

Rescuing Threatened Scholars



NEED

To save lives, voices, ideas.

Every day, scholars in some part of the world are threatened, arrested, or tortured for their academic work. Such persecution comes from governments, militants, or extremists who see scholars' efforts to promote dialogue as threats to their control. In the worst cases, scholars pay with their lives for their commitment to academic freedom.

SOLUTIONS

IIE's Scholar Rescue Fund provides support and safe haven to persecuted scholars in any field and from any country, anywhere in the world.

IIE's Scholar Rescue Fund

IIE launched the Scholar Rescue Fund (SRF) in 2002, in response to the ongoing persecution of scholars around the world. The effort was led by Institute Trustees Jeffrey Epstein, Henry Jarecki, Henry Kaufman and Thomas Russo, along with George Soros' Open Society Institute. SRF provides threatened scholars with fellowships at host universities or colleges outside of their country, so they can continue their academic work in freedom and safety. When conditions permit, scholars return home to help rebuild countries ravaged by conflict, repression, and fear.

Since the program began, the Scholar Rescue Fund has saved the lives, voices, and ideas of over 90 scholars from 36 countries. More than half have been from the most war-torn countries of Africa and the Middle East, such as Liberia, Rwanda, Iraq, and Afghanistan. SRF has placed scholars at institutions throughout the world, including France, Hungary, Kenya, Nigeria, Norway, South Africa, and the United States.

Building Upon a Legacy of Rescue

The Scholar Rescue Fund formalizes IIE's unwavering commitment to academic freedom since the Institute's founding in 1919. Beginning with the Bolshevik Revolution, through Nazism in the 1930s, the Hungarian Uprising in the 1950s, apartheid in the 1970s and 1980s, the Balkans in the 1990s, and whenever, wherever academic freedom is threatened, IIE helps scholars in danger.

IIE created the Scholar Rescue Fund Endowment, with the leadership of our Trustees, to ensure that there will always be a place to which persecuted scholars can turn for support. Following an initial gift of \$1 million from the Ford Foundation, IIE Chairman Emeritus Henry Kaufman made an historic \$10 million gift in 2004. With the completion of a \$1 million Chair in honor of Ruth Gruber and the launch of a new Woman's Chair in honor of Denise Benmosche, as well as other contributions from generous donors, the SRF endowment now approaches \$15 million.

www.iie.org/srf

IMPACT

Every person helped by the Scholar Rescue Fund—each scholar who continues his or her work in safety—is a beacon of hope in our world.

In 2005, the Scholar Rescue Fund enabled one of Iraq's foremost immunologists to escape threats to his life and find safe haven at a clinic in Italy, where he can carry out his research to aid the more than 7,000 Iraqis suffering from the blood disorder thalassemia. Now free of persecution, he is bringing Iraqis, many of them children, to Italy for life-saving treatment.

