Scholars at Risk Network: Activities & Opportunities

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THE NETWORK

Over 460 institutions in 35 countries, including ‘sections’ in Canada, Ireland, Netherlands & Belgium (with UAF), Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom (with CARA), Germany, and Finland.
As SAR members, university leadership, staff, faculty, and students have the opportunity to actively engage in:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Protection</th>
<th>Advocacy</th>
<th>Learning</th>
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<tr>
<td>• hosting threatened scholars for temporary academic visits</td>
<td>• offering Student Advocacy Seminars to teach real-world advocacy skills</td>
<td>• attending SAR conferences and workshops</td>
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<td>• referring scholars to the network for assistance</td>
<td>• supporting scholars in prison by writing letters of appeal</td>
<td>• inviting SAR scholars to share their stories on campus</td>
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<td>• work with the SAR Academic Freedom Monitoring Project</td>
<td>• joining research groups looking at pressing issues facing international higher education</td>
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SAR nominates candidates for temporary placements at institutions across the global network.

Scholars at Risk is a global movement to protect everyone’s freedom to think, question, and share ideas.
In 2016, SAR received a record number of applications for assistance – 560 – and arranged placements for 108 scholars from a wide variety of disciplines.

- Social Sciences: 40%
- Arts & Humanities: 20%
- Physical & Life Sciences: 15%
- Law & Human Rights: 9%
- Medicine & Public Health: 6%
- Mathematics & Info. Science: 5%
- Journalism & Writing: 3%
- Business & Finance: 2%
SCHOLAR COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

SAR currently provides assistance to scholars from over 25 countries.
FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR HOSTING

• Internal sources of support
  – Central administration
  – School/division/departmental/faculty support
  – Centres & institutes

• External sources of support
  – National/government fellowships e.g. PSI Germany (AvH Foundation), PAUSE (College de France)
  – Local authorities e.g. Baden-Württemberg Fund for Persecuted Scholars
  – UAF matching funds
  – SAR Emergency Funds: modest funds gen. to cover emergency relocation costs
  – IIE Scholar Rescue Fund Fellowships
  – Academic Associations/Research Councils/Rectors Conferences
  – Human Rights organizations e.g. Frontline, Hivos
  – European Commission (EIDHR emergency grants), Embassies
  – Private foundations
  – Partnering with another institution (co-hosting)
EXAMPLE

SAR-assisted scholar

Dr. Anna Dolidze

International Law

Home country: Georgia

Risks: Intimidation, surveillance, and arrest in retaliation for her open criticism of policies relating to the operation and independence of the Georgian judiciary

SAR Network positions: NYU Law School, USA and Western University, Canada

Where is she now? In 2015, Dr. Dolidze returned to Georgia to begin an appointment as Deputy Defense Minister. In June 2016, she was appointed the chief legal adviser to the President of Georgia.
SAR-assisted scholar
Dr. Kassem AlSayed Mahmoud
Food Science

**Home country:** Syria

**Risks:** Targeted by the government for defecting from compulsory military service

**SAR Network position:** Ghent University, Belgium, arranged with the UAF-SAR Netherlands & Belgium Section

**Where is he now?** Dr. AlSayed is working as a postdoctoral researcher in Belgium and dreaming of returning to his homeland.
CURRENTLY SEEKING HOSTS

Scholar of Political Science from Azerbaijan
This political scientist has teaching experience teaching in Azerbaijan and Germany, and research experience throughout Europe. This scholar reports risk of arrest and harassment due to the content of his work in Azerbaijan.

Scholar of Agriculture and Molecular Biology from Syria
This junior researcher in plant molecular biology has published articles on wheat and grain genetics. This scholar reports facing threats to his life and risk of arrest due to the ongoing conflict in Syria and his failure to accept compulsory military service.

Scholar of Physics from Egypt
This physicist specializes in high energy and quantum physics, with several dozen academic articles published and papers given at conferences in the US and Europe. This scholar reports facing threats to his life due to the content of his academic work.
SAVE THE DATE: SAR Global Congress

SAR’s biennial global network congress convenes faculty, students and professionals in a conversation around higher education security and values.

Montreal 2016
Congress report

Berlin 2018
Save the date: April 23-26, 2018

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Next steps:

- Invitation to each ARES member institution to join SAR network
  - Consider inviting a speaker to campus or organize a speakers’ tour
  - Consider advocating on behalf of a scholar in prison
  - Consider hosting a threatened or refugee scholar
  - Encourage staff, faculty, students to join SAR working groups/projects
  - Send representatives to SAR workshops and 2018 Global Congress