

Protecting and Promoting the Human Rights of Scientists, Scholars, and Students Around the World

A CONGRESSIONAL LUNCH BRIEFING

In cooperation with Honorary Host: Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

Friday, March 22, 2019, 12:00 - 1:30 pm Eastern

Rayburn House Office Building, Room 2044

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Thousands of scientists, scholars, and students are killed, imprisoned, attacked, or threatened around the world each year because of what they teach, write, or say. Such attacks undermine higher education systems and stifle everyone's space to think, question, and share ideas freely. This briefing provides an overview of the problem and tells the stories of refugee scholars. This is a widely attended event.

MODERATOR

Theresa Harris, J.D., Project Director, Scientific Responsibility, Human Rights and Law Program, American Association for the Advancement of Science

SPEAKERS

Rebecca Everly, J.D., Ph.D., Director, National Academies Committee on Human Rights

Robert Quinn, J.D., Founding Executive Director, Scholars at Risk

Olga Hünler, Ph.D., Department for Anthropology and Cultural Research, University of Bremen

Eugene Chudnovsky, Ph.D., Co-Chair, Committee of Concerned Scientists; Distinguished Professor of Physics, Lehman College

Teng Biao, Ph.D., Visiting Scholar, U.S.-Asia Law Institute, New York University; Researcher, Institute for China's Democratic Transition

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Theresa Harris, J.D., is a Project Director in the Scientific Responsibility, Human Rights and Law Program at the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Prior to joining AAAS she led Human Rights USA as its Executive Director, where she represented survivors of human rights violations before United States courts, the Inter-American human rights system and United Nations human rights mechanisms. Ms. Harris has served on the Board of Directors of Amnesty International USA and the governing body of the World Organization Against Torture (OMCT). She holds a B.A. in Anthropology, an M.S. in Urban and Regional Planning, and a J.D. from American University Washington College of Law.

Rebecca Everly, J.D., Ph.D., is the Director of the Committee on Human Rights of the U.S. National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. Previously, she has held positions with the International Development Law Organization (India), the Centre for Promotion of Human Rights Teaching and Research at Jawaharlal Nehru University (India), International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific (Malaysia), the Office of the High Representative (Bosnia and Herzegovina), and the State Department's Office of the Legal Adviser. Dr. Everly holds a Ph.D. from Cambridge University and a J.D./LL.M from Duke University.

Robert Quinn, J.D., is the founding Executive Director of the Scholars at Risk Network, an international network of institutions and individuals whose mission it is to protect scholars and promote academic freedom. He received an A.B. cum laude from Princeton in 1988, a J.D. cum laude from Fordham in 1994, and an honorary doctorate from Illinois Wesleyan University in 2010. Mr. Quinn and Scholars at Risk have received multiple international awards for their work protecting and promoting academic freedom and the human rights of scholars and scientists.

Olga S. Hünler, Ph.D., has been a postdoctoral fellow at the Bremen University Institute of Ethnology and Cultural Studies since August of 2016. After completing her B.A. in Psychology at the Middle East Technical University in Turkey, she wrote her master's and doctoral theses in clinical psychology. During her Ph.D. studies, Dr. Hünler spent a year as a visiting researcher at the European Research Center on Migration and Ethnic Relations. After receiving her doctorate in 2007 on the subject of "Psychological Integration of New Immigrants from Turkey in the Netherlands," she began teaching as an Assistant Professor of Psychology at Izmir University of Economics in Turkey. Between 2012-2016, Dr. Hünler served as the Vice President of the Psychological Association of Turkey.

Eugene Michael Chudnovsky, Ph.D., is a Distinguished Professor of Physics at Herbert H. Lehman College of the City University of New York (CUNY), a member of the doctoral faculty at the CUNY Graduate School, and a Fellow of the American Physical Society (APS), elected for his seminal contributions on quantum tunneling of magnetization. Active in the field of human rights, he has served as Chair of the APS Committee on International Freedom of Scientists, Chair of the Committee on Human Rights of Scientists of the New York Academy of Sciences, and Co-Chair of the Committee of Concerned Scientists. In the 1990s he directed the Program for Refugee Scientists that resettled over one hundred refugee scientists in the United States. Dr. Chudnovsky received his undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral education in Ukraine. After the USSR denied him an exit visa in 1979, he was unemployed for eight years during which he continued independent research in theoretical physics and participated in the unofficial Refusenik Science Seminar in Moscow. During that time, he was frequently harassed and interrogated by the KGB. In 1987 Dr. Chudnovsky was allowed to emigrate and joined the faculty of the Physics Department of Tufts University in Boston.

Teng Biao, Ph.D., is a visiting scholar at the U.S.-Asia Law Institute of New York University Law School. He is a human rights lawyer, formerly a lecturer at the China University of Politics and Law, and a visiting scholar at Harvard University, Yale Law School, and the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton. His academic research includes criminal justice, human rights, social movements, and political transition in China. Dr. Biao co-founded two human rights NGOs in Beijing: the Open Constitution Initiative and China Against the Death Penalty. He was one of the earliest promoters of the Rights Defense Movement in China, and the manifesto Charter 08, for which Dr. Liu Xiaobo was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Dr. Biao has been awarded the Human Rights Prize of the French Republic (2007), the National Endowment for Democracy Award (2008), and the Outstanding Democracy Activist Prize (2011), among others.