

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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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, 3rd 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
Total					296

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.*

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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