Monthly Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2022

Read Free to Think 2022, now available online

Free to Think 2022

Announcing the release of SAR's annual report documenting 391 attacks on higher education communities in 65 countries and territories.

READ THE REPORT>

SAR is pleased to share Free to Think 2022, an annual report documenting attacks on the higher education community.

Tune in for the formal launch of the Free to Think report on Thursday November 10th, 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM CST / 11:30 AM - 12:45 PM EST / 5:30 PM - 6:45 PM CET. The Free to Think panel will feature experts discussing trends in attacks on higher education communities worldwide and responses to these attacks.

The event will take place during the First Conference about Academic Freedom in the Americas, hosted by the Coalition for Academic Freedom in the Americas at the University of Monterrey in Monterrey, Mexico. Register here »
Demand accountability for attacks on Iranian students

One month since the brutal attack on peaceful student protesters at Sharif University of Technology in Iran – where dozens were injured and over 40 students arrested – university students remain a consistent voice at the forefront of protests in Iran.

And they continue to be met with violence. As reported by University World News, on October 29, students holding peaceful protests on their university campuses were attacked by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard. Many were met with teargas, violence, and beatings. Reuters reports that students continued to protest on November 1, despite orders not to from government security forces.

As SAR told The PIE News, we are deeply concerned about these targeted attacks. Beyond the fear they spread, the use of force—and detentions—to restrict peaceful student expression undermine academic freedom and democratic society generally. “From disciplinary actions and travel restrictions to arrests and prison sentences, the Iranian academic community has long suffered the threat of severe punishment for their research, teaching, ideas, and collaborations with fellow scholars and students. These recent events underscore these longstanding concerns and demand the international community’s attention.”

SAR urges everyone to participate in efforts to demand accountability: flag attacks on the Iranian higher education community for SAR to consider for SAR’s Academic Freedom Monitoring Project (contact us at sarmonitoring@nyu.edu); raise awareness within your national or local contexts, as our colleagues at SAR Italy and SAR Ireland have done with their statements; raise awareness through social media campaigns and media outreach; or hold events in your community to show solidarity with our colleagues in Iran.

Scholars seeking hosts

SAR scholars are at-risk higher education professionals who exemplify the pursuit of academic freedom, freedom of expression, and university values. If your institution is interested in hosting a SAR scholar, please email HostingatSAR@nyu.edu.

A Scholar of Medicine and Public Health

This scholar of medicine and public health holds both a master's degree in medical sciences and a doctor of medicine degree. He has eight years of teaching experience in the microbiology department at a university in Afghanistan. His most recent research focuses on COVID-19 in Afghanistan. He has published several academic papers on the topic and served on a COVID-
19 committee within Afghanistan's Ministry of Public Health. He has also made significant contributions to the translation of medical texts from English to Dari and Pashto. He reports risk due to his social activism in Afghanistan and is seeking a research position in a safe location. [Afghanistan 836]

A Scholar of Organic Chemistry
This scholar of organic and polymers chemistry specializes in the synthesis, mechanisms, and spectroscopy of polymers. As a senior scholar, he has over 15 years of lecturing, research, and administrative experience in his native Yemen and most recently in Egypt where he developed an extensive record of academic articles. He reports risk of physical insecurity and academic instability due to the ongoing conflict in Yemen and the continued deterioration of the Yemeni academic space, and seeks a research position in a safe location. [Yemen 552]

A Scholar of Mathematics and Statistics
This scholar of mathematics and statistics specializes in studying inverse problems for multi-objective linear programming. He has a strong background in supervising and teaching, including in algebra, calculus, statistics, and probability theory. In addition, he has served as a statistics analyst for several international development organizations. He reports facing direct threats to his life, imprisonment, and loss of position due to the ongoing, situational violence in Yemen and the occupation of his city and university by armed forces, and seeks a research position in a safe location. [Yemen 703]

SEE ALL SCHOLARS >

Stand with SAR on GivingTuesday

On November 29th, join SAR as we celebrate GivingTuesday, a global day of generosity when communities everywhere come together to support meaningful change. A gift to Scholars at Risk
helps support the important work of protecting threatened scholars and promoting academic freedom throughout the world. Stand with SAR and help defend everyone’s right to think, share, and question ideas. Give Today!

Inaugural US General Assembly in New Orleans

Hosted by Xavier University of Louisiana, the 2022 SAR US General Assembly will bring together leaders and advocates across the United States to raise awareness about academic freedom issues and set the US section’s protection and advocacy agenda for the coming years.

The convening will include two days of panels, workshops, and meetings to discuss opportunities to work together, share experiences, and develop best practices to protect scholars and promote academic freedom.

You can view the schedule here. US members are invited to register to attend the in-person meeting here. The deadline to register for in-person attendance is Thursday, November 16, 2022.

All interested individuals can register to attend the following hybrid sessions remotely.

- **Friday, Dec. 2 | 5:00pm ET:** Free to Think 2022: Responding to Attacks on Academic Freedom
- **Friday, Dec. 2 | 7:00pm ET:** Plenary Address: Featuring remarks by US Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield
- **Saturday, Dec. 3 | 12:30pm ET:** General Assembly: SAR Strategic Plan & the US Section

To join any of the above sessions remotely, register here »

MSCA4Ukraine scheme open for applications

The online portal for applications to the MSCA4Ukraine fellowship scheme for displaced researchers from Ukraine is now open. Applications must be submitted by host organizations on behalf of researchers from Ukraine via this link. As noted in the scheme’s Terms of Reference, applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis, and the call will remain open until all funding is committed. There are three internal cut-off dates. After each of these dates, all eligible applications will enter the evaluation and selection process. The first cut-off date is **11 November 2022.** The second and third cut-off dates are tentatively set for **9 December 2022.**
and 9 January 2022, and may be adjusted based on the number of applications received. Matchmaking services for both researchers and potential host organizations remain available throughout the application period. See further information about the scheme, including Frequently Asked Questions, on the SAR Europe website. Read more »

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**SAR Flanders grows support for at-risk scholars**

![SAR Flanders](image)

“In the autumn of 2021, five universities in Belgium’s northern region of Flanders decided to intensify their support of SAR’s activities... [and] on International Human Rights Day 2021, we officially formed a SAR Flanders section.”

Koen Verlaeckt, Secretary General of the Flemish Interuniversity Council (VLIR) describes how an increase in funding and an emphasis on human rights, including the development of a human-rights assessment tool by VLIR, has allowed SAR Flanders to expand swiftly. During the 2021-2022 academic year alone SAR Flanders has hosted nine scholars from Turkey, Afghanistan, Yemen and Syria. SAR contact points from each university within the section keep in close communication with each other, and Flemish universities advocate for value-based international cooperation, recognizing the critical value of academic freedom and freedom of speech. Read the full reflection »

Are you a SAR Network member interested in writing a Network Reflection? We would love to hear from you. Please email us at scholarsatrisk@NYU.edu.

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**SAR partners with the University of Turin legal clinic**

![SAR Submission to UN Universal Periodic Review](image)

On October 11, SAR respectfully urged UN Member States to call on Israel to take concrete steps to ensure the academic freedom of students and scholars, as articulated in a report to the United Nations Universal Periodic Review (UPR). The report, which was prepared in partnership with the University of Turin’s Strategic Litigation International Legal Human Rights Clinic, focuses on attacks on higher education and violations of academic freedom in Israel, as well as actions by Israeli authorities in Gaza and the West Bank. SAR is grateful for the University of Turin’s drafting and research support, and continued partnership. Start a legal clinic on your campus today. Read the report here »

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**News and events**
Inaugural regional conference on academic freedom in the Americas, Universidad de Monterrey, Mexico | November 10, 2022
The conference will convene partners for discussions on academic freedom concerns in the region and an assessment of available tools to address them, including an analysis of how the IACHR's Inter-American Principles on Academic Freedom and University Autonomy can be used to create further protections for academic freedom. During the event, SAR will also launch the Free to Think 2022 report, documenting attacks on the global higher education sector.
Read more »

SAR Europe at Royal Irish Academy Symposium | November 25, 2022
ISAR Europe's Director, Sinead O’Gorman, will speak on a panel on ‘Global perspectives in higher education: challenges to academic freedom and trust in scientific endeavour’ during a Royal Irish Academy symposium on November 25. The symposium will explore pressing topics addressing the future of higher education policy and practice on the island of Ireland, and provides a platform for international, interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral debate.
Read more »

SAR United States General Assembly, New Orleans, LA, United States | December 1, 2022
From December 2-3, the first ever General Assembly of the United States Section of the Scholars at Risk Network will be held in New Orleans, hosted by and in partnership with Xavier University of Louisiana. An optional, pre-conference gathering will be held on Thursday, December 1.
Read more »
Free Online Course on Academic Freedom | March 6, 2023

Are some questions too dangerous to ask? What happens to scholars and students who ask those questions? These are among the questions we will discuss in “Dangerous Questions: Why Academic Freedom Matters,” a free online course created by the Academic Refuge project. This course run begins on March 6, 2023 and is free and available to anyone with internet access. The material is divided into 3 weeks with an expected workload of 3 hours per week. Once registered, participants will have access to the course for five weeks.

Register today »

Student Advocacy Days, Ottawa, Canada | March 19-21, 2023

Student Advocacy Seminar participants will gather at Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada, to participate in workshops and discuss cases of wrongfully detained scholars and students with government representatives.

Read more »

Student Advocacy Days, Washington DC, United States | March 29-30, 2023

Scholars at Risk’s annual US Student Advocacy Days will convene faculty and students in Washington, DC, to receive training and seek meetings with government representatives to raise awareness about wrongfully detained scholars and students.

Read more »

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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