



20 YEARS

of Helping Scholars
& Promoting
Academic Freedom

SCHOLARS AT RISK
NETWORK

 protection  advocacy  learning



20 YEARS OF HELPING SCHOLARS, FROM 2000-2020

SAR began with a single good intention...

Dear [University] President,

I was reminded [yesterday] of how often university professors and students (and I suppose intellectuals more generally) become particular targets of human rights abuses. I thought too of the singularly important role that European refugees played in the intellectual development of our university in the 1930s and 1940s. Then I thought, with some regret, that there was little chance today of equally bright professors from Algeria or Kenya or East Timor or Bosnia or any other part of the world under intellectual or political threat finding their way to our campus.

But I wonder if our university couldn't do more to increase the chances of this happening? If one of our dearest cherished values is academic freedom, and if we also pride ourselves on being one of the world's greatest universities, couldn't we make it possible for professors-in-exile to come to teach here, at least temporarily, at least as a first place to catch their breath and think what to do next? This isn't only utopian, is it? Wouldn't it be nice if someday our university was known internationally as a place of intellectual refuge and sanctuary?

Email which sparked the creation of Scholars at Risk
December 11, 1997

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AN ANNIVERSARY LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ROBERT QUINN

“WOULDN’T IT BE NICE if someday our university was known internationally as a place of intellectual refuge and sanctuary?” That was the question, the single good intention, more than twenty years ago that sparked the creation of what has since become the Scholars at Risk Network. Because leadership said “yes” to that question, a single good intention became an organized appeal. Because administrators, faculty, and staff said “yes” to that appeal, our network was born. And because even more leaders and more institutions, funders, and donors said “yes,” our network grew to over 500 institutions in 40 countries on five continents, organized into national SAR sections and “partner networks” with leading associations, making SAR services accessible to scholars and students around the world. Because all of these said “yes,” our network has helped over 1,600 scholars and created over 1,400 positions at 300 host campuses, representing over US \$25 million of support for colleagues under threat.

But many institutions, leaders, faculty, staff, and students not only said “yes.” They said, “we can do more.” So our work grew to include clinics and seminars, workshops and trainings, research and publications, advocacy campaigns, and education. All aimed at building on that single good intention. All aimed at protecting everyone’s right to think, question, and share ideas.

That good intention is thriving today within SAR and our network members and partners. What are the chances today for “equally bright professors” from Bangladesh or Venezuela or Yemen finding their way to safety and professional renewal? Fairly good, thanks to you and all our members, partners, funders, and friends who go out of their way to say “yes, we can help.”

Looking back to the first days of SAR, I never imagined that our network would grow as it has. But I never doubted for one second how powerfully transformative a single good intention can be when it is embraced by committed, talented and, yes, courageous individuals.

Our triumph is not how far we have come, or even the milestone of 20 years. The triumph of SAR is that each of us is acting on that single good intention to help, to do more, to make a difference by working together every day.

My thanks to everyone who is a part of SAR and our work—past, present, and future. Thank you for saying “Yes.” “We can help.” “We can do more.” Thank you for celebrating our first twenty years together, as we look forward to doing even more together in the years ahead.

Gratefully,

500 network institutions | **40** countries | **1,600** scholars helped | **300** host institutions | **\$25M** in support

SAR Through the Years

From the Network's inception in 2000 to the publication of the most recent *Free to Think* report in 2020, follow the historic milestones from SAR's first 20 years.



Opening panel of SAR's founding conference, including (from left to right) former SAR Board member Hanna H. Gray, Yongyi Song, Sergey Piontkovski, Sowore Omoleye, and Yuri Orlov.



First SAR staff member Carla Stuart in the SAR office at the University of Chicago.

JUNE 2000

Scholars at Risk launches at the University of Chicago.

FALL 2000

By the fall, SAR has 41 members, including two non-US universities and one affiliate association member.



Dr. Teng Biao | CHINA

Dr. Biao is an academic, lawyer, and human rights defender. Formerly a lecturer at China University of Political Science and Law, he was a leading member of the Rights Defense Movement in China, representing human rights defenders and persecuted ethnic minorities—including Tibetans and Uyghurs—in death penalty, free speech, and freedom of religion cases. He was also one of the earliest promoters of the “Charter ‘08 manifesto,” calling for democratic change in China (for which his colleague, the late Dr. Liu Xiaobo, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize). Because of this work, he suffered repeated harassment, intimidation, was banned from teaching, and disbarred. His passport was confiscated, and he was put under surveillance and house arrest. He was abducted and detained by authorities—three times. The second time lasted

70 days, during which he was tortured. Finding it impossible to work, he fled China and reached out to Harvard SAR, which was able to help arrange a position as a visiting fellow at Harvard Law School. In partnership with IIE-SRF, Teng has been a visiting scholar at New York University, the Institute for Advanced Study, and Hunter College, and has continued to publish, teach, and speak about constitutionalism, criminal justice, and human rights. He is completing a book on the human rights movement and political transition in China. “[W]henver human dignity prevails, tyranny is defeated,” says Teng. “My work matters because...truth and freedom are brutally suppressed by the Chinese government, and the world needs to know. SAR has helped me continue this work by providing financial support and academic opportunities.”

2002

SAR arranges 27 positions in 2002 for scholars from Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Cameroon, China, Colombia, Côte d’Ivoire, DR Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, Madagascar, Morocco, Pakistan, Palestine, Singapore, Spain, Swaziland (Eswatini), Ukraine, and Zimbabwe.



Dr. Tekie Asehun Leonida | ERITREA

Dr. Leonida was a professor of mathematics and statistics and a director of academic affairs in his native Eritrea. His outspoken defense of his colleagues, students, and the autonomy of his university caused him to suffer regular denials of academic and personal opportunities, including permission to travel abroad for academic conferences or even needed medical treatment, and put him at risk of summary dismissal and imprisonment. In 2006 the government closed the only university in the country and transferred him to a military-run training institution. Under intense government scrutiny, he fled to Ethiopia. There he contacted Scholars at Risk, which helped arrange a position in the Netherlands, in partnership with the Foundation for Refugee Students (UAF). “I will never forget the joy I felt during my first teaching experience at the University

of Twente,” Leonida said. “Returning to mathematics brought stability to my life and did wonders for my spirit. It was a special day because of the opportunity provided to me by SAR.” Since then Leonida has published thirteen articles in international peer-reviewed journals in collaboration with other colleagues. “Without the timely intervention of SAR I would never have been able to accomplish all that I have. I can say without exaggeration that SAR has not only prolonged my academic life, but my very life itself.”

2003

SAR’s first Global Congress is held at the University of Chicago, featuring keynotes from Leon Botstein, President, Bard College, and Saad Eddin Ibrahim, sociologist formerly imprisoned in Egypt.

The SAR offices relocate to New York University, housed within the Provost’s office.

THE NETWORK

Scholars at Risk (SAR) is an international network of institutions, associations, and individuals whose collective mission is to protect scholars and promote academic freedom.

The climate in which SAR fulfills its mission is increasingly difficult, placing growing demands on our services. Populist and authoritarian regimes on the rise 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 800 requests under review or receiving services.

The higher education community is responding. Our global network has grown to include:

- **500+ universities**, colleges, and associations in 40 countries
- **13 national sections**, with several more forming
- **13 partner networks** (partnerships with leading higher education networks that help extend the reach of SAR activities to every region of the world)

All this means more opportunities to help scholars, raise awareness, and demand greater protection for universities, scholars, students, and academic freedom.



Top: Participants of the 2018 Global Congress in Berlin
Bottom: SAR Canada section members gather before briefing policy makers at the Canadian Parliament

2004

SAR receives the annual human rights prize of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) with long-time partner, the IIE Scholar Rescue Fund “in recognition of their tireless advocacy on behalf of scientific freedom and human rights of scientists worldwide.”



Dr. Semahagn Abebe | ETHIOPIA

Dr. Abebe is a former public prosecutor and lecturer in criminal and administrative law in Ethiopia, with expertise in transitional justice and human rights. In 2006, he discussed in class conditions of unlawful imprisonment, torture, and corruption in Ethiopia. He was accused by the college administration and some students of criticizing the government and sympathizing with imprisoned opposition leaders. He was put under surveillance and directed to stop discussing Ethiopia's legal system. Unable to continue his work, he fled the country, eventually completing his PhD at the University of Gottingen. Fearing further persecution should he return to Ethiopia, he reached out to Scholars at Risk, which helped arrange positions at the National University of Ireland, McGill University, Canada, the University of Connecticut, and Endicott College,

United States. He remains a dedicated human rights advocate, and frequently presents at conferences and public events on African studies and human rights. His research focuses on economic development and human rights in sub-Saharan Africa, including the impact of foreign direct investments (FDIs), food insecurity, ethnic and religious diversity, and the role of culture and traditional institutions in the African legal systems. "I will never forget the day I received the news that SAR found me a placement," said Abebe. "My visa was expiring, and I was worried about my future. Returning home was not an option as it would have been very risky. SAR extended its support to me at a critical time when my life was at crossroads, and allowed me to achieve my professional goals which would not have been realized had it not been for their support."

2005

SAR and Cara organize the Cara/SAR UK Universities Network, the first of many SAR sections and partner networks.

SAR arranges the 100th position for an at-risk scholar; total network membership grows to over 100 institutions.



Dr. Rezvan Moghaddam | IRAN

Dr. Moghaddam is a lecturer, scholar and women's rights activist. She's a founding member of the "One Million Signatures" campaign in Iran, which aimed to eliminate laws that discriminated against women, and the "Mothers of Peace" campaign, which highlighted the lack of access to vital medication under international sanctions. As a result of her work, she was repeatedly arrested by Iranian security forces, harassed, and banned from teaching and presenting her research. In 2007, she was charged with "acting against national security" and "conspiracy," convicted, and sentenced to six months in jail and 10 lashes. Unable to work, she left Iran and reached out to Scholars at Risk, which helped arrange a joint position at Maynooth University, Ireland, and VU Amsterdam, the Netherlands, (in partnership with the Foundation for Refugee Students [UAF]).

Since then she has published regularly in domestic and international journals and serves as an editor for an online women's magazine. She speaks regularly at international conferences and seminars on women's rights and Iran. She earned her PhD in sociology in 2019 at the Freie Universität Berlin, focusing on the impact of new media platforms on the women's rights movement. "My work matters because women's rights are fundamental human rights and defending women's rights, especially in countries where they're most endangered, can affect the lives of generations," said Moghaddam. "SAR has helped me continue my research work in exile, by creating great research opportunities. The experience I gained from working at these two institutions was game-changing and helped me enormously in becoming a better researcher and activist."

2006

SAR begins a program of regional workshops to understand local threats to academic freedom and formulate responses. Over five years, 200+ participants from 51 countries participate in workshops in Jordan, Russia, Lithuania, Ethiopia, Ghana, Turkey, Senegal, and South Africa.

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

Academy for Research and Higher Education

Mexican Association for International Education (AMPEI)

Cara-SAR UK Universities Network

Communauté Université Grenoble Alpes

Compostela Group of Universities

Consortium for North American Higher Education Collaboration (CONAHEC)

European Students Union (ESU)

European Universities Association (EUA)

International Migration, Integration and Social Cohesion (IMISCOE)

International Association of La Salle Universities (IALU)

Magna Charta Observatory

SAR Canada

SAR Denmark

SAR Finland

SAR Germany

SAR Ireland

SAR Italy

SAR Norway

SAR Slovakia

SAR Sweden

SAR Switzerland

SAR United States

Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences

Swissuniversitè

UAF-SAR Netherlands and Belgium

Network of Universities from the Capitals of Europe (UNICA)

2007

The SAR Global Congress is held in San Francisco, in partnership with University of California, Davis and the University of San Francisco.



Dr. Baktybek Beshimov | KYRGYZSTAN

Dr. Beshimov is a professor, university administrator, diplomat, and parliamentarian. He served as Provost and Vice-President for Academic Affairs at the American University in Central Asia, President of Osh State University, leader of the opposition party in the Kyrgyz parliament, and the Kyrgyz Ambassador to India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Bangladesh. In these roles, he has played a key role in development policy in Central Asia, including through the United Nations Ferghana Valley Development Program and the UNDP LIFE program. He has published four books and is a regular contributor to international media, including *The Wall Street Journal*, *Asia Times*, and Al Jazeera. As a highly visible critic of corruption in the Kyrgyz government, Beshimov was under sustained surveillance by state security officers which ultimately escalated

to public threats from state officials and attempts on his life. Unable to work safely, he fled to the United States. He contacted Scholars at Risk, which helped arrange a position at Harvard University's Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies. He was also a visiting scholar at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Center for International Studies. Beshimov continues his research and teaching at Northeastern University, and regularly contributes to public discourse on Central Asia, including on Radio Free Europe/ Radio Liberty's Majlis podcast. "I will never forget how the members of the SAR team regularly helped me in my integration to the academic world at my host university," said Beshimov. "The events and speakers series organized by SAR helped me understand how the academic world works and improved my professional networks."

2008

SAR arranges the 200th position for an at-risk scholar; total network membership grows to over 200 institutions.

The SAR Global Congress is held in Vilnius, in partnership with the European Humanities University on the occasion of EHU's 15th anniversary.

PROTECTION

SAR's core protection work provides direct assistance to threatened scholars, including by arranging temporary research and teaching positions at SAR member institutions 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 in recent years; this year receiving 491 new applications, including multiple applications from Turkey, Syria, Yemen, Iran, and Brazil. SAR currently handles a caseload of over 800 scholars seeking assistance. Over SAR's first 20 years, the top 10 countries for scholars requesting assistance included Turkey, Syria, Iraq, Iran, Ethiopia, Yemen, Pakistan, China, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Egypt. The top five reported types of threats included those related to arrest/imprisonment, insecurity/conflict, wrongful dismissal, harassment, and killings/disappearances. And this year SAR formalized a long-standing practice of supporting 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.

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 provided assistance to 315

scholars this year, including arranging 143 positions. These positions represent over \$6.2 million contributed by host campuses and partners that directly supports at-risk scholars and their families. Over SAR's first 20 years, our network created over 1,400 positions at 300 host campuses, representing over US \$25 million in support for colleagues under threat.

Trainings & Other Services

Beyond arranging positions, SAR provides scholars with advice, legal referrals, career advisement, and other services. In our 20 years, SAR has reached over 1,600 scholars with placements, trainings, and other services. SAR staff lead training workshops for scholars and hosts, with over 470 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 34 emergency grants to scholars for: in-country needs; travel for interviews, conferences, or to take up new positions; visa fees; legal costs; and support to address COVID-19-related challenges.

2009

SAR arranges the 300th position for an at-risk scholar.

SAR partners with UAF to organize the UAF-SAR Netherlands & Belgium section, and with Universities Ireland to organize the SAR Ireland section, which launches with a keynote by Nobel Prize Laureate and SAR Ambassador Shirin Ebadi.

HOSTS 2000-2020

SAR is grateful to the institutions listed below that created positions for scholars last year and over our 20-year history.

The list includes past positions, those commenced this year, positions arranged that will be taken up shortly, as well as positions offered which have not yet been commenced due to arrest, COVID-19 or other travel restrictions, visa denials, or other external factors.

Åbo Akademi University
Alice Salomon Hochschule Berlin
American University in Cairo
Amherst College
Arcadia University
Austin Community College
Bard College
Berlin Graduate School Muslim
Cultures and Societies
Berlin School of Economics and Law
Bielefeld University
Binghamton University, SUNY
Birmingham-Southern College
Bonn International Center
for Conversion
Boston University
Brandeis University
Brookings Institution
Brown University
California State University
Cardiff University
Carleton University
Carnegie Mellon University
Centennial College
Central Connecticut State University
Central European University
Chr. Michelsen Institute
College of Staten Island
Columbia University
Community College of Philadelphia
Cornell University
Dalarna University
Danish Institute for
International Studies
Dartmouth College
Delft University of Technology
Dijlah University College
Drexel University
Duke University
Duquesne University
Durham University
Ecole des Hautes Études
en Sciences Sociales
Eindhoven University of Technology

Emory University
Endicott College
Erasmus University Medical Center
Erasmus University Rotterdam
European Humanities University
European University Viadrina
Excelsior College
Fairfield University
Fordham University
Forum Transregionale Studien
Framingham State University
Frankenförder
Forschungsgesellschaft mbH
Freie Universität Berlin
George Mason University
George Washington University
Georgetown University
German Archaeological Institute
GFZ- German Research Centre
for Geosciences
Ghent University
Goethe University Frankfurt
Goucher College
Hanken School of Economics
Harvard University
Heidelberg University
Helmut Schmidt-Universität
HHL Leipzig Graduate School
of Management
Hochschule Düsseldorf
Hogeschool van Amsterdam
Humboldt University of Berlin
Hunter College, CUNY
Illinois Institute of Technology
Illinois State University
Illinois Wesleyan University
Indiana University, Bloomington
International Christian
University, Japan
International Psychoanalytic
University Berlin
Ithaca College
Johannes Gutenberg
University Mainz
Julius Kühn-Institute
Justus Liebig University Giessen
Karlsruhe Institute of Technology
Kent State University
Kenyatta University
King's College London
Kristiania University College
KTH Royal Institute of Technology
Lafayette College
Lancaster University

Leibniz Institute for Research
on Society and Space
Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient
Leiden University
Leipzig University
Linnaeus University
London School of Economics
Loyola University Maryland
Ludwig Maximilian
University of Munich
Lund University
Maastricht University
Malmo University
Mannheim University of
Applied Sciences
Massachusetts College
of Art and Design
Massachusetts Institute
of Technology
Max Planck Institute for
Human Development
Maynooth University
McGill University
Mendel University Brno
MF Norwegian School of
Theology, Religion and Society
Mid Sweden University
Middlesex University
Montclair State University
Nanyang Technological University
National University of
Ireland, Galway
Netherlands Institute for
Advanced Study in the
Humanities and Social Sciences
New York University
Nord University
Northeastern University
Northwestern University
Norwegian University of
Science & Technology
Ohio Northern University
Ohio State University
Ohio University
Oslo Metropolitan University
Osnabrück University
Pennsylvania State University
Philipps-Universität Marburg
Physikalisch-Technische
Bundesanstalt
Pomona College
Princeton University
Purchase College
Queen's University Belfast

2010

SAR develops research activities aimed at promoting academic freedom, which later evolve into SAR's Academic Freedom Monitoring Project and Promoting Higher Education Values Project.

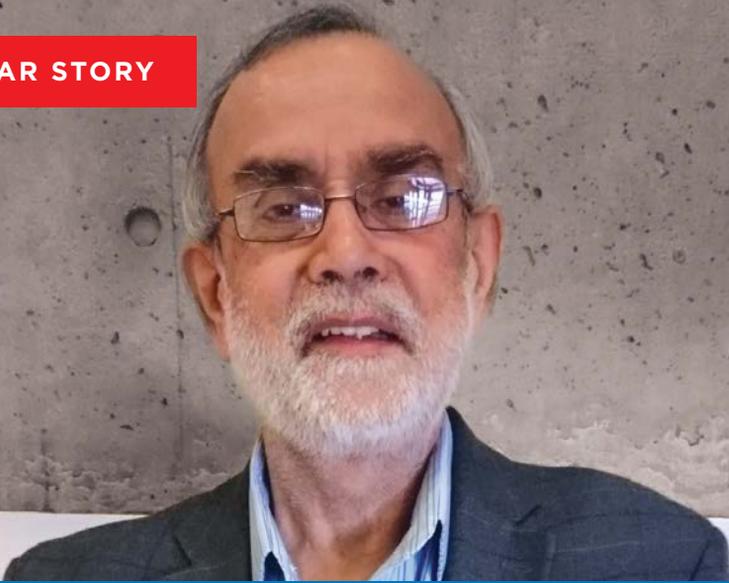
HOSTS 2000-2020

Radboud University Nijmegen
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rice University
RMIT University
Roger Williams University
Ruhr University Bochum
Rutgers University
RWTH Aachen University
Saint Mary's University
San Diego State University
School of African & Oriental Studies,
University of London
Scuola Normale Superiore
Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna
Seneca College
Seton Hall University
Siena College
Simon Fraser University
Smith College
Södertörn University
Southern Connecticut State University
St. John's University
Stanford University
Stockholm University
Suffolk University
Swiss Federal Institute of
Aquatic Science and Technology
Syracuse University
Technische Universität Berlin
Technische Universität Braunschweig
Technische Universität Chemnitz
Technische Universität Dresden
Technische Universität München
Texas State University
The Hague University
of Applied Sciences
The New School
The University of Tennessee
at Chattanooga
Tilburg University
Trinity College Dublin
Tufts University
Ulm University
University of Nottingham
Université de Lausanne
Université de Lille
Université de Strasbourg
Université du Québec à Montréal
Université Grenoble Alpes
Université Libre de Bruxelles
University College Cork
University College Dublin
University College London
University of A Coruña
University of Aberdeen
University of Agder
University of Akron
University of Amsterdam
University of Applied Sciences
and Arts of Western Switzerland
University of Applied
Sciences Düsseldorf
University of Arizona, Tucson
University of Bamberg
University of Bath
University of Bayreuth
University of Bergen
University of Bonn
University of Borås
University of Bremen
University of British Columbia
University of California, Davis
University of California at Berkeley
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, Riverside
University of California, San Diego
University of California, Santa Barbara
University of California, Santa Cruz
University of Cambridge
University of Cape Town
University of Chicago
University of Cologne
University of Connecticut
University of Copenhagen
University of Duisburg-Essen
University of Edinburgh
University of Florence
University of Florida
University of Freiburg
University of Geneva
University of Gothenburg
University of Göttingen
University of Groningen
University of Guelph
University of Hamburg
University of Helsinki
University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign
University of Iowa
University of Jena
University of Kassel
University of Kentucky
University of Konstanz
University of Leicester
University of Limerick
University of Lucerne
University of Macerata
University of Massachusetts Boston
University of Michigan
University of Minnesota
University of Missouri
University of Mississippi
University of Münster
University of Nantes
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
University of New Hampshire
University of New South Wales
University of North Carolina
at Greensboro
University of North Carolina
at Chapel Hill
University of North Texas
University of Notre Dame
University of Oslo
University of Osnabrück
University of Ottawa
University of Oviedo in Spain
University of Oxford
University of Padova
University of Petra
University of Pittsburgh
University of Plymouth
University of Portsmouth
University of Potsdam
University of Pretoria
University of Richmond
University of San Diego
University of Saskatchewan
University of Siegen
University of Southampton
University of Stavanger
University of Stuttgart
University of Tampere
University of Tennessee
at Chattanooga
University of Texas at Austin
University of Texas at El Paso
University of Toronto
University of Trento
University of Tromsø
University of Twente
University of Virginia
University of Wales, Newport
University of Washington
University of Windsor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
University of Wolverhampton
Uppsala University
Utrecht University
Virginia Commonwealth University
Virginia Tech
Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Wageningen University
Wellesley College
Western Cape South Africa
Western Norway University
of Applied Sciences
Western University
Whitman College
Windesheim University of
Applied Sciences
Xavier University
Yale University
York University

2011

SAR arranges the 400th position for an at-risk scholar.

The first SAR Courage to Think Award is presented to Aryeh Neier at SAR's 10th anniversary Global Congress at NYU.



Prof. Fayyaz Baqir | PAKISTAN

Mr. Baqir is a professor and development practitioner. His work focuses on poverty alleviation, inclusive development strategies, women, civil society, and social entrepreneurship in Pakistan. He pioneered a course on peace for social change and contributed to several masters-level courses for universities in both Pakistan and the United States, some of which he co-taught virtually from Pakistan. He has published numerous articles, book chapters, and books on poverty alleviation, aid effectiveness, volunteerism, and civil society. He served as Senior Advisor on Civil Society for the UN. Actively involved in internationally funded poverty alleviation programs, he was targeted by militants who considered such work “collaborating with the enemy.” He contacted Scholars at Risk, which

helped arrange successive visiting positions at Tilburg University in the Netherlands, Gothenburg University in Sweden, and McGill University and the University of Ottawa in Canada. “At each of the places I have visited, I have been warmly received in the knowledge community,” said Baqir. “My experience since contacting SAR has been very fulfilling and productive, I have published two books, with a third forthcoming. My work matters because it connects me with the global civil society.”

The SAR Norway section launches.

2012
The SAR Canada section launches.

ADVOCACY

SAR's advocacy work aims to increase protection for vulnerable individuals by documenting the problem of attacks on higher education and seeking accountability of perpetrators in order to deter future attacks.

Free to Think 2020, the annual report of SAR's **Academic Freedom Monitoring Project**, documents 341 attacks on university communities in 58 countries. Dozens of volunteer monitors throughout SAR's global network contribute by submitting and verifying incident reports and by supporting related advocacy. Since 2011, SAR has documented 1,634 incidents involving 2,223 attacks on higher education in 115 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 five years, students in 33 SAR clinics helped prepare academic freedom reports on Bahrain, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, India, and Iran for submission to national and international human rights bodies.

Together with partners in the regions, SAR has helped launch **academic freedom advocacy hubs** in West Africa and in the Americas. These seek to cultivate regional collaboration on advocacy in support of issues relating to academic freedom and protecting scholars, students, and institutions from attack.



In 2019, SAR released in English and Chinese *Obstacles to Excellence: China's Quest for World-Class Universities*, a report mapping threats to academic freedom that jeopardize China's higher education ambitions

Most recently, in 2020 SAR helped launch the first-ever **Academic Freedom Index (AFi)**, a groundbreaking new time series and near-global dataset on respect for academic freedom at the country level from 1900 to 2019. The aim of the AFi is to inform stakeholders, monitor progress, positively alter incentive structures, and challenge states, higher education institutions, and university ranking systems to increase respect for academic freedom. SAR is also piloting a new survey on **academic self-censorship** aimed at exposing hidden harms to research and teaching quality that result from the intentional targeting, intimidation, or retaliation against scholars and students. These and other SAR research projects are providing data and tools to support effective advocacy and address root causes of attacks on scholars.

SAR receives the University of Oslo's Human Rights Award, the Lisl and Leo Eitinger Prize for "relentless work to protect the human rights of academics and for having inspired and engaged others to stress the importance of academic freedom."

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 imprisoned scholars and students identified by SAR's **Scholars in Prison Project**. Over the last six years, students at 33 institutions in Bangladesh, Canada, Germany, Ghana, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America helped SAR campaign for **20 imprisoned scholars and students** from Bahrain, 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 the subjects of student advocacy campaigns from Iran, Nicaragua, Saudi Arabia, and South Sudan.

Seminar participants put their advocacy skills into practice at SAR's annual **Student Advocacy Day** in Washington, DC and virtually. Over the last three years, more than 100 students and faculty from 12 colleges and universities have exchanged best practices in advocating for imprisoned scholars, discussed advocacy strategies with guest experts, and held 80 meetings with elected officials. With adequate support, we hope to expand significantly the number of campuses participating in the seminars and Student Advocacy Day, and to replicate similar advocacy day models in Ottawa and Brussels.



Students participating in SAR student advocacy seminars collected postcards of support for imprisoned scholars and students



Student Advocacy Seminar participants at the United Nations in New York

Scholars at Risk is granted Consultative Status with United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).



Dr. David Himbara | RWANDA

Dr. Himbara is a political economist, professor, author, and former government advisor. He specializes in social and economic development in the African political economy. He is widely published with a number of books and academic journal articles. Himbara taught at several universities in Africa and North America. He has consulted for the UN, development banks, and universities across Africa. For six years Himbara served as head of strategy and policy and as a senior advisor to the Rwandan President, Paul Kagame. Himbara led the reform agenda that sharply improved Rwanda's ranking in the World Bank's Doing Business Index. After exposing statistical manipulations that exaggerated Rwanda's achievements, Himbara fell out of favor with the president. Fearing retaliation, he fled to South Africa in 2010. The following year,

while on a consulting assignment in Kenya, Himbara was nearly forced onto a Rwanda-bound flight by security agents at Nairobi's International Airport. Fearing for his life, he fled South Africa for Canada. He contacted Scholars at Risk, which helped arrange a position at Centennial College. He continues to write and speak out about the Rwandan regime and its human rights abuses; in return Rwandan authorities have harassed his relatives and imprisoned his brother. "Scholars at Risk came to my rescue at a time when I needed major help," said Himbara. "I had lost everything after fleeing Rwanda and South Africa back to back. I had to start rebuilding my career from scratch in Canada. Scholars at Risk connected me to Centennial College where I found work. I can't imagine what my situation would be without this intervention."

2013

SAR's total network membership grows to over 300 institutions.

SAR is granted Special Consultative Status with Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations.



Prof. Naila Al Atrash | SYRIA

Prof. Al Atrash is an educator, award-winning theater director and actress who uses theater to critique political and gender oppression in the Arab World. A lifelong activist, Al Atrash was banned from directing in Syria's national theaters in 1978. Undeterred, she went on to teach and produce political theatre at the Higher Institute of Dramatic Arts in Damascus. Despite having over half of her plays banned by the government, she has managed to direct more than forty major productions in Europe, the United States, and the Middle East. But her dedication and visibility made her a target. After signing a public declaration demanding respect for human rights in Syria and the Arab world, she was forced out of her teaching job. She was banned from leaving Syria, interrogated, and placed under surveillance. In 2009 she fled the country,

only to return in 2011 to take part in the Arab Spring movement. Once again, she faced harassment and monitoring by Syrian security services. After being detained and interrogated for more than five hours, she knew they would never let her work freely. She fled Syria again, and reached out to Scholars at Risk, which helped arrange successive positions at University of Agder in Norway and New York University in the United States. She has since taught and directed thought-provoking plays at universities and international arts festivals, and is active in SAR activities, including her participation in the SAR Speaker Series and service as a member of SAR's board. "Since contacting SAR, my experience has been nothing short of amazing," Al Atrash said. "At each of the universities I have visited I have been enormously inspired. Thank you for helping the world heal."

SAR receives the annual academic freedom award of the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) for "particularly noteworthy contribution to the defense of academic freedom" and "efforts in support of Syrian higher education institutions and faculty in the context of the on-going civil war."



Dr. Hanadi Ibrahim | SYRIA

Dr. Ibrahim completed her PhD in analytical chemistry in France and was eager to return to Syria. She wanted to help her country and people by sharing her expertise in the early diagnosis and treatment of diseases. But when she arrived in February 2011, she could not have predicted that Syria was on the brink of civil war, nor how the conflict would impact her personal and professional life. Inspired by the young activists, she bore witness to the violence leading her to join the pacifist movement. Along with fellow scholar-activists, Ibrahim released a video in which she called on fellow academics to join a general strike and participate in civil disobedience aimed at stopping the regime's assault on the Syrian people. Recognizing the danger of retaliation, she relocated to France where she kept in communication with activists

and colleagues back home. The regime labeled her a traitor, accused her of treason, and confiscated her property. She knew she could not return. She gained asylum status in France, but could not find work in her field. She then relocated to Canada, but having been out of academia for some time, had trouble restarting her career. She reached out to Scholars at Risk, which helped arrange successive positions at Western University and Simon Fraser University, where she continues to research and publish while hoping for an end to the conflict in Syria. "I will never forget checking emails from Sarina, my contact at SAR, and all her genuine support during that very difficult time," said Ibrahim. "I strive to make a difference in the world through scientific research, SAR was a savior for me in this regard!"

2014

SAR arranges the 500th position for an at-risk scholar.

SAR receives the Jean Mayer Global Citizenship Award, Tufts University, for "extraordinary embrace of intellectuals fleeing persecution and violence" and "vigorous defense...of unencumbered inquiry and academic freedom."

SAR GLOBAL CONGRESS

SAR's Global Congress brings together leading scholars, advocates, students, and professionals to rethink issues of academic freedom and related values, to learn from each other, and to help shape SAR's agenda for the coming years.

SAR has held the Congress roughly every two years, in partnership with host campuses at different locations within our network. Congresses have been held in Chicago (University of Chicago, 2000, 2003), New York (New York University, 2005, 2011), San Francisco (University of San Francisco & UC Davis, 2007), Vilnius (European Humanities University, 2008), Amsterdam (University of Amsterdam & VU Amsterdam, 2014), Montreal (McGill University, 2016), Berlin (Freie Universität Berlin, 2018), and Baltimore/Washington DC (Johns Hopkins University & the American Association for the Advancement of Science [AAAS], 2020).

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 Global Congress was for the first time held as a fully virtual event under the theme *Truth, Power & Society: The Promise of Higher Education in Challenging Times*. The theme reflected three core roles of higher education: research and teaching, evidence-based contributions to public discourse, and engagement with the broadest public good. The event included online keynotes and plenary panel sessions, with protection, advocacy, and values workshops held later in the year.



"It takes a crisis sometimes for people to realize the institutions that matter."

RONALD J. DANIELS, PRESIDENT, JHU

Opening plenary of the 2020 SAR Global Congress



Top: Discussion at the SAR Global Congress in San Francisco (2007)

Bottom: Participants at the SAR Global Congress in Montreal (2016)

The SAR Global Congress is held in Amsterdam in partnership with UAF, the University of Amsterdam, and the Free University. The Courage to Think Award is given to Habib Khazdagli, Dean of the University of Manouba, Tunisia, for defending academic freedom in the wake of Arab Spring.



Dr. Rana Mustafa | SYRIA

Dr. Mustafa is a food scientist, researcher, writer, and lecturer who specializes in biotechnology and value-added food processing. Innovative in her approach to research, she prioritizes the incorporation of strictly local products. Her current focus on pulses and flax seed has led a collaboration with a natural products company working to grow the plant-based products market. Her mission is to create vegan and health-conscious alternatives that meet the demands of modern consumers by using flax, fava bean and chickpea as a base ingredient. Targeted as a female scientist, Mustafa received multiple death threats while in Syria and was at risk of being kidnapped for ransom, a fate that has befallen many lecturers, including some of her colleagues. As the conflict escalated, laboratory research became more difficult and the commute to her university grew

more dangerous, involving multiple checkpoints that were frequently the site of bombings. Unable to work productively and fearing for her and her family's safety, she decided to leave. She reached out to Scholars at Risk, which was able to help arrange a position at the University of Saskatchewan, in partnership with the IIE Scholar Rescue Fund. "I will never forget when I was desperate to find a host university," said Mustafa, "the SAR staff were always supportive of me emotionally and gave me all the information I needed to get the right position to fit my skills. My experience since contacting SAR has been life-changing," she continued. "SAR gave me faith that we are never alone."

2015

SAR arranges the 600th position for an at-risk scholar.

SAR publishes the first *Free to Think* report, documenting 333 attacks on higher education in 65 countries.

RESEARCH & LEARNING

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

SAR's early work in this area consisted of regional workshops exploring comparative understanding of academic freedom, and of the types of threats or risks experienced in different countries. Workshops, often incorporating individuals from universities and colleges in dozens of neighboring countries, have been held in Amman (2008), Addis Ababa (2008), Vilnius (2008), Accra (2009, 2016), Istanbul (2009), Dakar (2010), St. Petersburg (2010), Amsterdam (2014), Montreal (2016), Oslo (2016), Brussels (2017), and Berlin (2018), among others.

Key lessons from these sessions have been captured in two 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 for group discussion in workshops or classes.

Building on these publications, SAR and partners created an online course on academic freedom called "**Dangerous Questions: Why Academic Freedom Matters.**" The course features interactive video lectures, animations, quizzes, polls, and exercises to make the material accessible and to encourage discussion. The course has now engaged more than 4,000 participants from 120+ countries, reflecting the international demand for information about academic freedom.



Animation from "Dangerous Questions," SAR's free, online course on protecting academic freedom



SAR board members and participants at a SAR conference on academic freedom in Tunisia

2016

SAR arranges the 700th position for an at-risk scholar; total network membership grows to over 400 institutions.



Dr. Lubna Omar | SYRIA

Dr. Omar is a zooarchaeologist, professor, researcher, and author whose work and teaching broadly focus on the interactions of ancient humans and animals. She has carried out extensive field work in a number of countries including Syria, Turkey, Jordan, and Japan, but her primary research is on the region known as northern Mesopotamia. She is working to reconstruct the socioeconomic patterns of urban centers during the Bronze Age and later periods using the analysis of animal remains. From 2011 to 2012, Omar was a Palestinian refugee living in Syria, working in archeology, a field closely controlled by the government. Nevertheless, she bravely spoke out on social media against the Syrian government's human rights violations,

risking detention. In 2013, the conflict reached her family members, many of which were detained for expressing similar views. Unsafe and unable to work, she reached out to Scholars at Risk, which helped arrange a position with Binghamton University. "I will never forget the warm welcome and support of the university," Omar said. "My colleagues hosted many events to introduce me and even the Dean gave me a tour of the campus. They made me feel at home."

The SAR Germany section launches, in partnership with the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation's Philipp Schwartz Initiative; the SAR Sweden section launches.



Dr. Anas Al Khabour | SYRIA

Dr. Al Khabour is an archaeologist, researcher, professor, and former museum director with a focus on the Euphrates Valley and preserving cultural heritage during conflict. He is published widely and a renowned lecturer at international archaeological conferences. Al Khabour was studying in Spain in 2011 when the Syrian conflict erupted. Violence engulfed his hometown, located in rebel-held territory, and he was unable to return. Syrian authorities initially sought to recruit him to infiltrate the opposition. When he refused, they labeled him a deserter and forced him out of his position. Unable to continue his archaeological work in Syria, and fearing for his life if he were to return, he contacted Scholars at Risk, which helped arrange successive positions at Gothenburg University, Université Libre de Bruxelles in

Belgium, and Lund University in Sweden. "I truly appreciate the way SAR tackled my preoccupations and brought my fear level down," said Al Khabour. "I recovered my faith in the academic community, which showed solidarity and proved that its members matter, their integrity and intellectual production are protected even in the hardest circumstances. Thank you, Scholars At Risk!"

SAR publishes *Free to Think 2016* documenting more than 150 attacks on higher education in 35 countries over the prior year.

SAR Ambassadors Council is launched, helping to spread SAR's work and the importance of defending academic freedom.

COURAGE TO THINK AWARD

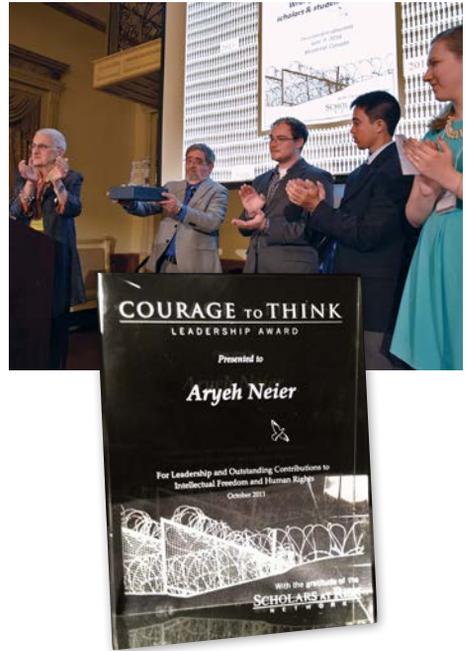
The Scholars at Risk Courage to Think Award may be given to individuals or groups. These include those who have experienced threats personally, those who have worked to assist them, or those who work to promote a wider understanding of, and respect for, academic freedom and related values.

Established in 2011 in recognition of SAR's 10th anniversary, the first award was presented to Aryeh Neier, former President of Open Society Foundations, for his career defending academic freedom and free expression. Subsequent awards were issued to Habib Kazdaghli, Dean of Manouba University, Tunisia, for defending his university from the violence that followed the Arab Spring (2014); over 600 wrongfully imprisoned scholars and students in Egypt (2016, presented in absentia); and Barış İçin Akademisyenler (Academics for Peace), a collective of scholars in or from Turkey 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" (2018).

Presentation of the 2020 award was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was presented on November 19th as part of an online conference marking the public release of SAR's annual monitoring report, *Free to Think 2020*.

The 2020 Courage to Think Award was presented to Dr. Rahile Dawut, in absentia, for herself and on behalf of all the scholars and students of the Xinjiang

Uyghur Autonomous Region struggling for academic freedom and freedom of opinion, expression, belief, association, and movement.



Top: SAR board members and students present the 2016 Courage to Think Award in absentia to wrongfully imprisoned scholars and students in Egypt

Bottom: Detail of the 2011 Courage to Think Award given to Aryeh Neier in 2011

The 2016 SAR Global Congress is held in Montreal, in partnership with McGill University and the SAR Canada section. SAR's Courage to Think Award is given, in absentia, to the over 600 imprisoned scholars and students in Egypt.



Academics for Peace | TURKEY

Academics for Peace unites more than 2,000 individuals supporting peace in the south-east region of Turkey. They are among the 1,128 signatories of a petition released in January 2016 calling for an end to violence in the region.



Dr. Tuba İnal Çekiç is a researcher and lecturer in the field of urban and regional planning. Her research focuses on participatory planning, citizens engagement, and urban movements.



Dr. Kıvanç Ersoy is a professor and researcher of mathematics with almost a decade of university-level teaching and research experience at universities in Turkey, Italy, Canada, Austria, and Germany.



Dr. Halil İbrahim Yenigun is a researcher, author, and professor and the founder of a Turkish think tank. He works with a number of NGOs on issues of human rights and freedom of expression.



Dr. Simten Coşar is an experienced international lecturer, professor, Fulbright scholar, and widely published author. She has made significant contributions as an activist in the women's rights movement in Turkey.

2017

SAR arranges the 900th position for an at-risk scholar; total network membership grows to over 500 institutions.

SAR Finland and SAR Switzerland sections launch.

The first SAR Student Advocacy Day is held in Washington DC.

IN JANUARY 2016 Çekiç, Ersoy, Yenigün, and Coşar joined over 1,100 other academics in signing a public petition urging Turkish authorities to renew dialogue with ethnic groups in the southeastern area of the country. But instead of dialogue, the government attacked the signatories. The majority, including Ersoy, were placed under formal investigation by federal prosecutors for “insulting Turkishness” and “propagandizing on behalf of a terrorist organization.” The latter holds a sentence of up to seven years in prison. Of further concern, students and right-wing groups reportedly circulated the names and photos of all signatories on a national news site and social media, and a Turkish mafia leader made a public death threat against the petition signatories.

Çekiç, fearing for her safety and career, decided to spend a sabbatical year in Germany, arriving in June 2016. She was just in time. In July, following a coup attempt, the government in Turkey issued a formal decree dismissing her and hundreds of other academics from their university posts and invalidating their passports. She reached out to Scholars at Risk, which helped arrange a position at Ruhr-Universität Bochum (RUB), through the Philipp Schwartz Initiative. She has since continued her research, joined various research projects, and co-founded the Off-University, a remote learning program serving scholars and students unable to travel or study freely where they are, including many in Turkey. She is currently an Einstein Fellow at Humboldt-Universität

zu Berlin. “The warm and timely support from SAR helped me to decide to stay in Germany and to continue my work,” said Çekiç. “They were instrumental in helping me to pull myself together in a time of crisis, when I was in fear for my future.”

Ersoy was arrested and officially prosecuted for “making terrorist propaganda,” reportedly in connection with a press conference he and three colleagues held to support their fellow signatories. The four were held for six weeks before being granted a hearing that attracted international observers, including SAR. The court released them on bail, but facing a protracted prosecution and likely long-term, unjust imprisonment, and feeling at risk of unemployment and passport cancellation due to a decree, Ersoy resigned his position and fled to Germany. He reached out to Scholars at Risk which helped to arrange a position with the Department of Mathematics at Freie Universität Berlin, in partnership with the Philipp Schwartz Initiative. Ersoy, who was acquitted in late 2019 by the Turkish Constitutional Court, has continued his research in algebra and group theory, and has been teaching in various positions within the field of mathematics. “My experience since contacting SAR has been really life-changing in a wonderful way,” he said. “At the point I really needed their help, they not only found a place for me to go on with my research, but they also introduced me to my mentor, Professor H el ene Esnault, who is one of the most successful mathematicians, as well as a truly helpful host. She kindly guided me

through my habilitation degree in Germany, which has been a great achievement and enhanced my ability to teach mathematics in Germany.”

Yenigun, the sole faculty signatory from his university, found himself being interrogated, publicly criticized, suspended, and eventually dismissed from his university position. Targeted by a well-known newspaper for his outspoken activism, and fearing arrest, he fled to Germany where he courageously continued to speak out against the unjust treatment of his fellow signatories and the Turkish government’s treatment of academics. He has continued to face retaliation from the Turkish government, with the NGO in which he holds a high-level position under criminal investigation. Unable to return, he contacted Scholars at Risk, which helped him continue his academic career in the United States. “I have always felt that SAR’s support for me, among countless displaced academics, has been of crucial value,” said Yenigun. “Through SAR’s work, I have observed that many campuses in the US are not just developing support and solidarity networks and resources, but also getting much more attentive to and proactive about academic freedom issues around the world, and involving students in these matters. I will always remember some of the critical moments I contacted SAR about my or a friend’s problem. They always took it seriously and tried to find a solution not only in a professional way but with a perspective of humanity. These problems were not just logistical issues, but issues with tremendous repercussions, such as whether somebody

will end up in prison, or continue to thrive outside their home country, making great scholarly contributions. I think our continued scholarly work matters. We wanted to make the point that speaking truth to power is a duty we cannot forsake, while the vengeance of autocrats will still not stop us from our scholarship and pursuit of knowledge. SAR has been among the group of our fellow travelers who made this message possible.”

Coşar, a feminist academic and avid human rights activist, felt the pressure of a gradual shrinking of the spaces for academic freedom and expression, especially for ideas challenging the increasingly authoritarian measures in the country. Forced to retire from her post in a state university, she was formally indicted for signing the Academics Peace Petition. She reached out to Scholars at Risk, which helped arrange a position at the University of Pittsburgh, in partnership with the City of Asylum, Pittsburgh. “In a world of politics that is increasingly challenging,” Coşar said “Scholars at Risk stands as a safe space to be, to write, to connect. SAR has played a major part in my persistence in doing what I know best—writing.”

SAR receives the Anne Frank Special Recognition Award, presented by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

2018

SAR Europe is established in partnership with Maynooth University and launched at a public event at the European Union in Brussels.

SAR EUROPE

SAR launched its European office—SAR Europe—in November 2018 in partnership with Maynooth University, Ireland. The establishment of SAR Europe formalized nearly twenty years of partnership between European higher education institutions and SAR in the joint mission of protecting scholars and promoting academic freedom.

SAR Europe's mandate is to grow, support, and coordinate the activities of national SAR sections and partners across Europe, and to strengthen our collective voice in Europe for the greater protection of scholars and for increased respect for academic freedom worldwide. The launch was held at the European Parliament in Brussels on November 28, 2018 in association with a roundtable discussion on academic freedom.

Maynooth University and SAR have partnered since 2008, when Maynooth became an active member of the global SAR network, and was a founding member of the SAR Ireland section in 2009.

In 2019, SAR Europe and partners launched Inspireurope, an ambitious EU-funded project to inform policymaking in Europe on support for researchers at risk and to coordinate and expand such support.

In 2020, SAR Europe undertook the creation of a Europe-wide academic freedom advocacy committee, to coordinate advocacy activities in Europe aimed at increasing understanding and respect for academic freedom in

Europe and beyond. SAR Europe is led by SAR's long-time European Director, Sinead O'Gorman.



The launch of SAR Europe at the European Parliament in Brussels

The 2018 SAR Global Congress is held in Berlin in partnership with the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and Freie Universität Berlin. Over 500 participants from 71 countries take part.

The SAR United States section is launched.



Prof. Mayda Hočevar | VENEZUELA

Prof. Hočevar is a professor of legal theory and the director of the Observatory for Human Rights at the University of Los Andes in Mérida, Venezuela. Through the Observatory, she supports a network of scholars and activists across Venezuela working to reverse 15 years of illiberal governments, government-sanctioned violence, severe resource shortages, and a collapsing economy, all of which have had a devastating effect on Venezuelan higher education. Hočevar first focused on academic freedom issues in 2014 after she witnessed attacks on university campuses by security forces called out to quell protests over the deaths of students at the hands of police. In 2016, Hočevar worked with SAR advocacy staff and university partners in Caracas and Maracaibo on reports documenting restrictions on university autonomy and academic

freedom submitted to the UN Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review process. The reports triggered formal UN recommendations to Venezuela to improve conditions—the first time academic freedom had been included in recommendations to a member state. The reports also helped attract new partners and civil society groups to the fight for academic freedom in Venezuela, across Latin America, and beyond. "SAR has been central in raising the visibility of the decline of universities in Venezuela," said Hočevar. "I will never forget participating with SAR staff in hearings at the Interamerican Human Rights Commission (IAHRC), presenting the situation facing universities in the country. As a result of this work, for the first time, academic freedom and university autonomy were incorporated in the commission's annual report on Venezuela."

SAR arranges its 1,000th position for an at-risk scholar.

SAR and the University of Oslo launch "Dangerous Questions," a free online course (MOOC) about academic freedom; it has since been taken by over 4,000 learners in 128 countries.



Dr. Eqbal Mohammed Dauqan | YEMEN

Dr. Dauqan is a scholar, lecturer, and widely published author working on biochemistry and food sciences. She has held positions in academia and the private sector, including working for a private development fund. A chemist by training, she is a champion of the study of science in Yemen, particularly among women, and has been internationally recognized for her research in nutrition. Over 127,000 people have died in the ongoing conflict in Yemen. The violence reached her city in 2015 when her university was bombed, resulting in the death of students, staff, and colleagues. Unable to safely continue her work, she fled to Malaysia. She contacted Scholars at Risk, which helped arrange an associate professor position at the University of Agder, in Norway. Eqbal has since continued her career in Norway, with SAR helping to arrange a second position,

and has a book and several other written works under review. She continues her research in nutrition, biochemistry, and organic chemistry and participates regularly in international conferences in her field as well as activities that support women and refugee scientists. “I will never forget my colleagues in the University of Agder, my Norwegian family,” said Dauqan. “I am really grateful to SAR for giving me the opportunity to meet them. They showed me that everything is possible. Never give up.”

SAR publishes
*Promoting Higher
Education Values.*

SAR’s Courage to Think Award is given to Turkey’s Academics for Peace (Barış İçin Akademisyenler) “for extraordinary efforts in building academic solidarity and in promoting the principles of academic freedom.”



Prof. Farai Gonzo | ZIMBABWE

Prof. Gonzo is an award winning journalist and lecturer. A veteran investigative reporter, she has worked in every medium including radio, television, and print with a focus on health, human rights, and gender equality issues. Working her way up to executive producer at a major media outlet in Zimbabwe, she was a powerful force in her field. Her reporting amplified the voices of Zimbabwean citizens, allowing them to express their dissatisfaction with government policies and mobilize around social issues. Despite repeated attempts to silence her, she courageously continued to produce programming that challenged authorities. Ultimately, they succeeded in removing her from her position. She was arrested, interrogated, tortured, and accused of allegiance to an opposition party. Upon her release, knowing that they would come for her again, she fled

to the US. She later learned that the government placed advertisements in newspapers declaring her a traitor. She could not go home. She contacted Scholars at Risk, which helped arrange successive positions at Centennial College and Massey College in Canada. She is currently a PhD candidate at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto. “My experience since contacting SAR has been glorious and fulfilling,” Gonzo said. “SAR has inner ears that hear desperate but weak knocks at their gate. They run to open the doors to wounded and tired strangers, embrace them, empower them, setting them on the pathway to realize their full potential.”

2019

SAR arranges the 1,200th position for an at-risk scholar.

SAR publishes *Obstacles to Excellence*, a detailed examination of threats to academic freedom impeding China’s higher education ambitions.

SUPPORTERS

SAR is grateful for the generosity of our supporters with special thanks to the Office of the Provost and New York University for hosting our network headquarters and the National University of Ireland, Maynooth for hosting SAR Europe. We are especially grateful for the European Union's Erasmus+ programme.

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 who have otherwise provided assistance or advice.

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\$25,000+

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
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SAR receives the Politiken Freedom Prize in recognition of extraordinary contributions to "protecting scholars and the freedom to think, question and share ideas." SAR shares the prize with long-time partners and SAR network member the Central European University.

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List from Sept. 2019–Sept. 2020

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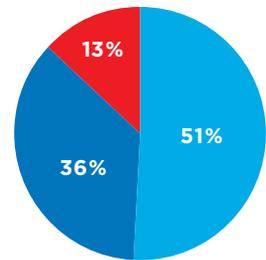
FY20 SUMMARY

Total Revenue	\$2,298,550
Total Expenses	\$1,843,389
Protection	\$1,142,532
Advocacy	\$469,985
Research & Learning	\$71,070
Development & Admin	\$159,800
Leveraged for At-Risk Scholars	\$6,275,653

(Return on protection costs)

Scholars at Risk is an independent not-for-profit corporation, hosted at New York University.

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SAR Denmark, SAR Italy, and SAR Slovakia sections are launched.

SAR begins its 20th anniversary

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List from Sept. 2019– Sept. 2020

SAR Europe leads Inspireurope, an ambitious, EU-funded, nine partner European alliance to support researchers at risk due to discrimination, persecution, suffering or violence.

SAR publishes *Free to Think* 2019, documenting 324 attacks in 56 countries.

SAR in 2020



2020

The SAR Global Congress in partnership with Johns Hopkins University and the AAAS is held virtually—due to COVID-19—for 433 participants from 44 countries.

SAR partners with researchers at GPPi, FAU, and V-Dem to launch the Academic Freedom Index, a global time-series dataset showing levels of academic freedom worldwide. It is based on assessments by 1,810 scholars, and covers the period from 1900 to 2019.



SAR holds “Free to Think 2020,” an online conference marking SAR’s 20th anniversary and the release of the annual monitoring report.



Detained scholar Dr. Rahile Dawut’s daughter receives SAR’s Courage to Think Award on her mother’s behalf. It recognizes Dawut and all of the scholars and students of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region in their struggle for academic freedom.

SAR arranges the 1,400th position for an at-risk scholar.

At the end of 2020, SAR has over 800 candidates on its lists seeking help. We still have a lot of work to do. You can help.

Join the network.
Host a scholar.
Donate today.

SCHOLARS AT RISK IS A GLOBAL NETWORK RESOLVED TO WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

We resolve that there should be established a permanent network of universities, colleges, and centers of research, study, and teaching... [This network] should dedicate itself to protecting the fundamental human rights of scholars and [...]...others engaged in... the community of ideas[.]

[T]his network should devote its greatest energies to assisting scholars facing the most grave threats to their being and to their profession, ... [by providing] positions of personal and professional sanctuary, ... such as to assist scholars in resuming their careers[.]

[T]his network should in addition charge itself with raising... respect for academic freedom ... higher education, scholarship, and the free exchange of ideas; ... [and with promoting]... advocacy in defense of academic freedom and the human rights of scholars.

[T]his network should be known as “Scholars at Risk.”

Excerpts from the resolution establishing the Scholars at Risk Network
June 7, 2000



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.

GIVE TODAY

ONLINE: www.scholarsatrisk.org

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