



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN — Dr. Henry G. Jarecki



Dr. Henry G. Jarecki
Chairman, IIE's
Scholar Rescue Fund

IIE's Scholar Rescue Fund (SRF) brings to safety scholars who are being persecuted in their own countries for speaking their minds, many times at great risk. Our Uzbekistan linguist was being interviewed by four policemen who concluded their inquiry by throwing her down the stairs and thus breaking both her legs. Our Congolese mathematician was tortured for two weeks before he could escape. Scholarship is not an easy life. We bring such scholars to host universities around the

world so that they can once more think, teach, and publish what they want and what the world needs to hear. To leverage the funds that we give to save scholars, we require host universities to match our support. Luckily, we're part of the Institute of International Education that gives out Fulbright and other grants, and so we have relationships with colleges and universities worldwide that can help.

Over the last five years we've had over 1500 applications for SRF fellowships from more than 100 countries. We have placed more than 150 of these scholars – many from Iraq – at 82 universities around the world so that they can continue to pursue their scholarly work in freedom and safety.

How did we pick these 150 out of the 1500 applicants? First, on the basis of scholarly achievement and the likelihood that what they know and can pass on will be of value to the world and even to the country they fled, once its crises have passed. Equally important, we gauge the level of danger they are in. Most of our scholars have been imprisoned, kidnapped, targeted for assassination, or forced from their jobs.

And no wonder. They are, to use a word from our own country's past, subversives. They are conveying new and unacceptable ideas to their students. All new knowledge subverts old ideas and attitudes, and it is in the nature of governments that are afraid of their own people to prevent troublesome ideas from

(continued on page 2)

Life-Threatened Journalist's Story of Rescue and Return

Colombian journalist and professor Daniel Coronell had been in California for nearly a full academic year before he spoke to his colleagues at UC Berkeley about his persecution in his country. Death threats targeting him, his wife, and small daughter had prompted the family to flee his homeland, he confided at an emotional dinner party.

The man they knew as gentle and self-effacing had built a formidable reputation as one of Colombia's most courageous journalists. He is news director of the television program "Noticias Uno," which the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalist calls "one of Colombia's few independent news sources."

A grandson of Jewish immigrants, Coronell rose quickly in the ranks of Colombia's television journalists. His first "big complication," as he puts it, came when he was the young chief editor of a national news show.

His station had aired a training video of a paramilitary death squad with links to drug traffickers. When NBC television aired part of the clip in this country, the scandal widened. Coronell's decision to pursue the story cost him personally. The reporting on the operation uncovered a sophistication that belied govern-

(continued on page 3)



Rescued Journalism Scholar Daniel Coronell (right) with Tom Russo, an IIE Trustee and SRF Benefactor.

Message from the SRF Chairman

(continued from cover)

spreading. We know and even they know that we need these new ideas. But since long before Socrates spoke unacceptably in ancient Greece through to the times Galileo spoke unacceptably about the movement of the sun and even up to today in terms of how to identify and combat global warming – each new idea gores someone's favorite ox.

Someone wants scholars to stop talking and so someone else needs to rescue them and place them in academic settings where they can continue their work. IIE, the largest organization in the world dedicated to student and scholar exchange, is ideally suited to do this work.

Reading our own history led us at IIE to recognize that, since 1919, we repeatedly had to rev up to do such rescue work whenever the latest world crisis arose and scholars got into trouble. The Scholar Rescue Fund aims to learn from this history by establishing a permanent place to which threatened scholars can turn for support and safe haven.

For while the postmarks on the letters we get today may say Baghdad, Brazzaville, or Bogota, they are the same plaintive, articulate, and frightened letters we once got from Frankfurt, Heidelberg, and Berlin. They are the same kind of letters my family sent to America while we waited for our “affidavit,” at the start of World War II.

And so we must act and act quickly. This year – even as we continue to save scholars from Ethiopia, Iran, Rwanda, Uzbekistan, and many other countries around the world – we have launched a special project to help scholars in Iraq, the site of one of the greatest academic crises of our time. The Iraq Scholar Rescue Project will provide life-saving support to 200 of Iraq's most distinguished, most threatened academics, settling them temporarily at host universities in the region until they can return home to help re-build their country.

Among the Iraqis we have saved so far, just to give one example, is a scholar named Donny George. Dr. George is a world-famous archeologist who was the Director of Iraq's renowned National Museum. Although he bravely faced many threats in Iraq, and worked closely with the US government to safeguard antiquities there, he finally fled when he was sent a letter with a bullet meant for his son. Before he left, he made one last visit to Iraq's National Museum. Together with the staff he left behind, he secured all the antiquities inside, welded shut the doors and windows, and built a wall around the museum half a meter thick. Thanks to the Scholar Rescue Fund, Dr. George and his family are now safe and he is teaching at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. “I have no doubt,” he told us recently, “that if I had stayed in Iraq, I would be dead.”

Without your support, Dr. George's story would have had a very different ending. Thank you for helping to save his ideas, his expertise, and, most of all, his life.



SCHOLAR RESCUE FUND BOARD MEMBERS

Amy Brandt ~ CEO, Vantium Capital

Denise Benmosche ~ Co-Chair, Women's Leadership Committee of SRF

Maria Cattai ~ Former Secretary General, International Chamber of Commerce

Thomas Detre ~ Former Dean, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center

Scott Freidheim ~ Co-Chief Administrative Officer, Lehman Brothers Inc.

Barry Gaberman ~ Senior Vice President (retired), Ford Foundation

Allan E. Goodman ~ President & CEO, IIE

Lawrence D. Hite ~ Chairman, Hite Capital Management LLC

Henry G. Jarecki ~ Chairman, Falconwood Corporation

Julian Johnson ~ Senior Vice President for External Relations, SEO

Thomas S. Johnson ~ Retired Chairman and CEO, GreenPoint Bank

Mark N. Kaplan ~ Of Counsel, Skadden Arps

Henry Kaufman ~ President, Henry Kaufman & Company, Inc.

Martha Loerke ~ Director of Scholarships, Open Society Institute

Leo Melamed ~ Chairman & CEO, Melamed & Associates

Thomas A. Russo ~ Vice Chairman and Chief Legal Officer, Lehman Brothers Inc.

George Rupp ~ President, International Rescue Committee

Princess Ghida Talal ~ Chair, King Hussein Cancer Center, Amman, Jordan

Fred Tarter ~ President and Chairman, Lakeside Group of Companies

Rescued Journalist’s Story

(continued from cover)

ment characterizations of the squads. Coronell received his first death threats.

“They told me, ‘Your daughter was wearing a red jacket yesterday,’” Coronell said emotionally as he remembered the call. The next day, two funeral wreaths arrived at the office. One was adorned with his name; the other with the names of his wife, Maria Cristina, and daughter. E-mail threats followed.

After hearing of the threats, the Americas program of the Committee to Protect Journalists sought refuge for Coronell and his endangered family. The committee found an academic placement for Coronell at Stanford University, but, to make this a reality, a great deal of help had to be enlisted.

In the months that followed, one Stanford fellow persuaded Sen. Christopher Dodd (D-Conn) to write on Coronell’s behalf to the Colombian Embassy, expressing concern for his safety. Colleagues referred Coronell to a UC Berkeley journalism professor, who hastily arranged a dinner meeting with Harley Shaiken, chairman of the university’s Center for Latin American Studies.

Shaiken secured \$30,000 from George Soros’ Open Society Institute and other Stanford journalists solicited \$20,000 from the Scholar Rescue Fund. “It was among the most compelling,” Allan Goodman, president of the Institute of International Education, said of Coronell’s case.

In June, Daniel Coronell and his family, which now includes a new baby boy, courageously returned to Colombia. He is eager to resume his journalism career and feels that the visibility of his time with the Scholar Rescue Fund is some form of protection.

Just before leaving, Coronell wrote this note of gratitude to SRF program staff:

“We are going back to Colombia next Thursday. Maria Cristina and Raquel are excited... Please bear with me when I tell you that a whirlwind of emotions make it difficult to express my gratitude and that of my family for providing a safe haven that has allowed us to live safely in exile, thus granting us time to breathe easier, while putting things in perspective. The additional time I have spent in the United States, thanks to your generosity and that of the Scholar Rescue Fund, has allowed us to regain strength far from the oppression of threats, to come out of depression and to further understand the need to fight the good fight. Nobody knows what the future may have for all of us, participants in this brief encounter under the shining light of Liberty, but we sure know that rightfully, we are knights in the battle against darkness and oppression. Please express my endless gratitude to my benefactor and all the team... you have been our drink of cold water after years of desert.”

Launch of Historic Effort to Save Iraq’s Scholars

With support from public and private sources, including the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the US Department of State, SRF has launched the Iraq Scholar Rescue Project. The goal is to rescue more than 200 of Iraq’s most senior academics and place them safely in Jordan and other countries within the region, where they can continue their research and also teach the many Iraqi students without access to education.

Baghdad once reigned as the intellectual center of the world; today, it is a center of academic emergency. Since 2003, hundreds if not thousands of scholars have been killed in Iraq, proving the classroom to be more dangerous than the

(continued on page 4)

SRF Report Analyzes Scholar Persecution Worldwide

With support from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Scholar Rescue Fund is compiling a summary of its first five years of activity. Combining statistical analysis and case studies from SRF’s first 140 grantees, the report will provide a “State of the World” view of scholar persecution. It will also include recommendations for reducing threats to academics and advancing academic freedom around the world.

SRF World Report findings include:

- Between 2002 and 2007, the majority of SRF grantees (73%) came from the Middle East and Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Data on SRF applicants shows a continual, low-grade level of threat in many countries around the world, with a fever spike from countries such as Iraq, where extreme conflict produces a flood of applications.
- Harassment was the most common threat facing scholars, followed by professional discrimination and imprisonment.
- Most grantees (73%) report the government as a source of persecution, although in many cases the source of persecution is either unclear or coming from a variety of sources.

Launch of Historic Effort to Save Iraq's Scholars

(continued from p.3)

mosque, the marketplace, or the military checkpoint. Various factions and militias are systematically destroying the educational system by threatening, kidnapping, and killing innocent professors. It is estimated that more than 3,250 professors have fled Iraq since February, 2006, following the sectarian killings initiated with the bombing of the major Shi'ite shrine in Samarra. Thousands more have been threatened but are trapped in the country, unable to teach, conduct research, or carry out their academic responsibilities.

While the Scholar Rescue Fund is committed to finding and assisting senior scholars who are threatened anywhere in the world, it is clear that the scope and scale of the Iraqi crisis requires special attention. As the violence peaks, the Scholar Rescue Fund is receiving 40 applications a month from Iraq alone – many from scientists, engineers, mathematicians, and physicists. As IIE did in the days of the Holocaust, the Scholar Rescue Fund – with the help of friends and donors – is leading efforts to provide the most threatened scholars of our time with safe haven, for the benefit of us all.

Prominent Psychiatrist Rescued from Sri Lanka

Daya Somasundaram has seen the worst. A psychiatrist, he documents and treats victims of some of the world's worst atrocities – most recently in his own country. His extensive academic and clinical work caused him to become a victim of the violent conflict raging between the Tamil Tigers, the Sri Lankan government and state-aligned forces.

Somasundaram's troubles began when paramilitary soldiers forcefully occupied his home. Tamil extremists publicly called for his "elimination." His wife and children were severely threatened.

With SRF support, Australia's University of Adelaide invited Somasundaram to join their faculty. He has since published numerous articles and is completing a book on collective trauma. Most important, he and his family have found peace. Though he worries about his relatives still in Sri Lanka, he is grateful for the quiet of the Adelaide campus. Adelaide has benefited too. It now hosts one of the world's experts in the field.

Save a Life, Save the World

The Scholar Rescue Fund launched the Save-a-Scholar Campaign in September, 2006 with a lead contribution from the Russo Family Foundation.

For each contribution of \$30,000, SRF will be able to rescue a scholar from one of the many countries in which academics are being persecuted today, such as Iraq, Iran, Sri Lanka, and Sudan.

Each contribution will also be matched up to \$20,000 by a host college or university.

The Save-a-Scholar Campaign enables SRF to provide support and safe haven to scholars who would otherwise be silenced, imprisoned, or even killed. These remarkable individuals, whose voices, ideas, and work are essential to human progress, are helping to make the world a better place.

Please help a scholar and help the world through SRF's **Save-a-Scholar Campaign: Save a Life, Save the World!**

For information on how you can help threatened scholars, please contact: Margot Steinberg, Chief Development Officer, Scholar Rescue Fund at 212.984.5310 or email: msteinberg@iie.org.