

Når forskning blir livsfarlig

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Free to Think 2019

Annual Report of the Scholars at Risk
Academic Freedom Monitoring Project



Forskningspolitisk seminar 12.11.19

THE SCHOLARS AT RISK NETWORK

An international network of over 500 higher education institutions in 40 countries committed to protecting threatened scholars and promoting academic freedom through:



Protection

- Hosting threatened scholars for temporary academic visits
- Referring scholars to the network for assistance



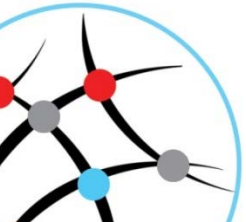
Advocacy

- Academic Freedom Monitoring Project
- Scholars-in-Prison Project
- Student Advocacy Seminars & Legal Clinics
- Public advocacy (UN, States, Regional Systems)



Learning

- Conferences and workshops
- Online learning opportunities
- Working groups









FREE TO THINK 2019

- **324 reported attacks in 56 countries**, from September 1, 2018, to August 31, 2019
 - Representative sample only
- Download the report at www.scholarsatrisk.org/Free2Think2019

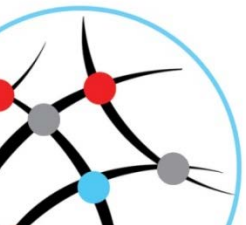


REPORTED ATTACKS ON HIGHER EDUCATION SEPTEMBER 1, 2018 – AUGUST 31, 2019

	Killings, Violence, Disappearances	97
	Imprisonment	87
	Prosecution	70
	Loss of Position	22
	Travel Restrictions	11
	Other	37
	TOTAL	324

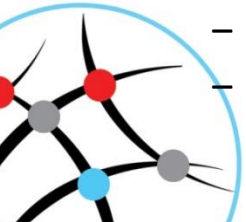
WRONGFUL IMPRISONMENT & PROSECUTION OF SCHOLARS

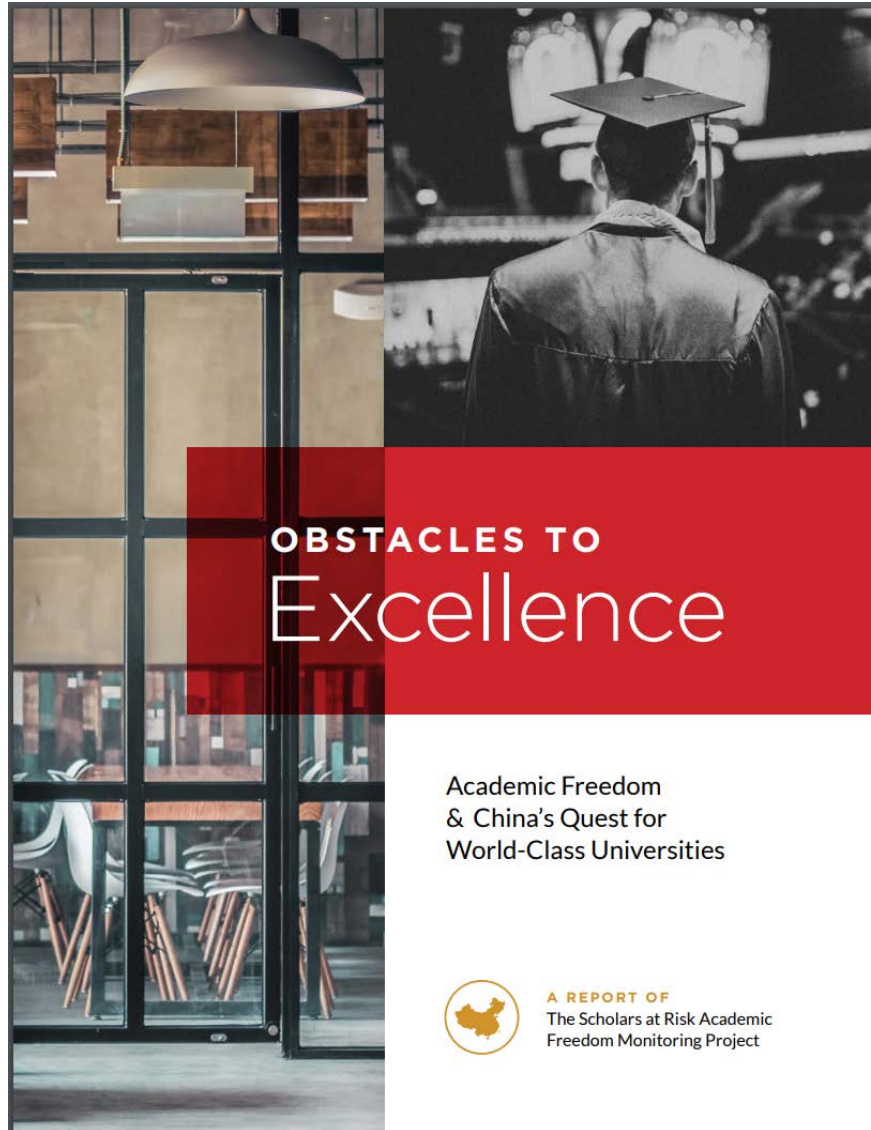
- SAR reported 70 incidents of wrongful prosecution and 87 incidents of wrongful imprisonment during this reporting period
- Often under laws related to terrorism, national security, and defamation
- Select examples include:
 - Fariba Adelkhah and Roland Marchal (France / Iran)
 - Matthew Hedges (UK / United Arab Emirates)



GLOBAL PRESSURES ON STUDENT EXPRESSION

- Student expression is crucial to the education process and democratic society, and is protected under international human right standards
- Last year, SAR reported more than 100 incidents connected with student expression
 - Violent attacks, arrests, prosecutions and coercive legal actions
 - University disciplinary measures
 - Student violence that threatens safety of campus community
- Regional “hotspots”
 - Brazil
 - India
 - South Africa
 - Sudan
 - Venezuela



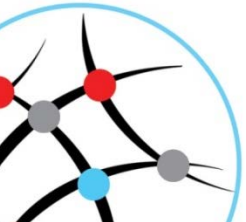


OBSTACLES TO
Excellence

Academic Freedom
& China's Quest for
World-Class Universities

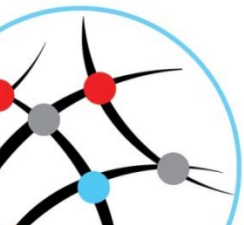


A REPORT OF
The Scholars at Risk Academic
Freedom Monitoring Project



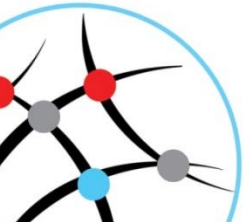
KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- Continuing phenomenon of attacks on higher education around the world, by state and non-state actors, in both closed and open societies
 - These attacks **undermine the quality** of higher education research and teaching and **threaten scientific, economic, and cultural progress**
- Common motivation to punish learning and silence ideas
 - Deprive the public of the benefits of research, innovation, and debate
 - Shrink the space in which we should all be free to think, question, and share ideas
- Global phenomenon requires global response



SAR CALLS ON STATES TO:

- Reject violence and coercion aimed at restricting inquiry and expression;
- Protect threatened students, scholars, and universities; and
- Reaffirm publicly their support for the principles that critical discourse is not disloyalty, that ideas are not crimes



SAR CALLS ON HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS AND SOCIETIES TO:

- Join the Scholars at Risk Network and commit to the principle that scholars should be free to work without fear or intimidation;
- Speak about academic freedom and attacks on higher education at events on campus and to the public;
- Demonstrate support for scholars impacted by attacks by offering temporary positions of academic refuge to these individuals; and
- Encourage research into and teaching of academic freedom, and encourage academic conferences to explore the topic.

