Review from November 30 - December 7, 2023

HONG KONG: Universities warned to expect security law-related audits
Yojana Sharma, *University World News*, 12/5
The head of Hong Kong’s financial watchdog, the Audit Commission, has said that full audits of the city’s tertiary institutions could look into “every aspect of legal compliance” including universities’ adherence to the National Security Law. [Read more »]

UNITED STATES: A Star Misinformation Scholar Says Harvard Pushed Her Out for Criticizing Meta
Stephanie M. Lee, *Chronicle of Higher Education*, 12/4
Joan Donovan, a leading scholar of online-disinformation campaigns, is going public about why she believes she was recently forced out of Harvard University’s Kennedy School: because her research threatened the school’s financial ties to the social-media behemoth Meta. [Read more »]

UNITED STATES: In Florida’s Hot Political Climate, Some Faculty Have Had Enough
Liberal-leaning professors are leaving coveted jobs with tenure. And there are signs that recruiting scholars has become harder. [Read more »]

NICARAGUA: Ortega “buries” university autonomy and grants “Ministry of Higher Education” powers to the CNU [SPANISH]
*Confidencial*, 12/1
The National Assembly of Nicaragua, controlled by the Daniel Ortega regime, reformed without consultation Law 89, Law of Autonomy of Higher Education Institutions and Law 582, General Education Law. The changes made are so drastic that specialists in the field describe them as “the death certificate of university autonomy in the country.” [Read more »]
INDIA: Academic freedom under pressure as India tackles Gaza debate
Tiya Thomas-Alexander, Times Higher Education, 12/1
Scholars are facing new restrictions on their academic freedom in India, researchers say, as concern over the war in Gaza collides with domestic politics. Read more »

ISRAEL: Israel’s Gaza border college on ‘healing mission’ after attacks
Pola Lem, Times Higher Education, 12/1
With less than a month until the semester begins, an Israeli higher education institution hit hard by Hamas’ 7 October attacks is still healing from the trauma – but already driving long-term changes to revitalise its surrounding area. Read more »

UNITED STATES: UC Faculty Oppose Plans for ‘Viewpoint-Neutral’ Middle East History
Sara Weissman, Inside Higher Education, 12/1
A group of at least 150 faculty members in the University of California system recently signed an open letter to the system’s president asking him to rescind plans to start educational programs that teach “viewpoint-neutral” Middle East history as part of a wider strategy to address antisemitism and Islamophobia on campuses in light of the Israel-Hamas war. Read more »

RUSSIA/AUSTRIA: Academic retreat: Central European University’s ‘undesirable organisation’ label has created a headache for its roughly 100 Russian students and staff
Yulia Akhmedova, Novaya Gazeta, 11/29
In October, the Russian authorities declared Central European University (CEU) in Vienna an “undesirable organisation”, putting any Russian citizen studying or working at the institution at risk of prosecution upon their return home. Read more »

UNITED STATES/ETHIOPIA: Fighting for Ethiopia at Endicott
Danna Lorch, Endicott College, 11/24
As part of this year’s academic theme, Share Your Story, we recently sat down with Associate Professor of International Studies Semahagn Abebe, a Scholar at Risk who is speaking up against crimes against humanity in Ethiopia. Read more »

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