Review from December 7 - 14, 2023

**INDIA: Uproar over JNU restrictions on student campus activities**
Shuriah Niazi, *University World News*, 12/14
India’s prestigious Jawaharlal Nehru University in the capital New Delhi recently issued a wide-ranging set of guidelines to govern the conduct of students on the campus, including banning protests in some areas of campus, leading to strong opposition from students saying it aims to stifle campus dissent. [Read more »](#)

**BANGLADESH: Pre-election disruption forces university classes online**
Mohiuddin Alamgir, *University World News*, 12/14
As Bangladesh prepares for upcoming national elections next month political turmoil is taking a toll on higher education. Blockades and general strikes enforced by major opposition parties such as the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and its allies, who are boycotting the polls, have compelled many universities to cancel exams or shift classes online. [Read more »](#)

**HONG KONG: Academic freedom in Hong Kong: How universities are withering under Beijing’s control [CHINESE]**
*BBC News*, 12/14
“There are no more ‘red lines’ in Hong Kong,” said a humanities professor in his 30s. “If they want to deal with you, everything is an excuse,” said the professor, who asked not to be named out of concern for the consequences. His nightmare, he said, is to be named and attacked by Beijing-backed media, which could cost him his job or even his freedom. [Read more »](#)

**UNITED KINGDOM: Students can make provocative remarks if they do not break law, watchdog says**
University staff and students can make provocative statements on subjects such as Israel and Gaza as long as they do not break laws on incitement or harassment, under proposals by the government’s campus free speech tsar. [Read more »](#)
UNITED STATES: Penn faculty fear the donor who started the effort to oust Liz Magill is attempting to set the agenda for trustees
Susan Snyder, Philadelphia Inquirer, 12/12
The deep-pocketed donor who started the successful effort to oust University of Pennsylvania president Liz Magill and board chair Scott L Bok is now attempting to set the agenda for the university, some faculty said, as he is questioning its instruction, faculty hiring and political orientation. Read more »

UKRAINE: Ukraine loses fifth of research capacity after Russian invasion
Emily Dixon, Times Higher Education, 12/12
Ukraine’s research capacity has fallen by a fifth since Russia invaded the country in February 2022, a new study estimates, with the time the average scientist spends on research per week dropping from 13 hours to about 10 hours. Read more »

CHINA: Jailed Uyghur academic Ilham Tohti nominated for Nobel Peace Prize
Nur’iman Abdureshid, Radio Free Asia, 12/11
More than 180 high-level officials and experts have nominated jailed Uyghur academic and blogger Ilham Tohti to receive the 2024 Nobel Peace Prize, citing his role as “the true symbol of the Uyghur people's fight for freedom” under Chinese rule in Xinjiang. Read more » Take action »

PALESTINE/ISRAEL: Palestinian universities seek support for ceasefire
Wagdy Sawahel, Brendan O’Malley and Helena Flusfeder, University World News, 12/10
Fifteen Palestinian universities, including two in the Gaza Strip, issued a joint statement urging international academic institutions to call for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire, guaranteed by the United Nations. Read more »

SUDAN: From faculties to refugee camps: The war in Sudan has displaced thousands of university students
Lola Hierro, El País, 12/9
Sudanese higher education students – who have been forced to flee their homes due to violence – now live in poor conditions as displaced people, without any certainty about their education and their future. Read more »

IRAN/INDIA: Scholars see politics behind Iran’s India branch campus move
Pola Lem, Times Higher Education, 12/8
A leading Iranian university has said it has plans to establish a campus in India and is in the process of developing branches elsewhere in the Middle East and Asia – a move scholars say has politics “written all over it”. Read more »

SWITZERLAND: Knowledge in suitcases
Scientists must sometimes leave their countries to continue their work, either because their countries are at war or because their work is controversial there. In Switzerland, the Scholars-at-Risk programme supports a number of them. They’ve been telling us their stories. Read more. 

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