedom and the national STEM research production; academic freedom amid extreme violence in Colombia and Brazil; grassroots resistance movements to academic freedom violations in Russia; teaching LGBTQ rights in faith-based universities in Kenya; and a comparative analysis of legal frameworks related to academic freedom in India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh.

SAR continued to disseminate and promote its publications. Promoting Higher Education Values: A Guide for Discussion explores the meaning of academic freedom, why it matters, and how to respond when it is threatened. Promoting Higher Education Values: Workshop Supplement offers exercises and advice for self-study by individuals or groups.

Building on these publications, SAR and partners at the University of Oslo co-created an online course on academic freedom called Dangerous Questions: Why Academic Freedom Matters. The course has now engaged more than 5,600 participants from 142+ countries—adding among its moderated runs a private session for students across SAR’s Student Advocacy Seminars—reflecting the international demand for and curricular value of information about academic freedom.

2021–2022 | Mellon/SAR
Academic Freedom Fellows

Fahim Fernandez is Assistant Professor of Higher Education Administration & Policy at University of Florida. His research focuses on academic policy and equity issues. He works on the Academic Freedom Institute, which is supported by the Carnegie-Civil Rights Project Partnership. His work has appeared in journals such as The Chronicle of Higher Education, The Review of Higher Education, and The Journal of Blacks in Higher Education.
As a scholar-activist, I found myself in trouble during 2018–2019 when my research and media interviews challenged the official state narrative. This was at the time when the state silenced critics through various draconian measures such as kidnapping, forced disappearances, killings, and jailing through dubious charges. Two of my close friends spent time in jail on overinflated charges; it was only the fact that I was away from home at the time that saved me. Some of the problems I have faced include: being tracked by intelligence officials; threats of physical harm; well-coordinated high-level attempts to discredit my research with a public smear campaign; being called a traitor and puppet of the west; online trolling, including videos on YouTube; and having my local bank account frozen. But the biggest challenge for me was being dismissed by a government-run university after being pressured by the state.

My SAR fellowship came at a time when I was most in need. I was extremely anxious, confused, at a crossroad in my life, unsure of where I was heading. SAR and my host institution offered a safe place to continue my scholarship. In my first placement, I completed a joint grant bid which was later awarded. With funding from this grant, I have already started a new research project. I’m now using my time to build my networks to increase my publishing and funding profile. I have also benefited from professional development courses, which could be valuable in the future.

I wish others would understand that academics are increasingly facing the pressure to toe the official state line, and failure to do so can have huge and lasting repercussions. Some of us are lucky. Some think researchers should remain neutral and stick to research, but that is wrong.

I really wish other scholars in a similar predicament would get involved with SAR where possible. SAR offers more than just protection, they make sure scholars are hosted in departments where they can thrive and are able to make the most out of their stay.

Every interaction since my initial contact with SAR and after securing a placement at my host institution has been amazing. The most important thing is that at each of the places I have visited, I have been allowed to be myself, a scholar-activist, without being judged. This is important because I’m not just a researcher but also an activist in another capacity and the freedom to be who I am means a lot.
When provinces were falling one after another to Taliban forces, I was in Kabul and was very scared and lived in hiding. I changed my address because of my prominent position with the government and international research centers. Still, when I remember those terrifying moments, my whole body fills with fear. I was fortunate to get my Turkish visa which allowed me to escape from Kabul on Friday, August 13, 2021, two days before the Taliban would sweep into Kabul. During that challenging time that I lived in Turkey, SAR worked closely with me. They gave me the opportunity to restart my research and academic work in a prestigious institution like Arizona State University in a short period of time. To get the chance to find the ability to work with SAR in helping to solve the problems of at-risk scholars is one of my great dreams for the future.

All the hard work I had done was lost in just a few days and I had to leave my family, who are very dear and precious to me. But I have never given up when faced with challenging situations. I know that my life and knowledge are valuable for many people around the world, so I started focusing on my capacity for development, writing different research articles, and presenting my research findings at several conferences. It is only with perseverance and hard work that a person can achieve the position they desire.

“I will never forget the generosity and support provided by SAR, Arizona State University and my colleagues in Hydrosystems Engineering, Especially Professor Enrique Vivoni who has always encouraged me to continue learning and remain optimistic.”
SAR Europe, hosted by Maynooth University in Ireland, promotes SAR’s mission in Europe.

In 2021–22, SAR Europe organized regular convenings of the European Coordinating Committee for Academic Freedom Advocacy to share expertise across countries and institutions. The Committee grew to include experts with organizational bases in 18 European countries, and representatives from four organizations with Europe-wide membership. With input from committee members, SAR Europe contributed policy briefings to the Council of Europe, the European Parliament, and the European Commission, and provided presentations to policymakers with a view to informing Europe’s legal and policy norms as they relate to academic freedom. These included responses to the European Commission consultations on the 2022 Rule of Law Report, a briefing to the EU Special Representative for Human Rights, and a briefing to the Science Advisors of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of EU member States.

In January 2022, the EU-funded Inspireurope initiative, led by SAR Europe, contributed to the development of Guidelines for the inclusion of researchers at risk. The Guidelines were published by the European Commission’s Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions with the goal of widening access for researchers at risk to EU fellowship schemes.

In April 2022, Inspireurope published Inspireurope Recommendations: Expanding Opportunities in Europe for Researchers at Risk, a policy report with eight concrete recommendations for institutional, national and European actors. The report was launched at the Inspireurope-Philipp Schwartz Initiative forum held in Berlin in May 2022.

SAR Europe, together with Inspireurope partners, continued to advocate for an EU fellowship scheme for researchers at risk and to support SAR sections in Europe in efforts to develop national support schemes in their countries. While efforts towards a general EU-wide scheme for researchers at risk are ongoing, in July 2022 SAR Europe at Maynooth University, together with the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and the European University Association entered into an agreement with the European Commission to build and implement MSCA4Ukraine, a 25 million euro EU-funded scheme supporting displaced researchers from Ukraine. The scheme will be launched in September 2022.
SAR is grateful for the generosity of our supporters with special thanks to the Office of the Provost of New York University for hosting our network headquarters and the National University of Ireland, Maynooth for hosting SAR Europe.

We give thanks to the many colleagues and partners around the world who have gone out of their way to help threatened and refugee scholars, especially those who have helped arrange visits, host events, mentor scholars, or have otherwise provided assistance or advice.

**LEADERS**

$25,000+
- Charina Endowment Fund
- Charles Koch Foundation
- Freedom House
- The Henry Luce Foundation
- Jan Krukowski
- The Mellon Foundation
- National Endowment for Democracy (NED)
- Open Society Foundations
- Mariko Silver
- Vivian G. Prins Foundation
- The Winston Foundation

**CHAMPIONS**

$10,000+
- Benevity Community Impact Fund
- Fritt Ord Foundation
- Jonathan F. Fanton
- Leon Levy Foundation
- Microsoft Corporation
- The Neubauer Collegium at the University of Chicago
- Matthew Nimetz
- Rosalie J. Wolf

**DEFENDERS**

$5,000+
- Lisa Anderson
- Anonymous

**ADVOCATES**

$1,000+
- Kathryn H. Anderson
- Anonymous (2)
- Jonathan Cole
- Ariel & Angelica Dorfman
- Jonathan Dwight Culler
- Leonard Engel
- Irving Epstein
- Joel Forman
- Markus Friedrich
- Alison T. Gray
- Michael Hirschhorn
- Shadia Kuoni
- Robert Quinn
- Joel Lebowitz
- Lance & Carol Liebman
- Martha Loerke
- Barbara McElroy
- Gilbert W. Merkx
- Maura Monaghan & Chris Morris
- Hugh R. Muller
- Richard Raisler

**SUPPORTERS**

$500+
- Anonymous (2)
- Ali Arab
- Alan & Susan Becker
- Jay M. Bernstein
- Mary Virginia Burrus
- Jonathan Coopersmith
- Robert Haines
- Michele Irwin
- Robin Jacobowitz & Mike Sweeney
- Thomas Keenan
- Peter Mayer
- Anne McCall
- Brent Smith
- Margaret Vitullo
- Stephen White

**BENEFACTORS**

Up to $499
- Anonymous
- Shemeem Abbas
- Susan Albertine
- Mhd Rabih Almerestani
- Amazon
- Amy Anderson
- Tim Athan
- Lynne Azarchi

SAR is grateful for the generosity of our supporters with special thanks to the Office of the Provost of New York University for hosting our network headquarters and the National University of Ireland, Maynooth for hosting SAR Europe.

We give thanks to the many colleagues and partners around the world who have gone out of their way to help threatened and refugee scholars, especially those who have helped arrange visits, host events, mentor scholars, or have otherwise provided assistance or advice.
**Stats & Financials**

- **650+** Network Institutions
- **14** Partner Networks
- **16** National Sections
- **43** Member Countries
- **$8M+** In Scholar Support
- **111** Host Institutions
- **300** Scholars Assisted
- **171** Positions Arranged

**FY21 Summary**

- **Total Revenue**: $4,674,860
- **Total Expenses**: $2,825,669
  - Protection: $1,855,874
  - Advocacy: $645,647
  - Research & Learning: $135,392
  - Development & Admin: $188,756
- **Leveraged for At-Risk Scholars**: $8,176,361
  
  (Return on protection costs)

**Sources of Support**

- **Members**: 25%
- **Grants**: 70%
- **Individuals**: 5%

*Figures do not include SAR Europe.

Scholars at Risk is an independent not-for-profit corporation, hosted at New York University.
I am a young journalist and scholar, currently pursuing a PhD at the Institute of Communication and Public Policy at USI (Università della Svizzera italiana) in Switzerland within the Public Integrity Research Group (GRIP). The collapse of the Afghan government to the Taliban on August 15, 2021, had a direct impact on academic freedom in the country and put many local journalists’ and scholars’ lives at risk. My background as a journalist and as a scholar who has written and researched the topics of women’s representation in public service, positive discrimination policies, open government, and public administration reforms, made it impossible for me to return to my country.

Fortunately, during my last stay at ETH Zurich through the ETH4D research fellowship in 2021 (before the collapse), I met Prof. Jean-Patrick Villeneuve at USI who agreed to serve as my advisor, ultimately leading to my acceptance in my PhD program. With the support of the Scholars at Risk Network, Swiss National Science Foundation, ETH Zurich, and USI and considering the situation in Afghanistan, the enrollment process was expedited to bring me to safety and allow me to continue my research.

My experience with SAR has shown me that academic freedom is one of the most important keys/elements contributing to the development of societies. It matters a lot that scholars are developing their research ideas in a safe environment and sharing their academic thoughts freely. Since December 2021, I have had opportunities to work on different research articles, take part in international academic conferences, and present my research focuses. In addition, in May of 2022, I held an info-session about my educational journey and provided insight on the situation in Afghanistan at USI. An additional larger event in solidarity with Afghanistan followed, including a roundtable discussion that focused on the ups and downs of Afghan women’s representation in public administration throughout history.

“"My work matters because once again Afghan women have been deprived of their rights to education and work under the Taliban’s regime. In addition, strict policies on women, a male-led government system, and patriarchal mindsets are the main concerns now.”
BOARD
Lisa Anderson, Chair
Naila Al Atrash
Alfred Babo
Jonathan R. Cole
Jorge Sánchez Cordero
Irvinger Epstein
Jonathan F. Fanton
Thomas Keenan
Jan Krukowski
Lance Liebman
Gilbert W. Merkx
Matthew Nimetz
Judith Shapiro
Mariko Silver
Catharine Stimpson
Rosalie Wolf

AMBASSADORS COUNCIL
Lloyd Axworthy, Chair
Kwame Anthony Appiah
Louise Arbour
Ian Buruma
Robbert Dijkgraaf
Ariel Dorfman
Shirin Ebadi
Richard Goldstone
Azar Nafisi
Sigrid Rausing

INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Karolina Catoni
SAR Sweden
Laura Colò
Network of Universities from the Capitals of Europe (UNICA)
Viviana Fernandez
SAR Canada
Ester Gallo
SAR Italy
Karen-Lise Knudsen
SAR Norway
Vivian Tos Lindgaard
SAR Denmark
David John Lock
Magna Charta Universitatum Observatory
Sean Manley-Casimir
Consortium for North American Higher Education Collaboration (CONAHEC)
Anne McCall
SAR United States
Elina Vuola and Markus Laitinen
SAR Finland
Koen Verlaeckt
SAR Flanders
Stefan Rummel
SAR Germany
Frank Albrecht
SAR Germany
Alexandros Triantafyllidis
SAR Greece
Henriette Stöber
European University Association (EUA)
Iris Kimizoglu
European Students’ Union
Rowena Pecchenino
SAR Ireland
Roger Pfister
SAR Switzerland
Julia Wojnowska-Radzińska
Compostela Group of Universities (CGU)
Stephen Wordsworth
Council for At-Risk Academics
Tami Harriott
SAR Australia
Michal Vasecka and Ingrid Borarosova
SAR Slovakia

STAFF
United States
Robert Quinn, Executive Director
Sarah Willcox, Deputy Director
Phoebe Alpern
Miriam Alphonsus
Ayodele Abinusawa
Rose Anderson
Alex Bell
Leona Binz
Madochée Bozier
Chelsea Blackburn Cohen
Quinn Coleman
Christopher Conlan
Madeline Everett
Skylar Gleason
Fiona Hull
Juliet Kelso
Jesse Levine
Starr Miller
Emily Moore
Daniel Munier
Sanan Panossian
Prachi Patel
Joyce Pisarello
Clare Robinson
Sarina Rosenthal
Rachel Rostad
Leah Shapiro
Patrick Wall
Europe
Sinead O’Gorman, Europe Director
Jibran Alsaaied
Joel Hanisek
Denise Roche

List from Sept. 2021–Sept. 2022
“SAR’s help has allowed me to continue working at academic institutions, and helped me enormously in becoming a better researcher and activist. SAR has enabled me to keep doing my research and has provided me with the opportunity to create a great research environment for myself while in exile.”

SAR ASSISTED SCHOLAR, IRAN

To view the online version of this report, scan the QR code or visit: www.scholarsatrisk.org/annual-report-2022
SCHOLARS AT RISK depends on the generous financial support of friends inside and outside higher education communities to sustain our work. Gifts of any size are appreciated, including gifts in honor or memory of others, matching gifts, and legacies.

www.scholarsatrisk.org  
+1-212-998-2179 | scholarsatrisk@nyu.edu  
411 Lafayette Street, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10003, USA

To give, scan the QR code or visit: www.scholarsatrisk.org/give2022