

A Pre-Release Panel Discussion on

FREE TO THINK

Report of the Scholars at Risk
Academic Freedom Monitoring Project
June 3 2015

The University of Geneva is pleased to invite you to the round table for the launch of the report "Free to Think" analyzing attacks on communities of higher education in the world to be held at its premises at Uni Mail at room M1193 on Wednesday, June 3, 2015 at 15:30 to 17:00.

The report is presented by Scholars at Risk, an international defender of higher education rights, and builds on the work of Scholars at Risk's Academic Freedom Monitoring Project (monitoring.academicfreedom.info). The report analyzes more than 240 incidents involving attacks on scholars, students and other members of higher education communities in 65 countries between January 2011 and May 2015, including incidents involving killings, violence and disappearances; false imprisonment and wrongful prosecution; loss of position and expulsion from study; restrictions on travel; and other attacks that significantly impair higher education. Recent incidents include:

- The April 2015 killing of nearly 150 students by Al Shabaab at Garissa University College in Kenya
- The September 2014 disappearance of some 43 students at Mexico's the Raúl Isidro Burgos Rural Teachers' College of Ayotzinapa
- A March 2015 arrests and violent confrontations between police and student protesters in Myanmar

The report calls on all stakeholders, including the international community, states, the higher education sector, civil society and the public at large to undertake concrete actions to increase protection for higher education communities, including documenting and investigating attacks and holding perpetrators accountable.

Embargoed copies of the report may be made available on request by email reply.

About Scholars at Risk: Scholars at Risk (SAR) is an international network of more than 360 higher education institutions in 37 countries working to protect threatened scholars, promote academic freedom and prevent attacks on higher education communities around the world since 2000. SAR protects scholars suffering grave threats to their lives, liberty and well-being by arranging positions of sanctuary for those forced to flee, and advocating for scholars facing prosecution, imprisonment or other restrictions through the Scholars-in-Prison Project. SAR's Academic Freedom Monitoring Project identifies and reports attacks on higher education to protect vulnerable scholars and students, hold perpetrators accountable and prevent future violations. Institutions or individuals interested in participating in network activities should visit www.scholarsatrisk.org or email scholarsatrisk@nyu.edu.

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