

# SCHOLARS AT RISK NETWORK

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## **UN Universal Periodic Review of Turkey: Attacks on Scholars, Students, and Higher Education Spaces**

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Geneva, Switzerland

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## Scholars at Risk is:

A global network of over 500 academic institutions around the globe, dedicated to:



**Providing direct assistance** to threatened scholars around the globe



**Advocacy** including monitoring attacks on scholars, students, and universities, and supporting improved human rights protections for academic freedom



**Research and learning** to build awareness in higher education communities everywhere

# Attacks on Higher Education in Turkey, 3<sup>rd</sup> UPR Cycle

REPORTED ATTACKS ON HIGHER EDUCATION

FOR DATE RANGE: JANUARY 27, 2015 - DECEMBER 12, 2019

	Killings, Violence, Disappearances	10		Loss of Position	28
	Imprisonment	113		Travel Restrictions	26
	Prosecution	106		Other	13
					<b>Total 296</b>

## Trends in Turkey:

- Mass investigations, arrests, and prosecutions
- 15 Universities closed, leaving +2.8k academics unemployed and disrupting studies of +58k students
- Summary dismissals and public employment and travel bans targeting +8.5k university personnel and their spouses

*Scholars at Risk's Academic Freedom Monitoring Project identifies, documents, and reports on attacks on higher education around the world.*

*\*Learn more at: [www.scholarsatrisk.org/monitoringproject](http://www.scholarsatrisk.org/monitoringproject).*

# Past State UPR Recommendations

“Journalists”  
758 Mentions

“Human Rights Defenders”  
949 Mentions

“Scholars” and “Academic Freedom”  
2 Mentions

See <https://www.upr-info.org/database/>

# Recommendations For Turkey:

- **Reverse all charges** against, and where applicable, unconditionally release from detention, all higher education personnel who have been the subjects of criminal prosecution in retaliation for the **nonviolent exercise of academic freedom, freedom of expression, freedom of association, and related rights**.
- Pending such actions, **ensure that criminal actions proceed in a transparent manner**, according to recognized international standards of **due process, fair trial and related rights**.
- **Restore all scholars, students, and higher education personnel** who were the subjects of Turkey's emergency decrees to their former university positions.
- **Reinstate the passports** of all scholars, students, and higher education personnel and their families who were subjected to Turkey's emergency decrees or similar post-State of Emergency provisions.
- **Amend, revise, repeal** or otherwise ensure that actions under the **Anti-Terrorism Law and Article 301**, if any, are narrowly construed and consistent with Turkey's obligations under domestic and international law to protect academic freedom and related rights.

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**Above All:** Specifically include **Scholars** in state recommendations

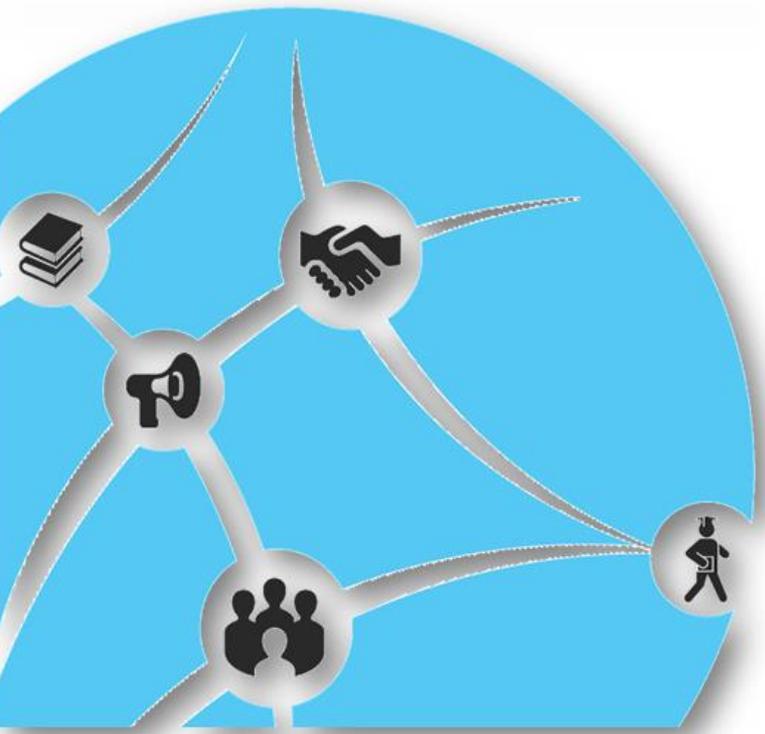
**Example:** "Safeguard and restore human rights protections for **Scholars**, Journalists, and Human Rights Defenders engaged in nonviolent expression, critical inquiry, and dissent."

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## NETWORK

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**get connected:**

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